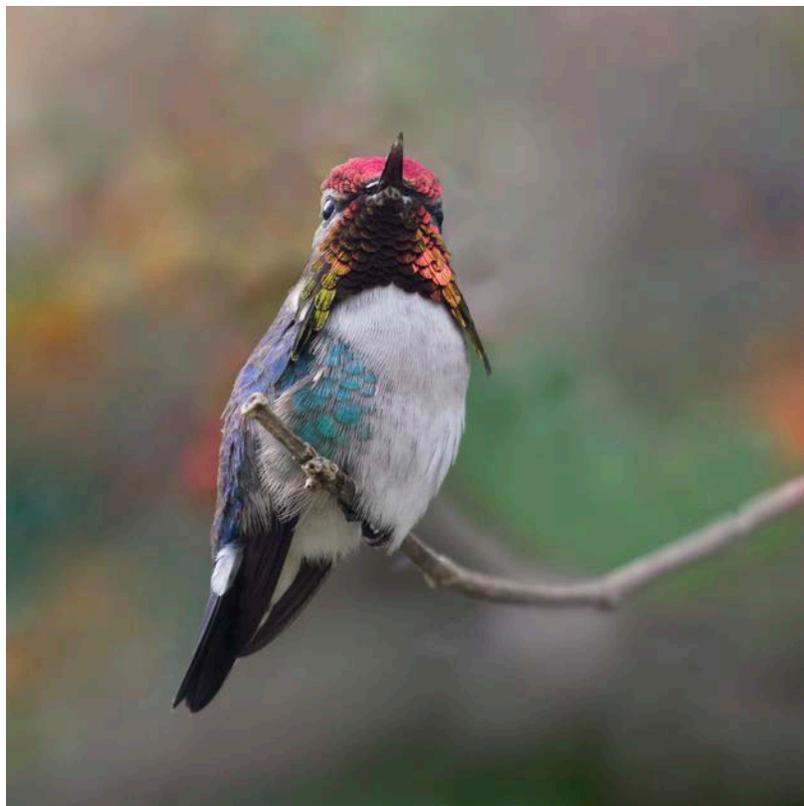


Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

CUBA

March 13-24, 2018



Bee Hummingbird (*Mellisuga helenae*). Photo: D. Ascanio.

Leaders: David Ascanio & Kelsey Simmons.

Local guides: Odey Martinez, Camilo, Orlando Ramirez,
Frank Medina, Nils Navarro and Idalmys Gonzalez.

Compiled by: David Ascanio.

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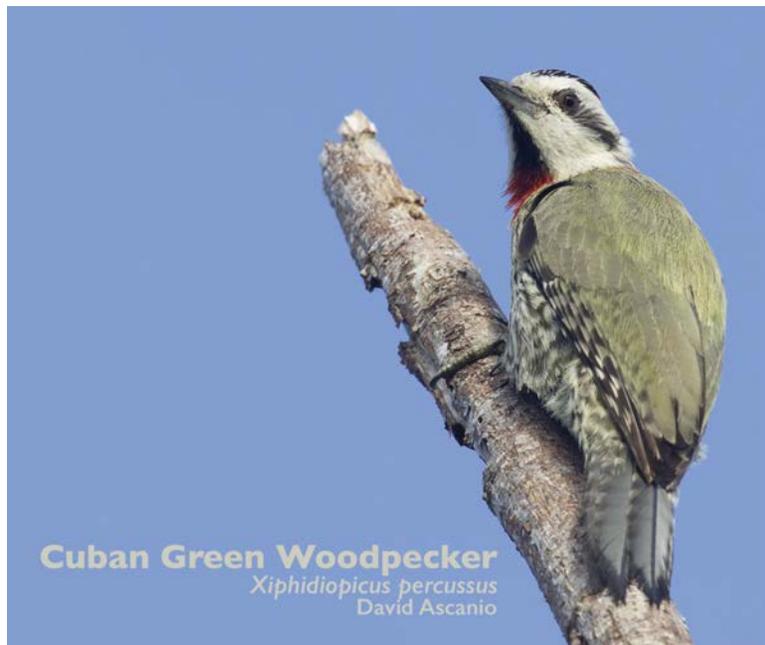


