

Cuba

30 November – 14 December, 2003

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This is a report from a birding trip to Cuba. A lot of good reports can be found on the internet, but I hope this one contains some up to date information for birders wishing to visit this nice country.

For more information, don't hesitate to contact me [mathias.b\[at\]telia.com](mailto:mathias.b[at]telia.com)

Summary of the journey

30/11 Departure from Stockholm in early morning, afternoon flight from Madrid to Havana
1/12 Soroa
2/12 Am : Soroa, La Guira, El Canal, Pm : transport to Playa Larga
3/12 Am: Soplillar, Pm: Soplillar and Palpite
4/12 Am: Palpite, Pm: Soplillar
5/12 Am: Soplillar, Pm: transport to Najasa
6/12 Am: Najasa, Pm: transport to Moron
7/12 Am: Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo, Pm: Cayo Perdon Grande
8/12 Am: Cayo Guillermo, Cayo Coco, Pm: transport to Playa Larga
9/12 Soplillar
10/12 Zapata Swamp
11/12 Am: Punta Perdiz, Pm: transport to Havanna
12/12 Havanna
13/12 Havanna
14/12 Arrival in Stockholm in the evening

Weather and bird activity

Most days were sunny and warm. We had rain one afternoon in Soroa and also a lot of showers on our way to Najasa. In Zapata there were showers one afternoon and rain almost all day the 10th. One annoying thing was the wind in Zapata. The early mornings were calm but then the wind started to blow and it usually did not calm down before 4 pm. The bird activity was as usual best in early morning. Already at 9 am the activity dropped drastically and would not improve until 4 pm.

Flights and visa

We flew from Stockholm via Madrid to Havana with Iberia. We had to wait 6 hours in Madrid going to Havana but only 2.5 hours on our way home.

You need a tourist card to enter Cuba. If you go on a charter flight, the travel agency can usually help you with the card. If you go on a regular flight you need to get it via the Cuban embassy. Since I live in Stockholm I went there in person after talking to them on the phone. The card cost 130SEK.

There is a \$25 airport tax when leaving Havana.

Car rental

I had tried to prebook a car from Havanautos via Cuban Connection on the internet but after some misunderstanding they failed to reserve a car for me and when I tried to sort things out it was too late. This made me nervous before the trip but when we arrived in Havana we had no problem getting a car. It might be more difficult later in the high season. We decided to rent the smallest car (VW Gol) for 13 days (free mileage). With insurance it cost \$906. In retrospect it would have been wiser to rent a bigger car, i.e. Hyundai Elantra to have more luggage space (especially if you want to pick up hitchhikers!) The car worked o.k. but after a few days there was an annoying warning sound each time you started the car or drove slowly. We had no manual and never figured out what the orange warning symbol on the dashboard meant in spite asking at several gas stations. Since the car worked o.k. we did not want to try to change it at the Havanautos places in fear of getting an older car that might have more serious problems.

Addresses to Havanautos and Cubacar:

<http://www.havanautos.cu/>

http://www.cubacar.cubanacan.cu/home_cubacar.html

Accommodation

We stayed mostly at casa particulares since we found that to be best value.

Rio Crystal Motel, Havana \$35/double. We read about this hotel in Dave Sargeants report and since it was close to the airport and we arrived late it was a good choice. We asked for directions from the Havanautos representative at the airport.

Villa Soroa, Soroa \$43/double including breakfast. Nice double cabins. Also nice garden and close to the Mirador trail.

Ernesto's Casa Particular, Playa Larga \$25 + \$5 for breakfast. See directions in van der Woudes report. Very nice place. You can also get dinner for \$10 per person. Chino (see below) can also arrange room at casa particular closer to his home.

Casa particular, Moron \$25. We tried the casa particular mention by Ahlman but it was not available. Instead the woman there helped us find another place on one of the parallel streets.

Casa particular Esther Fonseca Romero, Calle 25 No. 359, Apto. A, Vedado Havana. O.K place centrally located in Vedado, Havana.

