

# Cuba

4 – 22 January 2005



Photos and Report by  
Anders Jihmanner ©

### **A Quick Summary Of Birding In Cuba Is:**

A very nice and birdy country well worth a visit. Almost all but one (eg. Cuban Kite) of the endemics are more or less easy seen. Good living, nice food, even excellent in some places, a safe country and reasonable good roads make the birding trip to a pleasure.

For more information, don't hesitate to contact me at my Email.

#### Do & Don'ts:

Do bring Euro, don't US\$.

Try to also change to Cuban pesos and use them in all small stores and restaurants.

This is normally NOT done at banks but at a "CADECA" a special exchange-office.

Learn some Spanish it's very useful.

Ask around, people are friendly and willing to help.

Do not rely too much in road sign. They might be missing or even nonexistent, so Y'd better bring (or get at the airport) a good map and a compass.

Bring mosquito-repellent (even if we didn't had any mosquito problems due to the drought), and whatever that is left when you going home; please give it to the people living in mosquito-areas as Zapata area and Cayo Coco. They have a hard time finding anything for their kids, esp. in the summertime.

There is an entry fee of some parks and reserves ranging from 3-10\$/pers and day.

#### Participants:

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### **Tripreports**

There is many good reports on the Internet so I don't repeat all info once more here. Please see below for reports with good and accurate maps. I do hope this one contains some exiting observations and some up to date information for birders wishing to visit this nice and birdy country.

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

A nice report with some unique info and some good maps. Observe the aberrant time for visiting.

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

Get this one. A good report with lots of good and accurate maps.

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

A good report with lots of maps. The maps are very different from Sutton but shows the same thing. Also GPS stake-outs if you got one of those.

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

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

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

Not that useful but some good info.

#### **Literature:**

**Lonely Planet Cuba 2004** by David Stanley Very good and with useful maps.

**Birds of Cuba** by Garrdio and Kirckonnel

**New World Warbler** by J Curson, D Quinn and D Beadle from Helm

**North American Bird Guide** by David Sibley. Useful for all migrants.

## Maps;

We used the maps in LP guide and “Mapa Geografic Cuba” and “The tourist road map” but the good one to get is “Insight Travel Map, 1:800 000. It cost about 6£ = 100Skr =14C\$. It is available at the airport in Havana, at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## Guides:

Orestes Martínez Garcia (El Chino) [chino@cienaga1.mtz.jovenclub.cu](mailto:chino@cienaga1.mtz.jovenclub.cu)  
or [chino@zapata.atenas.inf.cu](mailto:chino@zapata.atenas.inf.cu)

Carretera a Playa Larga, km 26

Ciénaga de Zapata, Matanzas

Cuba. CP 43000

Telephone: 045-987355 or 045-915539

Email worked very well corresponding with El Chino.

Pedro Regalado      Apartado postal #161      [luli@ccnes.com](mailto:luli@ccnes.com)  
Camagüey 1,  
Cuba CP 70100

Note that neither Email nor ordinary post by letter reached Pedro even though I wrote three months in advance!

## Some Hotel used and other useful addresses:

These Casa Particulars below are suitable for birder, cheap clean and with friendly staff.

### MORON

Tamara Companioni Medina (Run by Tamara y Mario)

Av. Marti 247 Moron, (Between Sarafin Sanchez and Segio Antuña)

Phn: 5-3630

### HOLGUIN

Milagro de la Torre Perdomo

Calle General Salazar 8 (Between Miro y Morales Lemus)

Holguin

Phn 424629

## Travel Journal

- 4/1. Landvetter-Brussels-Madrid - Havana. Arrived at 22,00.
- 5/1. Havana – Soroa.
- 6/1. Soroa - La Güira – Soroa
- 7/1. Soroa – Playa Larga
- 8/1. Playa Larga Soplillar
- 9/1. Playa Larga Palpite am, La Turba pm
- 10/1. Playa Larga - -Playa Giron - Najasa
- 11/1. Najasa
- 12/1. Najasa – Holguin
- 13/1. Holguin – Gibara - Caletones – Holguin
- 14/1. Holguin – Moron
- 15/1. Cayo Coco, Cayo Paraendon – C Coco- C Guillermo - Moron
- 16/1. Cayo Coco
- 17/1. Moron - Playa Larga
- 18/1. Playa Larga, Soplillar
- 19/1. Playa Larga, Soplillar, Lagoons
- 20/1. Playa Larga, La Turba
- 21/1. Playa Larga – Surgidero de Batabano
- 22/1. Surgidero de Batabano - Havana
- 23/1. Flight home via Madrid – Brussels – Landvetter.

