



Bee Hummingbird scratching its chin at Palpite (Chris Kehoe)

CUBA II

1 – 12 APRIL 2017

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

Our second Cuba departure this year once again produced all of the available national and regional endemics plus a host of other excellent species, most of which gave outstanding views. Bird of the trip was the fabulous Bee Hummingbird which showed extremely well at two sites but other highlights included all four Cuban Quail-Dove species, fine views of the tricky Zapata Wren, a fly-by Gundlach's Hawk and fantastic daylight views of Stygian Owls. The weather throughout was fine and mostly sunny and everything ran very smoothly.

After gathering at Havana Airport in the late afternoon we set off westwards on the two-hour drive to San Diego del los Banos for an overnight stay. We had time for a short roadside stop at some fishponds where up to 30 Snail Kites showed very well along with a few Little Blue and Green Herons and other bits and pieces and reached our hotel just as the sun was setting.

Our first morning in Cuba was spent at La Guira NP, firstly at Cueva del los Portales where, after a short search, our primary target, the tuneful Cuban Solitaire was seen well in the scope. There were many other birds here during our hour-long visit including a Cuban Pygmy Owl, Cuban Trogon and Cuban Tody, Great Lizard Cuckoo, West Indian and Cuban Green Woodpeckers, Cuban and Black-whiskered Vireos, Scaly-naped and White-crowned Pigeons, Cave Swallows and Cuban Martins and Loggerhead and Grey Kingbirds. Moving on, we stopped at some roadside pines where the hoped-for Olive-capped Warblers quickly appeared along with a Cuban Bullfinch, a surprise Magnolia Warbler and several Western Spindalis. An hour long walk through the attractive parkland at nearby Hacienda Cortina gave us a scarce Summer Tanager, Shiny Cowbirds and Tawny-shouldered Blackbirds but a distantly heard Giant Kingbird refused to cooperate. Our final stop was in an area of farmland near our hotel where a short search resulted in fine views of a pair of dapper Cuban Grassquits. After a leisurely lunch we made our way back to Havana, stops at two roadside reservoirs giving us Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed and Least Grebes, an Eastern Meadowlark of the distinctive Cuban form and several Brown Pelicans.



Stygian Owl at Santa Clara and Zapata Sparrow at Hato de Jacarita.

After an early start from Havana we reached Hato de Jacarita on the northern edge of Zapata swamp just after first light and spent an hour birding along the road there, seeing Zapata Sparrows, Northern Flickers, White-crowned Pigeons, Purple Gallinules and Cuban Pygmy Owl amongst several previously seen species. During a comfort break at a nearby café we found our first Cape May Warbler before resuming the long journey east towards Camaguey. Before reaching our lunch stop at Santa Clara we stopped at the roadside near Aguada de Pasajeros where our driver, Rolando had seen a Gundlach's Hawk a couple of days previously and managed reasonable flight views of this rare and unpredictable species along with a fly-by Merlin. Either side of lunch we watched a variety of migrant warblers in the restaurant grounds including our first Black-and-white and Black-throated Blue Warblers but the undoubted highlight here was superb views of

two roosting Stygian Owls. Continuing our journey we made a short stop at Rio Azul where Yellow-throated Warbler was added to our list before arriving in Camaguey in time to freshen up before dinner.

After an early breakfast we were on our way south to Najasa before first light. As the sun rose the early morning mist quickly cleared and at our first stop we were soon watching several Plain Pigeons in bare tree tops. At a small palm grove a little further on, several Cuban Palm Crows and Cuban Crows were seen (and more importantly heard) along with Fernandina's Flicker, Cuban Parakeets and Cuban Amazon, all of which posed beautifully for the scope though a Giant Kingbird was again only heard. In nearby La Belen reserve almost the first bird we saw was a Giant Kingbird and we went on to see a couple more during a walk in the reserve that also produced a nice selection of migrant warblers, including our first Northern Parulas, plus the likes of Cuban Tody and Trogon, Limpkin, Cuban Green and West Indian Woodpeckers and a Cuban Pygmy Owl plus further views of both crows and Plain Pigeons. As we returned towards Camaguey for lunch, a short stop at a roadside damp patch produced several Northern Jacanas and White-winged Doves. After lunch and a short rest we visited Bakallao Reservoir where we added Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Least and Spotted Sandpipers, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, Caspian Tern and Tricolored Heron to our list. Later in the evening some joined our local guide on a walking tour of historic Camaguey.



