

*Victor Emanuel Nature Tours*

# CUBA

March 2-12, 2016



Blue-headed Quail-Dove, *Starnoenas cyanocephala*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

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Our Cuba tour started at the airline counter of the Miami airport with Cuban-Americans checking bags of all sizes, many covered with a protective blue plastic, flat screen TV's, electronic devices, tires, car parts and much more. I reminded you to say good-bye to fresh lettuce and uncooked vegetables for these days and with an espresso coffee in hand we boarded the flight to Cuba. Shortly after 45 minutes in the

air the plane tires screeched the tarmac of Santa Clara airport and big hands were offered to the pilot: A local tradition. What a nice welcome to Cuba!

After arrival we noticed that many things were new to us. A country with two currencies, no billboards and charming people everywhere. Having binoculars handy, we drove a short distance to Santa Clara's Plaza de la Revolución (revolution square) and later made a quick stop in Los Caneyes to enjoy close views of Antillean Palm Swift, Red-legged Thrush, Cuban Blackbird and Cuban Emerald (last two were our first Cuban endemics!). After lunch, we drove about 4 hours to one of the best birding areas in the island, Cayo Coco in the Archipelago Jardines del Rey.



Cayo Coco is part of an archipelago consisting in about 5 large keys and several islets. Two early morning departures secured us an excellent view of Key West Quail-Dove and Zapata Sparrow, the latter endemic to Cuba. We also enjoyed first views of Cuban

Tody, Cuban Green Woodpecker and Cuban Vireo. In the wetlands at side of the road we came across egrets, herons, terns and swallows.

Following to Cayo Coco we made a short visit to Topes del Collante. We were welcome by Cuban Trogon and Cuban (Greater Antillean) Oriole around the parking lot. Topes del Collante also played an important role in the cultural aspect of this tour. We paid a visit to the Colorado's family and learned about the Cuba economic system and life in a Cuban farm although several warblers visiting the bushes around the house kept our eyes busy!



Continuing south we headed to the Zapata peninsula. Once there, the welcome parties were two Red-shouldered Blackbirds and a nesting Fernandina's Flicker. The Zapata Peninsula was the location where we enjoyed views of the largest number of endemic bird species. One early morning allowed us to see the astonishingly beautiful Blue-headed and the Key West Quail-Dove. Later in the same morning most of us enjoyed views of Gray-fronted Quail-Dove throughout the scope. The second morning found us in la Turba, a location where despite our efforts we could only hear the Zapata Wren (we never saw it). Other target species found in the Zapata Peninsula were the small and compact Cuban Pygmy-Owl and the curious Bare-legged Owl. In one evening we found the perfect spot to see Cuban (Greater Antillean) Nightjar. This one was so close that we were only few feet from it! By the way, did you notice its disproportionately larger head? I am sure everyone agrees that the real gem of this location was the

diminutive Bee Hummingbird. Measuring just 2.25 inches (5.5 cm), this is the smallest bird in the world.



The tour continued to the west side of the island, to Soroa and Viñales. Among the resonance quality of these hills we found a pair of Cuban Solitaire singing. What a suit and wonderful song! We also learned about the island's tobacco farms and the making of various tobacco types. Before we headed back to Havana we visited Las Terrazas community and nailed a pair of Cuban Grassquit, one that can be very difficult to see.



The very last full day worked out in a different way. We were in Havana and to see the city waking up we were already walking in Old Havana right after dawn. Boys and girls were going to the school; the bread man was announcing his products with a whistle, buses and cars were honking and lots of people walking. Seeing people here along with impressive colonial and art deco architecture rounded up an unforgettable tour, one that will remind in our heads for

the years to come!



Now that you have learned and appreciated much of Cuba's flora, fauna and people, I want to invite you to join us in other destinations, equally interesting and beautiful but remarkably different from that of the Greater Antilles.

