



*Bee Hummingbird (Chris Kehoe)*

# CUBA

**14 – 25 March 2020**

## **LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE**

Our recent Cuba tour once again produced all of the realistically possible Cuban endemics plus many regional specialties and a host of others, including many North American migrants. Bee Hummingbird was voted bird of trip and showed wonderfully well but other particularly popular species were the simply stunning Cuban Trogon and Cuban Tody, both of which were rather common, Blue-headed Quail-Dove (one of four Quail Dove species seen), Stygian Owl, Oriente Warbler (along with Yellow-headed Warbler now part of an endemic family, Cuban Warblers - Teretistridae), Fernandina's Flicker, Giant Kingbird and Bare-legged Owl. The supporting cast included and impressive 18 species of overwintering American Wood Warblers, including many Cape Mays, the much-wanted Swainson's, a handful of Worm-eating Warblers and an unexpected Tennessee Warbler. Further highlights included local scarcities such as Piping Plovers, White-cheeked Pintails, American White Pelicans and the decidedly rare Bananaquit, here of the race *bahamensis*, a potential future split and a write-in for this tour.

After gathering in Havana in the evening we made our way west for 90 minutes for an overnight stay in San Diego de los Baños.

Just before sunrise we were on our way to La Guira NP and arrived at Cueva de los Portales a little over 30 minutes later. New birds came thick and fast, many of them Cuban endemics, with the likes of Cuban Blackbirds, Red-legged Thrushes, Great Lizard Cuckoo, Cuban Martin, Loggerhead Shrike, American Barn Owl and Scaly-naped Pigeon all on view before we reached an area favoured by the localised Cuban Solitaire. We went on to have some splendid views of the Solitaire while the supporting cast included Cuban Bullfinch, Trogon and Tody plus Yellow-headed Warblers. Returning towards the bus we stopped to view Cuban Pewee, Cuban Green Woodpecker and White-crowned Pigeons. Tawny-shouldered Blackbirds fed in a flowering tree with Cuban Emeralds and Orioles but the chief highlight was an unexpected and very obliging Giant Kingbird. Overhead the numerous Turkey Vultures were joined by a couple of Broad-winged Hawks and many Cave Swallows amongst which a few Cuban Martins appeared. After a short drive we reached a small area of pine trees where Olive-capped Warblers were quickly found and showed well along with Red-legged Honeycreeper, Western Spindalis and others. We spent the rest of the morning at Hacienda Cortina seeing our first Purple Gallinules and a pair of Fernandina's Flickers that were nesting in a palm stump. After lunch we began the journey back towards Havana but stopped after just 10 minutes to admire a rare and unpredictable Gundlach's Hawk soaring around for a couple of minutes – a great first-day bonus. Stops at roadside wetlands gave us several Snail Kites, a couple of Lesser Scaups and various commoner wetland birds such as Caspian Tern, White Ibis, Blue-winged Teal and Pied-billed Grebe but the chief highlight this afternoon was several vivid Cuban Grassquits at Las Terrazas where they are attracted to grain provided along with the much more widespread and abundant Yellow-faced Grassquits.



*Cuban Grassquit and Yellow-faced Grassquits (Chris Kehoe)*

After an early start we reached the northern edge of Zapata National Park just before sunrise. 90 minutes along the road through the cattail swamp there gave us close views of two local specialities in the shape of Red-shouldered Blackbirds and the Zapata race of Zapata Sparrows. The supporting cast here consisted of showy Cuban Pygmy Owls, migrating Tree Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Louisiana Waterthrush, a very obliging Great Lizard Cuckoo and a Limpkin. The rest of the day was spent on the long

drive east to Camaguey but stops along the way, including for lunch in Santa Clara, gave us a good selection of wintering warblers, including Cape May, Yellow-throated and Prairie plus three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.



*Cuban Pygmy Owl (Chris Kehoe)*

By sunrise the next morning we were on the outskirts of Najasa where Plain Pigeons sat up to catch the first warming rays and our first Cuban Crows gurgled away. In nearby La Belen Reserve we quite quickly found the first of several noisy Cuban Palm Crows along with several Giant Kingbirds and our first Cuban Parakeets and Cuban Parrots. Overwintering warblers here included several Yellow-throated, Black-throated Green and Black-and-white. Woodpeckers were particularly prominent too with numerous West Indians and a few Cuban Green Woodpeckers. After lunch at the La Belen Ranch we returned towards Camaguey but stopped at a roadside pool to view Northern Jacanas. Continuing beyond Camaguey, we visited Bakalloa Reservoir where a locally scarce Myrtle Warbler fed along the shoreline with Palm Warblers, our first Spotted Sandpiper was noted as a Belted Kingfisher hovered nearby and Least Sandpipers crept about. On a distant spit several Caspian Terns were gathered. Later in the evening most of the group accompanied our local guide on a walking tour of Camaguey's historic centre.