## Diary with trip report and localities visited



Red line indicates trip Route

**Tuesday 4/1. To Havana** The flight from Göteborg-Brussels and further on to Madrid was on time and just as boring as expected. Arrived in Havana of schedule. Cubancar had prepared a good car for us, a Peugeot 307 with only 6220 km at the odometer. Made the normal routines quite quick and easy and set off to Rio Crystal hotel. Too late, Closed for the night. With the aid of a police officer and the man he was questioning (!) we found a nice Casa Particular two streets further east.



### **Wednesday 5/1. Havana – Soroa**

The clock alarmed at 07,00 and breakfast was served at 07,15. Off we went at 07,30 for Soroa. Reached Soroa late morning where there were very high bird activity especially close to the stream. Bird figures started to increase with Cuban Trogon, Cuban Emerald, lots of warblers and many good views. Started to bird the trail towards the Mirador about 11,30, Anna found our 1<sup>st</sup> Cuban Tody, which is a most charming bird. Worked all way back to the hotel, checked in at Villa Soroa Hotel for 63\$/3pers. Siesta at the pool until 15,30, then

birding in the orchid-garden next to the hotel. Lots of birds and high activity made it a nice afternoon. Most surprising was a pair of Fernandinas Flicker in the forest right in front of the hotel. Good beef at the hotel restaurant.



#### **6/1. Soroa – La Güira – Soroa**

Up 06,30 breakfast 07,00 and off to La Güira for Olive-capped Warbler and Cuban Solitaire. We arrived at 08,30 at drove the bad road to Cabaneros de los Piños. Olive-capped Warbler was easy to find, singing along he road. However most of their time they hide in the canopy so a

scope is very handy. The Cuban Solitaire above Los Cabaneros was very cooperative and landed just 5 meters in front of us, sitting in the open and singing, as it seemed just for pleasing us. On the way down, we found a female Stygian Owl roosting in a pine giving good views. In to San Cristobal finding a bank and changing money. Also changing Cuban Dollars to Cuban Pesos, which was very clever to do. 1 CUC=26 peso. 1 pizza = 6 peso (about 0,30 SEK) for a absolutely OK Lunch. A very good advise is to chance to Pesos and use them as much as You can, it will cut cost for food and drinking to a 1/10!!

**Fernandinas Flicker**

Birded the trail to the waterfall and found, most surprising a male Blue-winged Warbler along the trail in a birdparty. Food with a family 500 m North of the hotel. Nice dinner for 10\$/pers. Ended the day by whistling and calling in a Cuba Pygmy Owl to our Cabin, perhaps he wanted to share our Cuba Libres?

#### **7/1. Soroa – Havana – Playa Larga**

Up 06,30 breakfast 07,00 and out on the Eastern Mirador trail. Roughly the same birds as yesterday but one: Almost back down to the stream Anders worked though the thickets and found a skulking thrush which eventually showed himself very well and turned out to be a Wood Thrush. They are very rare in Cuba. Set of by lunchtime through Havana (See Sutton for a useful map to avoid too much traffic jam) and arrived in Playa Larga by 15,30. Found El Chino and got installed in Casas Particular right on the beach at Bay of Pigs.

Birded westwards along the mangroves until the mosquitoes attacked us. Good views of Cuban Crab-hawk and mangrove Yellow Warbler. Nice Bath in the crystal-clear water and good lobster for dinner at our Casa.

**8/1. Playa Larga; Soplillar and Onoantes** Breakfast 06,30, out with El Chino in Soplillar at small winding and birdy trails thru the forest. Some good birding at the wet savannah as well. Good birds today are Gundlach's hawk, Bee Hummingbird and excellent views of Greyheaded Quail-Dove. More surprising was our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wood Thrush that was a tick for El Chino. Siesta and bath in the midday heat. Then off to Onoantes and at the bridge crossing the river Tore shows sharp eyes and finds us a Cedar waxwing, only 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the Zapata area.



**Cuban Pygmy-Owl**

Excellent Lobster dinner with a lot of food and a tasty wine.