Blue-headed Quail-Dove
Starnoenas cyanocephala
David Ascanio

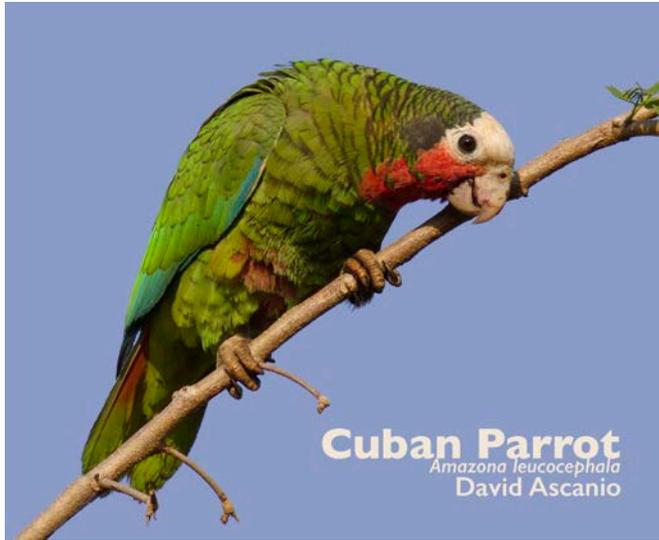
Santa Clara airport was packed with Cubans greeting their relatives whom have brought an endless amount of stuff, from plasma tv's to duffle bags loaded with cloths, electronics and much more. The luggage belt at the airport arrivals seemed more like a storage house than an international airport! Once out of this chaotic situation we were already searching for Cuban birds. Yet, our goal was to call something relevant, but the ubiquitous Turkey Vulture found its way to show up right away and was only followed by another common and widespread species, the House Sparrow. Thus, these were the very first Cuban birds. But, good species started to appear within minutes and our great Cuban birding experience

took-off with the widespread and endemic Cuban Blackbird, the wonderful Red-legged Thrush and the never-stopping Antillean Palm-Swifts nesting in the thatched roof of the hotel's reception desk. At night, we enjoyed encounters with a Dusky Dwarf Boa, plus several spiders and Cuban Tree Frogs everywhere.

The following day started with a blast of target species and Caribbean specialties. Along with many Cuban Blackbirds and Red-legged Thrush, we were rewarded with scope views of the Cuban Pygmy Owl accompanied by a mob that included Cuban Emerald, the seemingly "plastic-legged" Red-legged Honeycreeper, a pair of Cuban Pewee (they looked more worried than angry!), an active Cape May Warbler as well as Yellow-rumped Warbler and Northern Parula. After a bird-active morning we left towards the north road, to Cayo Coco in Jardines del Rey archipelago.



