



Cuban Tody at La Belen (Chris Kehoe)

CUBA 1

21 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2017

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

Our first 2017 tour to Cuba produced, as usual, all of the available national and regional endemics and a fine selection of wintering North American migrants and others. Bird of the trip by a substantial margin was the amazing Bee Hummingbird which gave a series of superb views but also very popular were such stunners as Blue-headed Quail Dove and Cuban Tody. The sometimes tricky Zapata Wren showed exceptionally well and we had a lucky encounter with the rare Gundlach's Hawk when one suddenly appeared and mobbed a Stygian Owl we were watching. The weather throughout was mostly fine and sunny apart from a few short showers.

After gathering at Havana Airport we travelled west for two hours for an overnight stay in San Diego del los Banos where we arrived around sunset having seen having seen a few Turkey Vultures, Greater Antillean Grackles, Mourning Doves and Brown Pelicans along the way.

Birding proper began the next morning at Cueva Los Portales in La Guira National Park where the first bird seen was a grumpy looking Cuban Pygmy Owl perched right above the bus as we disembarked. Our top target here was the localised Cuban Solitaire, several of which were singing. It didn't take long to find one and we went on to enjoy excellent views of another. We also saw many other excellent birds here such as Cuban Trogon and Tody, Scaly-naped Pigeons, Cuban Martins, Pewees and Emeralds, Red-legged Honeycreepers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Tawny-shouldered and Cuban Blackbirds during a very lively hour that culminated with a Great Lizard Cuckoo as we were about to board the bus. After a short drive we stopped by some pines where an Olive-capped Warbler was quickly seen, as were Loggerhead Kingbird, La Sagra's Flycatchers, Cuban Bullfinch and Yellow-headed Warblers. After another short drive we walked through the parkland of Hacienda Cortina, adding the very scarce Giant Kingbird to our list along with the likes of West Indian and Cuban Green Woodpeckers, American Redstart, Black-whiskered Vireos and numerous Red-legged Thrushes. Our final stop of the morning was in an area of farmland near our hotel where the hoped-for Cuban Grassquits were uncharacteristically obliging, a fine male perching prominently for several minutes. After lunch we returned to Havana with two stops at roadside reservoirs along the way where we saw Snail Kite, Pied-billed and Least Grebes, Lesser Scaups, Ruddy and Ring-necked Ducks and others. After visiting the airport to collect a stray bag we checked-in to our comfortable hotel on the outskirts of the city at the end of a very productive and enjoyable day.



Cuban Solitaire at La Guira (Chris Kehoe)

After an early breakfast we were on our way east and arrived at Hato de Jacarita on the northern edge of Zapata swamp just before sunrise. A Limpkin and both Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes were in the parking area before we set off along the approach road. It didn't take long to hear our first Red-shouldered Blackbirds and one was coaxed close for prolonged views. As we watched the Blackbird a pair of Zapata Sparrows appeared right beside it and remained in view for many minutes. A few migrant warblers were scattered about and our first Cuban Orioles were seen before we returned to the highway where a short rest stop allowed good views of numerous Antillean Palm Swifts and some northbound Cuban Martins. By late morning we were in Santa Clara for lunch with birding in the restaurant grounds either side of eating. This is

an occasional site for the rare Gundlach's Hawk so we quickly made our way to the best area. As we searched the pine trees for our quarry we stumbled across a very obliging Stygian Owl, we watched it for a few minutes before a juvenile Gundlach's Hawk flew in to mob it and then gave a series of brief perched and flight views. Migrant warblers included our first Cape Mays and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Indigo Bunting were also added to our list before we resumed our journey towards Camaguey. A brief stop at Rio Azul gave us a few migrant warblers and we reached our city hotel in time to freshen up before dinner.