**9/1. Playa Larga; La Turba, Palpite, Punta Perdiz and Soplillar** Early morning, leaves at 06,00 for La Turba. ♂ Bee Hummingbird sing at sits perfectly in the open. Red-shouldered Blackbird is ticked on the way back to Punta Perdiz where we spent the lunch-break

snorkelling in the warm, clear water at the fabulous coral reef. Palpite in the afternoon where Anders works in a Swainsons Warbler that is appreciated esp. by Tore and El Chino. Very good views of BHQD and finally Great Antillean Nightjar before going back to PL and having nice Crocodile and lot of fresh fruit for dinner. Finish the day by having a drink on the beach in the warm Caribbean night.

**10/1. Playa Larga - Najasa** Up 06,30 breakfast 07,00 and birding the outskirts of the town all the way to the NP-border. Hooded Warbler among others was nice. Arrives at Najasa 19,30 but Pedro is unaware of us coming so he got surprised. NB that letters send three months in advance do not arrived, neither the three different Email sent to him. Well, we settles the situation and stays at Pedro's house (which was a mistake to be revealed in two days.) Dinner together with Pedro and his wife.

**11/1. Playa Larga** Up 05,00 breakfast 05,30 and away in search of Najasa specialities. Starts with the shy and enigmatic West Indian Whistling Duck. This works well after thrashing trough mean grass in one hour. Sneaks into the edge of the former lake, which is mostly a marsh due to the drought. That strategy was successful we had good views of 18 ducks. While walking back, we spot a Kingbird, set up the scope and determine the Species: Giant KB. Continue walking and soon finding a pair of Giant KB much closer offering good views. However no Parakeets. Heading to and beyond Najasa in search of Cuban Palm Crow and Plain Pigeon, no problem. The problem is the drought; it is so severe that the cows die in the pasturelands. Thus no Cuban Grassquits to be seen.



**Giant Kingbird.  
Note the flat head!**

Bird the area around the cemetery; get fine observations of Cuban Parrots and Cuban Parakeets. Late dinner at Pedro where we stays overnight, promising to give Mrs Regalado a lift to Holguin where we have to go to get the Grassquit. (And search for Cuban Kite) I did buy a nice painting of a Cuban Pygmy Owl from Pedro for 30\$.

**12/1. Najasa-Camagüey-Najasa-Holguin** Cuban Parakeets just opposite Pedro house when we getting ready to go. Unfortunately, a green uniformed officer arrives at the house just when we should leave and collect our passports!! NOT GOOD! We have to go all the way back to Camagüey at 10,00 for a questioning at the Ministry of the Interior to get them back. I DO NOT like this. The time goes, we just waiting at the ministry. Roughly 12,00 Pedro comes out from one of the rooms with our passports, we get them back which felt good. Drove Pedro back to Najasa, he was probably fined severe for letting us stay at his house. I really hope the 100\$ we paid him covered the fines.

Therefore, Y'd better be staying in Camagüey, Finally we leaves Najasa at 14,00 instead of 8 o'clock but worse things could have happened. Stop for a late pizza lunch and then goes to a small village 37 km west of Holguin where Pedro's wife tells us to stop at a school, she walks in and quickly bring out a relatives of her which was well aware of birder needs. He was very keen to show us Cuban Grassquit and this place was good. Fine views of this handsome birds. We have the traditional "visit-cup-of-coffe" at his house before leaving him at the school and continue to Holguin. Arrive at Mrs R sister house, more coffee and some phonecalls later a nephew turns up, speaks good english and presents himself as Raphael. He arrange with a CP where we could stay together and tell

us he will try to help us tomorrow. The CP was good with a talkative lady running the place. No problems with early breakfast and good living.

### **13/1. Holguin – Gibara – Caletones and return Holguin.**

Away slight late for Gibara and West along the coast for Limestone/coral ground coastal forest. This could be the habitat of Cuban Kite. Strong Northern winds make the birding difficult and the birds tend to stay low and hide. We didn't find any exceptional habitat but had KWQD and Oriente Warbler and some waders here. Keep on birding until 13,00, lunch in Gibara, a real nice fish. Birded us back towards Holguin with a birdy stop in the mangroves at the west side of the bay. Back in Holguin, Rafael get us some really good cigars and performed a good magic show for us. We got our talkative lady to book a CP for us in Moron that proves to be clever. This is a good strategy.

Try to get your hosts to book the next night for you, phone contacts works very well.