Fernandina's Flicker at Najasa (Chris Kehoe)

We spent the next morning travelling to Cayo Coco. A 30-minute stop at Sierra de Cubitas gave us close views of our first Oriente Warblers and a Scaly-naped Pigeon in the scope while another short stop along the Cayo Coco causeway produced huge numbers of vivid American Flamingos along with 30 American White Pelicans as Magnificent Frigatebirds drifted overhead. Very close to our hotel we made a final stop to view several West Indian Whistling Ducks. An afternoon excursion to Cueva de Jabile was most enjoyable as we watched a Cuban Gnatcatcher at very close range while a baited area attracted several Key West Quail Doves along with Zenaida Doves, Ovenbirds, Cape May Warblers and many others including large numbers of migrant Grey Catbirds. We tried without success for Clapper Rail later on but did see more Whistling-ducks and a fly-by male Baltimore Oriole.

Clapper Rail and Mangrove Warbler were our rewards for a pre-breakfast stroll around the lagoon behind our rooms. An hour-long drive to Cayo Paredon Grande was punctuated by a stop to view a pair of Cuban Black Hawks. Once at the northern tip of Cayo Paredon Grande our top target, Thick-billed Vireo, gave itself up quite quickly but Bahama Mockingbird proved uncooperative. We made several stops on the return journey to Cayo Coco, first to watch a nice selection of waterbirds and three pale-headed 'Caribbean' Ospreys, then to enjoy close views of a couple of Zapata Sparrows on Cayo Romano and finally at a beach near our hotel where the prized find was a single Piping Plover amongst a small group of commoner shorebirds. After lunch we set off for Cayo Guillermo where a pair of Bahama Mockingbirds soon appeared and showed very well. Lagoons on Cayo Guillermo held many photogenic American Flamingos and Short-billed Dowitchers along with smaller numbers of several other waterbirds.



Cuban Gnatcatcher on Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)

A pre-dawn excursion resulted in good spotlight views of Cuban Nightjar before we returned to the hotel for breakfast. The rest of the morning was spent driving to Santa Clara for lunch with an en route stop at Rio Azul giving us a nice selection of migrant warblers. By early evening we were at Bermejas where a much-wanted Bee Hummingbird was immediately on view and we went on to have great views of both a male and female there in perfect evening light. A final stop near our hotel gave us fine views of a few equally stunning Blue-headed Quail-Doves.

After an early breakfast, and distant views of Jupiter and Saturn in the scope, we set off to Santo Tomas where we arrived a couple of hours later just as the sun rose. After boarding a small punt we were on our way into the heart of Zapata swamp. Our top target here was Zapata Wren and it didn't take too long to find an obliging individual singing from streamside bushes. Further highlights included a noisy Red-shouldered Blackbird and the likes of Yellow-headed Warblers and White-crowned Pigeons. Just before disembarking we found a fine Louisiana Waterthrush with a nearby Northern for a good comparison. Once ashore we set off along the forest trails where the highlights were our first Grey-fronted Quail-Doves and a surprisingly late Swainson's Warbler, some also had a glimpse of a Gundlach's Hawk flying away. The long drive back to Playa Giron was enlivened by a roadside Solitary Sandpiper. We began our afternoon birding in a small private garden in the village of Palpite where a flowering tree attracted several Bee Hummingbirds that

showed at extremely close range, Cuban Orioles also showed very well here. The remainder of the afternoon was spent along the trails at nearby Soplillar where we found two sleepy Bare-legged Owl and a roosting Cuban Nightjar. Migrant warblers here included the scarce Worm-eating and Magnolia amongst large numbers of American Redstarts and a few Black-and-white Warblers.