After a leisurely breakfast we set off towards our next base on Cayo Coco. After 45 minutes we reached the wooded slopes of Sierra de Cubitas where the hoped-for Oriente Warblers quickly appeared and showed very well. A surprise here was a showy and much appreciated Key West Quail-Dove and we had good views of various warblers plus several western Spindalises, Loggerhead Kingbirds and others, though Scaly-naped Pigeons, another target here, played hard to get until a couple appeared overhead just as we were about to leave. Before crossing the causeway to Cayo Coco we spent a while scanning the roadside lagoons and were rewarded with four White-cheeked Pintails as well as a good number of Stilt Sandpipers and other shorebirds. As we crossed the causeway, we spotted a couple of Cabot's Terns and an American herring Gull. After a bite to eat and settling into our comfortable rooms we set off to do some local birding. At the Cayo Coco sewage ponds a single American Wigeon was found along with other waterbirds including, surprisingly, three Least Grebes. Roadside scrub nearby gave us a good selection of overwintering warblers including Northern Waterthrush and Prairie Warblers plus a big bonus in the shape of a vagrant Bananaquit. At Cueva de Jabile we took up positions overlooking two water troughs and waited to see what appeared. It was quite busy, with Ovenbirds, Cape May Warblers, Northern Parulas, Black-throated Blue and Black-and-white Warblers plus a



very dapper Worm-eating Warbler all coming in to drink or bath along with several Grey Catbirds, Red-legged Thrushes, Zenaida Doves, Common Ground Doves, Cuban Bullfinches and others. Eventually a Key West Quail-Dove walked out of the forest and showed well, as did a couple of Zapata Sparrows, while a Mangrove Cuckoo was coaxed into showing itself. Not far away we had a close encounter with perky Cuban Gnatcatchers plus a roadside Cuban Black Hawk before visiting a lagoon where three West Indian Whistling Ducks showed well along with a surprise, and surprised, Clapper Rail.



*Cuban Tody (Chris Kehoe)*

We began our full day on the cays with a visit to Cayo Paredon Grande where, despite the devastation wrought by a hurricane in 2016 and increasing tourist developments, it didn't take too long to locate the very localised Bahama Mockingbird. Sadly though, it seems the local population of Thick-billed Vireos may now be extinct. On adjacent Cayo Romano we found a nice selection of shorebirds such as Short-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers, both species of Yellowlegs and several Willets plus a very unexpected Glossy Ibis and good numbers of various herons including several Reddish Egrets. Royal terns and Magnificent Frigatebirds were watched as we returned to Cayo Coco where we found a single 'Great White' Heron, a few Cuban Black Hawks, a flock of American White Pelicans and a several Lesser Black-backed Gulls which are increasing every year but which were a major rarity in Cuba just a decade ago. In more wooded areas we found a couple of Cuban Gnatcatchers and Bullfinches and a selection of overwintering warblers. We rounded off the morning with a visit to a beach not far from our hotel where the hoped-for Piping Plovers showed extremely well along with a few commoner shorebirds including our only Sanderlings of the tour. After lunch we drove to Cayo Guillermo where roadside lagoons held a good selection of waterbirds including 10 West Indian Whistling Ducks and plenty of dapper American Flamingos plus our first Mangrove Warbler. Back on Cayo Coco we had good views of a 'Cuban' Northern Flicker and a perched Merlin.

DAY 7 The next day was mostly spent travelling as we returned to the mainland and made our way to the final base of the tour at Playa Giron in Zapata National Park. After lunch in Santa Clara we reached Zapata by mid-afternoon and made our way to a small private garden in the village of Palpitte where a flowering bush and a few hummingbird feeders proved attractive to many stupendous Bee Hummingbirds which showed wonderfully well along with several Cuban Emeralds, Black-throated Blue Warblers and others.





*Blue-headed Quail Dove and Grey-fronted Quail-Doves (Chris Kehoe)*

There was time for one final stop before we reached our hotel, here we waited a while until a group of stunning Blue-headed Quail-Doves wandered out of the forest to forage in an area where kitchen staff provide food for the birds. Also seen here before we completed our journey was our first Magnolia Warbler.