Money

We exchanged US\$ in Sweden. For backup we had Thomas Cook's travel checks but never used them. In Cuba we only exchanged money once and that was at the bank (open 9am to 3pm mon-fri) by the big roundabout on Cayo Coco. They take VISA and MasterCard. Sometimes we got change back in pesos and these were used to buy snacks and sandwiches at street vendors etc. You could get a sandwich for a couple of pesos and you get 20 pesos per US\$

Literature, travel reports and maps

Lonely Planet Cuba 2000 by David Stanley (there will be a new release 2004)

Birds of the West Indies by Raffaele. There are two versions of this book. We had both. One field guide with the plates in one section and the text and distribution maps in another section (ISBN: 069111319X). I had this one mainly for reading during the evenings. There is a new field guide with basically the same plates but with less text and distribution maps on opposite side. We used this one in the field (ISBN: 0691087369).

Cuba 14-21/7 2001 by Roger Ahlman at <http://www.club300.se>

Cuba 2-17/12 2001 by Markus Lagerqvist at <http://www.club300.se>

Cuba January 1999 by Jon Hornbuckle <http://worldtwitch.com>

Cuba 22 April – 7 May 2000 by Mark Sutton at <http://www.surfbirds.com>

Cuba 4-17 March 2001 by John Van Der Woude at <http://johnbirding.wolweb.nl>

Cuba 14-27 March 2002 by Dave Sargeant at <http://worldtwitch.com>

Cuba December 1999 by Ellen Paul

Nelles Maps, Cuba 1:775000

Guides

In Zapata we hired 'El Chino' for a total of 5 days. He's a good birder and will do his utmost to find the specialties for you. He prefers Spanish but I think he has improved his English in recent years. He charges \$10 per person and day. Also there is a \$10 park fee per person and day. This we had not read about in other reports and we did not double-check it but one afternoon while birding without Chino we was stopped by the police in Palpite and told that we could not bird there without permit and official guide.

We tried to contact Chino via E-mail before our trip but got no answer. However, he was not hard to find in Playa Larga. You can find directions to his house in Dave Sargeants report.

Orestes Martínez Garcia (El Chino)
Carretera a Playa Larga, km 26
Ciénaga de Zapata, Matanzas
Cuba. CP 43000

Telephone: 045-97355 or 045-95539

E-mail: chino@ciénaga1.mtz.jovenclub.cu or chino@zapata.atenas.inf.cu

In Najasa we birded with Pedro Regalado. We tried to contact him via E-mail but the addresses in the reports did not work. But we were lucky to find him walking along the road when we arrived in Najasa. He can usually help you to arrange a room at nearby La Belen Park but while we were there it was closed and he kindly invited us to his home instead. We birded a half day with him and he is a good source of information and he also found all the Najasa specialties for us. Directions to his house can be found in Sutton's report.

Pedro Regalado
Apartado postal #161
Camagüey 1,
Cuba CP 70100

E-mail: robin@ispcmw.rimed.cu

Hitchhikers

In Cuba there are a lot of hitchhikers along the roads. We gave numerous lifts during our two weeks stay and experienced no problem. It was a great way to get to know local Cubans better. All kinds of people hitchhike, policemen, farmers, students and schoolchildren. We just made sure that we did not have any valuables in the backseat.

Itinerary

Sunday 30 Nov

We left Stockholm in early morning and arrived in Madrid around 11 am. Here we had to wait for 6 hours before our flight to Havana. Arrived in Havana 9.30 pm. After a long wait for our luggage, we quickly arranged the Havanautos rental car and headed towards Rio Crystal motel. Since there were no sign for the hotel along the road, it took some time to find it. We crashed in our beds at 11.30 pm.

Monday 1 Dec

We woke up early and already 6 am we left the hotel and drove towards Soroa. At Villa Soroa Hotel we asked if there were any room available and were told to come back and check again later. We had breakfast at the hotel and then headed up the El Mirador trail. We got a good introduction to Cuban bird life and saw common species like Red-legged Thrush, West Indian Woodpecker, Cuban Woodpecker, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Pewee, Yellow-headed Warblers and stunning Cuban Todies. We also heard some Cuban Solitaires but failed to locate any. Then it started to rain heavily and birding became difficult. We headed back to the hotel and got a room for the night and then had buffet' lunch. At the hotel we met the local bird guide and he told us that you could find Bee Hummingbird at the nearby botanical garden. In the

afternoon we walked along the road above the botanical garden. There were still some rain and we did not find anything special. It cleared up a little and we decided to try for the Bee Hummingbird. There was a \$3 entrance fee and you had to go with a guide. I thought the chances of finding the bird was slim but after showing us some of the beautiful orchids in the garden, the lady took us to some flowers along a stone wall and told us to wait for the hummingbird there. After a few minutes the first Cuban Emerald showed up and minutes later also a male Bee Hummingbird. Amazing, our most wanted species the first day! In late afternoon we again walked up towards El Mirador but the forest was dark and not much birding activity. We had dinner at the hotel and then took a walk around the hotel grounds to look for owls. With the aid of tape, we soon found two Cuban Pygmy Owls but no luck with Stygian Owl.