After another early breakfast we set off south towards La Belen before first light. Not far from our destination we stopped to view several Plain Pigeons perched prominently to catch the sun's first rays as Cuban Crows called loudly and our first Cuban Amazons were seen, as was an Eastern Meadowlark of the distinctive Cuban form. A short diversion to Najasa cemetery then gave us good views of several calling Cuban Palm Crows plus a Giant Kingbird, thus completing the set of the morning's top targets before we even reached our destination. Once inside the La Belen Reserve we enjoyed a pleasant walk around the parkland-like habitat there where we enjoyed repeat views of all the specialities while also seeing the likes of Cuban Trogons and Todys, Prairie Warbler and, after a few flight views, a close perched Cuban Parakeet. On our return to Camaguey for lunch we made a short stop at a roadside puddle where our only Northern Jacanas were seen. After a brief rest at the hotel we set off to Bakallao Reservoir where a covey of Northern Bobwhites showed well along with several Anhingas, Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants, Belted Kingfishers, Caspian Terns and others. Later in the evening some undertook a short walking tour in the historic old city in the company of our local guide Mario.



Stygian Owl in Santa Clara (Chris Kehoe)

The next morning we set off towards our next base at Cayo Coco but stopped in the wooded hills of Sierra de Cubitas after 45 minutes and were very soon viewing our first Oriente Warblers right beside the bus. Scaly-naped Pigeons were perched in distant trees here and three Broad-winged Hawks flew over as we watched a scarce Yellow-throated Vireo and a selection of commoner warblers in the roadside trees. As we crossed the causeway that connects the mainland to Cayo Coco we saw a couple of Cabot's Terns, many Royal Terns and both American Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls while in the distance large numbers of American Flamingos formed a pink shimmer along the horizon. After lunch and a short rest we set off to explore nearby sites. First stop was at a lagoon where several West Indian Whistling-ducks were slumbering.

Our next stop was at a nearby hotel where a Clapper Rail was quickly encouraged to show itself at close range. Most of the afternoon though was spent at Cueva de Jabile where local birders provide water and food that results in a constant coming and going of numerous species. Star of the show here is Key West Quail-Doves and they were on almost constant view during our 90 minute stay with up to 15 birds at a time visible on occasion. Zenaida Doves were also prominent here and a fine White-crowned Pigeon paid a surprise visit to one of the water troughs. A Zapata Sparrow put in a couple of appearances too as we watched a good selection of migrant warblers and another Yellow-throated Vireo. Next stop was at a nearby area of dry scrub where a cracking Cuban Gnatcatcher was coaxed in for close views before we visited a beach close to our hotel where we found a Piping Plover amidst many Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. With a little light remaining when we returned to the hotel we took a stroll around the lagoon behind our rooms where we found Yellow-crowned Night Herons, showy Mangrove Warblers and a Cuban Vireo.



Key West Quail-Dove (and Common Ground Dove) on Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)

Our full day on the northern cays began with a visit to Cayo Paredon Grande with a stop along the way to admire our first Cuban Black Hawk. Once at the northern tip of Paredon Grande we quickly found a very obliging Bahama Mockingbird before setting off on a slightly longer search for our other key target here, the exceptionally localised Thick-billed Vireo which also showed very well along with the likes of Cuban Gnatcatcher, Oriente Warbler and Prairie Warbler. We made several stops on the way back to our hotel, seeing a selection of commoner waterbirds but also a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a large gathering of Reddish Egrets plus a perched Merlin and our only White-eyed Vireo. With all of our targets already seen well we spent the afternoon exploring the wetlands on and around Cayo Guillermo. Ring-billed Gulls were added to our list here while the best lagoon held good numbers of close-up American Flamingos plus several Short-billed Dowitchers and Willets and small numbers of West Indian Whistling Ducks, Blue-winged Teals and Northern Shoveler. More of the same was on another lagoon back on Cayo Coco where we searched unsuccessfully for Mangrove Cuckoo but did succeed in finding a few Stilt Sandpipers.