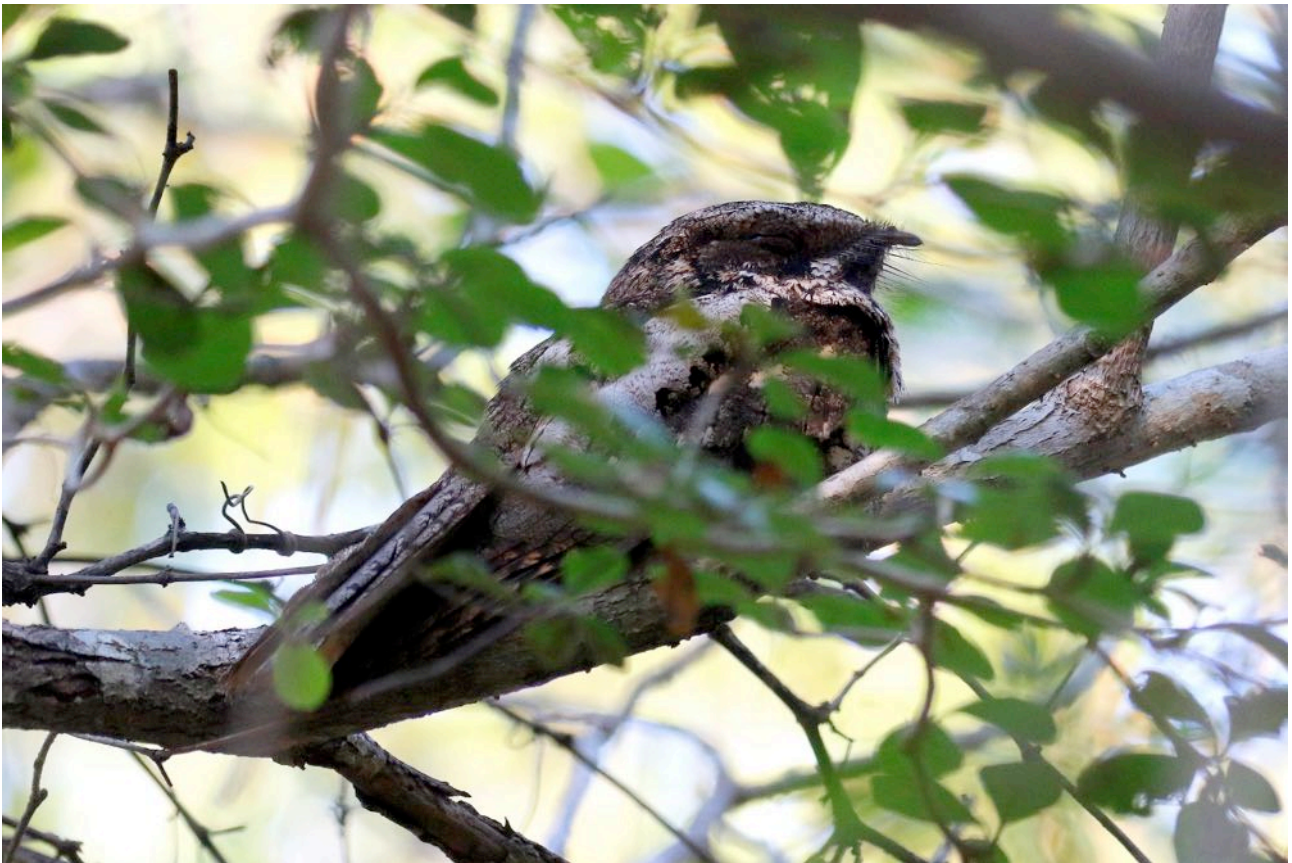
An early start on the long drive to Santo Tomas gave us the opportunity to see a couple of Cuban Nightjars en route and, just as it got light, two Ruddy Quail-Doves appeared on the road ahead. Once at Santo Tomas we boarded two small boats and were punted deep into the swamp where we disembarked and were soon enjoying close views of a singing Zapata Wren. In the same area we also came across a couple of Zapata Sparrows, Yellow-headed Warbler and others. Back at the village we set off in search of an overwintering Swainson's Warbler which we eventually tracked down for good views. Also seen were several each of Cuban Tody and Cuban Trogon, various commoner warbler species and three Cuban Pygmy Owls.



*Zapata Wren (Chris Kehoe)*

We spent the afternoon in the woodland at Sopllillar where two roosting Cuban Nightjars were a main highlight until our first Grey-fronted Quail-Doves appeared and we visited the nest hole of a Bare-legged Owl which popped its head out and thus completed our list of realistically possible Cuban endemics.