Dinner at El Pekenensis, a good peso-restaurant, Beer tasty Pasta and sauce, ham and dessert was a mere 112ps/3pers = 12 skr/pers.

Agree to drive Pedro's wife back to Najasa tomorrow.

**14/1. Holguin - Moron** Breakfast at 07,00 Sets of towards Najasa with some short fruitless birding stops en route. Leaves Mrs R in Najasa, buy some banana and biscuits en route to Moron. Turns off the autopista 30 km east Ciego de Avila of in search of the Sandhill Crane. Find the road good and the driving easy, much better than going through the messy town. We find the marshes described in Ahlman quite easy but the earlier mentioned drought made even this huge wetland completely dry. →No Cranes! Drove straight to Moron where we find our prebooked Casa Particular quick and easy. Easy to find, easy to park and easy to get out of Moron for Cayo Coco. A good place for birders. After check-in we did a walk in search of a guide for the Cranes but in vain. However, I managed to get a nice haircut and fine shaving at the local Barberia for a mere 7 Pesos! (2,5kr). Dinner at CP where Mario have cooked a delicious lobster! This CP had the best food in Cuba. Mario was an excellent chef.

**15/1. Moron-Cayo Paraendon-G. Coco-G Guillermo-Moron** Early breakfast and away to Cayo Coco causeway. Had to show have our passports controlled and documented before allowed to pay the one-way fee of 2\$ and drive out on the causeway. At the end of the causeway, we made a quick birding stop with perfect timing. An amazing morning flight of Caribbean Flamingoes fills the sky as a might pink spectacle. 6000 flamingoes in one huge flock! Drove then right away to the lighthouse at Cayo Paraendon Grande. Parked below the lighthouse and walk the gravel road SE from the lighthouse. A good choice, we had good views of Cuban Gnatcatcher and Thickbilled Vireo without any hazzle. Birded us towards the Cueva de Jabali, then on further west, searching for Zapata Sparrow and Bahama Mockingbird. A lot of other birds found but not these two. Works hard until darkness 18,30. A long fast drive back to Moron where our host agrees to serve dinner a bit later, allowing us to have a shower on our sweaty bodies. Again good food, good Rhum&kola and good cigars. In bed quite late.

**16/1. Moron – Cayo Coco.** Up 06,00 leaves 07,00. Straight to Cueva de Jabali for Zapata Sparrow, no luck, lots of birds but no new ones. Wee gives the "Nature trail" a try, we thought it's probably a couple of 100-meters or so. It became apparent that this assumption was wrong. The trail shows itself to be almost 8 km. Very good views of KWQD and a few new ducks for the trip but mostly lots of walking. We decide to have a break and leave the Cave. Along the small road, back there is suddenly a big brown and streaked mockingbird in a treetop. Bahama Mockingbird! Seen well and not shy at all. I do actually shakes the tree in which it is sitting but it just doesn't want to fly. Birds the Flamenco road but it starting to get hot so Tore goes for a bath and Anna for a rest while I keep on thrashing the scrub. Eventually it pays off and I found a pair of Zapata Sparrow. The other two did get warm when running all

the way along the road to me... Another bath and then to La Sillas bar for waders and a poor lunch. Drives 30 Km East of Moron and search thoroughly at the marsh for the Cranes but in vain due to the extreme drought. Dinner at home; shrimps á la Casa. Very good.

**17/1. Playa Larga** Anna & Anders went out early in search of cranes, 20 km E Moron where there's a very good viewpoint for discovering birds. However, no cranes in all of this area, just as the locals said. The severe drought had really made them disappear. Back in Moron Changing more money, good rate on Euros, not so well on US\$. Says goodbye to Tamara and Mario and drives to Playa Larga in the midday heat. Well there, it revealed that our booking at Fidels CP was ignored and we couldn't find any other CP in the whole of PL. To the Hotel and got a three-person cabin for 67\$ incl. breakfast. Ok even if it was a bit wretched, eg the beds. However, it will do until tomorrow. Goes owling in the garden and discover a sleeping Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Stygian Owl right opposite Cabin 39 at 23,50.

**18/1. Playa Larga** Up 06,30 breakfast 07,00 to Soplillar in search of rails and bitterns. We got good views of Sora and American Bittern but just hearing King rail and Zapata rails. Birds the same area both morning and evening, Stygian owl at CITMA's office. Moved to a nice CP in PL. Dinner at the CP, nice lobster, ending the day as usual with rum&kola.

