

## TRIP REPORT

### **CUBA AND JAMAICA 2/12 - 17/12 2001**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

This trip report covers a two week trip to Cuba and Jamaica, privately arranged by yours truly and fellow birder Anita Ericson, both from Sweden. Most of the time was spent birding, although we also reserved a couple of days for other activities. Since all places visited are very much on the standard route, the main purpose of the report is to serve as an inspiration for other birders and also provide some up to date information, e.g. on the unfortunate effects of hurricane Irene that hit Cuba in October.

The trip report consists of three parts; a diary, a summary of our impressions with a few recommendations and finally a trip list of all the bird species recorded - all in all 158 species.

#### **2/12 SWEDEN - VARADERO - LA HABANA**

Having read that customs at arrival in Cuba can sometimes be a bit tedious we kept our fingers crossed and hoped that we wouldn't have to wait too long to get on our transfer bus to La Habana. Especially since we hadn't booked any accommodation and had an early flight to catch the next morning. However, after queuing through immigration our last hopes were shattered at the baggage check. My binoculars and scope aroused some curiosity but I could pass without too many hassles. Then came setback number one; Anita's newly purchased GPS receiver! When I noticed that Anita had problems getting through, the custom officials realised we were travelling together and called me back to double check my passport. Then came setback number two; they discovered my, also newly purchased, GPS wristwatch!

Apparently it is prohibited to bring a GPS into Cuba and what followed was an hour-long interrogation by the zealous, albeit friendly, customs officials, on why we needed a GPS, which places we were planning to visit, what we worked with in Sweden etc, etc, etc. Finally we were forced to leave the equipment at the airport and trust that we would get it back when leaving the country. What a start!

#### **3/12 LA HABANA - MONTEGO BAY - PORT ANTONIO**

Leaving La Habana with Air Jamaica Express we felt the atmosphere changing, being served champagne by a very relaxed stewardess otherwise mostly engaged in reading an apparently captivating novel.

Arriving at Montego Bay Airport by lunchtime we picked up our brand new Deawoo Lanos, sealing the deal with a Rasta handshake! Yeah man! The rest of the day was spent tackling the seriously potholed north coast road to Port Antonio. The most notable records along the road being an over-flying **Olive-throated Parakeet** and one of surprisingly few **Greater Antillean Grackles**.

#### **4/12 PORT ANTONIO (MOCKINGBIRD HILL) - HOLLYWELL REC. PARK**

Finally it had come – the first morning of real birding after two days of travelling. We headed up to the neighbouring Mockingbird Hill Hotel and birded the ground outside the hotel until they opened for breakfast. This turned out to be quite rewarding and in a short time we had recorded eight Jamaican endemics including the target **Black-billed Streamertail**, **Jamaican Mango**, **Jamaican Woodpecker**, **Sad Flycatcher**, the trip's only **Rufous-tailed Flycatcher**, **Orangequit** and a **Yellow-shouldered Grassquit** (apparently the first record for Mockingbird Hill).

After a nice breakfast we left for Hollywell Recreational Park, high up in the Blue Mountains, to search for Blue Mountain Vireo and the rare Jamaican Blackbird. Down at the coast we made sure to fill up the car, but after driving a few km we noticed the car behind us furiously sounding its horn. We thought it just wanted to pass so we pulled over – so did the car behind. Out came a man who said he worked at the petrol station and claimed that we had paid with a false twenty-dollar bill. We tried to protest but he insisted and finally we gave him a new bill and he let us go. Whether he was telling the truth or if it was just some sort of scam we will never know, but we later found out that false dollar bills are quite common in Jamaica.

Now came what we had dreaded most before the trip – driving up the winding, steep, narrow mountain road – and on the “wrong” side! Well, what can I say? We survived, didn't we? And it was actually kind of fun in a twisted way! After a while you even got a hang of sounding the horn before every sharp corner, although I can't say I will ever enjoy meeting large trucks when there isn't even a pretence railing separating you from eternity.

Well at Hollywell we made ourselves at home in one of the cabins inside the park – definitely an ideal place to stay, all commodities you need and spot in the middle of the action. After lunch at the nearby Hardwar Gap Café – quite expensive, but good food, although they only had a fraction of the courses on the menu – we ventured out on one of the well-maintained trails. We didn't see much along the trail but managed to see quite a few species around the cabin, e.g. the target **Blue Mountain Vireo**, **Jamaican Spindalis**, and **Black-faced Grassquit**.

## 5/12 HOLLYWELL REC. PARK - MARSHALL'S PEN

So, this was the morning when we were going to see the most exclusive of the Jamaican endemics – the Blackbird. We had arranged to meet our local guide Dwight Pryce outside our cabin at seven o'clock sharp. However, before he showed up it was 7.40 and as you can probably imagine we were both, I was anyway, quite frustrated, especially since this was our only morning in the park and the Blackbird is most easily found in, yes, ...early morning.

Well, well, eventually we headed out on the Waterfall trail, were the bird had been seen just a few *mornings* ago. As you might already have figured out we didn't see any Blackbird – although smashing views of a male **Jamaican Becard** were quite nice.

Next, we decided to try a spot along the road between the park entrance and Section. By now the mist was getting thicker by the minute and the hope of seeing the Blackbird was quickly vanishing. In spite of the mist we did get a few nice species (at close range obviously) like **Arrow-headed Warbler**, **White-eyed Thrush**, **Jamaican Vireo** and **Ring-tailed Pigeon**.

Well at Section we turned back and tried the south side of the mountain range. Here the mist was lighter and along the small Woodside Private Road we recorded **Jamaican Tody** and the trip's only **Jamaican Pewee**. At Catherine's Hill, a military training camp, we birded the road up to the top of the hill, and saw **Rufous-throated Solitaire**, **Greater Antillean Bullfinch** and **Ruddy Quail-Dove**. This is also supposed to be a good spot for Crested Quail-Dove, but you should probably be here early in the morning to have a fair chance.

Apart from his being late, Dwight turned out to be quite a good, and also quite sympathetic, guide. After bidding farewell we had a late lunch at The Gap Cafe and then left for Marshall's Pen. The road down to Kingston was a lot better than the road to the north coast and with the help of a good map we even made it through Kingston without getting lost. And then you should know that we both totally lack any sense of direction.

Arriving at Marshall's Pen just before dark the owner, Robert Sutton, immediately took us to a roosting place for **Jamaican Owl** right by the main building. After only a few minutes of waiting, out came the first owl, shortly followed by another. Then something quite astonishing happened – they actually mated in clear sight just a few meters from us! I say!