A short drive delivered us to Bermejas where we took up positions at a small screen overlooking a stretch of trail baited with food and water. Not long after sunrise we were watching numerous Zenaida Doves and soon afterwards both Grey-fronted and Blue-headed Quail-Doves appeared and went on to give an amazing performance at very close range, joined later by a Ruddy Quail-Dove. Ovenbirds and Red-legged Thrushes were in much evidence too and as the sunlight hit the canopy a host of small birds arrived there including Black-throated Green Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, an unexpected Tennessee Warbler and La Sagra's Flycatchers as numerous White-crowned Pigeons flew over. In a large open swampy area nearby we noted a Northern Harrier and a Red-tailed Hawk before visiting a site for Fernandina's Flicker which showed well, as did a couple of Bare-legged Owls and a good selection of Warblers including a Louisiana Waterthrush. In the afternoon we returned to Sopllillar where our hard-working local guide, Mario, left us to go and search for a roosting Stygian Owl, a much-wanted species, while we watched a good selection of warblers, including numerous American Redstarts, Yellow-throated Warbler and Yellow-headed Warbler, Cuban Trogons and Todys and a very showy Great Lizard Cuckoo. Mario eventually returned with good news so we set off with him and were soon face to face with a very impressive Stygian Owl on a branch right above our heads. Happy with this we slowly made our way back to the bus, stopping for views of various species along the way including another Grey-fronted Quail-Dove.



*Cuban Nightjar (Chris Kehoe)*

A change of scene the next morning saw us visiting the vast lagoon system at Las Salinas where we enjoyed great views of a wide selection of waterbirds which included our first Black Skimmers, Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks along with the likes of Clapper Rail, Caspian and Royal Terns, Northern Harrier and Mangrove Warbler. Also notable here was a Western Osprey of the strikingly pale Caribbean race *ridgwayi*. With no major targets left we spent the afternoon along a trail; system near our hotel where we enjoyed repeat views of many previously seen species plus a Yellow-crowned Night Heron and a surprise Gundlach's Hawk.

By now, as the tour approached its conclusion, we had barely been affected by the coronavirus ravaging parts of the world outside Cuba but, quite sensibly, the Cuban government decided to enact a lockdown policy meaning our local guide had to return home and we would be confined to the extensive grounds of our comfortable hotel. We also learned that our return flight to Paris had been cancelled by Air France but the Birdquest Office managed to arrange alternative flights 24 hours later for those requiring them. What would have been our final full day of the tour, and the next, was thus spent at the hotel, albeit with exploration of the grounds where Grey Kingbirds were prominent along with various overwintering warblers, overhead Cave Swallows and others including a couple of scarce Wilson's Plovers. As well as offering good local birding and blue skies over palm-fringed beaches, Playa Giron is also an all-inclusive establishment - so we found ourselves locked-down in rather favourable circumstances! Our excellent local crew remained with us until it was time for them to deliver us to the airport in Havana for a return home on mostly empty aircraft to a decidedly eerie locked-down Europe.





*Watching a Zapata Wren (Chris Kehoe)*



*Playa Giron during our lockdown (Chris Kehoe)*

**Bird of the Trip results:**

- 1 - Bee Hummingbird
- 2 - Cuban Tody
- 3 - Blue-headed Quail-Dove
- 4 - Stygian Owl
- 5 - Oriente Warbler





Oriente Warbler (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).

### BIRDS

Total number of birds recorded: 161

**West Indian Whistling Duck** ◊ *Dendrocygna arborea* About 10 in total on the cays.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* Noted west of Havana, on the cays and at Las Salinas.

**Northern Shoveler (W)** *Spatula clypeata* Several on the cays.

**American Wigeon (W)** *Mareca americana* One on Cayo Coco.

**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* Four at the start of the Cayo Coco causeway were unexpected.

**Lesser Scaup (W)** *Aythya affinis* Just two west of Havana, sometimes there are hundreds.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* Several on the cays and one at Las Salinas.