### **The Amazon Cruise**

We sail aboard a small ship to explore the Amazon and its tributaries. We use two skiffs to reach the flooded forest and other distinctive Amazonian habitats such as the sedimentary river islands. We also offer an optional walk in terra firme forest. Non-birding spouses like to join this cruise because of the variety of wildlife including several species of primates and encounters with local people along the river. We offer at least one optional

visit to a community. You can enjoy the photos and the video of our 2016 Amazon Cruise in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157663616158820>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b3xYG0cPSo>

### **The Panama Canal: *a relaxed and easy tour.***

Panama offers a unique opportunity to enjoy first class birding at a relaxed and easy pace. We spend most of the nights in a small inn located in the town of Gamboa, by the Panama Canal. Short walks around the town plus a boat trip to the Chagres River and a visit to the famous Pipeline road offers views of a nice mix of hummingbirds, tyrant flycatchers, tanagers, woodpeckers and honeycreepers. We offer an optional visit to the Canopy Tower where we can see canopy species at eye level. You can enjoy the photos and the video of our 2015 Panama Canal tour in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157648765567967>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgnkUxwd5kw>

### **Costa Rica: *a relaxed and easy tour.***

Our *relaxed and easy* Costa Rica tour is for those who wish to bird various altitudinal levels, from cloud forest to lowland rain forest, and still do it in a slow pace. In this

tour we include a ride along the aerial tram and besides seeing birds we also learn about the flora and other fauna of this spectacular country. This tour is designed for seeing gaudy species such as tanagers and honeycreepers as well as many hummingbirds. For that, we visit various hummingbird feeder stations. See the photos and video of our 2015 in:

Photo album

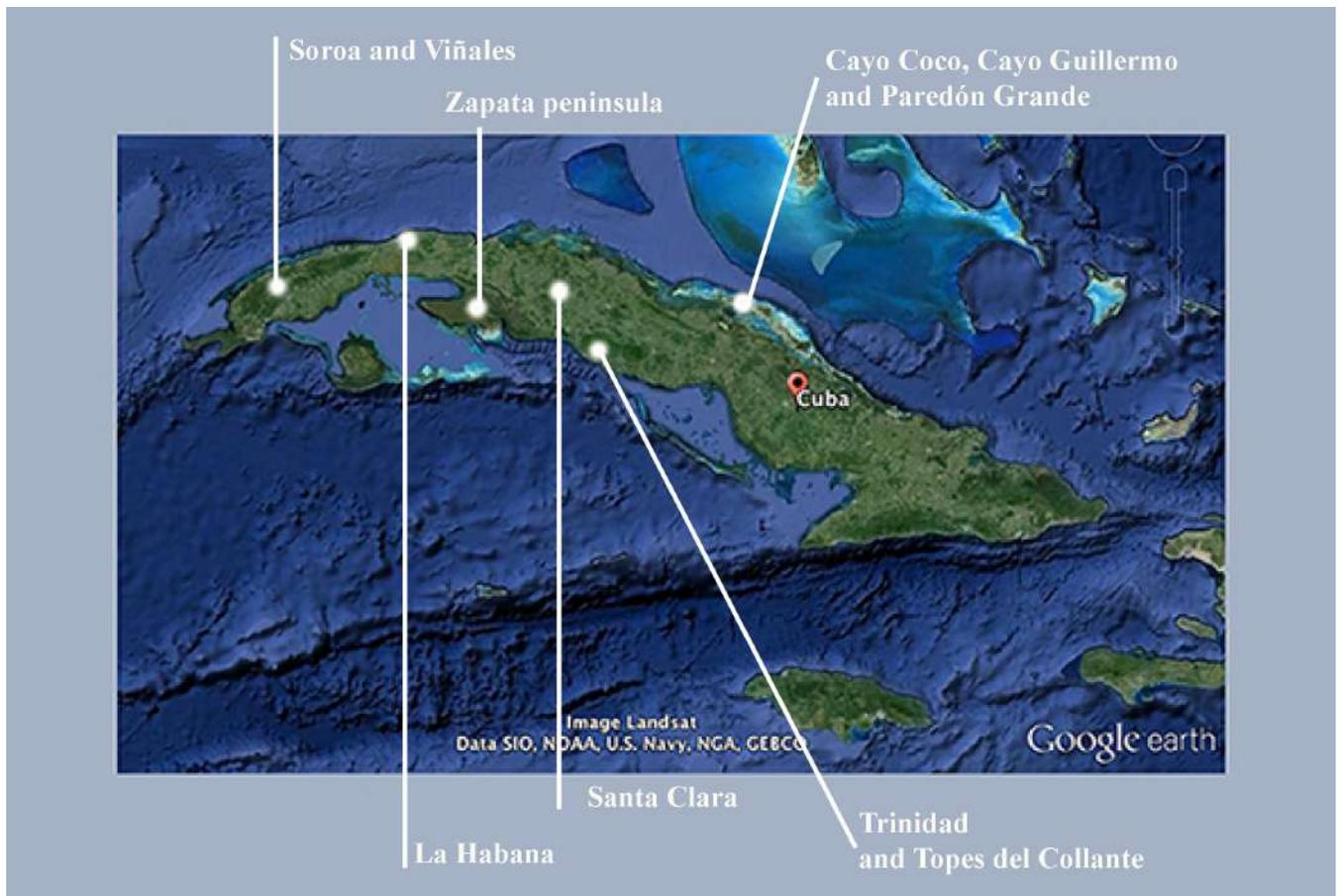
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157659475059484>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzgD6NfVNSE>