After that Robert showed us our house (!) and we arranged for him to meet us in the morning to show us a roosting place for Northern Potoo. We ended the day by driving into Mandeville for dinner.

## 6/12 MARSHALL'S PEN (EXCURSION TO BLACK RIVER UPPER MORASS)

We had decided to meet Robert at eight o'clock so we had a few crackers for breakfast and then spent the hour between seven and eight birding the vicinities on our own. We soon found a **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** and a small flock of **Jamaican Euphonia**. At eight we went back to the house to wait for Robert – once again a long and frustrating wait. When he finally showed up it was close to nine! We could only hope that the guides on Cuba would be more punctual!

We did find the cryptic **Northern Potoo** anyway - along a short trail just to the right of the building, also a good spot for Crested Quail-Dove, although it is very difficult to find and doesn't respond to tape this time of the year.

Two other target species that are neither vocal nor very responsive to tape during winter are the Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo and the Jamaican Elaenia. We searched long for them on the property but in vain. Species we did see included **Vervain Hummingbird**, another **Jamaican Becard**, **Sad Flycatcher** and **Yellow-shouldered Grassquit**.

After a quick lunch in Mandeville we made an afternoon excursion to the nearby Elim Ponds in the Black River Upper Morass – an extensive wetland area. The best new species was **Caribbean Coot**. Also present was the **American Coot** but since the species interbreed at the locale they might very well be lumped in the near future. We also looked for West Indian Whistling-Duck but didn't see any.

## 7/12 MARSHALL'S PEN – MONTEGO BAY – LA HABANA

After a short search for the Quail-Dove – again in vain – we left early for the Cockpit Country. Our intention was to bird the road between Burnt Hill and Duncans, on the south coast. Well at Burnt Hill we heard some distant parrots and decided to stop the car and have a look. Within a short while we had ticked off all three target species – **Yellow-billed Parrot**, **Black-billed Parrot** and **Jamaican Crow**! Almost too easy!

We still had plenty of time until our flight to La Habana so we decided to have a look at the Rocklands Bird Sanctuary outside Montego Bay, even though we really hadn't planned to go there. The road through the Cockpit country however was quite bad and driving a car with very low road clearance made the chassis scrape against the ground quite a few times. A very unpleasant feeling! This was the only time on the trip when we really wished we had rented a jeep! Especially since the road was practically deserted.

The drive to Rocklands took longer than we had expected and we could only spend half an hour there. The brief visit yielded no more endemics, but we did get nice views of **Caribbean Dove**, pushing the Jamaica list to 83 species, including 24 of the 28 endemics.

Arriving at La Habana Airport in the evening we hoped that this time there wouldn't be any hassle. Well, immigration and customs wasn't a problem but while waiting for our baggage it soon became apparent that about half of it was missing – including mine! Needless to say, the baggage reclaim service was extremely tedious and when all procedures were done we were informed it wouldn't arrive until the following afternoon at around two o'clock! Seemed we had just gained a few extra hours of sightseeing in La Habana.

## 8/12 LA HABANA - SAN DIEGO DE LOS BAÑOS

We spent the morning walking around La Habana Vieja. The old city is on the UNESCO World Heritage list and you could easily image that it had once been a very beautiful city. Today, sadly, it is virtually falling apart and most of the buildings are in desperate need of restoration.

After lunch at a small Chinese restaurant we caught a taxi to the airport but no baggage had arrived. After waiting a couple of more hours it finally arrived and we could pick up our rental car, a Hyundai Elantra, and head west to San Diego de los Baños.

Since there are virtually no road signs, finding the way out of La Habana turned out to be very tricky, to say the least. All we had to do was to get on the Autopista towards Pinar del Río; this should have taken, say, five minutes. We managed to drive around for 40 minutes and pass the airport three (!) times before we finally got it right. Ahead we had a couple of hours of night driving! Well in San Diego we tried to get a room at Hotel Mirador, but since it was full, they helped us arrange a private room instead.

## 9/12 SAN DIEGO (EXCURSION TO LA GÜIRA) - PLAYA LARGA

Taking a quick shower before heading out I felt something attached to my body – a cattle tick. I then discovered another, and another, and... finally I had counted to at least 40 (!) ticks. Not an ideal way to start the day! We had read that they were quite common at Marshall's Pen but this was almost ridiculous. So be warned! Interestingly enough Anita didn't get a single tick!

Well, this was our first day of birding in Cuba and I wouldn't let a few nasty bugs ruin it so we headed to the nearby Parque Nacional La Güira to look for Cuban Solitaire and Yellow-headed and Olive-capped Warbler. From what we'd read in other trip reports we didn't expect any trouble finding them.

La Güira turned out to be a terrific birding spot and our trip list grew rapidly. Species recorded included the endemics **Cuban Trogon**, **Cuban Tody**, **Cuban Woodpecker** and **Cuban Blackbird** and at least one of our target species, the

**Olive-capped Warbler**. Other records were **Great Lizard-Cuckoo**, **Cuban Pewee**, **Cuban Bullfinch** and **La Sagra's Flycatcher**.

Finding the other two target birds proved quite tricky. After many hours of searching we finally found a couple of **Yellow-headed Warblers** but unfortunately we could also establish that we would have to leave Cuba without seeing the Solitaire.

After a quick lunch at Hotel Mirador we left for Playa Larga, arriving just before dark. Since telephone and e-mail communication still hadn't been repaired after October's hurricane Irene we hadn't been able to arrange a guide and first thing at arrival we drove to the house of Osnedys (just ask anyone in the village for directions). He knows where to find Chino Garcia and we arranged to meet up the following morning to make further arrangements. It turned out that Osnedys was a dive master and since Anita is a passionate scuba diver and I had always wanted to try diving we decided to spend the following day diving. Everything arranged we took in at the nearby Hotel Horizontes Playa Larga.

### **10/12 PLAYA LARGA**

We met up with Osnedys and Chino as arranged but it turned out that Chino was already busy. Luckily enough though, his brother Angel Martínez had time to guide us the following two days.

The rest of the day was spent diving at Punta Perdiz between Playa Larga and Playa Girón. Osnedys proved to be an excellent teacher (although he only spoke Spanish) and we were both very satisfied with the experience.