**19/1. Playa Larga** Up 06,30 Birding La Turba forest with lots of birds and terrific views. Tennessee warbler and Summer Tanager among others. Lunch at the Crocodile farm/tourist enter and buying some souvenirs before going fishing and bathing at the coral reef at Punta Perdiz. Birding two different lagoons and a severe hurricane-damaged forest in the afternoon. Well-cooked fish at our CP.



**The Stygian Owl** ♀

**20/1. Playa Larga** Anna & Anders keeps on working at the rails, got close-up view of a male Least Bittern. Tore lingers close to town. Chino says he has checked for the Sandhill Crane but even in the famous Zapata marsh, it's too dry for the Cranes to thrive. Finish the visit in the Zapata area by having a party at Chinos house with crocodile and lots of Rum. Video-show and a lot of laughs was just right finish of this visit. We donate some clothes and all mosquito-repellent we have, I think it will be real handy in the Cuban summer.

**21/1. Playa Larga – Rio Hatiguanico – Batabano-Playa Playita – Surgidero de Batabano** Leaves PL at 07,30 going straight to Rio H and ask around for Cesar. When he eventually turns up he has forgot his tape-player and says that's there are no cranes around.

This and (maybe) Cuban Kite are our only misses of the whole trip. Birds anyway along the road in the marsh, the habitat looks very promising, until 11,30.

Leaves the Autopista before Guines



**La Sagras Flycatcher**



and take the small but good roads to Surgidero de Batabano by the sea. A small shabby seaport. However, the former retreat “Playa Playita”, now decayed, holds some nice birds like Forster Terns in all possible plumages and ages. A good flock of +300 Black skimmer amused us for a while. Have a beer at the only (?) bar before having dinner at our blue CP. Fish, well cooked and tasty.

**22/1. Surgidero de Batabano – Playa Playita –Havana – Sweden.**

Up 07,00 Breakfast 07,30 late for 1<sup>st</sup> time, then birding along the beach and in the mangroves at Playa Playita until 13,00. Quite a good locality, lots of warblers, Terns, gulls and waders. Time to stop birding and go back to the winter in Sweden. It proved to be very clever staying outside the Havana area south of the city. This made the driving into the airport very straightforward and smooth. +30°C today.



**A Flock of Forsters Terns and Laughing Gulls**

Appendix I

**Birds observed:**

1. Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*  
14 Batabano 21/1.
2. Pied-Billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*  
Along autopista 7/1, 6 Zapata 19/1, 3 Batabano 21/1.
3. Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*  
Up to 25/day at most coastlines.
4. Double-Crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*  
30/day Zapata and 500/day Cayo Coco.
5. Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus*  
Up to 50/day.
6. Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*  
1 Soplillar 8/1, 2 Zapata 10/1.
7. Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*  
25 Cayo Coco. Singles Zapata.
8. Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias occidentalis*  
Singles most days, max 25.
9. Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*  
Singles most days.
10. Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*  
8 Cayo Coco. Only one of white morph.
11. Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*  
Singles most days.

12. **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*  
Singles most days.
13. **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula brewsteri*  
Fairly Common.
14. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*  
Common.
15. **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*  
1-2 Soroa up to 9/day Zapata.
16. **Black-Crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*  
2 Najasa 10/1, 1 juv Cayo Coco. 9 Zapata 19/1
17. **Yellow-Crowned Nigh-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*  
3/night Zapata.
18. **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*  
1 Najasa 11/1, 1 ♂ giving very good views Soplillar 20/1.
19. **American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*  
1 seen Zapata 18/1.
20. **Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*  
2 Cayo Coco. 1 Zapata.
21. **White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*  
1 along road 7/1, 10 Cayo Coco.
22. **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*  
15 Cayo Coco.
23. **Caribbean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*  
Amazing nice morningflight of 6200 very pink flamingoes at Cayo Coco.
24. **Helmeted Guinea Fowl** *Numida meleagris*  
50 Najasa, 10 Gibara.
25. **Northern Bobwhite** *Colinus virginianus cubaensis*  
15 30 km E Moron, 1 Between Moron and Playa Larga 17/1.
26. **West Indian Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arborea*  
18 Najasa 11/1.
27. **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*  
8 Between Soroa and La Habana /1.
28. **American Wigeon** *Anas americana*  
25 Cayo Coco.
29. **Blue-Winged Teal** *Anas discors*  
3 Zapata 10/1 6 there 19/1. 15 Cayo Coco.
30. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*  
10 Cayo Coco.
31. **Ring-Necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*  
200 W Havana 7/1, 3 E Playa Giron 10/1.
32. **Red-Breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*  
160! Cayo Coco 16/1.
33. **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*  
Common.
34. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus ridgewayi*  
Up to 10/day.
35. **Northern Harrier** *Circus Circus cyaneus*  
1 juv. Moron 17/1.
36. **Gundlach's Hawk** *Accipiter gundlachi*  
1 Soplillar 8/1, 1 E Moron 17/1.
37. **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus fringilloides*  
1 Soroa 5/1.
38. **Cuban (Common) Black-Hawk** *Buteogallus (anthracinus) gundlachi*  
1 Zapata 7/1, 1 there 9/1, 4 Cayo Coco.
39. **Red-Tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis solitudini*  
A total of 6.