**Cuban Nightjar** ◊ *Antrostomus cubanensis* Four in total at Zapata, two at day roosts.

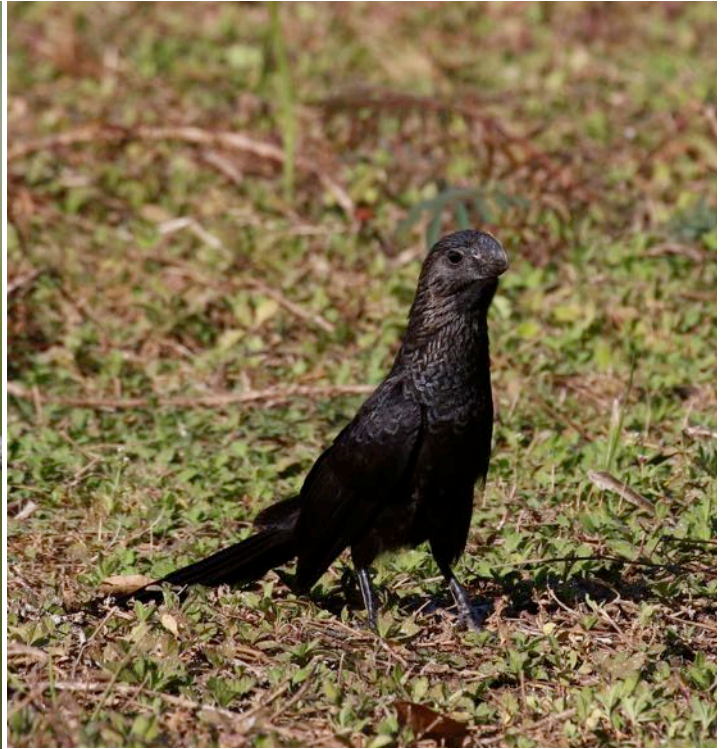
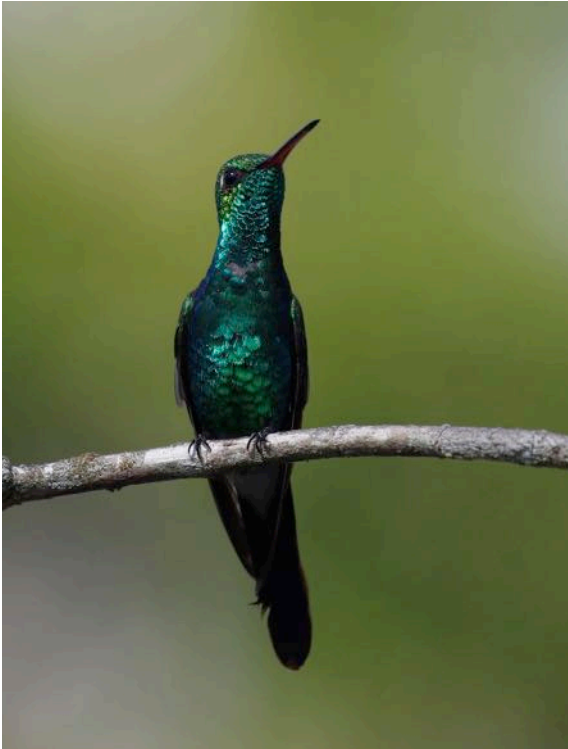
**Antillean Palm Swift** ◊ *Tachornis phoenicobia* Rather localised, seen on six dates.

**Cuban Emerald** ◊ *Chlorostilbon ricordii* Widespread.

**Bee Hummingbird** ◊ *Mellisuga helenae* Fabulous encounters at Palpitte and Bermejas.

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* Double figures most days.

**Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor* One on Cayo Coco.



*Cuban Emerald and Smooth-billed Ani (Chris Kehoe)*

**Great Lizard Cuckoo** ♦ *Coccyzus merlini* One or two on six dates.

**Rock Dove (introduced)** *Columba livia* Small numbers most days.

**White-crowned Pigeon** ♦ *Patagioenas leucocephala* A few at La Guira and the cays, hundreds at Zapata.



*Piping Plover (Chris Kehoe)*

**Scaly-naped Pigeon** ♦ *Patagioenas squamosa* One at La Guira and a handful at Sierra de Cubitas.

**Plain Pigeon** ♦ *Patagioenas inornata* Up to 10 at Najasa.

**Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced)** *Streptopelia decaocto* Noted on seven dates.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerine* Small numbers on nine dates.

**Blue-headed Quail-Dove** ♦ *Starnoenas cyanocephala* Great views at two Zapata sites.



**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* Two as we travelled to Santo Tomas.  
**Grey-fronted Quail-Dove** ♦ *Geotrygon caniceps* Great views at Zapata.  
**Key West Quail-Dove** ♦ *Geotrygon chrysia* Singles at Sierra de Cubitas, Cayo Coco and Zapata.  
**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* Double figures most days, often as we travelled.  
**Zenaida Dove** ♦ *Zenaida aurita* Noted on nine dates, very prominent at Bermejas.  
**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* A few on five dates.