### **11/12 PLAYA LARGA (EXCURSION TO BERMEJAS AND SOPLILLAR)**

Finally we were going to do some birding in one of the most exiting areas in the Caribbean and we were both very eager to get going. We met Angel at the park entrance and then drove on to the dry forests at Bermejas, stopping along the road to tick off **Cuban Parrot**.

Almost immediately Angel stopped at an old dead tree and scratched the trunk lightly - out flew a **Cuban Screech-Owl** and landed a few meters away - giving us excellent views! Next we found a **Cuban Pygmy-Owl**, also rewarding us with great views - and we him, might I add!

Other nice birds along the forest track included **Cuban Vireo**, **Greater Antillean Oriole**, **Yellow-headed Warbler** and brief views of **Fernandina's Flicker** and **Key West Quail-Dove**. The only not so pleasant thing was the abundance of aggressive mosquitoes that seemed to love both Anita and me. When pointing this out to Angel he said that compared to the summer there were very few of them at the moment!



Next we drove to Punta Perdiz and stopped along the main road to walk a trail in search of the shy Blue-headed Quail-Dove. A couple of times we heard the Quail-Doves flying off into the forest just to disappear. Angel worked very hard with his tape recorder and after many a long try we were finally awarded great views of a couple of radiantly beautiful **Blue-headed Quail-Doves** walking on the trail. Without Angel we would most probably not have seen the birds and he was definitely worthy a great praise.

After lunch at the rather bleak hotel restaurant Angel took us to Soplillar – previously a reliable spot for Bee Hummingbird. Here we could clearly see the devastating effects of hurricane Irene. All the forest in the area was totally destroyed and although no one had seen the species since the hurricane we decided to have a go at it. Walking through what had been a tall forest was almost impossible and after checking some previously reliable locales we had no choice but to turn back to the car. We could see that Angel was very saddened and his belief was the species had probably been extirpated by the hurricane, or rather by the lack of food following the hurricane. Even though the area held the largest known population of the hummingbird it can still be seen in some other parts of the island such as the Pinar del Río province. Other species had also been affected, among them the local subspecies of Zapata Sparrow that, like the hummingbird, hadn't been recorded after the hurricane. (Two specimens were however seen by Angel and a couple of Dutch birders after we left, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December.)

In Soplillar we also scanned the open areas for Gundlach's Hawk without any luck and visited a small wetland bordered by some forest. Here we once again got brief views of **Fernandina's Flicker** and heard a **Northern Flicker** calling.

Before departing we asked Angel where we could find the endemic Greater Antillean Nightjar and he said that normally it is quite easily found at night along the road between Playa Larga and Playa Giron but that he wasn't sure about its status after the hurricane. We decided to have a go but failed to find it. At the moment it might be more easily found in other parts of the country.

## **12/12 PLAYA LARGA (EXCURSION TO CIÉNAGA DE ZAPATA)**

This morning we rose early to meet Angel at Jagüey Grande by the Autopista before sunrise so that we wouldn't lose the valuable morning hours in the Ciénaga de Zapata. From Jagüey Grande we headed west a few km along the Autopista before parking the car and walking down a southbound track (towards Santo Tomás) into the swamp. The first part of the track goes through a forested area and we played the tape recorder to attract the Nightjar, but still no success. We did however get good views of a lone **Key West Quail-Dove**.

After a few km the forest gave way to more open areas of wetland dominated by sawgrass. Our main goal was of course to see Zapata Wren and Red-shouldered Blackbird, but there was also the remote, but highly tantalising, possibility of Zapata Rail.

After a short while we stopped to look around and while Angel and Anita were consumed by a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** I decided to scan the trail ahead of us. Only had I put my binoculars to my eyes before I saw a bird walking on the trail, maybe 80 m in front of us. I quickly focused but could hardly believe what I saw...

I shouted something in Spanish (!) to attract the attention and before it disappeared into the sawgrass Anita and Angel managed to get a brief view of the bird. A **ZAPATA RAIL!!!!** Angel appeared almost shocked and said that I was an extremely lucky man. He had only seen the bird about five times and he had lived and worked all his life in the area. After this it felt like even if we wouldn't record a single new species on the rest of the trip it would still be a great success!

Well, we did record a few more species. A bit further on we found a highly territorially behaving **Zapata Wren**. Even though Angel once again worked long and hard with his tape recorder we only got brief (although extremely close) views of the bird. Before turning back we also saw three **Red-shouldered Blackbirds**.

On the way back to Jagüey Grande we made a short stop to search for Gundlach's Hawk but it still refused to co-operate. At Jagüey Grande we bid Angel farewell and thanked him for his excellent guiding before we headed back to Punta Perdiz to spend the afternoon diving.

### **13/12 PLAYA LARGA - NAJASA**

Since we had a long drive ahead of us we decided to leave early and maybe do some birding along the road. Eventually we stopped only once, by a small lake some km east of Jagüey Grande, where we recorded **Snail Kite** and **Tree Swallow**.

Along the way we stopped once to fill up the car and once to ask for directions. Both times we were asked if we could offer a ride, and when you're heading in the same direction it's very hard to say no. One of the hitchhikers was an extremely talkative girl who used to play in the national hand ball team. Now all she wanted was for us to find her a Swedish boyfriend so that she could leave Cuba for good.



Well in Najasa we found the local ornithologist Pedro Regalado in front of his house. He agreed to guide us the following day and also arranged accommodation at the headquarters inside neighbouring Parque Nacional La Belén (terrible road inside the park). We were the only guests but they were still happy to arrange dinner for us.

## 14/12 NAJASA - CAYO COCO

We met up with Pedro at his house and walked around the vicinities to look for a Giant Kingbird but it refused to show up. Next we drove to a small lake just a few km away to look for West Indian Whistling-Duck. Along the road we stopped to study a large flock of feeding **Cuban Parakeets**.

At the lake we soon found five **West Indian Whistling-Ducks**, and also **Ruddy Duck** and **Merlin**. We continued walking past the lake to the border of the national park – another spot for Giant Kingbird – but still no luck. There was a light breeze blowing that probably made the bird more difficult to observe.

Having at least seen the Whistling-Ducks we returned to Pedro's house for breakfast. Since we didn't plan to leave Najasa without seeing the Kingbird we decided to drive into the national park proper from the other side to a spot where Pedro seemed almost sure we'd get it. Once again on a terrible dirt road along which we got nice views of the distinct Cuban subspecies of **Eastern Meadowlark**.

Almost immediately after parking the car we saw about twenty **Cuban Palm-Crows**. At the spot we also had **Cuban Crow** and could clearly hear how different they sound. In the scope you could also see the difference in the feathering of the upper mandible.