Cuban Green Woodpecker
Xiphidiopicus percussus
David Ascanio



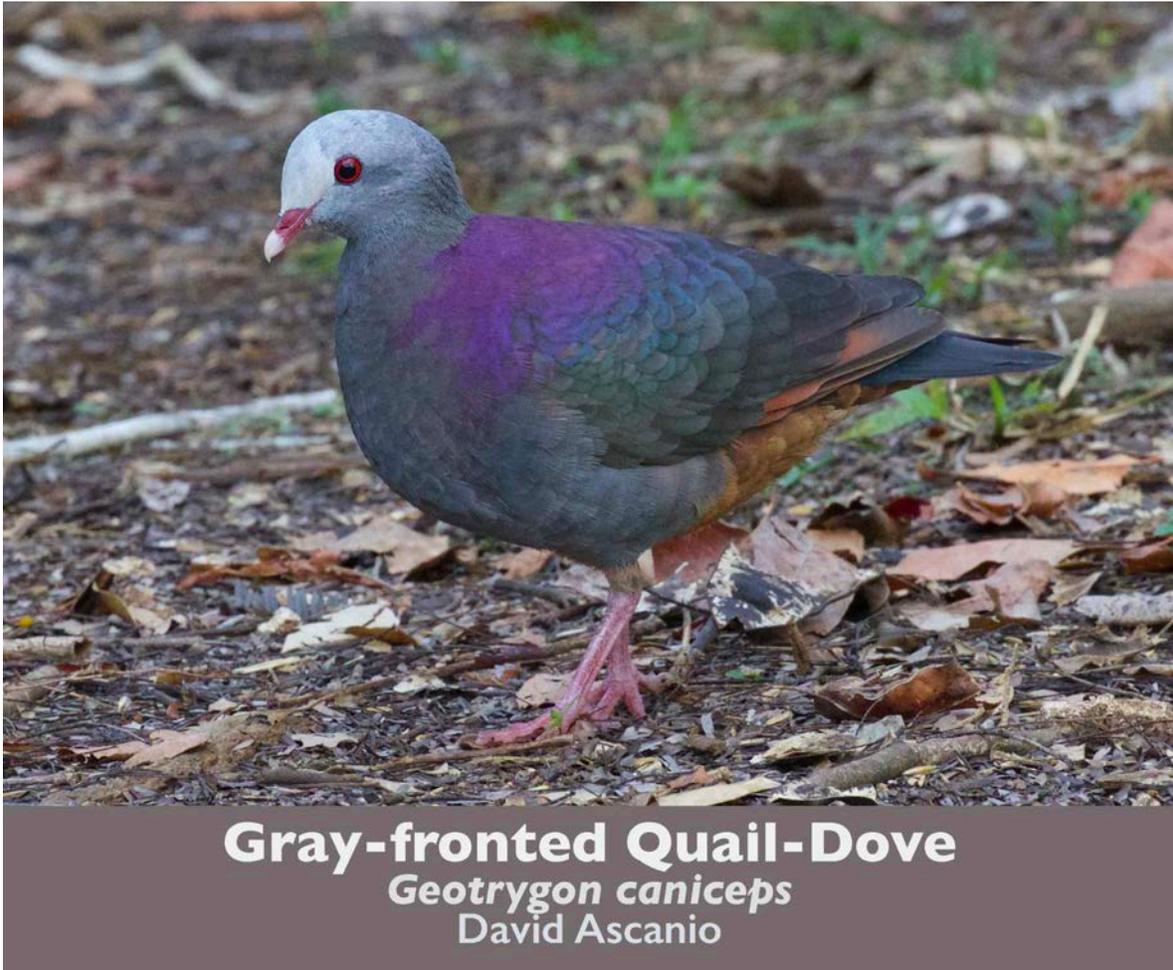
Cayo Coco, Cayo Paredón Grande and Cayo Guillermo were the locations to focus on target species restricted to NE Cuba and some other widespread species. Here we obtained the first view of the brightly-assembled Cuban Tody, plus a pair of Cuban Gnatcatcher (scarce this year and probably due to pairs moved away from the original territory by hurricane Irma), the common and widespread Oriente Warbler, the wonderful Zapata Sparrow and the jewel in the

crown, the always-secretive Bahama Mockingbird. We also added to our list a good number of waterfowl including several herons and egrets as well as boreal migrant ducks and teals. Another group well represented here were the plovers and sandpipers, getting views of 16 species of it.



From Cayo Coco we headed to Camaguey, a city with wonderful architecture. Here we drove west towards La Belen and added threatened species such as the Giant Kingbird, the Cuban Palm Crow and the secretive Plain Pigeon. Once nailed the target

species of western Cuba we drove south to Trinidad, to the Ancón and the Zapata peninsulas. The latter is a Ramsar site and the largest protected area in the Caribbean. Here we galloped from one location to another and obtained superb views of Blue-headed and Gray-fronted Quail-Doves, the diminutive and enchanting Bee Hummingbird, and the ubiquitous Yellow-headed Warbler as well as the threatened Red-shouldered Blackbird and Fernandina's Flicker.



We closed our visit to the Zapata Peninsula with a visit to La Turba where a single and responsive Zapata Wren provided glorious views of it. At around midmorning we drove to the outskirts of Havana where enjoyed a great lunch and visited Hemingway's farm. Continuing our drive after lunch, we took the highway west to Soroa, where we spent a couple of nights there.