A pre-dawn jaunt in search of Cuban Nightjar resulted in good spotlight views before we returned to the hotel for breakfast and to load the bus before beginning the journey back to the mainland. The highlight of a stop along the causeway was about 30 American White Pelicans mixed in with large numbers of American

Flamingos. By lunchtime we were back in Santa Clara where Stygian Owls and a few migrant were seen but we were soon on our way to Zapata via a quick photo stop at the Che Guevara memorial. By late afternoon we were at Bermejas where it took just a few minutes to find our first fabulous Bee Hummingbirds, including a stunning full plumaged male. We lingered a while to admire this much-wanted species. A quick check of a nearby trail failed to produce any Quail-Doves but did give us a smart Worm-eating Warbler. Our hotel was now only 20 minutes away and we were soon checking in for a five-night stay.

We were back at Bermejas a little before sunrise the next morning and quickly took up our positions overlooking the stretch of trail favoured by Quail-Doves. It didn't take long for both Grey-fronted and Key West Quail-Doves and numerous Zenaida Doves to appear and we went on to enjoy exceptionally close views of these stunning birds along with many Ovenbirds and others. We then visited an area of palms where two pairs of stunning Fernandina's Flickers were in residence along with numerous West Indian Woodpeckers and several American Kestrels. A short return to the Bee Hummingbirds gave us further good views while the Quail-Dove trail held our first Black-throated Green Warbler. After lunch and a short break we set off north towards Soplillar but made a short visit to Cueva los Peces along the way where a group of superb Blue-headed Quail Doves showed extremely well, attracted to the food provided by the kitchen staff there. Once at Soplillar we set off along a trail that took us to the roost tree of a very obliging Bare-legged Owl and not long afterwards we were watching a pair of roosting Cuban Nightjars along with a nice selection of migrant warblers, several Yellow-headed Warblers and a very close Cuban Pygmy Owl.



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

After an early breakfast we set off towards La Turba and our first attempt for the often tricky Zapata Wren. Driving along the approach road at first light gave us a fine Ruddy Quail-dove to complete the set before we set off on a rather long walk to the far end of the track and the area where the wren now resides after a fire destroyed the closer habitat. Along the way we saw a couple of Red-shouldered Blackbirds and a few migrant warblers but on arrival there was no sight or sound of Zapata Wren, though a couple of Zapata Sparrows were present. Eventually a Zapata Wren was heard singing and perhaps because so few now visit this area it proved very responsive and we soon had it in view. Eventually it came very close indeed and gave a fine performance for many minutes to the delight of all. The walk back to the waiting bus seemed

considerably shorter than the outward journey! Our afternoon excursion took us to the extensive wetlands of Las Salinas where Black Skimmers, a Cuban rarity, were a prized find along with the likes of Wood Stork, Clapper Rail, Wilson's Plovers, American White Pelicans, Peregrine and many commoner species including numerous Neotropic Cormorants, American Flamingos, White Ibises and Roseate Spoonbills and a few Cuban Black Hawks while some also saw a distant Northern Harrier. The drive back towards Playa Larga was enlivened by a surprise Wilson's Snipe skulking at the roadside.

We began the next morning with a short visit to some of the trails at Bermejas where the highlight was a scarce Magnolia Warbler amongst several other migrant warblers plus close views of Yellow-headed Warblers and a couple of Bare-legged Owls. At a nearby marshy open area we had some good views of Red-shouldered Blackbirds as Cuban Martins wheeled around in the distance and a couple of Cuban Trogons showed very well in the roadside trees. Our first stop after lunch was at a small private garden in the village of Palpite where a flowering tree and some feeders are attractive to hummingbirds. Today, at least three Bee Hummingbirds were in attendance amongst several Cuban Emeralds and gave some amazingly close views. While here we also had close encounters with the likes of Black-throated Blue Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Cuban Orioles. An extended search in the nearby woodlands finally gave us close views of the distinctive local race of Northern Flicker with Black-throated Green Warbler, Summer Tanager and others as supporting cast. We concluded the day with a brief visit to Cueva los Peces where Blue-headed Quail Doves showed very well again along with Western Spindalises, Northern Parulas and a Yellow-throated Warbler.