**West Indian  
Whistling Duck**



**Forsters Tern 2nd Year bird**

40. **Broad-Winged Buzzard** *Buteo platypterus cubanensis*  
1 W of Soroa 7/1.
41. **Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*  
2 Cayo Coco.
42. **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius sparveroides*  
Common, also a few of dark morph.
43. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus anatum*  
1 ♀ Moron 14/1.
44. **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*  
1 Rio Hatiguanico 21/1.
45. **Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna pictu*  
10 Najasa, singles Zapata.
46. **Clapper Rail** *Rallus longirostris*  
1 seen Cayo Coco.
47. **King Rail** *Rallus elegans ramsdeni*  
In total 4 at Zapata.
48. **Sora** *Porzana carolina*  
1 seen very well Soplillar 17/1.
49. **Zapata Rail** *Cyanolimnas cerverai*  
1 La Turba 9/1, 2 Soplillar 18-20/1.
50. **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus*  
1 La Turba 9/1, 2 Soplillar 18 and 1 there 20/1.
51. **Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica*  
1 Najasa 11/1, 1 Zapata 19 and 20/1, 10 Rio Hatiguanico 21/1.
52. **American Coot** *Fulica caribaea*  
1 E of Playa Giron 10/1 6 Palpite 19/1.
53. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus cerceris*  
Common.
54. **Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa violacea*  
Up to 20/day Zapata, 10 Najasa.
55. **Black-Necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*  
2 Cayo Coco.
56. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*  
50 Cayo Coco. 1 Playa Larga, 10 Surgidero de Batabano.
57. **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
50 San Clemente 8/12, 2 Estancia Palenque 9/12
58. **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*  
Up to 50/day.
59. **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*  
1 Najasa 11/1.
60. **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*  
8 E Camaguey, 10 Cayo Coco.
61. **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*  
10 Calletones, Singles Cayo Coco.
62. **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*  
Up to 10/day in suitable habitat.
63. **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*  
1 Cayo Coco. 8 Playita.
64. **Short-Billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*  
+200 Cayo Coco.
65. **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*  
5 Cayo Coco.
66. **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*  
2 Playita.
67. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*  
7 W Havana 7/1, 2 Caletones 13/1, 5 Cayo Coco, 2 Playita.