## 2016 VENT CUBA TOUR MAP WITH LOCATIONS



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## CUBA

Leader: David Ascanio.

### ITINERARY

- 02 March. Miami.
- 03 March. Arrival to Santa Clara. Drive to Cayo Coco.
- 04 March. Cayo Coco, Cayo Paredon Grande and Cayo Guillermo.
- 05 March. Topes del Collante.
- 06 March. Zapata Peninsula.
- 07 March. Bermejas and Soplillar.
- 08 March. La Turba, Havana and Soroa.
- 09 March. Viñales.
- 10 March. Las Terrazas, Havana.
- 11 March. Old Havana.
- 12 March. Departure.

### THE BIRDLIST

The order, and common and scientific names are those given by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds, 7<sup>th</sup> edition with all current updates.

Photo album: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157666376872966>

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIRHvBljzdI>

#### Waterfowl / Anatidae

**West Indian Whistling-Duck.** *Dendrocygna arborea*. Cayo Coco.

**American Wigeon.** *Anas americana*. Cayo Guillermo.

**Blue-winged Teal.** *Anas discors*. Jardines del Rey keys.

**Red-breasted Merganser.** *Mergus serratus*. Only one was seen in Cayo Guillermo.

#### Grebes / Podicipedidae

**Pied-billed Grebe.** *Podilymbus podiceps*. Cayo Coco.

#### Flamingos / Phoenicopteridae

**American Flamingo.** *Phoenicopus ruber*. Observed distantly from the causeway. The severe drought this year has forced them to move away from the wetlands in Cayo Guillermo.

#### Storks / Ciconiidae

**Wood Stork.** *Mycteria americana*. Bermejas, Zapata Peninsula.

#### Frigatebirds / Fregatidae

**Magnificent Frigatebird.** *Fregata magnificens*. Seen various times.

### **Cormorants / Phalacrocoracidae**

**Neotropic Cormorant.** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. Few were observed from Santa Clara to Cayo Coco.

**Double-crested Cormorant.** *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Common in the keys.

### **Pelicans / Pelecanidae**

**Brown Pelican.** *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Seen almost daily.

### **Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae**

**Great Blue Heron.** *Ardea herodias*. Common in Cayo Coco and vicinity. 1 white-morph individual was seen near Cayo Paredón Grande

**Great Egret.** *Ardea alba*. Cayo Coco and vicinity.

**Snowy Egret.** *Egretta thula*. Very few were observed near Soroa.

**Little Blue Heron.** *Egretta caerulea*. Seen daily around Cayo Coco.

**Tricolored Heron.** *Egretta tricolor*. A common species in Cayo Coco and neighboring keys.

**Reddish Egret.** *Egretta rufescens*. Only one was spotted by Diane near Cayo Paredón Grande.

**Cattle Egret.** *Bubulcus ibis*. Seen daily.

**Green Heron.** *Butorides virescens*. Seen sporadically in freshwater wetlands.

### **Ibises and Spoonbills / Threskiornithidae**

**White Ibis.** *Eudocimus albus*. Cayo Coco is named after this species (locally called coco). Various pairs were seen in this and the neighboring keys.

**Glossy Ibis.** *Plegadis falcinellus*. This rare species of Cuba was seen in Cayo Coco.

### **New World Vultures / Cathartidae**

**Turkey Vulture.** *Cathartes aura*. Seen daily.

### **Osprey / Pandionidae**

**Osprey.** *Pandion haliaetus*. A single individual was seen near Cayo Coco.

### **Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae**

**Swallow-tailed Kite.** *Elanus forficatus*. A single individual was observed from Cayo paredón Grande. A rare boreal migrant in Cuba.