Zapata Wren at La Turba (Chris Kehoe)

We began our final day at Zapata with a visit to the roadside pools near the Crocodile breeding centre where Purple and Common Gallinules showed well while the bottlebrush trees there attracted several Tawny-shouldered Blackbirds and a few Shiny Cowbirds plus a scarce Myrtle Warbler and a couple of dazzling Cape May Warblers. The telephone lines here held several Grey Kingbirds and a dark morph American

Kestrel and several Cuban Martins were seen. We then returned to the trails at nearby Soplillar and although nothing new was seen we enjoyed repeat views of the likes of Cuban Nightjars, Bare-legged and Cuban Pygmy Owls plus Cuban Todys, Trogons and Vireos and a small selection of migrant warblers. Our afternoon birding was concentrated along the trails at Bermejas where a surprise Rose-breasted Grosbeak was new and we encountered Blue-headed, Ruddy and Grey-fronted Quail Doves along with several migrant warblers and many commoner species such as Red-legged Thrushes and La Sagra's Flycatchers. We rounded off the day with a return to the Bee Hummingbirds and had fine views in lovely evening light.

With no realistic expectation of adding anything new to our list in the Zapata area we set off for Havana after breakfast in order to fit in some shorebirding close to there. This proved rather productive, despite somewhat rainy weather, when we found Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers and a locally scarce Dunlin amongst the commoner fare present. After a hearty lunch at a restaurant in the historic centre of Havana it was time for a tour of the old city in the company of our local guide before travelling to the airport at the end of a very successful and enjoyable tour.

Bird of the trip results

1 – Bee Hummingbird	34 points
2 - Cuban Tody	25 points
3 - Blue-headed Quail-dove	11 points
4 – Western Spindalis	10 points
5 – Stygian Owl	8 points



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



Bee Hummingbird at Bermejas (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* A total of about 20 on the northern cays.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Small numbers on the northern cays and at Las Salinas.

Northern Shoveler (W) *Anas clypeata* About 20 on the northern cays.

Ring-necked Duck (W) *Aythya collaris* At least 20 at the reservoirs near Havana.

Lesser Scaup (W) *Aythya affinis* About 150 at the reservoirs near Havana.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* Several on the northern cays.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* About 40 at the reservoirs near Havana.

Helmeted Guineafowl (introduced) *Numida meleagris* A few at La Belen looked somewhat wild.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* Eight showed well at Bakallao Reservoir.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* A couple at the reservoirs near Havana.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Over 30 at the reservoirs near Havana.

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



American Flamingos at Cayo Guillermo (Chris Kehoe)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Three in the Zapata area.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Common at the northern cays and several more at Las Salinas.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* About 30 in the Zapata area.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Three at Cayo Romano and two at Las Salinas.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* One at La Turba and a couple in Santa Clara.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* A handful on the northern cays.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Small numbers on eight dates.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common and widespread.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Seen on five dates with several 'Great White' at coastal sites.

Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta* Noted on seven dates.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* Common on the northern cays with several more at Las Salinas.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Locally common at a few wetlands.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Widespread and fairly common.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Widespread but less frequent than the previous species.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Thirty from Cayo Coco causeway and a couple at Las Salinas.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Noted on seven dates.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Prominent on the northern cays, a few elsewhere.

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

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

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* A couple at Bakalloa Reservoir.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Very common throughout.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Noted on seven dates, a Caribbean race bird at Las Salinas.

Gundlach's Hawk ♦ *Accipiter gundlachi* A juvenile mobbed the Stygian Owl at Santa Clara!

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* Distant views for some at Las Salinas.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* One at the La Coronela Reservoir near Havana.

Cuban Black Hawk *Buteogallus gundlachi* Several on the northern cays.



Reddish Egrets, Tricolored Herons, Black-necked Stilts and Greater Yellowlegs at Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)



Northern Bobwhites at Bakallao Reservoir (Chris Kehoe)

Broad-winged Hawk ◇ *Buteo platypterus* Noted on six dates after the first at La Guira.