*Black Skimmers, Tricolored Herons, Snowy Egrets, American White Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills and Neotropic Cormorants at Las Salinas (Chris Kehoe)*

**Clapper Rail** ♦ *Rallus crepitans* Close encounters on Cayo Coco and at Las Salinas.  
**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* Noted west of Havana and near Camaguey.  
**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* Up to ten at three widespread sites.  
**American Coot** *Fulica americana* Ten west of Havana.  
**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* A couple at Zapata sites and others near Camaguey.  
**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus* Three on Cayo Coco, unusual there.  
**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* One near Havana and two at Las Salinas.  
**American Flamingo (Caribbean F)** *Phoenicopterus ruber* Numerous at Las Salinas after several at Cayo Guillermo.  
**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Numerous on the cays and one at Las Salinas.  
**Grey Plover (Black-bellied P)** *Pluvialis squatarola* Several on the cays and a few at Las Salinas.  
**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* A handful on Cayo Coco.  
**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* Two at Playa Giron.  
**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous* Noted on eight dates.  
**Piping Plover** ♦ (W) *Charadrius melodus* Three on Cayo Coco gave very close views.  
**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* Two near Camaguey and one near Zapata.  
**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Small numbers at the coast.  
**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* Up to 70 on the cays. a few at Las Salinas.  
**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Two on Cayo Coco.  
**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* Fifty at Las Salinas and a few elsewhere.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* Thirty on the cays and a few at Las Salinas.  
**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* Ten on Cayo Coco, a handful elsewhere..  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* Several on the cays and a few at Las Salinas.  
**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* Thirty on the cays and a couple at Las Salinas.  
**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* Several on the cays and about 50 at Las Salinas, more than usual.  
**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* Twenty seven at Las Salinas, an erratic visitor to Cuba.

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* Fairly numerous at the coast.  
**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* (LO) One at Cayo Guillermo.  
**American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus* One on the Cayo Coco causeway.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* At least 11 on the cays, an increasing winter visitor.  
**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* Over 100 at Las Salinas, smaller numbers on the cays.  
**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* Fairly numerous at coastal sites.  
**Cabot's Tern** *Thalasseus acuflavidus* Four on the cays.



*Stygian Owl and 'Ridgways' Western Osprey (Chris Kehoe)*

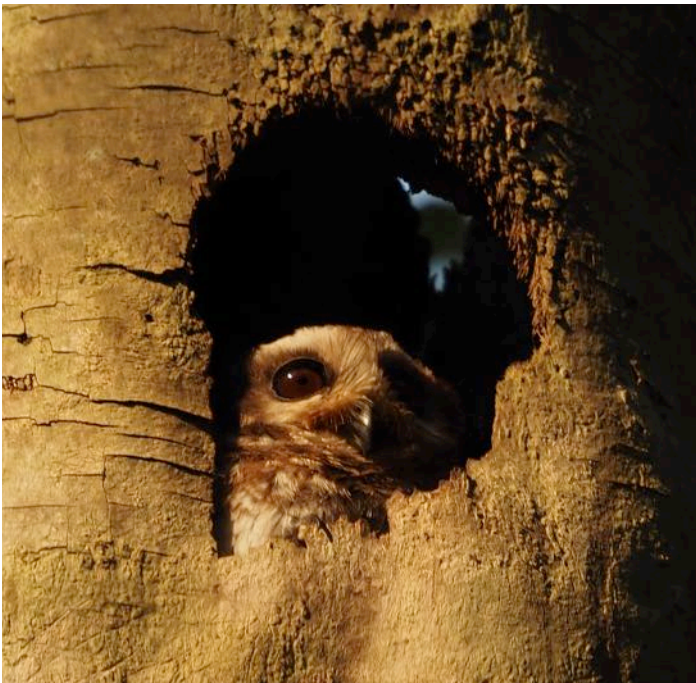
**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* About 15 at Las Salinas.  
**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* About 100 on the cays and three over Playa Giron.  
**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Two hundred at Las Salinas, a few elsewhere.  
**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auratus* Numerous west of Havana and on the cays.  
**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* Two west of Havana.  
**American White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* Numerous on the cays and at Las Salinas.  
**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Singles near Esmerelda and, very unusually, on Cayo Romano.  
**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* Numerous at Las Salinas.  
**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* One on Cayo Guillermo.  
**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* A couple at Zapata.  
**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* Noted on seven dates.  
**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread, especially as we travelled.  
**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea Herodias* Noted on five dates, one 'Great White' Heron on the cays.  
**Great Egret (American G E)** *Ardea [alba] egretta* Noted on seven dates.  
**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* Several on the cays and at Las Salinas.  
**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* Numerous on the cays and at Las Salinas.  
**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Noted on eight dates.  
**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Noted on nine dates.



**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* 20 on Cayo Coco and a handful at Las Salinas.  
**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Noted on seven dates after the first west of Havana.