We spent the whole of the next morning at nearby Bermejas, first at the screen overlooking a baited stretch of trail where Grey-fronted and Key West Quail-Doves and many Zenaida Doves showed at very close range. Later we explored the trails and a staked out a couple of small ponds where large numbers of birds came to drink and bathe, most notable were a locally rare Wood Thrush and a couple of showy Worm-eating Warblers but there were literally dozens of Red-legged Thrushes and Grey Catbirds and perhaps 20 or more Grey-fronted Quail-Doves coming and going but a Ruddy Quail-Dove was only glimpsed by some. We also added White-eyed Vireo to our list before returning to the hotel for lunch.



Grey-fronted Quail-Dove at Bermejas (Chris Kehoe)

Las Salinas, an extensive area of coastal lagoons and mangroves, was our destination in the afternoon. At our first stop a Clapper Rail gave good scope views along with various herons and egrets and a few commoner shorebirds. A Wood Stork was a welcome addition to our list as we made a few further stops to watch the assembled flamingos, White ibises and others. Later on a flock of Black Skimmers was found, quite a rarity in Cuba, and diligent scanning of the distant mangroves revealed a quartering Northern Harrier.

In the morning we visited three sites in search of additions to our list. At La Turba we spent a while trying to coax a calling Ruddy Quail-dove into view without success but did enjoy good views of a male Merlin, a Northern Harrier and several migrant warblers plus Cuban Trogons, Great Lizard Cuckoo and others. At roadside ponds north of Playa Larga we watched Purple Gallinules and had a chance to study Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes side-by-side before rounding off the morning with a return visit to Cueva los Peces where a Blue-headed Quail-Dove showed very well indeed. Just before lunch back at Playa Giron four Black Swifts flew over as large numbers of Cave Swallows migrated north. A return visit to Bermejas in the afternoon finally produced good views of Ruddy Quail-Doves to complete our set of Quail-Doves for Cuba and many commoner species visited the ponds to bath and drink. We returned to the hotel after watching a Bee Hummingbird at its favoured flowers and some saw an Antillean Nighthawk fly overhead just before dinner but despite much hopeful scanning it failed to return.

Although an Antillean Nighthawk was heard well before first light a pre-breakfast vigil left us empty-handed. A visit to an area of damp grassland near Bermejas gave us greatly improved views of several noisy Red-shouldered Blackbirds, despite a recent fire there, and a Cuban Pygmy Owl watched us from just a few metres away. As we drove towards Bermejas a Gundlach's Hawk was glimpsed in flight so we drove on to an open area where we hoped it might reappear. It failed to do so but a Fernandina's Flicker was watched jousting with a West Indian on a palm stump. We concluded the morning along a different trail at Bermejas where many migrant warblers were in evidence, a couple of Bare-legged Owls were seen but the undoubted highlight was a dazzling male Scarlet Tanager, the first seen on a Birdquest tour to Cuba. Just as we were about to board the bus to return to the hotel for lunch a few White-collared Swifts appeared overhead. In the afternoon we explored another trail at Bermejas where both Cuban Parakeets and Parrots showed well and a surprisingly late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen near a small pond where two Key West Quail-doves came in to drink along with several commoner species. Before dinner we waited in vain once more as no Antillean Nighthawks were in evidence tonight.



Cuban Tody at Bermejas (Chris Kehoe)

A pre-breakfast attempt for Antillean Nighthawks resulted in several calls heard but no visual connections. After breakfast we loaded the bus and set off to Havana, a break at Hato de Jacarita services gave us our final Cape May Warblers in the bottlebrush trees there as Antillean Palm Swifts zoomed by. Just before reaching Havana we drove down to the shoreline where many Least Sandpipers were joined by a few Semipalmated Sandpipers and other bits and pieces while a single Cabot's Tern joined a roost of Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns. At the nearby fort, Cuban Martins showed well before we crossed the river for lunch at a restaurant in the city. Before heading off to the airport, where the tour ended, our local guide took us on a walking tour through some of the attractive plazas in the historic city.