At the Kingbird spot we were delighted to find a beautiful **Giant Kingbird** hawking for insects. Since Pedro had been studying the species he had a lot of interesting information to share with us. Another notable record was a **Plain Pigeon** at nest. This was the first record ever of a nest in December so Pedro got very excited and even wanted to climb up the tree to have a closer look!

Now we only had one species left – the Cuban Grassquit. To find it Pedro had another reliable spot. We parked by the road and walked across some pastureland into a patch of dry, tangled and thorny forest. We saw a lot of birds like **Cuban Vireo** and **Yellow-throated** and **Blackburnian Warbler** but finding the Grassquit proved difficult. After at least an hour of searching we headed back towards the car and guess what we found on the trail just before leaving the forest – two absolutely exquisite **Cuban Grassquits**.

By now it was mid afternoon and we hurried back to our room to collect our luggage and then went back to Pedro's where his wife had prepared one of the best meals of the trip. They were both lovely people and Pedro's the best guide you could wish for. Currently he's working on constructing a birding centre outside the park that will also accommodate birders. He didn't ask for any payment for his guiding or the meals but instead we choose to donate a small sum to the field centre. It's hard to put a price on his hospitality but we thought USD70 appropriate.

We also asked Pedro about the possibilities of seeing Bee Hummingbird in the area and he told us that just a few days ago a local farmer claimed to have seen one on his property. Pedro said the report sounded trustworthy but he hadn't had time to check it up yet, but at least there is hope for the species.

Now it was around four o'clock and we had yet another long drive ahead of us to Cayo Coco in the Archipiélago de Camagüey, once again arriving after dark. Cayo Coco is a popular destination for sun worshippers and most of the accommodations are *very* expensive all-inclusive hotels, so finding a cheap one wasn't easy. We ended up driving back and forth in the night without knowing exactly where we were until we finally found a reasonably priced and quite nice room at Hotel Jardín de los Coco (USD35 for a double room). For dinner we bought a pizza slice at a gas station that we later enjoyed cold in the hotel room.

## 15/12 ARCHIPIELAGO DE CAMAGÜEY

Our last day of birding and we had three more endemics to look for, plus a few other speciality species. We began by heading east towards Cayo Paredón Grande. Passing Cayo Romano we noted several **Common Black-Hawks** of the very distinct Cuban subspecies, also known as Cuban Crab-Hawk. A potential future split.

The roads were pretty good so we didn't notice a large pothole until it was too late. It tore up a big hole in the tire, which turned completely flat within seconds! Only had we started changing the tire when a jeep stopped - out came three men, taking over without even asking if we needed assistance! In a few minutes we were back on the road again!

We parked the car at the lighthouse and began walking along a dirt road towards the south-east. It was quite windy but after a few hundred meters the vegetation grew a bit higher. Here seemed to be a lot of activity and we just stopped in our tracks and waited. This turned out to be a good strategy and soon we had seen two out of three endemic target species - **Oriente Warbler** and **Cuban Gnatcatcher**, and the very local subspecies of **Thick-billed Vireo**.

We now headed back to Cayo Coco, to the dirt road leading down to Flamingo Beach. We parked about hundred meters down the road and walked into the forest to our right side, where we found a couple of the very colourful **Western Spindalis**. We continued walking a few hundred meters until we found an open area on the left side, once again we just stopped and waited for the birds to appear. This once again paid off and the place virtually vibrated with life, including a pair of the target **Zapata Sparrow**.

More than content we returned to our hotel for lunch. As in most places in Cuba the restaurant was very uninspiring, but hey, we weren't here for the food! Since we were in the Caribbean we decided that we couldn't leave without at least a few hours on the beach so we drove to Cayo Guillermo, coincidentally also a good spot for Bahama Mockingbird, and the lovely Playa Pilar. Here we spent some hours sunbathing before we decided that we ought to give the Mockingbird a try. We only had an hour until sunset and never found the species, but we didn't feel too depressed anyway, and we did see a Desmarest's Hutia, a large beaver-like rodent endemic to Cuba.

#### **16-17/12 CAYO COCO - VARADERO - SWEDEN**

Leaving Cayo Coco heading towards Varadero and our flight back to Sweden we were rewarded with the last new species of the trip - two **Greater Flamingos**, plus a large flock of **Reddish Egrets** of both colour phases.

At the airport we were relieved to get our GPS' back and we could leave Cuba having recorded 113 species, including 20 of the 24 endemics.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our original intention was to go to the Yucatan peninsula, but when we saw that you could get even cheaper tickets to Cuba we decided to give it a go instead! When planning a more detailed itinerary I got the idea of combining it with a few days in Jamaica, since two weeks seemed more than you really needed to cover Cuba.

In retrospect I would say that Cuba and Jamaica are definitely doable in two weeks, and with a little luck you have a good chance seeing almost all the endemic species. Sure, we missed eight of them, but then we did spend two days on other activities. To maximise our chances, we should also probably have spent one more day in Jamaica.

Also, both Jamaica and Cuba are great places to visit, not only because of the high degree of endemism, but simply because they are, in their own way, two lovely countries with a nice climate and warm and friendly people. Both are also fairly small and easy to travel around in.

A few words on dangers and annoyances; Cuba is a very safe country and you are unlikely to encounter any problems. Jamaica is another story – the island is known to have a high crime rate. We didn't notice any of this and the criminality is concentrated to the larger cities – especially Kingston – and there is no need to go there anyway.

One thing that is annoying though are the mosquitoes. Bring lots of repellent but be prepared to get bitten anyway. This goes for both islands.

Since I've raised the issue of what to bring I might as well make some remarks on the field guides. All you really need to bring is **Birds of the West Indies** in the Helm Identification Guides series. Although it's a bit hefty everything's in it. I also brought the newly published **Birds of Cuba** by Garrido and Kirkconnel and although it has some updated info and excellent distribution maps it's not really necessary. We didn't use any site guides but Garrido and Kirkconnel is currently preparing a book entitled **How, When, and Where to Find Birds in Cuba** which might become a good companion.

When driving we used **Berndtson & Berndtson's Road Map** for both Jamaica (1:300 000) and Cuba (1:250 000) and they proved to be accurate, and are also very easy to handle.