Reddish Egret and American Flamingo (Michael Noonan)



Bare-legged Owl and 'Cuban' Northern Flicker (Michael Noonan)

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Amazingly common and widespread.  
**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Noted on six dates, a *ridgwayi* bird at Las Salinas.  
**Gundlach's Hawk** ♦ *Accipiter gundlachi* One soaring near San Diego de los Banos was a great first day bonus.  
**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* Singles at Nino Bonito reservoir and at Las Salinas.  
**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* About 20 at fish ponds west of Havana and one at Zapata.  
**Cuban Black Hawk** ♦ *Buteogallus gundlachi* A few on the cays and at Las Salinas.  
**Broad-winged Hawk** ♦ *Buteo platypterus* Four at La Guira.  
**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* Singles at La Guira and Zapata.  
**American Barn Owl** *Tyto furcata* One at La Guira.  
**Bare-legged Owl** ♦ (Cuban Screech O) *Margarobyas lawrencii* Two encounters at Zapata.



**Cuban Pygmy Owl** ♦ *Glaucidium siju* Seen on six dates in wooded areas.  
**Stygian Owl** ♦ *Asio stygius* A roosting bird at Soplillar.  
**Cuban Trogon** ♦ *Priotelus temnurus* Quite common in most wooded areas.  
**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* Noted on six dates.  
**Cuban Tody** ♦ *Todus multicolor* Commonly heard and often seen in wooded areas.  
**West Indian Woodpecker** ♦ *Melanerpes superciliaris* Locally common, seen on almost daily.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (W)** *Sphyrapicus varius* Three in Santa Clara and near Camaguey.  
**Cuban Green Woodpecker** ♦ *Xiphidiopicus percussus* Noted on six dates after the first at La Guira.



*Giant Kingbird and Cuban Pewee (Chris Kehoe)*

**Northern Flicker** ♦ *Colaptes auratus* One on the cays and about six at Zapata, endemic race *chrysocaulosus*.  
**Fernandina's Flicker** ♦ *Colaptes fernandinae* Pairs at La Guira and near Bermejas.  
**Northern Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway* Noted on six dates.  
**American Kestrel** ♦ *Falco sparverius* Small numbers seen almost daily, a single dark morph at Zapata.  
**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Singles near Camaguey and on the cays.  
**Cuban Amazon** ♦ (Rose-throated Parrot) *Amazona leucocephala* Ten at La Belen and a few at Zapata.  
**Cuban Parakeet** ♦ *Psittacara euops* Several at La Belen and in the Bermejas area.  
**Cuban Pewee** ♦ (Crescent-eyed P) *Contopus caribaeus* Noted on eight dates.  
**Grey Kingbird (S)** *Tyrannus dominicensis* Prominent at Playa Giron in particular, evidently migrating there.  
**Giant Kingbird** ♦ *Tyrannus cubensis* One at La Guira and up to 10 at La Belen  
**Loggerhead Kingbird** ♦ *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* Seen almost daily.  
**La Sagra's Flycatcher** ♦ *Myiarchus sagrae* Noted on seven dates.  
**Cuban Vireo** ♦ *Vireo gundlachii* Singles on five dates.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* One at La Guira.  
**Black-whiskered Vireo** ♦ (S) *Vireo altiloquus* Commonest in the west, much more often heard than seen.  
**Cuban Palm Crow** ♦ *Corvus minutus* At least 10 at La Belen.  
**Cuban Crow** ♦ *Corvus nasicus* Common and comically noisy in the Najasa area, a couple at Zapata.  
**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* Hundreds at some Zapata sites.  
**Cuban Martin** ♦ *Progne cryptoleuca* Ten over La Guira and one at Zapata.  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Noted on six dates at widespread sites.



**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* About 20 at the reservoirs west of Havana, scarce in Cuba.  
**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva* Present at La Guira, near Camaguey and at Playa Giron.  
**Zapata Wren** ♦ *Ferminia cerverei* Great views at Santo Tomas.