**Snail Kite.** *Rosthramus sociabilis*. More than a dozen individuals were observed near Soroa. Several juveniles were observed.

**Common Black Hawk.** *Buteogallus anthracinus*. Seen in Jardnies del Rey and specially common in Cayo Guillermo. Nowadays treated as an Cuban endemic, Cuban Black Hawk *Buteogallus gundlachii* by most taxonomists.

**Broad-winged Hawk.** *Buteo platypterus*. This is resident and widespread in the Antilles. One individuals was seen in Topes del Collante.

**Red-tailed Hawk.** *Buteo jamaicensis*. Topes del Collante and Soroa.

### **Rails, Gallinules and Coots / Rallidae**

**Sora.** *Porzana carolina*. Heard only in Bermejas.

**Common Gallinule.** *Gallinula galeata*. A common species in freshwater ponds.

**American Coot.** *Fulica Americana*. 30+ plus individuals were observed near Cayo Guillermo.

### **Limpkin / Aramididae**

**Limpkin.** *Aramus guarauna*. Nice views of an individual in Cayo Coco. Heard in Topes del Collante.

### **Stilts and Avocets / Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt.** *Himantopus mexicanus*. 50+ were observed near Cayo Guillermo.

### **Plovers and Lapwings / Charadriidae**

**Killdeer.** *Charadrius vociferous*. Seen in Cayo Coco and in Playa Girón.

### **Sandpipers and Allies / Scolopacidae**

**Solitary Sandpiper.** *Tringa solitaria*. Cayo Coco.

**Lesser Yellowlegs.** *Tringa flavipes*. 20+ Cayo Guillermo.

**Stilt Sandpiper.** *Calidris himantopus*. Cayo Coco.

### **Gulls, Terns and Skimmers / Laridae**

**Laughing Gull.** *Leucophaeus atricilla*. A common species in Cayo Coco and vicinity.

**Caspian Tern.** *Hydroprogne caspia*. This species was observed along with the brown boobies in the wetlands near Soroa.

**Royal Tern.** *Thalasseus maximus*. Common in Cayo Coco and other keys.

### **Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae**

**Feral Pigeon (I).** *Columba livia*. Common in most urban areas.

**Scaly-naped Pigeon.** *Patagioenas squamosa*. More than 3 individuals were seen in Topes del Collante.

**White-crowned Pigeon.** *Patagioenas leucocephala*. This species is threatened in most of the Antilles due to extensive hunting. We saw it in the hotel parking area in Soroa.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove (I).** *Streptopelia decaocto*. Observed near Trinidad and in Cayo Coco.

**Common Ground-Dove.** *Columbina passerina*. Pairs were observed arid scrubby vegetation.

**Blue-headed Quail-Dove.** *Starnoenas cyanocephala*. One of the tour favorites, we saw three individuals at a stakeout site in Bermejas. A BIG thank you to Orlando!

**Ruddy Quail-Dove.** *Geotrygon montana*. A single individual was flushed in Soroa.

**Gray-fronted Quail-Dove.** *Geotrygon caniceps*. A single individual was scoped in Bermejas.

**Key West Quail-Dove.** *Geotrygon chrysa*. Seen in Cayo Coco and in Bermejas. Nice studies!

**White-winged Dove.** *Zenaida asiatica*. A common species observed in the lowlands.

**Zenaida Dove.** *Zenaida aurita*. A hard-to-see species in other Caribbean islands, it was fairly common in the Zapata peninsula.

**Mourning Dove.** *Zenaida macroura*. Common.

### **Cuckoos / Cuculidae**

**Mangrove Cuckoo.** *Coccyzus minor*. Seen briefly a couple of times around Cayo Coco.

**Great Lizard-Cuckoo.** *Coccyzus merlini*. Cuckoos are amazing birds. We enjoyed various encounters with this unique species in Jardines del Rey, Sierra del Escambray and the Zapata Peninsula.

**Smooth-billed Ani.** *Crotophaga ani*. A fairly common species found in lowland habitat.

### **Owls / Strigidae**

**Bare-legged Owl (E).** *Margarobyas lawrencii*. We owe a big *thank you* to Orlando for showing us this peculiar owl that's only found in Cuba. We saw three individuals!