## Jamaica

Regarding the places visited, I wouldn't make any alterations. Mockingbird Hill, Hollywell, Marshall's Pen and Burnt Hill will cover Jamaica, and I really don't see any need to include the Rocklands Bird Sanctuary. Among the species we missed, Crested Quail-Dove is always tricky and you will need some luck (or a lot of persistence) to see the species. Jamaican Blackbird is a rare and threatened species but under better conditions you should have a good shot at it in Hollywell. Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo and Jamaican Elaenia are easier when they are vocal, but with some more time on Marshall's Pen you should get them both. You could also get both species at Rocklands, where guiding is available.

As for accommodation **Marshall's Pen** is a must. You'll have to go into Mandeville for meals but you wouldn't want to stay there. The Sutton's charge USD30 per person and you can book by e-mail ([asutton@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:asutton@uwimona.edu.jm)).

In **Hollywell** the choice of staying in the park is an easy one. The cabins are comfortable enough and you can also bring your own food to cook if you want to cut down on expenses (buy the supplies down at the coast since there's no good shop close to Hollywell). You can book both the cabin and arrange for guiding by e-mailing **Dwight Pryce** ([jcdt@kasnet.com](mailto:jcdt@kasnet.com)). He charges USD50 for half a day and a small cabin (two beds) is USD50 per night.

In Port Antonio you have a lot of choices. If money weren't an issue I'd stay at **Mockingbird Hill Hotel** any day. Otherwise **Villa Paola** (USD35 for a double room) is probably a wise choice. It's very close to Mockingbird Hill and you can get a tasty burger at Woody's Place and have a nice chat with Woody himself.

A rental car can easily be booked on arrival at the airport. We used **Island Car Rentals** ([www.islandcarrentals.com](http://www.islandcarrentals.com)) and were perfectly happy with their service. We paid USD273 for a Deawoo Lanos, including free km, for four days. As you have probably understood, driving in Jamaica can be slightly, shall we say adventurous, but if you just keep your head cool it shouldn't be a problem.

## Cuba

If the Bee Hummingbird population at Playa Larga doesn't recover birders wishing to see the species will have to make some changes to the standard itinerary (probably by adding Pinar del Río). Otherwise you'll do well with La Güira, Playa Larga, Najasa and Cayo Coco.

Cuban Solitaire should normally not be that difficult in La Güira and Greater Antillean Nightjar is supposed to be quite common over much of the island, including Cayo Coco. Gundlach's Hawk is always a tricky species, but with some

luck you'll get a glimpse of it around the Zapata Peninsula. For a better chance it would be preferable to go there during the breeding season.

When it comes to accommodation in Cuba you always have the choice between ordinary hotels and private rooms (casas particulares). By staying at private rooms you'll save some money and also get a chance to meet Cubans and see how they live.

In La Habana you obviously have a lot of choices. The first night we stayed at the centrally located and reasonably priced (USD40 for a double room) **Hotel Horizontes Caribbean** ([www.cuba.tc/Havana/CuHavHorCaribbean.html](http://www.cuba.tc/Havana/CuHavHorCaribbean.html)). The second night we stayed at a private room with **Suley and Pedro** (Aguila No. 118e/Colón y Trocadero Apto. 2, Centro Habana) and they were very nice and hospitable. We paid USD33, including breakfast.

In San Diego de los Baños we also stayed in a private room – **Villa Carmita** (Calle 34 No 2310 entre 23 y 33) – also perfectly nice (USD25 including breakfast).

In Playa Larga we were offered to stay at Osnedys' but felt like staying at a hotel instead– **Hotel Horizontes Playa Larga** (USD35 for a two bed bungalow) ([www.cuba.tc/CuHorPlayaLarga.html](http://www.cuba.tc/CuHorPlayaLarga.html)).

If you'd like to make arrangements with **Angel Martínez** you could always try to reach him in advance (tel 059-7249, fax 059-7249 or snail mail Entroque Playa Larga, Ciénaga de Zapata, Matanzas, Cuba). Since he's employed by the national park he will only ask for USD10 per person per day but we thought it appropriate to give him USD70 extra for his excellent guiding.

In Najasa the best choice would be to stay in **Parque Nacional La Bélen**, (USD10 per night + USD10 for entering the park). Talk to **Pedro Regalado** and he can probably help you. He can be reached by e-mail ([cimac@cimac.cmw.inf.cu](mailto:cimac@cimac.cmw.inf.cu) or [wilton@cimac.cmw.inf.cu](mailto:wilton@cimac.cmw.inf.cu)) or snail mail (Apartado Postal #161, Camagüey, C.P. 70100, Cuba). Beware that the postal services appear to be very slow.

The supply of rental cars can sometimes be a problem in Cuba so it might be wise to book in advance. We booked through **Cubacar** ([www.cubacar.cubanacan.cu](http://www.cubacar.cubanacan.cu)) and paid app. USD720 for our Hyundai Elantra, including free km, for eight days. Apart from the lack of road signs, driving in Cuba is very easy since the traffic is light and the roads are in good condition.

Anyone interested in going to Jamaica or Cuba who has any queries about the contents of this report or wish more detailed information are welcome to write me at [markus.lagerqvist@usa.net](mailto:markus.lagerqvist@usa.net) and I'll do my best to assist you!

## TRIP LISTS

Species follow Clements, families according to Sibley-Monroe. Records outside main destinations only noted when of special interest. Heard-only species indicated by \*.

### JAMAICA

#### Ducks and Allies

Lesser Scaup  
Black River Morass

#### *Anatidae*

*Aythya affinis*

#### Woodpeckers

Jamaican Woodpecker  
Mockingbird Hill, Hollywell/Section, Marshall's Pen, Burnt Hill  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Marshall's Pen