Tuesday 2 Dec

We again walked up to the Mirador. At the top we eventually got good views of a singing Cuban Solitaire. We also looked for Quail-doves but failed to locate any. We then headed towards La Guira. After entering the stone gate we got confused over the maps in the reports. The only pine trees we found were a few near the entrance. We continued up hill for several kilometres but the road was very bad and we decided not to risk it and turn back. We looked for Olive-capped warbler in the few pine trees we could find but no luck. Lars looked at the map and came with the suggestion to try to reach the park from the west. We drove to the village of El Canal and headed north from there. After a few kilometres we reached the first pine trees and again tried for the warbler. No luck but it looked promising. After 9 kilometres there was a pine-covered ridge on the left side of the road that looked good. We parked the car by a white house and asked the house owner for permission to walk the trail behind his house. There were a lot of warbler activity and we soon found several very beautiful Olive-capped Warblers. Also in the high grass, there were 5 Cuban Grassquits, a big surprise since most birders usually get those in Najasa. We then tried to find the way to La Guira but since the road was very bad even from this direction and we had scored on the important birds, we decided to start our long journey to Playa Larga. Just north of El Canal there were lakes on both side of the road and here we found the only Snail Kites of the trip. At the autopista we were soon stopped by a police-officer. But there was no problem; he just wanted a lift to Havana! In Havana we dropped off the policeman and tried to find our way to the autopista going east. It's not easy but with the aid of the maps in Lonely Planet we eventually found our way. At the autopista entrance we picked up three ladies going to Sancti Spíritus. We had interesting conversations during our way. By the time we reach Jagüey Grande it was dark. We dropped off the ladies but a man jumped in and he was going to Playa Giron so we gave him a lift as far as Playa Larga. The hotel in town was closed so we instead followed the directions to the casa particular in van der Woudes report. We got a nice room and asked for El Chino and within 20 minutes he stood in our room and he agreed to guide us the following days. Ernesto fixed a nice lobster dinner.

Wednesday 3 Dec

After a quick breakfast we met up with Chino at 6.30 and drove to Soplillar. We walked along a track looking for Quail-doves and Gundlach's hawk. We didn't find any but got good views of a lot of warblers, Greater Antillean Orioles, Cuban Vireo, Bee Hummingbird and Cuban Todies. Chino also scratched on a trunk and out from the top flew a Bare-legged Owl but I was looking at the hole in the trunk and missed the bird, bummer!!

Chino also found us a Fernandina's flicker and we got excellent views of this endangered woodpecker. After lunch at the diving center in Playa Larga, we search by ourselves for Quail-doves along tracks that Chino had showed us, but in vain. At 4 pm we met up with Chino again and he took us to a lagoon where we after some wading in the mangroves saw a pair of West-Indian Whistling Ducks.

Thursday 4 Dec

This morning we were joined by an Italian friend of Chino. We started in the forest behind Palpite. Quail-doves proved hard again and we only heard one Key-West Quail-dove. The morning was slow but we got good views of Least Grebe at a lagoon. After lunch we tried by ourselves for Red-shouldered Blackbirds north of La Boca but didn't find any. At 4 pm we met up with Chino again and he was going to show us a Key-west Quail-dove nest (and hopefully the bird) that a friend had found a few days earlier. We walked a very overgrown path that hadn't been cleared since the hurricane, crawling under logs and climbing over some. Unfortunately the nest was abandoned and also it started to rain heavily. By the time we reached the car we were soaking wet! After dinner and some resting we went to Chino's office grounds (CITMA) just south of Palpite and here (thanks to the tape) we got excellent views of a Bare-legged Owl and heard several more.