Clapper Rail ◇ *Rallus crepitans* Good views at Cayo Coco and Las Salinas.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* Three at Zapata.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Seen on six dates, most prominent on the northern cays.

American Coot *Fulica americana* Common on the reservoirs near Havana, a few at Cayo Guillermo.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* A few at Zapata and La Belen.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Common on the northern cays at at Las Salinas.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Several at coastal sites.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few on Cayo Coco and about 100 near Havana.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* Two at Las Salinas.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Widespread encounters.

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

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Eight near Camaguey.

Wilson's Snipe (W) *Gallinago delicata* One at the Las Salinas approach road.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* About 100 on the northern cays.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Several on various coastal lagoons.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Numerous at Las Salinas, a few elsewhere.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* About 10 on Cayo Guillermo.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Ones and twos on three dates.



Black Skimmers and Neotropic Cormorants at Las Salinas (Chris Kehoe)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Several on Cayo Coco and near Havana, a couple at Zapata.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Several on Cayo Coco and near Havana.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* About 30 near Havana.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* At least three near Havana.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Common near Havana, a few elsewhere.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* One near Havana.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Two on Cayo Coco.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* Twenty at Las Salinas, the first for many years.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Common in coastal areas, a couple inland.

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

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* Two at Cayo Coco causeway.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* Two adults on Cayo Coco.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* About 10 at Las Salinas.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Ten at Bacalloa Reservoir and four at Las Salinas.
Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Fairly common at coastal sites.
Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acutiflavidus* Four as we crossed Cayo Coco causeway.
Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* Present in some towns.



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

White-crowned Pigeon ◇ *Patagioenas leucocephala* Good numbers at Zapata, several elsewhere.
Scaly-naped Pigeon ◇ *Patagioenas squamosa* A handful at La Guira and Sierra de Cubitas.
Plain Pigeon ◇ *Patagioenas inornata* Over 10 at and around La Belen, great scope views.
Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia decaocto* Common on the northern cays, a few elsewhere.
Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* Scattered records throughout.
Blue-headed Quail-Dove ◇ *Starnoenas cyanocephala* Up to 10 at Zapata, some fantastic views.
Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana* Singles at La Turba and Bermejas.
Grey-fronted Quail-Dove ◇ *Geotrygon caniceps* About 10 at Zapata, some amazing views.
Key West Quail-Dove ◇ *Geotrygon chrysis* Fifteen at Cueva de Jabile and another at Bermejas.
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* Common in open country.
Zenaida Dove ◇ *Zenaida aurita* Common on the northern cays and at Zapata, a few elsewhere.
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Small numbers at widespread sites.
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Quite common in open country.
Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor* (H) Heard distantly on Cayo Coco.
Great Lizard Cuckoo ◇ *Coccyzus merlini* Seen on six dates after the first at La Guira.
Bare-legged Owl (Cuban Screech O) *Margarobyas lawrencii* Four in total at Zapata.
Cuban Pygmy Owl ◇ *Glaucidium siju* Seen on five dates at widespread sites, others heard.
Stygian Owl ◇ *Asio stygius* Fabulous views of a roosting bird at Santa Clara on both visits.
Cuban Nightjar ◇ *Antrostomus cubanensis* Spotlighted on Cayo Coco and a roosting pair at Soplillar.
Antillean Palm Swift ◇ *Tachornis phoenicobia* Locally common, seen on eight dates.



White-crowned Pigeon at Cayo Coco and Plain Pigeon at La Belen (Chris Kehoe)



Cuban Nightjar at Soplillar (Chris Kehoe)

Cuban Emerald ◇ *Chlorostilbon ricordii* Widespread in mostly small numbers.

Bee Hummingbird ◇ *Mellisuga helenae* At least six in total at Zapata, some sensational views.