In west Cuba, we focused our birding and people-to-people experiences in two locations: Viñales and Las Terrazas community. In both locations, we combined birding and cultural activities. In Viñales we were astonished with the level of economic touristic development and the beauty of *Los Mogotes*, a unique geological formation. In these *mogotes* is where we enjoyed the suit song of the Cuban Solitaire that reverberated along the walls of it. Hearing its unique ascending whistle offered a



unique moment to all. In the following day, Las Terrazas offered a different perspective of a community based in social commitment and organization. We learned about the wonderful work of various artists, tasted a delicious *Las Terrazas Coffee* and shared a great time with the kids of the maternal school. That day ended with superb observations of the last endemic bird of the tour, the Cuban Grassquit, one that we saw pretty well with individuals in male, female and juvenile plumage.

The tour concluded with a day-long visit to Old Havana. Here we learned much of Cuba's colonial times history and independence period. We also enjoyed great architecture that offered wonderful photo opportunities and provided to all a different side of Cuba, a country we will see in the years to come with different eyes.

I want to thank you for joining us and for showing a genuine camaraderie within the group. I believe that a great part of our success is because you all came with the same goals in mind: to learn, to enjoy and to change people's life.

Now that you have learned much of Cuba's flora, fauna and culture 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 wonderful ship to explore the Amazon and its tributaries. Using skiffs, we distinctive Amazonian habitats such as the sedimentary river islands, Varzea and Igapo forest types. We offer an optional walk to terra firme forest. Non-birding spouses like to join this cruise because of the variety of wildlife including several species of primates and an optional visit to a community. Photos and video of our 2017 cruise in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157667300036438>

Video link

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

The Panama Canal: a relaxed and easy tour.

Panama is 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. Enjoy short walks plus a boat trip to the Chagres River. We visit the famous Pipeline road and the Canopy Tower, where we can see canopy species at eye level. Photos and video of our 2017 tour in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157661430603057>

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 see birds from cloud forest to lowland rain forest, all in slow pace. We include a ride along the aerial tram. This tour is designed for seeing gaudy species such as tanagers and honeycreepers as well as many hummingbirds. We visit hummingbird feeder stations. Photos and video of our 2017 tour in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157690123123015>

Video link

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

I look forward to having the privilege to guide you in another tour!



Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* David Ascanio



Map of locations
Cuba People-to-People Tour
March 13-24, 2018
Prepared by David Ascanio

2018 VENT Cuba.

A people-to-people tour.

March 13-24, 2018

Leader: David Ascanio

ITINERARY

13 March. Flight to Santa Clara.

14 March. From Santa Clara to Cayo Coco.

15 March. Jardines del Rey: Cayo Coco & Cayo Guillermo.

16 March. Cayo Coco to Trinidad (Ancón peninsula).

17 March. Rancho La Belen. Drive to Cayo Coco.

18 March. Drive to the Zapata Peninsula.

19 March. Zapata Peninsula: Bermeja, Palpite and Soplillar.

20 March. La Turba, Havana & Soroa.

21 March. Viñales.

22 March. Las Terrazas & Havana.

23 March. Old Havana.

24 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, 7th edition with all current updates.

Photo album for all tours:

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

Photo album for this tour:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157695651078674>

(Flickr is frequently changing the link codes. If you experience problems accessing the photo album, please go to the first link and click in the photo album of the tour entitled "2018 VENT Cuba (March tour)". Enjoy it!

Waterfowl / Anatidae

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

Blue-winged Teal. *Anas discors*. 105+ individuals near Cayo Coco.

Northern Shoveler. *Aythya collaris* *Anas clypeata*. 5+ near Cayo Coco.

American Wigeon. *Mareca americana*. 800+ Cayo Coco.

Northern Pintail. *Anas acuta*. 6 Cayo Coco.

Lesser Scaup. *Aythya affinis*. 30+ individuals in wetland near Havana.

Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus serrator*. Pairs and a dozen individual were seen from the causeway to Cayo Coco.

Ruddy Duck. *Oxyura jamaicensis*. 60+ in wetland near Havana.

Guineafowl / Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl. *Numida meleagris*. La Belen. Semi-captive.

Flamingos / Phoenicopteridae

American Flamingo. *Phoenicopterus ruber*. None in Cayo Guillermo. 22+ ind. were seen in the Zapata peninsula.

Grebes / Podicipedidae

Least Grebe. *Tachybaptus dominicus*. Wetland near Havana.

Pied-billed Grebe. *Podilymbus podiceps*. wetland near Havana.

Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae

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

Scaly-naped Pigeon. *Patagioenas squamosa*. 1 near Las Terrazas.