Friday 5 Dec

Yet another morning looking for Quail-doves at the trails between Palpite and Soplillar but still failed to find any. But we saw yet another Bee Hummingbird and a few Cuban Parrots which especially pleased Chino's Italian friend. We then started our long drive to Najasa, most of the trip in company with a female law student from Havana. We arrived in Najasa around 5 pm and found Pedro along the road looking at plants. He tried to help us get a room inside the La Belen Park but the office was closed and instead he invited us to his place. Pedro's daughter prepared dinner and meanwhile we played with her 3 year old son who probably one day will be a fanatic birder like us!

Saturday 6 Dec

It was a nice morning with some mist. Pedro took us to the fields just opposite his house. We soon found a nice flock of about 50 Cuban Parakeets and another flock of several Cuban Parrots. We also got excellent views of singing Eastern Meadowlarks and a Plain Pigeon. After some searching we found the most important species of the area, a female Giant Kingbird. We then walked along the road to the cemetery and found a female Cuban Grassquit. Later we also saw a male. Now the only bird left was the Cuban Palm Crow which Pedro found for us in another area closer to Najasa. After brunch we said farewell to Pedro and his family and headed towards Moron which we reach in late afternoon. We had "dinner" at a Rapido restaurant before going to bed.

Sunday 7 Dec

An early start at 5.30 am to be at Cayo Coco by sunrise. At the causeway you need to pay the \$2 fee and show your passport. We started birding at Cueva de Jabali. There were a lot of birds around and we found good birds like Oriente Warbler, Zapata Sparrow, Painted Bunting and Indigo Bunting. In a clearing with lower scrub a couple of hundred meters before the parking lot we found a Cuban Gnatcatcher. Later we drove to Cayo Guillermo seeing Common

Black-hawks on the way. We searched in vain for Bahama Mockingbird and eventually gave up and headed back to Cayo Coco where we had late lunch at the Rapido restaurant. After lunch we drove to Cayo Parendon Grande. The bridge between Cayo Coco and Cayo Romano was closed for repairs and the temporary bridge was narrow and a little scary. Then there was a locked gate that a man opened for us and we could only hope that he would be there on our return. Along the tracks by the lighthouse we searched for Thick-billed Vireo without luck. We did find another Cuban Gnatcatcher. We did not want to drive the whole distance back to Moron in dark so by 5.30 pm we started the drive back. From the car we saw flying Roseate Spoonbill and Caribbean Flamingos but it was almost completely dark and we hoped for better views the next day. Another quick dinner at the Rapido restaurant in Moron.

Monday 8 Dec

Today we started from Moron at 4.30 am so we would be at Cayo Guillermo by sunrise. We looked for Bahama Mockingbird for two hours only seeing Northern Mockingbirds. By 8 am we had almost given up when a strange looking Mockingbird was spotted in a bush near where we had parked the car. It was a Bahama Mockingbird! Happy we returned to Cayo Coco and walked the road towards Flamingo Beach. Here we found several Zapata Sparrows and also a hawk which we later identified as a Gundlach's hawk. After lunch and exchanging money, we stopped at La Sillas bar where we looked for Thick-billed Vireo. We found a distance Caribbean Flamingo before heading to Moron and then on towards Zapata again.

Tuesday 9 Dec

The previous night Chino thought we wouldn't show up again so he had arranged to guide a Dutch couple. But we all agreed to go together. The previous days Chino had put out fruits along some tracks to attract Quail-doves. At first we didn't find any but then we heard one Blue-headed calling. Chino sat off into the bushes and we followed. With great luck we managed to find the beautiful bird on a branch and got good views. We walked some other tracks but found nothing new. After lunch we walked a trail along the swamp in Soplillar and got excellent views of Least Bittern. Also along another track we got fairly good views of a Grey-headed Quail-dove before it flew off into the woods. At 6 pm Lars and I drove towards Playa Giron to look for nightjars. We had no luck and returned to Playa Larga where we met up with the others at the CITMA office. It did not take long before a Stygian Owl flew by and landed in a tree. We got excellent views with the help of our powerful flashlights.