**Cuban Pygmy-Owl (E).** *Glaucidium siju*. Another endemic owl of Cuba, it was seen in the Zapata peninsula.

**Stygian Owl.** *Asio stygius*. We enjoyed great views of a single individual near Soroa.

### **Nightjars and allies / Caprimulgidae**

**Greater Antillean Nightjar (Cuban Nightjar).** *Antrostomus cubanensis*. We enjoyed astonishing views of a single individual in the Zapata Peninsula.

### **Swifts / Apodidae**

**Antillean Palm-Swift.** *Tachornis phoenicobia*. Seen frequently in lowland open habitats.

### **Hummingbirds / Trochilidae**

**Bee Hummingbird (E).** *Mellisuga helenae*. A female was observed in Bermejas, Zapata Peninsula. Later, near Bermejas, we saw two males and two other females. This is THE smallest bird in the world only slightly larger than the Vervain Hummingbird, in Hispaniola.

**Cuban Emerald.** *Chlorostilbon ricordii*. An very common endemic hummingbird in Cuba. It was seen almost every day.

### **Trogons / Trogonidae**

**Cuban Trogon (E).** *Priotelus temnurus*. This trogon is Cuba's national bird. Pairs were seen almost daily. The term *Priotelus* (genus) means *an accomplished or complete saw* and refers to the rugged appearance of the tail feathers.

### **Todies / Todidae**

**Cuban Tody (E).** *Todus multicolor*. Todies are comical birds. They resemble to me like cartoon characters. The one in Cuba is the most colorful of all. It was seen in four different days. Fossil evidence suggests that todies evolved from Central America but

became extinct for unknown reasons. Five species remain in the Great Antilles. The todies are relatives of the motmots and more distantly to the kingfishers.

### **Kingfishers / Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher.** *Megaceryle alcyon*. A single individual as observed in Cayo Coco.

### **Woodpeckers / Picidae**

**West Indian Woodpecker.** *Melanerpes superciliaris*. Seen frequently in the lowlands. This species is a relative of Red-bellied Woodpecker (of North America) and the Red-crowned Woodpecker (of South America). It is another West Indies specialty found in all the Greater Antilles.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.** *Sphyrapicus varius*. Three pairs were observed throughout the tour.

**Cuban Green Woodpecker (E).** *Xiphidiopicus percussus*. This was one of everyone's favorites! Luckily, is astonishingly beautiful but also fairly common thus we enjoyed views of pairs in 4 consecutive days!

**Northern Flicker.** *Colaptes auratus*. Hotel Soroa gardens.

**Fernandina's Flicker (E).** *Colaptes fernandinae*. We nailed two pairs nesting in the Zapata peninsula.

### **Falcons and Caracaras / Falconidae**

**Crested Caracara.** *Caracara cheriway*. Seen three times in the tour.

**American Kestrel.** *Falco sparverius*. This common and widespread species was seen everyday. The pale subspecies found in Cuba is *sparveroides*.

### **Parrots / Psittacidae**

**Cuban Parakeet (E).** *Aratinga euops*. About 7 individuals were observed in Bermejas. We noticed its similarities with Scarlet-fronted, White-eyed and Hispaniola's parakeets. All of it may be closely related.

**Cuban Parrot.** *Amazona leucocephala*. We enjoyed views of pairs and large flocks. In one afternoon we enjoyed a flock of about 30 individuals coming to a roost.

### **Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae**

**Cuban Pewee.** *Contopus caribaeus*. An endemic tyrant-flycatcher of Cuba. We saw it almost everyday and this one was the first Cuban endemic seen in the tour.

**La Sagra's Flycatcher.** *Myiarchus sagrae*. The genus *Myiarchus* comprises similar and hard-to-tell-apart species, and are distributed from southern USA to Argentina. In Cuba there's only one option, so its identification is pretty straightforward. We came across two La Sagra's Flycatcher in the Zapata peninsula. By the way, its common (and specific) name is after Ramón de La Sagra (1801-1871), a Cuban writer and naturalist. He authored *Historia física, política y natural de la isla de Cuba*, in 1837.

**Loggerhead Kingbird.** *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*. This species is similar to the Gray Kingbird, one we didn't see due to its migratory pattern. We came across pairs of it in several locations.

