

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

April 9-16 2011



Leaders: David Ascanio & Kate Wallace

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The islands of the Caribbean have always been a fascination to scientists. In these isolated regions the endemic species represents an amazing percentage of the avifauna and many birds are relatively easy to see. This easiness is probably due to the lack of predation and long periods of isolation. For that, islands rank among the best destinations to understand the basics of biogeography, population dynamics and endemism.

Our 2011 Dominican Republic was a perfect destination to discuss some of the above concepts and to learn the theories about the origin of the avifauna of the Hispaniola. Also, it was a destination to challenge our driving skills, to taste the local cuisine, to learn about the contemporary history of the country and to feel the ambient of Santo Domingo when Spain founded it back in 1496.

Another topic we learned in our tour was about the importance of conservation and the threats much of the Hispaniola wildlife suffers today. Pests, poverty and habitat loss are forces driving many species almost to extinction. Realizing this and taking steps toward the conservation of the habitats is a key to preserve the avifauna and the Dominican Republic environmental agency have tried hard (despite its very low budget!) to preserve some of the main habitats of the island. For that, is not surprising that most birding in the Dominican Republic took place in protect land. We started at Los Limones (buffer zone of Los Haitises national park) where enjoyed two pairs of Ridgway's Hawk, the most threatened Buteo in the world. Then, continued to Sierra de Bahoruco national park where saw the largest number of endemic species while visiting three locations: Zapotén, Cachote and Aceitillar. Our tour finished with visits to two wetlands: Laguna de Oviedo and Lago Enriquillo, the latter being a Ramsar site.

In the following pages you'll find a review of the birds and other wildlife we found birding across the Dominican Republic. Additional to this document is the *Hyperlinks file* where you will be taken to the photos and videos taken during our trip. I hope these files will bring you fond memories of the long drives, the games of words and the great birds we saw.

Thank you very much for coming with us. I hope to see you again in another birding adventure!

The Birdlist.

The following birdlist follows the AOU taxonomy. Alternative names given in Clements and other sources are also indicated in the text accompanying the species.

Anatidae

West Indian Whistling-Duck. *Dendrocygna arborea* (monotypic). About 8 individuals were observed at the Botanical Gardens.

White-cheeked Pintail. *Anas bahamensis*. We enjoyed great views of a single individual on Lake Enriquillo.

Blue-winged Teal. *Anas discors*. More than 50 individuals were enjoyed in Laguna Oviedo and in Cabo Rojo.

Podicipedidae

Least Grebe. *Tachybaptus dominicus dominicus*. This species was seen with juveniles along the Rabo de Gato trail, near Puerto Escondido.

Phoenicopteridae

American Flamingo. *Phoenicopus ruber*. This year we had the fortune to be able to drive across the edge of Laguna Oviedo, having distant but clear views of a pair of flamingoes!

Phaethontidae

White-tailed Tropicbird. *Phaethon lepturus*. We enjoyed pairs flying across the Caribbean sea along the northern side of the island.

Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird. *Fregata magnificens* (monotypic). This species was seen regularly on the drives along the coastal areas.

Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican. *Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*. About six individuals were seen throughout the tour.

Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias*. A single individual was observed in Cabo Rojo.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba egretta*. We observed about four individuals in Cabo Rojo.

Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula thula*. The number of individuals per year keeps fluctuation. In 2009 we observed more than a dozen individuals. Then, in 2010 only a pair was seen. In this year we saw more than 25 individuals in Cabo Rojo.

Tricolored Heron. *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*. One individual was observed at the channels of Rabo de Gato and about 30 were seen in Cabo Rojo.

Reddish Egret. *Egretta rufescens*. A single individual was enjoyed foraging at Laguna Oviedo.

Least Bittern. *Ixobrychus exilis*. One individual was flushed out of a small wetland near Los Limones. A rare species in the Dominican Republic!

Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis ibis*. We reported daily views in pastures and open areas. The first record of the species in the Americas dates back to 1877 when Haverschmidt reported for Suriname.

Green Heron. *Butorides virescens virescens*. Single individuals were observed in small wetlands across the country This species is sometimes considered conspecific with Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*).

Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Three individuals were observed in flooded Lake Enriquillo.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*. The regular single individual was observed again near the swimming pool of El Quemaito lodge.