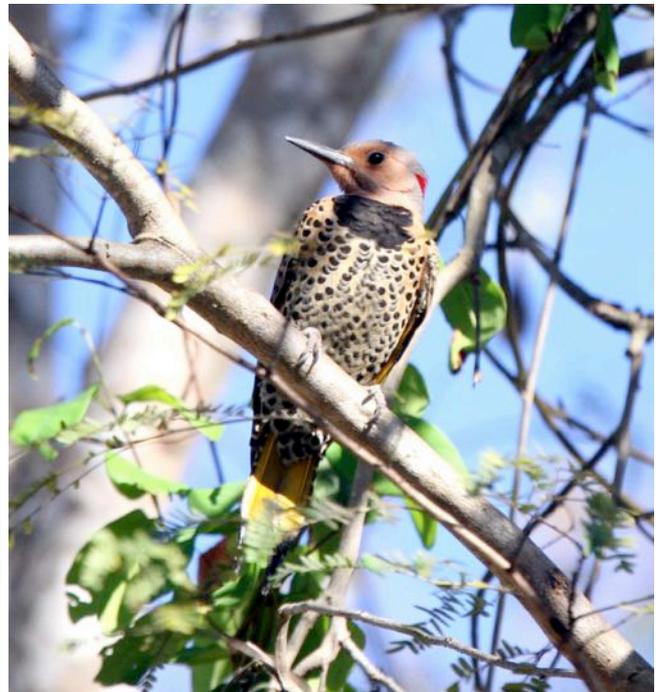


Bee Hummingbird at Palpite (Chris Kehoe)

Cuban Trogon ◊ *Priotelus temnurus* Pleasantly common in most wooded areas.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* Noted on five dates.

Cuban Tody ◊ *Todus multicolor* Many great encounters with this gem, always a favourite.



Bare-legged Owl at Soplillar and 'Cuban' Northern Flicker at Palpite (Chris Kehoe)

West Indian Woodpecker ◊ *Melanerpes superciliaris* Common throughout.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (W) *Sphyrapicus varius* One at Santa Clara.

Cuban Green Woodpecker ◊ *Xiphidiopicus percussus* Small numbers on eight dates.

Northern Flicker ◇ *Colaptes auratus* Singles at Cayo Coco and Palpite.
Fernandina's Flicker ◇ *Colaptes fernandinae* Two pairs near Bermejas.
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Widespread in small numbers.
American Kestrel ◇ *Falco sparverius* Common and widespread, overwhelmingly pale morph birds.



Pale morph 'Cuban' American Kestrel at Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)



Cuban Amazon at La Belen and Cuban Gnatcatcher on Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Singles at Cayo Paredon Grande and La Turba.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Singles near Moron and at Las Salinas.
Cuban Amazon ◇ (Rose-throated Parrot) *Amazona leucocephala* Great views at La Belen, a couple at Zapata.
Cuban Parakeet ◇ *Psittacara euops* Seen perched at La Belen, several, mainly in flight, at Bermejas.

Cuban Pewee ◊ (**Crescent-eyed P**) *Contopus caribaeus* Quite common in wooded contexts.
Grey Kingbird (S) *Tyrannus dominicensis* Rather numerous this year.
Giant Kingbird ◊ *Tyrannus cubensis* Two at La Guira and three in the La Belen area.
Loggerhead Kingbird ◊ *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* Widespread and moderately common.
La Sagra's Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus sagrae* Widespread in wooded areas.
White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* One on Cayo Coco.
Thick-billed Vireo ◊ *Vireo crassirostris* Good views of three on Cayo Paredon Grande.
Cuban Vireo ◊ *Vireo gundlachi* Widespread in small numbers, more heard than seen.
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* Singles at Sierra de Cubitas and Cueva de Jabile.
Black-whiskered Vireo ◊ (**S**) *Vireo altiloquus* Frequently heard, several seen well.