Bird of the trip results

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 – Bee Hummingbird | 18 points |
| 2 – Cuban Tody | 15 points |
| 3 – Blue-headed Quail-Dove | 10 points |
| 4 = Cuban Trogon | 5 points |
| 4 = Cuban Green Woodpecker | 4 points |

4 = Fernandina's Flicker
4 = Cuban Solitaire
4 = Zapata Wren

4 points
4 points
4 points



Watching Key West Quail-Doves on Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)



At the Che Guevara memorial in Santa Clara (Chris Kehoe)



Blue-headed Quail-Dove at Cueva los Peces. (Chris Kehoe)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

West Indian Whistling Duck ◊ *Dendrocygna arborea* Good views of about 20 on the northern cays.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Small numbers at three wetlands

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* A handful at Cayo Guillermo.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* A handful on the reservoirs near Havana.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* About 20 on the reservoirs near Havana

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* Quite numerous on the northern cays, one near Havana.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* A bout 30 on Rio Bonito Reservoir near Havana.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* Three or four on the reservoirs near Havana.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Several on the reservoirs near Havana.

American Flamingo (Caribbean F) *Phoenicopterus ruber* Common on the northern cays, a few at Las Salinas.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* One at Las Salinas.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Quite common in the northern cays and at Las Salinas.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* One as we approached Bermejas from Santa Clara.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Over 30 on the northern cays and several at Las Salinas.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* One at Santa Clara and a few at Zapata.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Two on Cayo Coco.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Present at most wetlands in small numbers.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread and common.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Seen on eight dates, several 'Great Whites' at coastal sites.

Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta* Seen on eight dates at widespread sites.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* Common on the northern cays, a few at Las Salinas.



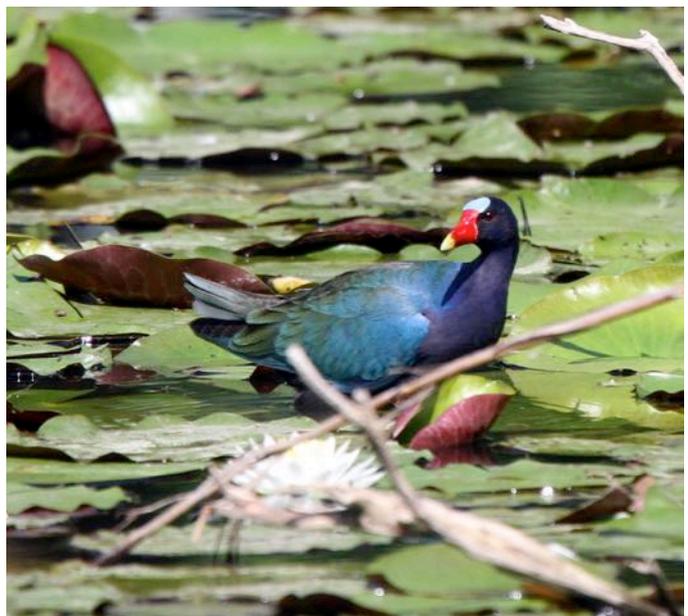
West Indian Whistling-Ducks and American Flamingos on the northern cays. (Chris Kehoe)

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Noted on six dates, mainly near the coast.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Noted on seven dates at widespread sites

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Distribution and numbers similar to the previous species.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Up to 30 from Cayo Coco causeway.



Cuban Black Hawk on Cayo Romano and Purple Gallinule at Zapata. (Chris Kehoe)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Fairly common at the coast, a few elsewhere.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Noted on the northern cays, at Zapata and at Havana.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Numerous at Las Salinas, a few elsewhere.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* Common on the northern cays, a handful elsewhere.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Noted at Bakalloa Reservoir and two Zapata sites.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Very common and widespread.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Noted on five dates, four pale-headed Caribbean birds on the cays.

Gundlach's Hawk ◊ *Accipiter gundlachi* Flight views of one west of Santa Clara, glimpsed at Zapata.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* Singles at Las Salinas and La Turba.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* About 30 on fishponds near San Diego.

Cuban Black Hawk ◊ *Buteogallus gundlachi* Up to 10 on the northern cays, two at Zapata.

Broad-winged Hawk ◊ *Buteo platypterus* Singles on three dates.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* One at Cayo Coco, others at Zapata and as we travelled.