Threskiornithidae

Roseate Spoonbill. *Platalea ajaja*. A single individual was seen throughout the scope in laguna Oviedo.

Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura aura*. This species was common around Los Limones at the buffer zone of Los Haitises national park. It is absent elsewhere in the island. This is one of the southernmost breeding populations of the red-nape form of North America.

Accipitridae

Seeing *Accipitridae* in island is both interesting and fascinating due to the isolation force working on the populations. Since most birds of prey need land bridges to migrate it is most likely that they become trapped in its own small territory when reaching these islands by accident. Here is where takes place the evolution-at-work shaping the new species and or the distinctiveness in the races.

Ridgway's Hawk. *Buteo ridgwayi*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** In our visit to los Limones we saw a breeding pair (second attempt) calling and interacting by themselves. Notice that plumage and voice resembles that of Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) of South America. Maybe there is a genetic link to it!

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis*. One individual was seen soaring in the slopes of the Sierra de Bahoruco national park.

Falconidae

American Kestrel. *Falco sparverius dominicensis*. We enjoyed this small bird of prey almost every day and noticed the very pale underparts of the race inhabiting Hispaniola.

Rallidae

Clapper Rai. *Rallus longirostris*. We enjoyed views of two groups in Cabo Rojo. The first contained 1 adult and 3 chicks and the second consisted in 1 adult and 1 chick (all black!).

Purple Gallinule. *Porphyrio martinica (monotypic)*. This species was seen in Los Limones.

Caribbean Coot. *Fulica caribaea (monotypic)*. Only one individual was seen in Lago Enriquillo. Sometimes regarded as conspecific with American Coot *F. americana*.

Common Moorhen. *Gallinula chloropus cerceris*. Various individuals were seen throughout the week.

Aramidae

Limpkin. *Aramus guarauna elucus*. We were surprised again (for second consecutive year) to listen this species giving its melancholic voice near El Aguacate in the Sierra de Bahoruco since there was no running water in the vicinity. It was also seen near Los Limones.

Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover. *Pluvialis squatarola*. A single individual was observed in Cabo Rojo.

Killdeer. *Charadrius vociferus ternominatus*. More than 30 individuals were found in Laguna Oviedo. The North American race *vociferus* have been also documented to reach the Dominican Republic during the wintering migration.

Wilson's Plover. *Charadrius wilsonia*. A single individual was scoped in laguna Oviedo.

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. This one was also observed in Laguna Oviedo. Only one individual.

Snowy Plover. *Charadrius alexandrinus*. 2 individuals were observed at very close distance in Laguna de Oviedo.

Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt. *Himantopus mexicanus*. Four pairs were documented in Cabo Rojo and additional 4 were seen in Lago Enriquillo.

Scolopacidae

Lesser Yellowlegs. *Tringa flavipes*. A single individual was observed in Lago Enriquillo.

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria solitaria?* About 4 individuals were seen in Laguna Oviedo.

Willet. *Tringa semipalmata*. 10 individuals were observed in Laguna Oviedo.

Western Sandpiper. *Calidris mauri*. 1 individual was observed in Cabo Rojo.

Least Sandpiper. *Calidris minutilla*. The color of the legs revealed this species. We observed one individual in Cabo Rojo.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. *Calidris pusilla*. Being able to have several sandpipers foraging together allowed us to compare this species with the Western Sandpiper. This was the commonest sandpiper in the wetland in Cabo Rojo.

Sanderling. *Calidris alba*. A pair was contrasting among the other Scolopacidae due to the very pale plumage of it.

Short-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus griseus*. About 30 individuals were observed in two groups in Cabo Rojo.

Laridae

Laughing Gull. *Leucophaeus atricilla*. Various individuals were seen throughout the trip being the largest number in Laguna Oviedo where we reported 8 individuals.

Royal Tern. *Thalasseus maxima maximus*. More than a dozen individuals were enjoyed along the Caribbean coast of Santo Domingo.

Common Tern. *Sterna hirundo*. About 30 to 40 individuals were seen in Laguna de Oviedo.

Columbidae

Usually overlooked, some members of this family can show an incredible set of plumage coloration.