Black-whiskered Vireo at Sierra de Cubitas and Bahama Mockingbird at Cayo Paredon Grande (Chris Kehoe)

House Crow *Corvus splendens* One at Cayo Guillermo, a write-in.
Cuban Palm Crow ◊ *Corvus minutus* Up to 30 in the La Belen area and a couple at Zapata.
Cuban Crow ◊ *Corvus nasicus* Common at La Belen.
Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* Three at Zapata.
Cuban Martin ◊ *Progne cryptoleuca* Noted on six dates after the first at La Guira.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* A handful on two dates as we travelled.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Several as we travelled towards Cayo Coco, a few elsewhere.
Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* About 20 at La Guira.
Zapata Wren ◊ *Ferminia cerverai* Fantastic views of one at La Turba.
Cuban Gnatcatcher ◊ *Poliophtila lembeyi* Close views of a few on the northern cays.
Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* Widespread in small numbers.
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* Common and widespread.
Bahama Mockingbird ◊ *Mimus gundlachi* One at Cayo Paredon Grande showed well.
Cuban Solitaire *Myadestes elisabeth* Excellent views at La Guira.
Red-legged Thrush ◊ *Turdus plumbeus* Widespread, sometimes common.
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* A few in towns.
Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* Noted on six dates, mostly at Zapata.
Worm-eating Warbler ◊ *Helmitheros vermivorum* At least four at Zapata.
Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* Singles at La Guira and Hato de Jacarita.
Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* Small numbers on seven dates.
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Ones and twos on 10 dates.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* Several, mainly in damper areas.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* Widespread, sometimes common, especially at Zapata.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* A few after the first at Santa Clara, seen on six dates.

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* Small numbers on eight dates.



Cape May Warbler in Santa Clara and Olive-capped Warbler at La Guira (Chris Kehoe)



Black-throated Blue Warbler at Palpite (Chris Kehoe)

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* Singles at Rio Azul and Bermejas.

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* Good views on the northern cays, others at Las Salinas.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* Easily seen in most wooded areas.

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* Widespread, often common.

Olive-capped Warbler ◇ *Setophaga pityophila* Good views at two locations in La Guira NP.

Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* Singles at Cayo Paredon Grande and Zapata.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* Noted on eight dates, always a favourite.

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* Noted on eight dates.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* Three at Zapata.



Prairie and Mangrove Warblers at Cayo Coco (Chris Kehoe)

Yellow-headed Warbler ◇ *Teretistris fernandinae* Noted at La Guira and Zapata where quite numerous.

Oriente Warbler ◇ *Teretistris fornsi* Several at Sierra de Cubitas and on the northern cays.

Eastern Meadowlark ◇ *Sturnella magna* A few in the Camaguey region and at Zapata.

Cuban Oriole ◇ *Icterus melanopsis* Noted on nine dates at widespread locations.

Tawny-shouldered Blackbird ◇ *Agelaius humeralis* Fairly widespread after the first at La Guira, often in flowering trees.



Tawny-shouldered Blackbird at Bermejas and Zapata Sparrow at La Turba (Chris Kehoe)

Red-shouldered Blackbird ◇ *Agelaius assimilis* Good views at Hato de Jacarita and near Bermejas.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Occasional encounters, mostly at Zapata.

Cuban Blackbird ◇ *Ptiloxena atroviolacea* Frequently encountered.

Greater Antillean Grackle ◇ *Quiscalus niger* Common and widespread.

Zapata Sparrow ◇ (Cuban S) *Torreornis inexpectata* Twos at Hato de Jacarita and La Turba, one at Cayo Coco.

Red-legged Honeycreeper (introduced) *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Good views of several at La Guira and Santa Clara.

Cuban Bullfinch ◇ *Melopyrrha nigra* Widespread in small numbers.

Cuban Grassquit ◊ *Tiaris canorus* Excellent views near San Diego del los Banos.
Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* Widespread in mostly small number.
Western Spindalis ◊ *Spindalis zena* Small numbers in most wooded areas on six dates.
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* A vivid male at Santa Clara and a female at Palpite.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* One at Bermejas.
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* Two at Santa Clara and another at La Turba.

MAMMALS

Desmarest's Hutia (Conga H) *Capromys pilorides* Two at Soplillar.
Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* One near Havana.



Returning to the bus after watching Bahama Mockingbird and Thick-billed Vireos at Cayo Paredon Grande (Chris Kehoe)