### Vireos / Vireonidae

**White-eyed Vireo.** *Vireo griseus*. A single individual was observed in Cueva de los Jabalíes.

**Thick-billed Vireo.** *Vireo crassirostris*. We observed a pair of this species in Cayo Coco. The subspecies *cubensis* is restricted to this part of the island.

**Cuban Vireo (E).** *Vireo gundlachii*. This year we found this species quite vocal. We nailed it very well in Cayo Coco and heard it again in other locations.

**Yellow-throated Vireo.** *Vireo flavifrons*. 3 individuals were seen in Bermejas.

**Black-whiskered Vireo.** *Vireo altiloquus*. A common bird voice in Cuba in March. It was seen in Soroa.

### Crows, Jays and Magpies / Corvidae

**Cuban Crow.** *Corvus nasicus*. A group was observed in the agrdens of the Hotel playa Larga.

### Swallows / Hirundinidae

**Cuban Martin.** *Progne cryptoleuca*. Observed in Old Havana.

**Tree Swallow.** *Tachycineta bicolor*. Few were observed at Playa Larga.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow.** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Cayo Coco.

**Cliff Swallow.** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*. Several were observed near Paredón Grande.

### Wrens / Troglodytidae

**Zapata Wren (E).** *Polioptila lembeyi*.

### Gnatcatchers / Polioptilidae

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.** *Polioptila cerulea*. Various pairs were seen in Topes del Collante and in the Colorado's family and in the hotel grounds.

**Cuban Gnatcatcher (E).** *Polioptila lembeyi*. We enjoyed views of what I consider to be the best ever in a VENT tour. We nailed great photos of a pair!

### Thrushes and Allies / Turdidae

**Cuban Solitaire (E).** *Myadestes elisabeth*. I think everyone agreed that seeing this bird was not as spectacular as it was hearing it. What a concert they gave us! The specific name *elisabeth* was given after Queen Isabel I of Castile and Spain (1451-1504). It will remain as a mystery why the person that described this species (Lembeye) used the English equivalent (*Elisabeth*) rather than the Spanish name (*Isabel*). We enjoyed views of two pairs in the Mogotes of Viñales.

**Red-legged Thrush.** *Turdus plumbeus*. Another gorgeous species found in the Greater Antilles. We saw it in every location visited during this tour. The subspecies found in Cuba has a nice dark orange belly.

### Mockingbirds and Thrashers / Mimidae

**Gray Catbird.** *Dumetella carolinensis*. Reported everyday.

**Bahama Mockingbird.** *Mimus gundlachii*. We only heard this species but remained well hidden in the dense scrub. Goes as heard only.

**Northern Mockingbird.** *Mimus polyglottos*. Common. Seen daily.

### **New World Warblers / Parulidae**

**Ovenbird.** *Seiurus aurocapilla*. Observed in Bermejas.

**Worm-eating Warbler.** *Helmitheros vermivorum*. We enjoyed great views of a single individual in the Colorado's family garden coming after some pishing.

**Louisiana Waterthrush.** *Parkesia motacilla*. Seen in Cayo Coco and Las Terrazas.

**Black-and-white Warbler.** *Mniotilta varia*. A pair was seen in Cayo Coco and later a single one in Soroa.

**Common Yellowthroat.** *Geothlypis formosa*. Gardens of Topes del Collante hotel.

**American Redstart.** *Setophaga ruticilla*. Common neotropical migrant. Seen daily.

**Cape May Warbler.** *Setophaga tigrina*. Seen first in Cayo Coco by few tour participants. Later, nailed by everyone in Soroa.

**Northern Parula.** *Setophaga americana*. A common species in Cayo Coco.

**Magnolia Warbler.** *Setophaga magnolia*. A single individual was observed in Bermejas, near the Bee Hummingbird site.

**Bay-breasted Warbler.** *Setophaga castanea*. An individual was observed in Soroa.

**Yellow Warbler.** *Setophaga petechia*. Cayo Coco.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler.** *Setophaga caerulescens*. Another common Neotropical migrant in Cuba. Seen everyday.

**Palm Warbler.** *Setophaga palmarum*. The commonest migrant species in Cuba. It is mostly found in edge of forest, scrubby vegetation and gardens.