White-crowned Pigeon. *Patagioenas leucocephala*. Soroa.

Plain Pigeon. *Patagioenas inornata*. 2 individuals were observed near Najasa.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I). *Streptopelia decaocto*. Widespread in urban areas.

Common Ground-Dove. *Columbina passerina*. Pairs were observed in scrubby vegetation in all locations. Seen almost every day.

Blue-headed Quail-Dove (E). *Starnoenas cyanocephala*. One of the favorite species. Two individuals were seen at a stakeout in Bermeja. A big thanks to Orlando for this!

Gray-fronted Quail-Dove (E). *Geotrygon caniceps*. We enjoyed wonderful views of one individual in Bermeja.

Key West Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon chrysa*. 1 individual in Cayo Coco.

White-winged Dove. *Zenaida asiatica*. Various locations.

Zenaida Dove. *Zenaida aurita*. Various locations.

Mourning Dove. *Zenaida macroura*. Common and widespread in open areas.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Great Lizard-Cuckoo. *Coccyzus merlini*. Lizard-cuckoos are amazing birds. Not only because of their extravagant size and behavior but also for their voice. We enjoyed views of it in the Zapata peninsula, Trinidad and Cienfuegos.

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

Nightjars and allies / Caprimulgidae

Greater Antillean Nightjar (Cuban Nightjar). *Antrostomus cubanensis*. After various attempts, we nailed a male in Soroa.

Swifts / Apodidae

Antillean Palm-Swift. *Tachornis phoenicobia*. A fairly common species in Cienfuegos botanical gardens and in Los Caneyes.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Bee Hummingbird (E). *Mellisuga helenae*. We saw seven individuals in two locations, Bermeja and Palpite. This is THE smallest bird in the world and only slightly larger than the Vervain Hummingbird, found in Hispaniola.

Cuban Emerald. *Chlorostilbon ricordii*. A very common endemic hummingbird found in various locations. We enjoyed daily views of it.

Rails, Gallinules and Coots / Rallidae

Spotted Rail. *Pardirallus maculatus*. We were surprised to see one individual walking out of the mangrove in the Zapata peninsula in a cloudy morning.

Purple Gallinule. *Porpyrio martinicus*. Bay of Pigs.

Common Gallinule. *Gallinula galeata*. Bay of Pigs and Soroa.

American Coot. *Fulica americana*. More than a dozen individuals were observed in a wetland near Havana.

Limpkin / Aramidae

Limpkin. *Aramus guarauna*. Bay of Pigs.

Stilts and Avocets / Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt. *Himantopus mexicanus*. Cayo Coco, Ancon Península and Soroa.

Plovers and Lapwings / Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover. *Pluvialis squatarola*. 12+ individuals Cayo Coco.

Wilson's Plover. *Charadrius wilsonia*. 6+ individuals. Cayo Coco.

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. 30+ individuals in Cayo Coco.

Piping Plover. *Charadrius melodus*. 4 individuals in Cayo Coco.

Killdeer. *Charadrius vociferous*. Seen in various lowland locations. Usually near a wetland.

Sandpipers and Allies / Scolopacidae

Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres*. Cayo Guillermo.

Red Knot. *Calidris canutus*. 4 individuals in Cayo Guillermo.

Stilt Sandpiper. *Calidris himantopus*. 12+ Cayo Guillermo.

Sanderling. *Calidris alba*. 6+ Cayo Guillermo.

Least Sandpiper. *Calidris minutilla*. 12+ Cayo Guillermo. Also seen near Soroa.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. *Calidris pusilla*. Cayo Guillermo and Soroa.

Western Sandpiper. *Calidris mauri*. A pair were seen along with the Semipalmated Sandpipers. We noticed its long bill. Cayo Guillermo.

Short-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus griseus*. 300+ individuals. Cayo Guillermo.

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularia*. Cayo Guillermo.

Spotted Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria*. Parque El Cubano river edge.

Lesser Yellowlegs. *Tringa flavipes*. Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo and Soroa.

Greater Yellowlegs. *Tringa melanoleuca*. Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo and Soroa.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers / Laridae

Laughing Gull. *Leucophaeus atricilla*. A common species throughout the tour.