**An obvious tame  
Cuban Parrot**

68. **Least Stint** *Calidris minutilla*  
Up to 300/day.
69. **Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*  
1 Playa Larga.
70. **Willet** *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*  
6 Caletones 13/1, 15 Cayo Coco.
71. **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops nigra*  
300 Playita.
72. **Smithsonian Gull** *Larus (argentatus) smithsonianus*  
2 Gibara 13/1, 2 juv Cayo Coco 16/1.
73. **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*  
Up to 100/day at coastal localities.
74. **Ring-Billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*  
5 Cayo Coco. 16/1.
75. **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*  
30 Cayo Coco, 40 Playita.
76. **Forsters Tern** *Sterna forsteri*  
150 Playita 21-2/1.
77. **Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima*  
Seen 5 day, max 50/day.
78. **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*  
Seen 6 days, max 10/day.
79. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia domestica*  
Common.
80. **Scaly-naped Pigeon** *Columba squamosa*  
5 Soroa 6/1.
81. **White-Crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala*  
Fairly common.
82. **Plain Pigeon** *Patagioenas inornata*  
3 Najasa 11/1, 1 there 12/1.
83. **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*  
Common
84. **Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida aurita zenaida*  
Seen 9 days, max 12/day.
85. **White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*  
1 Najasa 11/1.
86. **Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina inularis*  
Locally common.
87. **Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana*  
1 ♂ La Turba, Zapata 19/1.
88. **Gray-Headed Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon c caniceps*  
1 giving exceptional good views and 1 calling Zapata 8/1, 1 there 9/1 and 1 20/1.
89. **Key West Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon chrysis*  
1 Zapata 8/1, 1 Caletones 13/1, 1 seen and 1 heard Cayo Coco 16/1.
90. **Blue-Headed Quail-Dove** *Starnoenas cyanocephala*  
2 seen well + 1 heard Zapata.
91. **Cuban Parakeet** *Aratinga euop*  
35 Najasa 11-12/1.
92. **Cuban Parrot** *Amazona l leucocephala*  
1 Zapata 8/1, 2 there 9/1, 4 there 19/1, 4 Najasa 11/1.
93. **Great Lizard-Cuckoo** *Saurothera m merlini*  
Fairly common.
94. **Smooth-Billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*  
Common.
95. **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*  
2 seen, 1 found dead Zapata, 2 Najasa.



**Laughing Gull in Basic plumage**



**Bare-legged Owls**



**Bee Hummingbird** ♂

96. **Bare-Legged Owl** *Gymnoglaux lawrencii exsul*  
4 Zapata 8/1.
97. **Cuban Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium siju*  
At least 4 seen and additional 8 heard Soroa, Zapata and Najasa.
98. **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius siguapa*  
1 ♀ seen La Güira, 1 ♂ seen Zapata.
99. **Greater Antillian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus cubanensis*  
1 Soplillar, 1 Palpite, Zapata.
100. **Antillian Palm-Swift** *Tachornis phoenicobia iradii*  
25 between Soroa and La Güira, 5 Najasa, 50 Playita.
101. **Cuban Emerald** *Chlorostilbon r ricordii*  
Common Soroa Singles Cayo Coco and Zapata.
102. **Bee Hummingbird** *Mellisuga helenae*  
1 ♀ Soplillar, 1 ♂ La Turba, Zapata 8/1 resp. 9/1.
103. **Cuban Trogon** *Priotelus temnurus*  
About 10/day Soroa, La Güira and Zapata, only seen in good forests.
104. **Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon*  
Seen 5 days, max. 6 birds.
105. **Cuban Tody** *Todus multicolor*  
2 Soroa 5/1, 5 Zapata 8 and 9/1, 7 Cayo Coco 16/1 and 2 Zapata 19/1.
106. **West Indian Woodpecker** *Melanerpes s superciliaris*  
Up to 20/day.
107. **Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*  
8 Zapata after a coldfront had passed.
108. **Cuban Woodpecker** *Xiphidiopicus percussus*  
10 Soroa, 5 Zapata and 5 Cayo Coco.
109. **Cuban Flicker** *Colaptes (auratus) chrysocaulosus*  
1 ♂ ♀ Soroa, 1 Zapata and 1 Cayo Coco.
110. **Fernandina's Flicker** *Colaptes fernandinae*  
1 ♂ ♀ Soroa, 2 Soplillar.
111. **Cuban (Crescent-Eyed) Pewee** *Contopus caribaeus*  
Fairly common.
112. **La Sagra's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus sagrae*  
A few seen at 8days.
113. **Loggerhead Kingbird** *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*  
Common.
114. **Giant Kingbird** *Tyrannus cubensis*  
4 at three different places in Najasa.
115. **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*  
Common.
116. **Zapata Wren** *Ferminia cerverai*  
1 ♂ singing and giving excellent views west Zapata 9/1.
117. **Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*  
Common.
118. **Bahama Mockingbird** *Mimus gundlachi*  
1 Cayo Coco 16/1.
119. **Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos orpheus*  
Common.
120. **Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*  
1 Soplillar 8/1.
121. **Cuban Solitaire** *Myadestes elisabeth*  
2 La Güira and 2 Soroa.
122. **Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*  
1 seen very well Soroa 7/1, 1 at the wet savanna Zapata 8/1.
123. **Red-Legged Thrush** *Turdus plumbeus rubripes*  
Locally common.