Scaly-naped Pigeon. *Patagioenas squamosa (monotypic)*. This species was seen in the Sierra de Bahoruco national park at elevations above 1000 meters. We reported more than 20 individuals.

Plain Pigeon. *Patagioenas inornata inornata*. This one was first seen in a scrub near Jaragua national park and later seen in Lago Enriquillo.

White-winged Dove. *Zenaida asiatica asiatica*. This species was fairly common along the road and locations with desert scrub.

Zenaida Dove. *Zenaida aurita zenaida*. This one is less common than other members of the genus. We managed to see a pairs in the slopes of Sierra de Bahoruco in a quarry where they usually swallow small pebbles to help them grind up the seeds in their muscular gizzards.

Mourning Dove. *Zenaida macroura macroura*. This species was common in Santo Domingo and Barahona.

Common Ground-Dove. *Columbina passerina insularis*. This species was also common in Santo Domingo and in the arid areas of the SW region of the country. This is the smallest *Columbidae* in the Dominican Republic.

Psittacidae

Parrots and parakeets are an important part of the wildlife of the Antilles.

Hispaniolan Parakeet. *Aratinga chloroptera chloroptera*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We enjoyed scope views of several individuals in Hotel El Embajador where we estimated about 300 individuals. Additionally, few pairs were seen in the colonial zone of Santo Domingo. This species has been suggested to be conspecific with White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalmus*.

Hispaniolan Parrot. *Amazona ventralis (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We scoped a single individual in Zapotén and later enjoyed another one near El Aguacate. The species is currently considered as Vulnerable under the IUCN standards.

Cuculidae

Mangrove Cuckoo. *Coccyzus minor (monotypic)*. This species was seen in Los Limones and in Rabo de Gato trail.

Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo. *Coccyzus (Saurothera) longirostris longirostris*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We saw this impressive long-billed cuckoo several times. Scattered individuals were seen in the botanical gardens and Sierra de Bahoruco.

Smooth-billed Ani. *Crotophaga ani*. Daily views.

Tytonidae

Ashy-faced Owl. *Tyto glaucops (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** Unfortunately it was seen only in flight on the drive to the Sierra de Bahoruco.

Strigidae

Burrowing Owl. *Athene cunicularia troglodytes*. Few pairs were seen near Puerto Escondido and along the road to the Sierra de Bahoruco.

Caprimulgidae

Commonly referred as the *goatsuckers* the nighthawks and nightjars can be difficult to identify in the field. Aspects such as voice, habits and habitat are relevant for field identification.

Least Poorwill (Least Pauraque). *Siphonorhis brewsteri (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** Only heard in Rabo de Gato. Unfortunately we did not have enough time to spend in the area to look for it. This species was formerly considered conspecific with the Jamaican Poorwill (*S. americana*).

Apodidae

Antillean Palm-Swift. *Tachornis phoenicobia phoenicobia*. Fairly common in the lowlands were feeds most of the day with circular flights and mixed glides, or with fast wing beats. This species is particularly large compared with other palm-swift species in South America. Although the size difference is not very relevant as in other species this case can be taken as an example of gigantism as a consequences of island isolation.

Trochilidae

Antillean Mango. *Anthracothorax dominicus*. This species was seen almost every day from the lowlands up to the highlands and from the forest edge to well inside forested habitats.

Hispaniolan Emerald. *Chlorostilbon swainsonii (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We enjoyed very close views of this large-headed hummingbird in Sierra de Bahoruco. The conical forehead resembles more a *Trochilidae* of the genus *Heliodoxa* rather than a member of the *Chlorostilbon*. Its robustness and deep forked tail is another odd aspect of this species since in South America most of the emeralds of the genus *Chlorostilbon* are small and delicate.

Vervain Hummingbird. *Mellisuga minima vieillota*. About half a dozen individuals were seen at the Botanical Gardens. It was also seen in Lago Enriquillo, Rabo de Gato trail and near Zapotén. This species is fond to perch atop the vertical spike of the fresh leaves in the Royal Palms while calling frequently. It is the second smallest hummingbird in the world.

Trogonidae

Hispaniolan Trogon. *Priotelus roseigaster (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** Six individuals were enjoyed singing near Zapotén.