Herring Gull. *Larus argentatus*. Cayo Coco and Cayo Paredón Grande.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. *Larus fuscus*. 5 individuals Cayo Coco.

Gull-billed Tern. *Gelochelidon nilotica*. 3 individuals. Bay of Pigs.

Caspian Tern. *Hydroprogne caspia*. Cayo Coco and Soroa.

Royal Tern. *Thalasseus maximus*. A common species throughout the tour.

Storks / Ciconiidae

Wood Stork. *Mycteria americana*. Soroa.

Frigatebirds / Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird. *Fregata magnificens*. Jardines del Rey archipelago and Zapata peninsula.

Cormorants / Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. Scattered records during the tour.

Double-crested Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Common in Jardines del Rey archipelago. Seen in most wetlands.

Anhinga / Anhingidae

Anhinga. *Anhinga anhinga*. Soroa.

Pelicans / Pelecanidae

American White Pelican. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. More than a dozen individuals were observed in, at least, three locations.

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

Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias*. Common in Cayo Coco and other keys. An individual in white morph was observed in Cayo Guillermo.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. Seen in various wetlands.

Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula*. Ancon and Zapata peninsula, and Soroa.

Little Blue Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. Seen in Cayo Coco and Las Terrazas.

Tricolored Heron. *Egretta tricolor*. Jardines del Rey archipelago and Soroa.

Reddish Egret. *Egretta rufescens*. Few individuals in white morph plumage were seen in Jardines del Rey and the Ancon Peninsula. Individuals in regular plumage were also observed in other locations.

Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis*. Seen daily.

Green Heron. *Butorides virescens*. Las Terrazas and Soroa.

Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Soroa.

Ibises and Spoonbills / Threskiornithidae

White Ibis. *Eudocimus albus*. Cayo Coco is named after this species (locally called coco). Seen in Cayo Coco.

Glossy Ibis. *Plegadis falcinellus*. Rice fields along the road to Bermeja.

Roseate Spoonbill. *Platalea ajaja*. Single individuals in Jardines del Rey and La Salina.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. Seen daily. A numerous species in Cuba. Seen in all days.

Osprey / Pandionidae

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. Seen in Cayo Coco and near Soroa. Ssp. *ridgwayi*.

Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae

Snail Kite. *Rosthramus sociabilis*. Seen near Soroa. Some juveniles were noted.

Gundlach's Hawk (E). *Accipiter gundlachi*. What a privilege to have seen a male and a female! A great experience!

Cuban Black Hawk (E)(Common Black Hawk). *Buteogallus anthracinus*. Seen in Jardines del Rey and in La Salina in Bay of Pigs. Common in Cayo Guillermo. Nowadays treated as a Cuban endemic, Cuban Black Hawk *Buteogallus gundlachii* by most taxonomists.

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis*. Soroa. Seen along the road to Las Terrazas.

Barn-Owls / Tytonidae

Barn Owl. *Tyto alba*. 2 individuals were observed flying in the Bay of Pigs.

Owls / Strigidae

Bare-legged Owl (E). *Margarobyas lawrencii*. A pair nesting in Bermeja.

Cuban Pygmy-Owl (E). *Glaucidium siju*. This endemic owl of Cuba was seen four times. A common and widespread Cuban endemic.

Stygian Owl. *Asio stygius*. We enjoyed superb views of a male near Cienfuegos.

Trogons / Trogonidae

Cuban Trogon (E). *Priotelus temnurus*. This is Cuba's national bird. Pairs were seen in all locations. 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 unique birds. To me, they seem like coming from a kid's cartoon character. The one in Cuba is the most colorful of all. It was first seen in Cueva de los Jabalies in Cayo Coco and later in other locations. 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*. Seen in the Ancon peninsula, Bay of Pigs and near Santa Clara.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

West Indian Woodpecker. *Melanerpes superciliaris*. Seen daily 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*. A single individual was observed in Cayo Coco.

Cuban Green Woodpecker (E). *Xiphidiopicus percussus*. First seen in Cayo Coco. Later in Rancho La Belen and later enjoyed by all in Soroa.

Fernandina's Flicker (E). *Colaptes fernandinae*. We observed three nesting pairs in the Zapata peninsula, near Bermeja.

Falcons and Caracaras / Falconidae

Crested Caracara. *Caracara cheriway*. Seen in Cayo Coco and Bay of Pigs.