Clapper Rail ◊ *Rallus crepitans* One seen and others heard on Cayo Coco, another scoped at Las Salinas.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* Good views at two Zapata sites

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Noted at three sites at Zapata.

American Coot *Fulica americana* Common on the reservoirs near Havana, a few on the northern cays.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Singles at Zapata and at La Belen.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Noted on eight dates.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Noted on three dates at the coast.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few on Cayo Coco and at Havana East Beach.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Very widespread in small numbers.

Piping Plover ◊ (W) *Charadrius melodus* One at Cayo Coco.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Noted at two sites near Camaguey.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* Many on the northern cays with a few elsewhere.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Ones and twos on four dates.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Small numbers, mainly on the northern cays.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* One near Santo Tomas

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Small numbers at the northern cays and Las Salinas, all apparently 'Western' type.



'Western' Willet (and Black-necked Stilt) at Las Salinas and Plain Pigeon at La Belen. (Chris Kehoe)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Three singles at Bakallao Reservoir, Las Salinas and in Havana.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A few on Cayo Coco, one at Las Salinas, several near Havana..

Sanderling *Calidris alba* A few on Cayo Coco and at Havana East Beach.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* About 10 at Havana East Beach.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Several at Bakalloa, on the northern cays and near Havana.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Four on the northern cays.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* Thirty two at Las Salinas, rare in Cuba.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Noted at all coastal sites visited.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* One at Cayo Guillermo.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Small numbers at four sites after the first at Bakalloa.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Fairly common in coastal areas.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus* One on Cayo Coco and another at Havana East Beach.

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* Present in some towns.

White-crowned Pigeon ♦ *Patagioenas leucocephala* Numerous at Zapata and several on the northern cays.

Scaly-naped Pigeon ♦ *Patagioenas squamosa* Noted at La Guira and Sierra de Cubitas, heard at La Belen.

Plain Pigeon ♦ *Patagioenas inornata* Great scope views in the Najasa area.

Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia decaocto* Several on Cayo Coco and at Playa Giron.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* Fairly common and widespread.

Blue-headed Quail-Dove ♦ *Starnoenas cyanocephala* Close views of a few at Cueva los Peces, Zapata.

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana* Three at Bermejas, heard at La Turba.

Grey-fronted Quail-Dove ♦ *Geotrygon caniceps* Up to 30 at Bermejas, a couple elsewhere at Zapata.

Key West Quail-Dove ♦ *Geotrygon chrysis* Up to 10 on Cayo Coco and a couple at Bermejas.



Key West Quail-Dove on Cayo Coco. (Chris Kehoe)

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* Common in open country.

Zenaida Dove ♦ *Zenaida aurita* Common on Cayo Coco and at some Zapata sites, a few elsewhere.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Scattered records at widespread sites.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Widespread in more open areas.

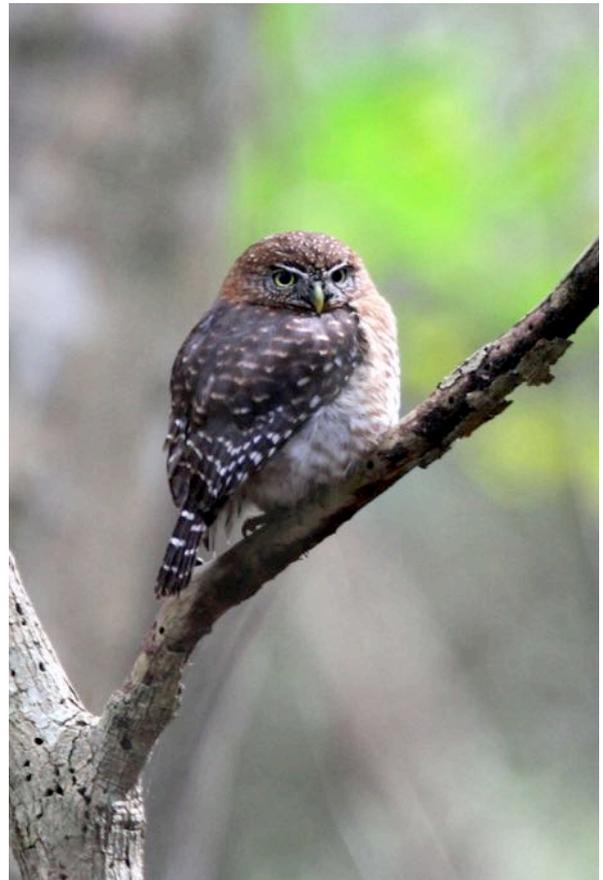
Great Lizard Cuckoo ♦ *Coccyzus merlini* Widespread in small numbers in wooded areas.