Wednesday 10 Dec

We started at 6 am together with the Dutch couple, this time to search for the birds in the swamp. Unfortunately it started to rain heavily and we failed to locate any Zapata Wren, but we heard Zapata Rail, King Rail, Spotted Rail and Sora. Then Chino had some things to do in Jagüey Grande and we agreed to drive him there. On the way back we stopped north of La Boca and finally found some Red-shouldered Blackbirds although quite far away. We also heard more calling Zapata Rails and a Black Rail briefly. We had lunch in Soplillar and then walked a trail near the river. No new birds but the rain had made hundreds of crabs come out of their hollows. A very nice experience! In the afternoon we again met up with the Dutch couple and drove back to the area we had visited in the morning. It had stopped raining and with the aid of tape we managed to lure out a Zapata Wren that performed well just a foot or so from our feet. We returned to Palpite for the final endemic of the trip. Chino played his

tape and soon a Greater Antillian Nightjar was flying around us. It landed on a fencepost and we again got good views.

Thursday 11 Dec

This was our last birding morning. We tried a trail near Punta Perdiz which Chino had recommended. We saw a lot of birds but nothing new. At 9 am we went to the beach and spent a few hours swimming and snorkelling before we went back to our room to check out. We left Playa Larga around 12.30 pm and headed towards Havana where we soon found a casa particular in Vedado. In the evening we went to Stadium Latinoamericano and saw a baseball game.

Friday 12 Dec

This day was spent sightseeing in Havana. In the evening we checked out the nightlife.

Saturday 13 Dec

Our last day in Cuba we visited the fortress by the harbour. We got our best views of Antillian Palm Swift here. We left for the airport quite early so we would be sure to find the way and after returning the car and spending some boring hours at the airport, our plane bound for Madrid left on schedule 11.20 pm.

Sunday 14 Dec

Arrived back in a chilly Stockholm 9 pm.

Site descriptions

There are good maps in Suttons and van der Woudes report but here follows some more information.

Soroa

There is a good map in Suttons report. The botanical gardens where we saw Bee Hummingbird is located just south of the hotel.

La Guira

I got confused over the different information in the trip reports. I had expected to find more pine trees. There were a few just about 100 metres after the stone entrance. At the place Sutton marks as "cabanos that are in use" we asked for Cabanos Los Pinos and were told that they were several kilometres up hill. Dave Sargeant mentioned a distance of 7 kilometres. We tried this road but it was in very bad shape. The distances make no sense when comparing with van der Woudes map. I guess some birders have been lucky to find the warblers near the entrance and others have gone further up hill.

El Canal

El Canal is a little village southwest of La Guira. We drove 9 kilometres north from here and found good pine forest. Here we found Olive-capped Warbler with ease and also Cuban Grassquits.

Zapata

The Zapata area is best birded together with Chino. He knows a lot of tracks around Playa Larga, Palpite and Soplillar. We failed to find Quail-doves west of Palpite (See Sutton's map) but others might have better luck. We heard Zapata Rail and saw our only Zapata Wren by the broad channel noted on Sutton's map.

Najasa

To get to Najasa and Pedro's house, follow the excellent map in van der Woudes report. There is a new road to Najasa so skip the information in Suttons report.

Cayo Coco

Zapata Sparrows were found on the road down to Flamingo beach at the same place as in van der Woudes report. We also had Zapata Sparrows at Cuevas de Jabali and there we also found Cuban Gnatcatcher.

Cayo Guillermo

The small military post mentioned in van der Woudes report is no longer there. However it is exactly 3 kilometers from where the asphalted road ends to where we found the Bahama Mockingbird.

List of birds (Follows Clements)

(Species with * are endemics)

LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)

1 Palpite

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

5 El Canal, 5 Zapata

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

10 Cayo Coco, 20 Havana

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*)

1 Soplillar

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus*)

Common Cayo Coco

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)

1 Soplillar

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*)
1 Cayo Coco (LM), 1 Cayo Guillermo)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)
1 El Canal, 1 Playa Larga, few Cayo Coco

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba egretta*)
A few along autopista, few Cayo Coco

REDDISH EGRET (*Egretta rufescens*)
15 Cayo Coco

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor ruficollis*)
5 Playa Larga, 2 Cayo Coco,

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)
1 Soroa, c20 along autopista west Soroa, few Zapata and Cayo Coco

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula brewsteri*)
Few along autopista west Soroa, few Zapata and Cayo Coco

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Common throughout

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)
1 Soroa few Zapata and Cayo Coco

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*)
1 Zapata

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGH-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*)
1 Zapata, 1 Cayo Guillermo (MB)

LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*)
2 Soplillar

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
2 heard Soroa

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*)
1 Cayo Coco, 2 Playa Larga