Todidae

Fossil evidence suggests that todies evolved from Central America but became extinct for unknown reasons. Five species remain in the Great Antilles and two are represented in Hispaniola. Todies are relatives of the motmots and more distantly to the kingfishers.

Broad-billed Tody. *Todus subulatus (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** This is the commonest of both todies in Hispaniola and is found in almost every lowland habitat. We saw it almost every day but never got tired of its bright colors and cartoon-like shape and behavior! The specific name *subulatus* refers to the shape of its bill (broad).

Narrow-billed Tody. *Todus angustirostris (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** This species is less widespread than the previous one and usually is found at higher elevations. We enjoyed 4 pairs in a short transect of Sierra de Bahoruco and saw another pair in Cachote. The specific name *angustirostris* refers to the narrow bill of it.

Picidae

Antillean Piculet. *Nesocittes micromegas (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We found a pair of this odd member of *Picidae* near El Aguacate. When compared with the species found in South America (*Picumnus*) its enormous size is relevant. The genus *Nesocittes* refers to the fact that is an island species with *nesos* meaning island and *ktites* meaning an inhabitant.

Hispaniolan Woodpecker. *Melanerpes striatus (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** This one was seen every day and in fact many pairs were seen nesting. This species is quite tolerant to human presence and seems to adapt well to farmland, urban areas and other open areas.

Tyrannidae

Greater Antillean Elaenia. *Elaenia fallax cherriei*. A pair in Zapotén were the only individuals for the whole tour.

Hispaniolan Pewee. *Contopus hispaniolensis (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** This was another species found in Zapotén in Sierra de Bahoruco national park and in Rabo de Gato lodge. This species was formerly part of Greater Antillean Pewee which turned out to be split into four species.

Stolid Flycatcher. *Myiarchus stolidus dominicensis*. A common and vocal species found mainly in scrubby vegetation in the lowlands. The genus *Myiarchus* is widespread in South America with many look-alike species and are best told by voice. It was seen regularly in Sierra de Bahoruco, Lago Enriquillo and the surroundings of it.

Gray Kingbird. *Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis*. Many pairs and individuals were seen or heard during the trip.

Loggerhead Kingbird. *Tyrannus caudifasciatus flavescens*. A pair was seen in the avocado plantation along the road to Sierra de Bahoruco. The specific name *caudifasciatus* makes reference to the rufous edges in the tail.

Vireonidae

Flat-billed Vireo. *Vireo nanus*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We enjoyed great views of an individual in the Alcoa road.

Black-whiskered Vireo. *Vireo altiloquus altiloquus*. Although said to be difficult to observe we managed to see this species almost every day.

Corvidae

Palm Crow (Hispaniolan Palm Crow). *Corvus palmarum (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola** We had superb views of three individuals in Lago Enriquillo. This species was once considered conspecific with the Cuban Palm Crow, *C. minutus*.

White-necked Crow. *Corvus leucognaphalus (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We enjoyed scope views of a single individual in Los Limones and later saw more individuals in Rabo de Gato trail.

Hirundinidae

Caribbean Martin. *Progne dominicensis*. We saw this species mainly near Santo Domingo.

Golden Swallow. *Tachycineta euchrysea sclateri*. **Almost endemic to Hispaniola as the populations of Jamaica have been extirpated.** We had great views of about 10 individuals in Zapotén. It was also later seen in Aceitillar. This species is apparently extinct in Jamaica. If you have been in South America you might have notice its resemblance with the Blue-and-white Swallow.

Cave Swallow. *Petrochelidon fulva fulva*. This one was seen along the road N of Santo Domingo.

Cliff Swallow. *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*. We only saw this species at a relative distance while driving along the road to Los Limones.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. A pair was observed near Los Limones (buffer zone of Los Haitises national park).

Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*. Two hundred individuals were observed in Laguna Oviedo.

Turdidae

Rufous-throated Solitaire. *Myadestes genibarbis montanus*. What a beautiful bird! Its voice sounds like a musician giving short and pause blows throughout a flute. Its high frequency whistle was enjoyed while we searched for LaSelle Thrush and other endemic species in Zapotén. We enjoyed 5 individuals in Zapotén. This species is a good candidate for a technical split so keep your eyes on it!