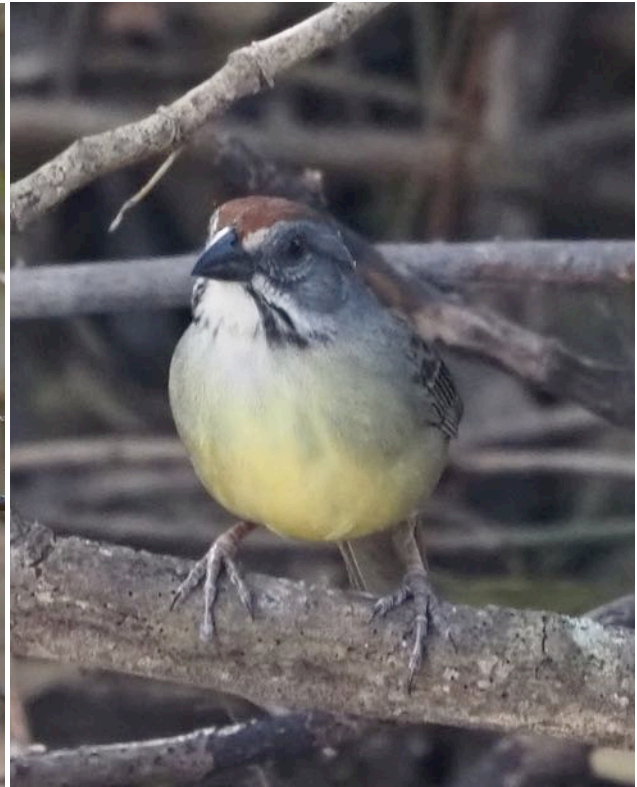
Worm-eating Warbler (Chris Kehoe)

**Cuban Gnatcatcher** ♦ *Poliophtila lembeyei* Three on Cayo Coco.  
**Grey Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* Widespread in wooded areas.  
**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* Common and widespread, seen daily.  
**Bahama Mockingbird** ♦ *Mimus gundlachii* One on Cayo Paredon Grande.  
**Cuban Solitaire** *Myadestes elisabeth* Three of these fine songsters at La Guira.  
**Red-legged Thrush** ♦ *Turdus plumbeus* Common and widespread in wooded areas.  
**House Sparrow (introduced)** *Passer domesticus* Occasional encounters in towns.  
**Zapata Sparrow** ♦ (Cuban S) *Torreornis inexpectata* Great views at Zapata and on Cayo Coco.  
**Western Spindalis** ♦ *Spindalis zena* Noted on six dates, some great views.  
**Yellow-headed Warbler** ♦ *Teretistris fernandinae* Good views at La Guira and in the Zapata area.  
**Oriente Warbler** ♦ *Teretistris fornsi* Excellent views at Sierra de Cubitas.  
**Eastern Meadowlark** ♦ *Sturnella magna* Small numbers on four dates, Cuban endemic race *hippocrepis*.  
**Cuban Oriole** ♦ *Icterus melanopsis* Small numbers on eight dates.  
**Tawny-shouldered Blackbird** ♦ *Agelaius humeralis* Widespread, sometimes common.  
**Red-shouldered Blackbird** ♦ *Agelaius assimilis* Good views at Hato de Jicarita.  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* A few at Playa Giron.  
**Cuban Blackbird** ♦ *Ptiloxena atrovioacea* Widespread away from the cays.  
**Greater Antillean Grackle** ♦ *Quiscalus niger* Common and widespread.  
**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* Ten at Cueva de Jabile and smaller numbers at Zapata sites.  
**Worm-eating Warbler** ♦ *Helmitheros vermivorum* Great views on Cayo Coco, a couple elsewhere.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* Singles at two Zapata sites.  
**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* One on Cayo Coco and a few at Zapata.



**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* Noted on eight dates.

**Swainson's Warbler** ♦ *Limnothlypis swainsonii* One at Santo Tomas took some finding then showed very well.



'Bahamas' Bananaquit, Ovenbird and Cuban Vireo (Chris Kehoe), Zapata Sparrow (Michael Noonan)

**Tennessee Warbler\*\*** *Leiothlypis peregrina* One at Bermejas, rare in Cuba.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* Common in some wetter areas.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* Widespread, often common.

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrine* Small numbers on six dates, some fine males.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* Noted on eight dates in small numbers.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* Four at Zapata sites.

**Mangrove Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* Good views on Cayo Guillermo, at Las Salinas and Playa Giron.



**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens* Noted on eight dates.  
**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum* Widespread, often common.  
**Olive-capped Warbler** ♦ *Setophaga pityophila* Three or four at La Guira.  
**Myrtle Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* One near Camaguey, scarce and erratic in Cuba.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica* Small numbers on seven dates.  
**Prairie Warbler** *Setophaga discolor* Singles on five dates.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* Noted at La Guira, La Belen and Bermejas.  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper (introduced)** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* A handful at La Guira.  
**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* One vagrant (but perhaps colonising) on Cayo Coco, a write. Race *bahamensis*.  
**Cuban Bullfinch** ♦ *Melopyrrha nigra* Noted at La Guira, Cayo Coco and Zapata.  
**Cuban Grassquit** ♦ *Tiaris canorus* Up to 20 at Las Terrazas.  
**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* 100 or more at Las Terrezas, several elsewhere.