American Kestrel. *Falco sparverius*. This common and widespread species was seen every day. The pale subspecies found in Cuba is *sparveroides*. And we observed two morphs, the pale and the rufous one.

Merlin. *Falco columbarius*. A single individual in Bay of Pigs.

Parrots / Psittacidae

Cuban Parakeet (E). *Aratinga euops*. A group was observed in Bermeja. I commented its similarities with Scarlet-fronted, White-eyed and Hispaniola's parakeets. These species may be their closest living sister species.

Cuban Parrot. *Amazona leucocephala*. Superb views. Bay of Pigs.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

Cuban Pewee (E). *Contopus caribaeus*. We saw it almost every day. Fond to forest edge, open areas and mangrove.

La Sagra's Flycatcher. *Myiarchus sagrae*. The genus *Myiarchus* comprises similar and hard-to-tell-apart species and, is distributed from southern USA to Argentina. In Cuba, there's only one option so its identification is pretty straightforward. We came across various pairs of this flycatcher. It is usually associated with forest habitats. 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.

Gray Kingbird. *Tyrannus dominicensis*. Few pairs were observed. These are local migrants that come to Cuba to breed.

Loggerhead Kingbird. *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*. Observed almost every day. Similar to the previous one but plumage contrasts in head are bolder. Voice is distinctive.

Giant Kingbird (E). *Tyrannus cubensis*. Nice studies of a pair in Rancho la Belén. This species is threatened and apparently due to loss of habitat. Further studies needed (Camilo, our local guide is currently studying the breeding biology of it).

Vireos / Vireonidae

Cuban Vireo (E). *Vireo gundlachi*. Seen in 2 locations. Quite vocal!

Yellow-throated Vireo. *Vireo flavifrons*. A single individual was observed in Bermeja.

Black-whiskered Vireo. *Vireo altiloquus*. It was seen in various locations. Common in the second half of the tour.

Crows, Jays and Magpies / Corvidae

Palm Crow. *Corvus palmarum*. Nice studies of 8 individuals in Rancho La Belén. It is found in large tracks of royal palm contiguous to forested areas.

Cuban Crow. *Corvus nasicus*. More than a dozen individuals were seen in Rancho La Belén and other locations. We noticed its loud voice.

Swallows / Hirundinidae

Cuban Martin. *Progne cryptoleuca*. Observed in Camaguey and Viñales. Also seen in Old Havana.

Tree Swallow. *Tachycineta bicolor*. Soroa.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. A single individual was observed in a group of swallows containing several Cave Swallows.

Cave Swallow. *Petrochelidon fulva*. We observed nesting pairs under the bridge of Pozo Azul. Large groups were observed along the road.

Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*. Cayo Paredon Grande.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

Zapata Wren (E). *Ferminia cerverai*. We enjoyed close views of a single individual in La Turba, Zapata swamp. This is the only member of its genus and both, the genus and specific name are taken from the persona that apparently first collected it, Fermín Cervera. ENDANGERED.

Gnatcatchers / Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. *Polioptila caerulea*. A single individual was seen near Soroa.
Cuban Gnatcatcher (E). *Polioptila lembeyei*. A single individual was observed in Cayo Coco.

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. 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 individuals singing from a tree contiguous to a Mogote in Viñales.

Red-legged Thrush. *Turdus plumbeus*. Another gorgeous species of the Greater Antilles. We saw it in every location visited during this tour. Both subspecies found in Cuba have a nice dark orange belly (*schistaceus* & *rubripes*).

Mockingbirds and Thrashers / Mimidae

Gray Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Seen in bushy habitat at various locations.

Bahama Mockingbird. *Mimus gundlachii*. IF it wasn't for Odey's perseverance and capacity to find it we would have miss this species. After much effort, we saw it in Cayo Guillermo.

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

Old World Sparrows / Passeridae

House Sparrow. *Passer domesticus*. Common in urban areas.

New World Sparrows / Passerellidae

Zapata Sparrow. *Torreornis inexpectata*. Astonishing views of pairs on two of the three subspecies, *inexpectata* and *varonai*.

Spindalises / Spindalidae

Western Spindalis. *Spindalis zena*. The spindalises 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 the Ancon peninsula and Las Terrazas.