#### *Picidae*

*Melanerpes radiolatus*

*Sphyrapicus varius*

#### Todies

Jamaican Tody  
Woodside, Marshall's Pen

#### *Todidae*

*Todus todus*

#### Cerylid Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher  
Black River Morass

#### *Cerylidae*

*Ceryle a. alcyon*

#### American Cuckoos

Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo  
Marshall's Pen

#### *Coccyzidae*

*Hyetornis pluvialis*

#### Anis and Allies

Smooth-billed Ani  
Marshall's Pen, Black River Morass, Burnt Hill

#### *Crotophagidae*

*Crotophaga ani*

#### Parrots

Olive-throated Parakeet  
Marshall's Pen, Burnt Hill

#### *Psittacidae*

*Aratinga n. nana*

Yellow-billed Parrot  
Burnt Hill

*Amazona collaria*

Black-billed Parrot  
Burnt Hill

*Amazona agilis*

#### Typical Swifts

White-collared Swift  
Mockingbird Hill, Burnt Hill

#### *Apodidae*

*Streptoprocne zonaris pallidifrons*



Antillean Palm-Swift

Marshall's Pen

*Tachornis p. phoenicobia*

### Hummingbirds

Jamaican Mango

Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen

### *Trochilidae*

*Anthracothoras mango*

Red-billed Streamertail

Hollywell, Marshall's Pen, Rocklands

*Trochilus polytmus*

Black-billed Streamertail

Mockingbird Hill

*Trochilus scitulus*

Vervain Hummingbird

Marshall's Pen

*Mellisuga m. minima*

### Typical Owls

Jamaican Owl

Marshall's Pen

### *Strigidae*

*Pseudoscopus grammicus*

### Potoos

Northern Potoo

Marshall's Pen

### *Nyctibiidae*

*Nyctibius j. jamaicensis*

### Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove

Common in populated areas

### *Columbidae*

*Columba livia*

White-crowned Pigeon

Mockingbird Hill

*Columba leucocephala*

Ring-tailed Pigeon

Section

*Columba caribaea*

Zenaida Dove

Marshall's Pen

*Zenaida aurita zenaida*

White-winged Dove

Mockingbird Hill

*Zenaida a. asiatica*

Common Ground-Dove

Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen, Rocklands

*Columbina passerina jamaicensis*

Caribbean Dove

Rocklands

*Leptotila j. jamaicensis*

Ruddy Quail-Dove

Catherine's Hill

*Geotrygon m. montana*

### Rails

Common Moorhen

Black River Morass

### *Rallidae*

*Gallinula chloropus cerceris*

American Coot

Black River Morass

*Fulica a. americana*

Caribbean Coot  
Black River Morass

### **Snipe and Allies**

Spotted Sandpiper  
Black River Morass  
Least Sandpiper  
Black River Morass

### **Jacanas**

Northern Jacana  
Black River Morass

### **Plovers and Allies**

Black-necked Stilt  
Black River Morass

### **Hawks and Allies**

Osprey  
Black River Morass  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Mockingbird Hill

### **Falcons**

American Kestrel  
Kingston, Hollywell

### **Grebes**

Least Grebe  
Marshall's Pen  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Black River Morass

### **Hérons**

Great Blue Heron  
Black River Morass  
Great Egret  
Black River Morass  
Tricoloured Heron  
Black River Morass  
Little Blue Heron  
Black River Morass  
Snowy Egret  
Black River Morass

*Fulica caribaea*

### ***Scolopacidae***

*Actitis macularia*

*Calidris minutilla*

### ***Jacanidae***

*Jacana spinosa violacea*

### ***Charadriidae***

*Himantopus m. mexicanus*

### ***Accipitridae***

*Pandion haliaetus ridgwayi*

*Buteo j. jamaicensis*

### ***Falconidae***

*Falco sparverius sparveroides*

### ***Podicipedidae***

*Tachybaptus d. dominicus*

*Podilymbus podiceps*

### ***Ardeidae***

*Ardea herodias occidentalis*

*Ardea alba egretta*

*Egretta tricolor ruficollis*

*Egretta caerulea*

*Egretta thula brewsteri*

Cattle Egret

A very common species at most localities

Green Heron

Black River Morass

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Black River Morass

*Bubulcus i. ibis*

*Butorides virescens*

*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*

### Ibises

Glossy Ibis

Spanish Town, Black River Morass

### *Threskiornithidae*

*Plegadis falcinellus*

### Pelicans and Allies

Brown Pelican

Kingston

### *Pelecanidae*

*Pelecanus o. occidentalis*

### Storks and Allies

Turkey Vulture

A very common species at most localities

### *Ciconiidae*

*Cathartes a. aura*

### Frigatebirds

Magnificent Frigatebird

Montego Bay

### *Fregatidae*

*Fregata magnificens*

### Tyrant Flycatchers and Allies

Jamaican Pewee

Woodside

Sad Flycatcher

Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen

Rufous-tailed Flycatcher

Mockingbird Hill

Loggerhead Kingbird

A very common species at most localities

Jamaican Becard

Hollywell, Marshall's Pen

### *Tyrannidae*

*Contopus pallidus*

*Myiarchus barbirostris*

*Myiarchus validus*

*Tyrannus caudifasciatus jamaicensis*

*Pachyramphus niger*

### Vireos

Jamaican Vireo

Hollywell/Section, Marshall's Pen

Blue-mountain Vireo

Hollywell, Hollywell/Section

### *Vireonidae*

*Vireo modestus*

*Vireo osburni*

### Crows and Allies

Jamaican Crow

Burnt Hill

### *Corvidae*

*Corvus jamaicensis*

### Old World Flycatchers and Allies

### *Muscicapidae*

Rufous-throated Solitaire

Hollywell, Catherine's Hill

*Myadestes genibarbis solitarius*

White-eyed Thrush

Hollywell/Section, Marshall's Pen

*Turdus jamaicensis*

White-chinned Thrush

A very common species at most localities

*Turdus aurantis*

### Starlings and Allies

### *Muscicapidae*

European Starling

Marshall's Pen

*Sturnus vulgaris*

Northern Mockingbird

A common species at most localities

*Mimus polyglottos orpheus*

### Swallows and Allies

### *Hirundinidae*

Cave Swallow

Marshall's Pen

*Petrochelidon fulva poeciloma*

### Finches and Allies

### *Fringillidae*

Northern Parula

Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen

*Parula americana*

Black-throated Blue Warbler

A common species at most localities

*Dendroica caerulescens*

Prairie Warbler

Hollywell

*Dendroica discolor*

Arrow-headed Warbler

Hollywell/Section, Marshall's Pen

*Dendroica pharetra*

Black-and-white Warbler

Hollywell/Section, Marshall's Pen

*Mniotilta varia*

American Redstart

Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen

*Setophaga ruticilla*

Worm-eating Warbler

Marshall's Pen

*Helmitheros vermivorus*

Ovenbird

Marshall's Pen

*Seiurus aurocapillus*

Louisiana Waterthrush

Burnt Hill

*Seiurus motacilla*

Bananaquit

Mockingbird Hill, Hollywell, Marshall's Pen, Rocklands

*Coereba f. flaveola*

Jamaican Spindalis

Hollywell, Marshall's Pen

*Spindalis nigricephala*

Jamaican Euphonia

Marshall's Pen, Burnt Hill

*Euphonia jamaica*

Yellow-faced Grassquit Marshall's Pen, Rocklands	<i>Tiaris o. olivacea</i>
Black-faced Grassquit Hollywell, Hollywell/Section	<i>Tiaris bicolor marchii</i>
Yellow-shouldered Grassquit Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen	<i>Loxipasser anoxanthus</i>
Orangequit Mockingbird Hill, Hollywell, Marshall's Pen	<i>Euneornis campestris</i>
Greater Antillean Bullfinch Catherine's Hill, Marshall's Pen	<i>Loxigilla violacea ruficollis</i>
Greater Antillean Grackle Montego Bay, Annotto Bay	<i>Quiscalus niger crassirostris</i>
Jamaican Oriole Mockingbird Hill, Marshall's Pen, Rocklands	<i>Icterus I. leucopteryx</i>