**Cuban Pewee**



**Cuban Solitaire**

124. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*  
Up to 20/day Zapata, 5 Playita.
125. **Cuban Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila lembeyi*  
8 Cayo Paraendon and Cayo Guillermo 15/1, 4 Cayo Coco 16/1.
126. **Cuban Palm Crow** *Corvus minutus*  
7 in one flock and 17 in oneother at Najasa.
127. **Cuban Crow** *Corvus nasicus*  
Singles at Zapata and 100 Najasa.
128. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
Common
129. **Thickbilled Vireo** *Vireo crassirostris cubensis*  
2 Cayo Coco 15/1.
130. **Cuban Vireo** *Vireo gundlachi*  
Seen on 8 days with a maxium of 10 at Cayo Coco 16/1.
131. **Yellow-Throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*  
1 Zapata 9/1 and 1 there 19/1.
132. **Blue-Winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus*  
1 ♂ Soroa 6/1.
133. **Northern Parula** *Parula americana*  
Abundant.
134. **Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia*  
*aestiva*: 1 Soroa 7/1, 1  
*gundlachi*: "Mangrove Warbler" Caletones 13/1 and 2 Playita 22/1.
135. **Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia*  
1 Zapata 18/1 3 there 19/1 and 1 Playita 22/1.
136. **Cape May Warbler** *Dendroica tigrina*  
2 Cayo Coco. 10 Zapata 1-20/1.
137. **Black-Throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens*  
Common with up to 20/day.
138. **Black-Throated Green Warbler** *Dendroica virens*  
1 Soroa 6/1, 1 ♀ Zapata and 1 Najasa.
139. **Yellow-Throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica*  
Seen on 7 days with a max of 3 at Zapata.
140. **Olive-Capped Warbler** *Dendroica pityophila*  
7 La Güira 6/1.
141. **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor*  
Abundant.
142. **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum*  
Abundant.
143. **Black-And-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*  
Singles almost everyday
144. **American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*  
Abundant.
145. **Worm-Eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorus*  
2 Soroa, 2 Zapata and 1 Playita
146. **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnithlypis swainsonii*  
1 giving long and fine views at Soplillar 9/1.
147. **Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla furviar*  
Common.
148. **Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis*  
Fairly common with up to 10/day.
149. **Louisiana Waterthrush** *Seiurus motacilla*  
Uncommon, upnto 5/day, most common in Zapata.
150. **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*  
Common.
151. **Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina*  
1 ad Zapata 9/1.



**Thick-billed Vireo**



**Yellow-headed Warbler**

152. **Yellow-Headed Warbler** *Teretistris fernandinae*  
Seen on 10 day with max 50/day.
153. **Oriente Warbler** *Teretistris fornsi*  
6 Caletones w Gibara 13/1, Fairly common Cayo Coco.
154. **Western Spindalis** *Spindalis zena pretrei*  
Fairly common Soroa and Cayo Coco. 5 Zapata.
155. **Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*  
1 ad Zapata 19/1.
156. **Red-Legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus*  
Up to 50/day Soroa, 10 Zapata 19/1.
157. **Cuban Bullfinch** *Melopyrrha nigra*  
30 Soroa, fairly common Zapata.
158. **Cuban Grassquit** *Tiaris canora*  
6 in a small village 37 km W of Holguin showed by a friend of Pedro.
159. **Yellow-Faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivacea*  
Common.
160. **Zapata Sparrow** *Torreornis inexpectata varanai*  
2 Cayo Coco 16/1.
161. **Red-Shouldered Blackbird** *Agelaius assimilis*  
1♂♀ Zapata 9/1.
162. **Tawny-Shouldered Blackbird** *Agelaius h humeralis*  
Common.
163. **Cuban (Eastern) Meadowlark** *Sturnella (magna) hippocrepis*  
2 between Playa Larga and Najasa, 6 Najasa, 3 en route to Holguin,
164. **Cuban Blackbird** *Dives atrovioleacea*  
Common.
165. **Greater Antillian Grackle** *Quiscalus niger gundlachii*  
Common.
166. **Greater Antillian Oriole** *Iceterus dominicensis melanopsis*  
Seen on 10 days, max 10/day.
167. **Chestnut Munia** *Lonchura atricapilla*  
10 Zapata 10/1, 6 Cayo Coco.



**Happy birders after a nice clean-up  
Birding Trip**