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*)
5 Playa Larga, 10 Cayo Coco

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
c15 Zapata

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*)
5 Cayo Coco

CARIBBEAN FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)
6 Cayo Coco

WEST INDIAN WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arborea*)
2 Soplillar

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*)
15 Soplillar

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

1 Zapata

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Common throughout

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus carolensis* and *ridgewayi*)

1 El Canal, c5 Zapata, c3 Cayo Coco, one north of La Boca was identified as a *ridgewayi*

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*)

4 El Canal

***GUNDLACH'S HAWK** (*Accipiter gundlachi*)

1 Cayo Coco

COMMON BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus anthracinus gundlachi*)

2 Cayo Guillermo, 2 Cayo Coco, 1 Cayo Paredon Grande

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis solitudinis*)

1 Palpite, 1 Soplillar

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*)

1 autopista, 4 Cayo Coco, 1 Cayo Paredon Grande

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius sparveroides*)

Common throughout, several of dark phase

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

1 Cayo Coco, 1 Cayo Guillermo

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna pictus*)

5 Zapata

BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

1 heard along road north of La Boca, Zapata

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*)

Several heard Zapata

SORA (*Porzana carolina*)

Several heard Zapata

***ZAPATA RAIL** (*Cyanolimnas cerverai*)

Several heard Zapata

SPOTTED RAIL (*Pardirallus maculatus*)

Several heard Zapata

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*)

15 Palpite

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus cerceris*)

Few El Canal, few Palpite, few Cayo Coco

NORTHERN JACANA (*Jacana spinosa violacea*)

2 Palpite, 2 Soplillar

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

5 near Soroa

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
1 Cayo Coco

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)
2 Playa Larga, 1 Palpite, 2 Cayo Coco

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*)
1 Moron (LM), 1 Zapata

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*)
1 Cayo Coco

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*)
1 Palpite

WILLET (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)
1 Cayo Coco

LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*)
Common Cayo Coco

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
Common Cayo Coco

ROYAL TERN (*Sterna maxima*)
Common Cayo Coco

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*)
Few Cayo Coco

ROCK DOVE (*Columba livia*)
Seen in cities and villages

WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON (*Patagioenas leucocephala*)
1 Soroa, common Zapata and Cayo Coco

PLAIN PIGEON (*Patagioenas inornata*)
5 Najasa

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*)
Fairly common

ZENAIDA DOVE (*Zenaida aurita zenaida*)
Common throughout

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina inularis*)
Common throughout

GRAY-HEADED QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon caniceps*)
1 Soplillar

KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon chrysia*)
1 heard Palpite

***BLUE-HEADED QUAIL-DOVE** (*Starnoenas cyanocephala*)
1 Soplillar and a few others heard

***CUBAN PARAKEET** (*Aratinga euops*)
c50 Najasa

CUBAN PARROT (*Amazona leucocephala*)
2 Palpite, 4 Soplillar, 10 Najasa, 15 Punta Perdiz

GREAT LIZARD-CUCKOO (*Saurothera merlini*)
2 Soroa, c5 daily Zapata, few Cayo Coco

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)
Common throughout

BARN OWL (*Tyto Alba*)
2 along road Jagüey Grande-Playa Larga

***BARE-LEGGED OWL** (*Gymnoglaux lawrencii*)
1 Soplillar, 2 seen and several heard Palpite (CITMA)

***CUBAN PYGMY-OWL** (*Glaucidium siju*)
2 Soroa, 5 Zapata, 1 Najasa

STYGIAN OWL (*Asio stygius*)
1 Palpite (CITMA)

***GREATER ANTILLIAN NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus cubanensis*)
1 Palpite

ANTILLIAN PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis phoenicobia iradii*)
1 El Canal, several seen in and around Havana

CUBAN EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon ricordii*)
Several seen daily

***BEE HUMMINGBIRD** (*Mellisuga helenae*)
1 Soroa botanical garden, 2 Soplillar, 1 Palpite

***CUBAN TROGON** (*Priotelus temnurus*)
5 Soroa, several seen daily Zapata

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle alcyon*)
Few Zapata and Cayo Coco

***CUBAN TODDY** (*Todus multicolor*)
3 Soroa, few Zapata, heard Cayo Coco

WEST INDIAN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes superciliaris*)
2 Soroa, 2-3 daily Zapata, 5 Najasa