## CUBA

### Guineafowl

Helmeted Guineafowl  
La Güira

### *Numididae*

*Numida meleagris*

### Whistling-Ducks

West Indian Whistling-Duck  
Najasa

### *Dendrocygnidae*

*Dendrocygna arborea*

### Ducks and Allies

Wood Duck  
Zapata  
Blue-winged Teal  
Zapata  
Ruddy Duck  
Najasa

### *Anatidae*

*Aix sponsa*  
*Anas discors*  
*Oxyura j. jamaicensis*

### Woodpeckers

West Indian Woodpecker  
La Güira, Bermejas, Zapata, Najasa  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Soplillar, Zapata  
Cuban Woodpecker  
La Güira, Punta Perdiz, Zapata, Cayo Coco  
Northern Flicker\*  
Soplillar, Zapata  
Fernandina's Flicker  
Bermejas, Soplillar

### *Picidae*

*Melanerpes s. superciliaris*  
*Sphyrapicus varius*  
*Xiphidiopicus p. percussus*  
*Colaptes auratus chrysocaulosus*  
*Colaptes fernandinae*

## Trogon

Cuban Trogon

La Güira, Playa Larga/Girón, Zapata

## Trogonidae

*Priotelus t. temnurus*

## Tody

Cuban Tody

La Güira, Soplillar, Najasa

## Todidae

*Todus temnurus*

## Cerylid Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher

Soplillar, Arch. de Camagüey

## Cerylidae

*Ceryle a. alcyon*

## American Cuckoos

Great Lizard-Cuckoo

La Güira, Bermejas, Soplillar, Zapata

## Coccyzidae

*Saurothera m. merlini*

## Anis and Allies

Smooth-billed Ani

A very common species at most localities

## Crotophagidae

*Crotophaga ani*

## Parrots

Cuban Parakeet

Najasa

Cuban Parrot

Playa Larga/Girón

## Psittacidae

*Aratinga euops*

*Amazona l. leucocephala*

## Typical Swifts

Antillean Palm-Swift

La Habana

## Apodidae

*Tachornis phoenicobia iradii*

## Hummingbirds

Cuban Emerald

La Güira, Bermejas, Soplillar, Zapata

## Trochilidae

*Chlorostilbon ricordii*

## Typical Owls

Cuban Screech-Owl

Bermejas

Cuban Pygmy-Owl

Bermejas, Zapata

## Strigidae

*Gymnoglaux l. lawrencii*

*Glaucidium s. siju*

## Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove

Common in populated areas

## Columbidae

*Columba livia*

White-crowned Pigeon  
La Güira, Bermejas, Zapata

Plain Pigeon  
Najasa

Mourning Dove  
La Güira, Bermejas

Zenaida Dove  
Playa Larga/Girón, Zapata

White-winged Dove\*  
Zapata

Common Ground-Dove  
La Güira, Arch. de Camagüey

Key West Quail-Dove  
Bermejas, Zapata

Blue-headed Quail-Dove  
Punta Perdiz

*Columba leucocephala*

*Columba i. inornata*

*Zenaida m. macroura*

*Zenaida aurita zenaida*

*Zenaida a. asiatica*

*Columbina passerina insularis*

*Geotrygon chrysia*

*Starnoenas cyanocephala*

### **Limpkin**

Limpkin  
Soplillar, Zapata

### **Aramidae**

*Aramus guarauna pictus*

### **Rails**

Zapata Rail  
Zapata

Purple Gallinule  
La Güira, Soplillar, Zapata

Common Moorhen  
Along the Autopista E of Jagüey Grande

American Coot  
Along the Autopista E of Jagüey Grande

### **Rallidae**

*Cyanolimnas cerverai*

*Porphyryula martinica*

*Gallinula chloropus cerceris*

*Fulica a. americana*

### **Snipe and Allies**

Short-billed Dowitcher  
Cayo Coco

Whimbrel  
Cayo Coco

Spotted Sandpiper  
Punta Perdiz

Ruddy Turnstone  
Cayo Coco

### **Scolopacidae**

*Limnodromus griseus*

*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

*Actitis macularia*

*Arenaria interpres morinella*

### **Jacanas**

Northern Jacana  
Soplillar, Zapata, Najasa

### **Jacanidae**

*Jacana spinosa violacea*



### **Plovers and Allies**

Black-bellied Plover

Cayo Coco

Killdeer

Soplillar

### **Gulls and Allies**

Laughing Gull

Arch. de Camagüey

Royal Tern

Arch. de Camagüey

### **Hawks and Allies**

Osprey

Soplillar, Najasa

Snail Kite

Along the Autopista E of Jagüey Grande

Common Black-Hawk

Cayo Romano

Broad-winged Hawk

La Güira, Punta Perdiz

Red-tailed Hawk

Cayo Romano

### **Falcons**

American Kestrel

Bermejas, Arch. de Camagüey

Merlin

Najasa

### **Grebes**

Pied-billed Grebe

Along the Autopista E of Jagüey Grande

### **Cormorants**

Double-crested Cormorant

Arch. de Camagüey

Neotropic Cormorant

Arch. de Camagüey

### **Hérons**

Great Blue Heron

A common species at most localities

### **Charadriidae**

*Pluvialis squatarola*

*Charadrius vociferus ternominatus*

### **Laridae**

*Larus a. atricilla*

*Sterna m. maxima*

### **Accipitridae**

*Pandion haliaetus ridgwayi*

*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*

*Buteogallus subtilis gundlachii*

*Buteo platypterus cubanensis*

*Buteo jamaicensis solitudinis*

### **Falconidae**

*Falco sparverius sparveroides*

*Falco columbarius*

### **Podicipedidae**

*Podilymbus podiceps*

### **Phalacrocoracidae**

*Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*

*Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus*

### **Ardeidae**

*Ardea herodias occidentalis*

Great Egret A common species at most localities	<i>Ardea alba egretta</i>
Reddish Egret Cayo Coco	<i>Egretta r. rufescens</i>
Tricoloured Heron Zapata, Cayo Coco	<i>Egretta tricolor ruficollis</i>
Little Blue Heron A very common species at most localities	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Snowy Egret Zapata, Arch. de Camagüey	<i>Egretta thula brewsteri</i>
Cattle Egret A very common species at most localities	<i>Bubulcus i. ibis</i>
Green Heron La Güira, Soplillar, Zapata	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron Zapata	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli</i>
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Najasa	<i>Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti</i>