Bare-legged Owl (Cuban Screech O) *Margarobyas lawrencii* Five individuals at Zapata sites.

Cuban Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium siju* Regularly encountered in most wooded areas.

Stygian Owl ♦ *Asio stygius* Splendid views of two roosting birds at Santa Clara.

Antillean Nighthawk ◊ *Chordeiles gundlachii* Glimpsed by some and heard by all at Playa Giron..
Cuban Nightjar ◊ *Antrostomus cubanensis* Two on Cayo Coco and eight at Zapata including a roosting bird.
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Four over Bermejas one morning.
Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* (LO) Four over Playa Giron one lunchtime, a write-in.



Cuban Trogon at La Belen and Cuban Pygmy Owl at Soplillar. (Chris Kehoe)

Antillean Palm Swift ◊ *Tachornis phoenicobia* Noted on eight dates at widespread sites.
Cuban Emerald ◊ *Chlorostilbon ricordii* Widespread, sometimes common.



Dark-morph 'Caribbean' American Kestrel at Santo Tomas and pale-morph at Bermejas. (Chris Kehoe)

Bee Hummingbird ◊ *Mellisuga helenae* Fabulous views of at least seven at two Zapata sites.

Cuban Trogon ◊ *Priotelus temnurus* Present in most woodland areas, sometimes common.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* Ones and twos on three dates.

Cuban Tody ◊ *Todus multicolor* Widespread and often common in well wooded areas.

West Indian Woodpecker ◊ *Melanerpes superciliaris* Widespread, often common.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (W) *Sphyrapicus varius* A tardy bird at Bermejas.

Cuban Green Woodpecker ◊ *Xiphidiopicus percussus* Notes on seven dates in well wooded areas.

Northern Flicker ◊ *Colaptes auratus* Good views at Hato de Jacarita, a couple elsewhere.



Cuban Parakeet and Cuban Amazon at Bermejas. (Chris Kehoe)



La Sagra's Flycatcher and Giant Kingbird at La Belen (Chris Kehoe)

Fernandina's Flicker ◇ *Colaptes fernandinae* Two at Najasa and one near Bermejas.
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Noted on seven dates in small numbers.
American Kestrel ◇ *Falco sparverius* Widespread and fairly common, three scarcer dark-morphs noted.
Merlin *Falco columbarius* A total of six at widespread sites including a perched male at La Turba.
Cuban Amazon ◇ (Rose-throated Parrot) *Amazona leucocephala* Five at Najasa and 15 at Zapata.
Cuban Parakeet ◇ *Psittacara euops* Ten at Najasa and about 20 at Zapata.
Cuban Pewee ◇ (Crescent-eyed P) *Contopus caribaeus* Widespread at wooded sites.
Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* Common and widespread, seen daily.
Giant Kingbird ◇ *Tyrannus cubensis* Great views of three at La Belen, heard at La Guira.
Loggerhead Kingbird ◇ *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* Small numbers in most well wooded areas.
La Sagra's Flycatcher ◇ *Myiarchus sagrae* Widespread in wooded contexts, noted on eight dates..
White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* One at Bermejas.
Thick-billed Vireo ◇ *Vireo crassirostris* Great views of one at Cayo Paredon Grande.
Cuban Vireo ◇ *Vireo gundlachii* Present in all wooded areas, more heard than seen though.
Black-whiskered Vireo ◇ *Vireo altiloquus* Widespread and common.