La Selle Thrush. *Turdus swalesi swalesi*. **Endemic to Hispaniola** This is probably the most difficult and the least common of the Hispaniola endemic species. Only few years ago it was a dream to see this species and today we have learned so much that we have seen it for seven consecutive years. This year we enjoyed a pair singing and foraging close to the ground near Zapotén. At one point they came so close to us that we could not use our binoculars to focus on it!

Red-legged Thrush. *Turdus plumbeus ardosiaceus*. This long-legged thrush is the commonest and most widespread *Turdidae* in Hispaniola. We saw it almost every day.

Mimidae

Northern Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos orpheus*. Widespread. Many individuals were observed in open areas and arid scrub. The specific name *polyglottos* makes reference to the mimic capabilities of it!

Dulidae

Monotypic and endemic family of Hispaniola represented by only one species, the Palmchat.

Palmchat. *Dulus dominicus (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola** This is the national bird of the Dominican Republic and there are good reasons for it. First, it is widespread and very vocal. Second, it builds bulky and conspicuous nests in palm trees. Third, the Ridgway's Hawk use the Palmchat nest to build its rough platform that serves as a nesting site. The genus *Dulus* refers to the name given by the local people (the slave) that apparently make reference to the subservient behavior of the species to other birds in contrast to that of the Gray Kingbird that is usually aggressive.

Parulidae

Northern Parula. *Parula americana*. We saw an individual in the botanical gardens.

Yellow Warbler. *Dendroica petechia*. A single individual was observed in Laguna Oviedo.

Cape May Warbler. *Dendroica tigrina*. A single individual was seen in Hotel El Embajador. Also, an additional individuals was observed in Zapotén.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Dendroica caerulescens (caerulescens?)*. A male and a female were observed in Sierra de Bahoruco. Another pair was seen in Aceitillar.

Pine Warbler. *Dendroica pinus chrysoleuca (resident race)*. Eight individuals were seen on the Alcoa road and 3 above Zapotén.

Palm Warbler. *Dendroica palmarum*. A pair was seen below Aceitillar.

Black-and-white Warbler. *Mniotilta varia*. One individual was seen on the gardens of Hotel El Embajador. It was also seen in Zapotén and Rabo de Gato trail.

American Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla*. Common. This species was seen in every location.

Ovenbird. *Seiurus aurocapilla aurocapilla*. The first pair was seen in Zapotén and an individual in Rabo de Gato trail.

Northern Waterthrush. *Parkesia (Seiurus) noveboracensis*. One individual was seen in Sierra de Bahoruco.

Common Yellowthroat. *Geothlypis trichas trichas*. One individual was seen in a small wetland near Los Limones and another in Cachote.

Note about the following two species. Genetic studies have revealed that *Microligea* and *Xenoligea* are close relatives to *Phaenicophilus (Palm-Tanagers)* suggesting that are indeed tanagers, not warblers. This controversy keeps back and forth so they are retained here with the traditional taxonomy.

Green-tailed Warbler. *Microligea palustris palustris / vasta*. **Endemic to Hispaniola** Also named Green-tailed Ground-Warbler. Three pairs were seen in Sierra de Bahoruco (Zapotén). The genus *Microligea* give reference to a small warbler while the specific name *palustris* indicates tha inhabit marshy or boggy

areas. Apparently it was first collected in areas of dense vegetation with damp ground hence the specific name.

White-winged Warbler. *Xenoligea montana* (monotypic). **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We enjoyed amazing views of this always-active species that joins feeding flocks. We saw 8 individuals in Zapotén!

Genus incerta sedis

Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola bananivora*. This species was seen every day from disturbed habitat to edge of forest. Its bill shape and voice resembles that of the Central America populations.

Thraupidae

This family is represented in Hispaniola for few species most of which are endemic to the island. Of special interest are the two species of chat-tanager (*Calyptophilus* sp.). These were once considered two races of the same species but recently have been accepted as two separate species both endemic of Hispaniola.

Black-crowned Palm-Tanager. *Phaenicophilus palmarum* (monotypic). **Endemic to Hispaniola** This species is locally named “Cuatro Ojos” (Four-eyes) referring to the plumage of the head having four white spots. It was seen almost every day but never in large numbers.

Western Chat-Tanager. *Calyptophilus tertius* (monotypic). **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We had to work a bit hard to get this one in Sierra de Barahona but once found it was enjoyed by everyone.