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
1 La Guira, 1 Palpite, 1 Soplillar

***CUBAN WOODPECKER** (*Xiphidiopicus percussus*)
2 Soroa, 2-3 daily Zapata, 1 Cayo Coco

NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus chrysocaulosus*)
3 Soplillar,

FERNANDINA'S FLICKER (*Colaptes fernandinae*)
4 Soplillar

CRESENT-EYED PEWEE (*Contopus caribaeus*)
2 Soroa, few Zapata and Cayo Coco

LA SAGRA'S FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus sagrae*)
2 Soroa, few Zapata and Cayo Coco

LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus*)
1 La Guira, fairly common Zapata and Cayo Coco, 1 Najasa

GIANT KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus cubensis*)
1 Najasa

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)
6 Playa Larga

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)
1 Playa Larga

***ZAPATA WREN** (*Ferminia cerverai*)
1 Zapata

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*)
Fairly common Zapata and Cayo Coco

BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gundlachii*)
1 Cayo Guillermo

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos orpheus*)
Fairly common throughout

***CUBAN SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes elisabeth*)
1 seen and several heard Soroa

RED-LEGGED THRUSH (*Turdus plumbeus rubripes*)
Fairly common throughout

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*)
Few Zapata, 1 Najasa

***CUBAN GNATCATCHER** (*Polioptila lembeyi*)
1 Cayo Guillermo, 1 Cayo Coco, 1 Cayo Paredon Grande

***CUBAN PALM CROW** (*Corvus minutus*)
c10 Najasa

CUBAN CROW (*Corvus nasicus*)
2 Playa Larga, few Najasa

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)
Fairly common in towns

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*)
1 Cayo Coco

***CUBAN VIREO** (*Vireo gundlachii*)
Heard Soroa, few Zapata and Cayo Coco

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*)
1 Soroa

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*)
A few most days

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)
c5 Cayo Coco

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*)
1 Cayo Coco (MB)

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica tigrina*)
3 Cayo Coco

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*)
2-3 daily

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*)
5 Soroa, 5 Zapata

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*)
1 Najasa, 2 Cayo Coco

OLIVE-CAPPED WARBLER (*Dendroica pityophila*)
5 El Canal

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*)
A few most days

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*)
Common most days except Soroa

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)
1 Cayo Coco

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*)
5 Soroa, 1-2 daily Zapata 1 and Cayo Coco, 1 Najasa

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
Common throughout

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)
2 Soplillar, 1 Punta Perdiz (MB)

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla furvior*)
2-3 daily Soroa, Zapata and Cayo Coco

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)
Few Zapata and Cayo Coco

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus motacilla*)
2 Soroa, 2 Cayo Coco, 1 Soplillar

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*)
Few Zapata and Cayo Coco

***YELLOW-HEADED WARBLER** (*Teretistris fernandinae*)
4 Soroa, common Zapata

***ORIENTE WARBLER** (*Teretistris fornsi*)
Common Cayo Coco

WESTERN SPINDALIS (*Spindalis zena pretrei*)
5 Soroa, 2 La Guira, 1 Najasa, few Zapata and Cayo Coco

RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)
1 Soroa (MB)

CUBAN BULLFINCH (*Melopyrrha nigra*)
Fairly common Zapata and Cayo Coco

CUBAN GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris canora*)
5 El Canal, 2 Najasa

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris olivacea*)
2 Soroa, few Zapata, Najasa, Cayo Coco

***ZAPATA SPARROW** (*Torreornis inexpectata varanai*)
4 Cayo Coco

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*)
1 Cayo Coco

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*)
1 Cayo Coco

***RED-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD** (*Agelaius assimilis*)
8 along road north of La Boca, Zapata

TAWNY-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius humeralis*)
c5 Najasa

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna hippocrepis*)
Few along autopista, 6 Najasa

***CUBAN BLACKBIRD** (*Dives atrovioacea*)
Few Soroa, Zapata, probably overlooked elsewhere

GREATER ANTILLIAN GRACKLE (*Quiscalus niger gundlachii*)
Fairly common throughout

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*)
1 Playa Larga

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)
2 Soplillar

GREATER ANTILLIAN ORIOLE (*Icterus dominicensis melanopsis*)
5 Soplillar