### Flamingos

Greater Flamingo Cayo Coco	<i>Phoenicopterus r. ruber</i>
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### Ibises

White Ibis Cayo Coco	<i>Threskiornithidae</i> <i>Eudocimus albus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill Cayo Coco	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>

### Pelicans and Allies

Brown Pelican La Habana, Playa Larga/Girón, Arch. de Camagüey	<i>Pelecanidae</i> <i>Pelecanus o. occidentalis</i>
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### Storks and Allies

Turkey Vulture A very common species at most localities	<i>Ciconiidae</i> <i>Cathartes a. aura</i>
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### Frigatebirds

Magnificent Frigatebird Playa Larga/Girón	<i>Fregatidae</i> <i>Fregata magnificens</i>
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### Tyrant Flycatchers and Allies

Cuban Pewee La Güira, Bermejas, Cayo Coco	<i>Tyrannidae</i> <i>Contopus c. caribaeus</i>
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La Sagra's Flycatcher La Güira, Bermejas, Zapata	<i>Myiarchus s. sagrae</i>
Loggerhead Kingbird A very common species at most localities	<i>Tyrannus c. caudifasciatus</i>
Giant Kingbird La Belén	<i>Tyrannus cubensis</i>
<b>Vireos</b>	<b>Vireonidae</b>
Thick-billed Vireo Cayo Paredón Grande	<i>Vireo crassirostris cubensis</i>
Cuban Vireo Bermejas, Najasa	<i>Vireo gundlachii</i>
<b>Crows and Allies</b>	<b>Corvidae</b>
Cuban Palm Crow La Belén	<i>Corvus minutus</i>
Cuban Crow Playa Larga, Najasa, La Belén	<i>Corvus nasicus</i>
<b>Old World Flycatchers and Allies</b>	<b>Muscicapidae</b>
Red-legged Thrush A very common species at most localities	<i>Turdus plumbeus rubripes</i>
<b>Starlings and Allies</b>	<b>Muscicapidae</b>
Grey Catbird La Güira, Najasa, Cayo Coco	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Northern Mockingbird A very common species at most localities	<i>Mimus polyglottos orpheus</i>
<b>Northern Creepers and Allies</b>	<b>Certhiidae</b>
Zapata Wren Zapata	<i>Ferminia cerverai</i>
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher Punta Perdiz, Bermejas, Soplillar	<i>Polioptila c. caerulea</i>
Cuban Gnatcatcher Cayo Paredón Grande	<i>Polioptila lembeyei</i>
<b>Swallows and Allies</b>	<b>Hirundinidae</b>
Tree Swallow Along the Autopista E of Jagüey Grande	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow Cayo Guillermo	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>

## Sparrows and Allies

House Sparrow

Common in populated areas

## Finches and Allies

Northern Parula

Bermejas, Najasa

Black-throated Blue Warbler

La Güira, Bermejas, Najasa

Black-throated Green Warbler

La Güira, Bermejas

Blackburnian Warbler

Najasa

Yellow-throated Warbler

Najasa

Olive-capped Warbler

La Güira

Prairie Warbler

Cayo Coco

Palm Warbler

A very common species at most localities

Black-and-white Warbler

La Güira, Bermejas, Cayo Coco

American Redstart

A common species at most localities

Ovenbird

Zapata, Cayo Coco

Northern Waterthrush

Soplillar, Cayo Coco

Common Yellowthroat

Soplillar, Zapata

Yellow-headed Warbler

La Güira, Bermejas

Oriente Warbler

Cayo Paredón Grande, Cayo Coco

Western Spindalis

Cayo Coco

Red-legged Honeycreeper

La Güira

Cuban Bullfinch

La Güira, Bermejas, Soplillar, Cayo Coco

Cuban Grassquit

Najasa

Yellow-faced Grassquit

A common species at most localities

## Passeridae

*Passer domesticus*

## Fringillidae

*Parula americana*

*Dendroica caerulescens*

*Dendroica virens*

*Dendroica fusca*

*Dendroica dominica*

*Dendroica pityophila*

*Dendroica discolor*

*Dendroica p. palmarum*

*Mniotilta varia*

*Setophaga ruticilla*

*Seiurus aurocapillus furvior*

*Seiurus noveboracensis*

*Geothlypis trichas*

*Teretistris fernandinae*

*Teretistris fornsi*

*Spindalis zena pretrei*

*Cyanerpes cyaneus*

*Melopyrrha n. nigra*

*Tiaris canora*

*Tiaris o. olivacea*

Zapata Sparrow

Cayo Coco

Red-shouldered Blackbird

Zapata

Eastern Meadowlark

Najasa

Cuban Blackbird

La Güira, Playa Larga/Girón, Najasa

Greater Antillean Grackle

Playa Larga/Girón, Soplillar

Greater Antillean Oriole

La Güira, Bermejas

*Torreornis inexpectata varonai*

*Agelaius a. assimilis*

*Sturnella magna hippocrepis*

*Dives atrovioleacea*

*Quiscalus niger gundlachii*

*Icterus dominicensis melanopsis*

### SOME OTHER ANIMALS

Bullfrog

Playa Larga

Cuban Treefrog

Najasa

North Antillean Slider

N of Playa Larga

Cuban Dwarf-Boa

Najasa

White-tailed Deer

N of Playa Larga

Javan Mongoose

Black River Morass, Cockpit Country

Desmarest's Hutia

Cayo Guillermo

*Rana catesbeiana*

*Osteopilus septentrionalis*

*Trachemys decussata*

*Tropidophis m. melanurus*

*Odocoileus virginianus*

*Herpestes javanicus*

*Capromys pilorides*