**Olive-capped Warbler.** *Setophaga pityophila*. Another specialty of the Greater Antilles. This species is only found in N Bahamas and Cuba. We enjoyed views of a pair near Viñales.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler.** *Setophaga coronata*. Seen only once in Cayo Paredón Grande.

**Yellow-throated Warbler.** *Setophaga dominica*. Seen about three times in fairly open habitats and gardens.

**Prairie Warbler.** *Setophaga discolor*. Found in several locations. It was the second most common Boreal migrant after the Palm Warbler.

**Black-throated Green Warbler.** *Setophaga virens*. First seen in *Sendero de los Gigantes* in Topes del Collante. Later seen in Soroa.

**Yellow-headed Warbler (E).** *Teretistris fernandinae*. Common in the Zapata Peninsula and in Viñales.

**Oriente Warbler (E).** *Teretistris fornsi*. Fairly common in Cayo Coco and Cayo Paredón Grande.

### **Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae**

**Red-legged Honeycreeper.** *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. A common species around Santa Clara. Males, females and juveniles were observed.

**Cuban Grassquit (E).** *Tiaris canorus*. After much effort seeking this species, we all got superb views of a pair along the road from Las Terrazas to the highway. We enjoyed great looks of it!

**Yellow-faced Grassquit.** *Tiaris olivaceus*. Common. Seen mostly in Cayo Coco and around Las Terrazas.

**Cuban Bullfinch.** *Melopyrrha nigra*. Seen daily in Cayo Coco and other neighboring keys. Also seen in Topes del Collante and in Soroa.

### Genera INCERTAE SEDIS

**Western Spindalis.** *Spindalis zena*. The spindalis are endemic to the Greater Antilles. Some taxonomists consider them to be part of the cardinals rather than to the tanagers. This lovely species was observed in Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo, Cayo Paredón Grande and in Topes del Collante.

### Buntings, Sparrows and Allies / Emberizidae

**Zapata Sparrow (E).** *Torreornis inexpectata*. We owe a big *thank you* to Odey for showing us this species in Cayo Coco. It was our first of the hard-to-see endemics of Cuba.

### Cardinals and Allies / Cardinalidae

**Summer Tanager.** *Piranga rubra*. We saw a female-plumage individual in Topes del Collante.

**Blue Grosbeak.** *Passerina caerulea*. A young male was observed near Playa Larga.

### Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

**Red-shouldered Blackbird (E).** *Agelaius assimilis*. We enjoyed superb views of a pair near Bermejas, in the Zapata Peninsula.

**Tawny-shouldered Blackbird.** *Agelaius humeralis*. Seen first in the Colorado's family and later, in Las Terrazas.

**Eastern Meadowlark.** *Sturnella magna*. A pair was observed in the Zapata peninsula.

**Cuban Blackbird (E).** *Dives atroviolaceus*. This is an easy-to-see Cuban endemic bird. It was seen in various open locations.

**Greater Antillean Grackle.** *Quiscalus niger*. This species is widespread and tolerates human presence, like other grackles of the genus. We saw it in every location and usually contiguous to gardens and other modified habitats.

**Black-cowled Oriole.** *Icterus prothemelas*. We came across this species in all locations. According to Clements, this species is found in Central America and also in the Caribbean. But, bear in mind that some taxonomists consider the populations of the Caribbean to be separate taxa involving more than two species. The one we saw is also called Cuban Oriole, *Icterus melanopsis*.

### Old World Sparrows / Passeridae

**House Sparrow (I).** *Passer domesticus*. Santa Clara, Cayo Coco, Trinidad and Havana.

### Waxbills and allies / Estrildidae

**Tricolored Munia (I).** *Lonchura malacca*. A flock was seen along the highway between Soroa and Havana.

## **OTHER SPECIES LIST**

**Jamaican, common or Mexican fruit bat.** *Artibeus jamaicensis*. This was the bat species found under the roof of Los Caneyes, in Santa Clara.

**Cuban evening bat.** *Nycticeius cubanus*. This endemic bat was seen in the evenings in Soroa.

**Leaf cutter ant.** *Atta insularis*. Apparently, endemic to Cuba!

**Little fire ant.** *Wasmannia auropunctata*.

**Dragonfly sp.**

**Arboreal termites. (Nasutitermes)**

**Knight Anole.** *Anolis equestris*. Topes del Collante.

**Anole sp.** Escambray mountains, Topes del Collante.