Cuban Palm Crow (left) and Cuban Crow at La Belen. Just visible here are the differences in the extent of the nasal bristles, only in Cuban Crow is some of the nasal cavity usually visible. (Chris Kehoe)

Cuban Palm Crow ◇ *Corvus minutus* Over 20 heard and seen at Najasa and La Belen, a few at Zapata.
Cuban Crow ◇ *Corvus nasicus* Numerous and noisy at Najasa/ La Belen, a couple at Zapata.
Cuban Martin ◇ *Progne cryptoleuca* Widespread in small numbers.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Seen twice as we travelled.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Small numbers seen migrating on three dates.
Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* Widespread encounters, some evidently migrating.
Zapata Wren ◇ *Ferminia cerverai* Great views at Santo Tomas.
Cuban Gnatcatcher ◇ *Polioptila lembeyei* Great views on Cayo Coco, a couple at Cayo Paredon Grande.
Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* Widespread, unusually common on Cayo Coco and at Bermejas.
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* Common and widespread.
Bahama Mockingbird ◇ *Mimus gundlachii* Close scope views at Cayo Guillermo.
Cuban Solitaire *Myadestes elisabeth* Good scope views at La Guira.
Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* One at Bermejas, rare in Cuba.
Red-legged Thrush ◇ *Turdus plumbeus* Widespread in wooded contexts, very common at Bermejas.
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Widespread encounters.
Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* Noted on six dates, mostly at Zapata sites.
Worm-eating Warbler ◇ *Helmitheros vermivorum* One at Soplillar and two more at Bermejas.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* One at Santo Tomas and another at Zapata Crocodile Farm.
Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* Small numbers on five dates, especially at Zapata sites.
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Ones and twos on seven dates.
Swainson's Warbler ◊ *Limnothlypis swainsonii* One at Santo Tomas was surprisingly late but most welcome.
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* Regularly encountered, mainly in damper areas.
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* Fairly common and very widespread.
Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* Several at Santa Clara, a few elsewhere.
Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* Small numbers on six dates.



Grey Catbirds on Cayo Coco. (Chris Kehoe)

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* One at La Guira and five at Zapata.
Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* Good views of a few on Cayo Coco.
Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* Small numbers on eight dates.



Cape May Warbler at Santa Clara and Oriente Warbler at Sierra de Cubitas. (Chris Kehoe)

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* Noted on six dates but rather uncommon.

Olive-capped Warbler ◊ *Setophaga pityophila* About six at La Guira, some great views.
Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* Four birds on three dates.
Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* Three encounters with singletons.
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* Most prominent at La Belen with a handful elsewhere.
Yellow-headed Warbler ◊ *Teretistris fernandinae* Noted at La Guira and Zapata, some excellent views.
Oriente Warbler ◊ *Teretistris fornsi* Great views at Sierra de Cubitas, others on the northern Cays.
Eastern Meadowlark ◊ *Sturnella magna* Ones and twos on four dates in grassland habitats.
Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* A male flew over on Cayo Coco.
Cuban Oriole ◊ *Icterus melanopsis* Several at Zapata after a few earlier birds.
Tawny-shouldered Blackbird ◊ *Agelaius humeralis* Most prominent at La Belen and Zapata, often in flowering trees.
Red-shouldered Blackbird ◊ *Agelaius assimilis* Close views of several near Bermejas and one at Santo Tomas.



Cuban Oriole at Palpite and Red-shouldered Blackbird near Bermejas. (Chris Kehoe)

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Occasional encounters.
Cuban Blackbird ◊ *Ptiloxena atroviolacea* Fairly common in more open areas.
Greater Antillean Grackle ◊ *Quiscalus niger* Widespread, often very common.
Zapata Sparrow ◊ (Cuban S) *Torreornis inexpectata* Good views of several at Zapata and a couple on Cayo Romano.
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* A few west of Havana and at Santa Clara.
Cuban Bullfinch ◊ *Melopyrrha nigra* Widespread in small numbers.
Cuban Grassquit ◊ *Tiaris canorus* Great views of a pair near San Diego.
Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* Widespread encounters.
Western Spindalis ◊ *Spindalis zena* Widespread in small numbers, seen on seven dates.
Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* A stunning male at Bermejas, a write-in.
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Singles at La Guira and Zapata.
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* A fine male at Bermejas.

MAMMALS

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* One near Esmarelda.