Eastern Chat-Tanager. *Calyptophilus frugivorus* (monotypic). **Endemic to Hispaniola.** This species was first seen in a VENT tour back in 2006 since previous to that year it was believed that it was found only in the central mountain range. More recently, studies of the population in Cachote demonstrate that it was indeed this species! After a bit of a work we managed to see it and at the end of the morning we had nailed 5 pairs!

Hispaniolan Spindalis. *Spindalis dominicensis*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** Everyone loved the small family groups foraging on berries along the road to Zapotén (Sierra de Barahona). This is certainly one of the most beautiful endemic species of Hispaniola. The genus *Spindalis* is also endemic to the Greater Antilles.

Emberizidae

Yellow-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris olivaceus olivaceus*. This species is widespread throughout the Dominican Republic. It was seen in Los Limones and near Zapotén.

Black-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris bicolor*. A single individual was observed in the slope of Sierra de Bahoruco, below El Aguacate.

Greater Antillean Bullfinch. *Loxigilla violacea affinis*. We enjoyed views of pairs or small groups foraging on fruits and berries in Sierra de Bahoruco. The genus *Loxigilla* makes reference to the heavy bill of the bullfinches.

Icteridae

Greater Antillean Grackle. *Quiscalus niger niger*. This species is fairly common and widespread but usually shy and difficult to see (Inversely

proportional in Puerto Rico). A small group was also seen near Barahona at the entrance of Rabo de Gato.

Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonariensis*. 30 individuals we counted near Los Limones.

Greater Antillean Oriole. *Icterus dominicensis (monotypic)*. We saw three individuals in Los Limones and later one individual was observed in Puerto Escondido. This species is sometimes treated as Hispaniolan Oriole, endemic species of the island. Originally, the Greater Antillean Oriole was considered part of the Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*).

Fringillidae

Antillean Euphonia. *Euphonia musica (monotypic)*. A male was seen in Zapotén, Sierra de Bahoruco. The plumage suggests an affinity with Golden-rumped Euphonia (*E. cyanocephala*) of South America. This species was formerly considered part of the Blue-hooded Euphonia but became split into three species: one for Central America, one for the Antilles and another for South America.

Hispaniolan Crossbill. *Loxia megalaga (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We enjoyed incredibly close views of a female perched near the water tank of Aceitillar.

Antillean Siskin. *Carduelis dominicensis (monotypic)*. **Endemic to Hispaniola.** We observed two small flocks and managed to see a male throughout the scope. This species is apparently declining due to habitat loss.

Introduced Species.

Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl. *Numida meleagris*. A loose group was found along the Rabo de Gato trail.

Columbidae

Rock Pigeon. *Columba livia*. It is common and widespread in Santo Domingo and in Barahona.

Psittacidae

Olive-throated Parakeet. *Aratinga nana*. Presumably introduced. There are no early records for the Dominican Republic. In our tour we saw a pair in the lowlands of Sierra de Bahoruco national park. This species was first documented in 1995 but is expanding its range rapidly. Ornithologists have expressed concern about the possible competition with the endemic Hispaniola Parakeet *Aratinga chloroptera*.

Passeridae

House Sparrow. *Passer domesticus*. 4 individuals were seen in Barahona.

Ploceidae

A bird family of Sub-Saharan Africa, consisting on heavy bill species specialized for eating seeds. The only member of the family in our continent was brought by pet traders and is currently found in wild populations in some Caribbean islands and in other countries of South America.

Village Weaver. *Ploceus cucullatus*. A small group of 3 individuals was seen at the entrance of Rabo de Gato. Earliest records in Hispaniola date for the late 18th century.

Amphibians, Reptiles and Fishes.

Bufonidae

Marine Toad. *Bufo marinus*. Barahona.

Ranidae

American Bullfrog. *Rana catesbeiana*. Rabo de Gato.

Teiidae

Whip-tailed Lizard. *Cnemidophorus sp.* Common around Hotel El Embajador.

Polychrotidae

Bark Anole. *Anolis distichus*. Los Limones.

Hispaniolan Green Anolis. *Anolis chlorocyanus*. Los Limones.

Large-headed Anole. *Anolis cybotes*. Los Limones.

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