Cuban Warblers / Terestistridae

Yellow-headed Warbler (E). *Teretistris fernandinae*. Pairs were observed in Viñales.

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

Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

Eastern Meadowlark. *Sturnella magna*. Bermeja rice fields.

Cuban Oriole. *Icterus melanopsis*. We came across this species in, at least, six locations. The population found in Cuba was believed to be conspecific with the populations in Central America and the Caribbean. Nowadays, it is accepted as an endemic species of Cuba.

Red-shouldered Blackbird (E). *Agelaius assimilis*. We enjoyed superb views of three individuals singing in Bermeja and later in la Turba. Both locations are part of the Zapata swamp.

Tawny-shouldered Blackbird. *Agelaius humeralis*. A common lowland species in open habitats. It was seen in various locations during the second half of the tour.

Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonariensis*. A single individual was observed near Soroa.

Cuban Blackbird (E). *Dives atrovioleaceus*. Observed in various locations. Sometimes treated as *Ptiloxena atrovioleacea*. It was originally described as a grackle, in 1892.

Greater Antillean Grackle. *Quiscalus niger*. This species is widespread and tolerates human presence, like other grackles. It was seen every day.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

Ovenbird. *Seiurus aurocapilla*. Seen in Soroa.

Northern Waterthrush. *Parkesia noveboracensis*. Observed in Soroa.

Black-and-white Warbler. *Mniotilta varia*. Soroa.

Common Yellowthroat. *Geothlypis formosa*. Seen four times near wetlands.

American Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla*. A common Neotropical migrant in Cuba.

Cape May Warbler. *Setophaga tigrina*. Seen at various locations of the tour. We observed about 24 individuals.

Northern Parula. *Setophaga americana*. Seen in open country and gardens in urban areas. Found in three locations.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Setophaga caerulescens*. In previous tours we came across this species almost in every day. This year we observed it in about four days.

Palm Warbler. *Setophaga palmarum*. This species is among the commonest Boreal migrants in Cuba and probably the latest to leave during the breeding season. It was 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, W and E of Cuba. We enjoyed views of two pairs near Viñales.

Yellow-rumped Warbler. *Setophaga coronata*. A widespread species in Cuba in early March. We observed about 8 individuals.

Yellow-throated Warbler. *Setophaga dominica*. A fairly common Boreal migrant. Seen in four locations.

Prairie Warbler. *Setophaga discolor*. Single individuals were observed in Santa Clara and Bay of Pigs.

Black-throated Green-Warbler. *Setophaga virens*. Bay of Pigs.

Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae

Red-legged Honeycreeper. *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. Nice views of various individuals in Los Caneyes (Santa Clara), the Botanical Garden of Soroa and Las Terrazas.

Cuban Grassquit (E). *Tiaris canorus*. We owe a big thank you to our guide of Las Terrazas for taking us to the best site for this species where we got to see more than 27 individuals!

Yellow-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris olivaceus*. Seen in most locations.

Cuban Bullfinch. *Melopyrrha nigra*. Seen mainly in forest edge in various locations. Extensively trapped for use in the bird sound contest in the West Indies and the Guianas.

OTHER SPECIES LIST

MAMMALS

Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bat. *Macrotus waterhousii*. Cueva de los Jabalíes.

Big Brown Bat. *Eptesicus fuscus*. Cueva de los Jabalíes.

Antillean Fruit-eating Bat. *Brachyphylla cavernarum*. Under the bridge, Pozo Azul.

REPTILES

Dusky Dwarf Boa. *Tropidophis melanurus*. Los Caneyes.

Cuban Boa or Santa Maria Boa. *Chilabothrus angulifer*.

Allison's (Blue-headed) Anole. *Anolis allisoni*.

Tropical House Gecko. *Hemidactylus mabouia*. Introduced from Africa.

Curly-tailed Lizard. *Leiocephalus sp.*

Caiman Anole. *Anolis vermiculatus*.

OTHER SPECIES

Cuban Toad. *Peltophryne platycephala*.

Cuban Tree Frog. *Osteopilus septentrionalis*.

Land crab. *Geocarcinus sp.*

Arboreal termites. (Nasutitermes).

Red Crab. *Geocarcinus sp.*