



Blue-headed Quail-Dove (Chris Kehoe)

CUBA

21 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2018

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

This years Cuba tour once again produced a wonderful collection of national endemics and regional specialities along with a host of more widespread species including many wintering birds from North America. All of the regularly encountered endemics were found, most of which were common and widespread, with the exception of the rare and increasingly elusive Gundlach's Hawk. Particular highlights included outstanding views of Zapata Wren, numerous Cuban Todys and Cuban Trogons, easy Cuban Grassquits at a new site, and fabulous Blue-headed and Grey-fronted Quail Doves. Bee Hummingbird, the world's smallest bird, is always a top target and we had marvellous views of multiple birds at two sites in the legendary Zapata National Park.

After meeting in Havana Airport in the evening we set off into the city for dinner as dusk was falling, seeing a few common species along the way such as Cuban Blackbirds, Greater Antillean Grackles and Turkey Vultures. After eating we drove westwards to our overnight base in San Diego del los Banos.

The next morning we set off around first light for Cueva del los Portales in La Guira NP. On arrival 40 minutes later we soon began to build our Cuba list in earnest. The top priority here is Cuban Solitaire and we soon had one of these fine songsters in the scope. Over the next 90 minutes we barely moved as we watched Black-whiskered and Cuban Vireos, Cuban Trogons and Todys, La Sagra's Flycatcher and Cuban

Pewee, Tawny-shouldered Blackbirds, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Great Lizard Cuckoo, Cuban Emeralds and wintering warblers such as American Redstart and Louisiana Waterthrush. A stop at an area of roadside pines soon gave us great views of several Olive-capped Warblers plus Western Spindalis and Cuban Bullfinches. We rounded off a wonderful morning in an area of fallow fields near our hotel where, amongst the numerous Palm Warblers and Yellow-throated Grassquits we had good views of three dapper Cuban Grassquits. After lunch we began the return journey to Havana. Stops at roadside wetlands gave us several Snail Kites, Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Lesser scaups, Ruddy Ducks, both Pied-billed and Least Grebes and a Limpkin. A short diversion took us to Las Terrezas where locals have recently taken to feeding the birds and where we had fantastic views of up to 30 Cuban Grassquits at very close range.



Cuban and Yellow-faced Grassquits (Chris Kehoe)



Zapata Sparrow and Giant Kingbird (Chris Kehoe)

After an early start we were on our way eastwards towards our next base at Camaguey. A sunrise stop at Hato de Jacarita on the northern edge of the vast Zapata swamp proved productive as we enjoyed close and

prolonged views of both Red-shouldered Blackbirds and Zapata Sparrows along with the likes of Northern Flicker and a locally scarce Merlin. Pressing on, we watched Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers at a coffee stop before proceeding to Santa Clara for lunch. A little birding either side of lunch in the restaurant grounds produced a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a small selection of wintering passerines but with many of the area's trees having been lost during the previous year's severe hurricane it was no great surprise that neither Gundlach's Hawk nor Stygian Owls were in residence. The rest of the afternoon was spent travelling, though a short stop for coffee at Rio Azul gave us a few migrant warblers, including our first Yellow-throated, and we finally reached Camaguey a little before dusk.

Before first light we were on our way south towards Najasa where we arrived at sunrise. A short roadside stop just beyond the town produced fine scope views of several Plain Pigeons in a bare treetop plus our first noisy Cuban Crows and Cuban Parrots. We stopped again near Najasa cemetery where a splendid Fernandina's Flicker posed nicely in a bare tree in which we went on to see both Cuban Green and West Indian Woodpeckers, a showy Cuban Pygmy Owl and best of all, a pair of very obliging Giant Kingbirds. All the while Cuban Palm Crows were flying about and calling. By the time we reached nearby La Belen Reserve we had already seen all of our top targets so we enjoyed a relaxed stroll around the attractive parkland habitat there, seeing many of the same species again plus the likes of Cuban Trogons, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers. Cuban Parakeets were proving more elusive but we eventually tracked down a couple very close to our lunch stop. In the afternoon we returned towards Camaguey, with a quick stop to view Northern Jacanas and a Purple Gallinule at a roadside lilypond, before visiting Bacalao Reservoir where we added Belted Kingfisher, Myrtle Warbler, Least Sandpiper and Eastern Meadowlarks of the taxonomically interesting Cuban race to our list. Later in the evening most of the group joined Mario, our local guide, on a short walking tour in historic Camaguey.



Worm-eating warbler and Northern Parula (Chris Kehoe)

Following a leisurely breakfast we set off towards Cayo Coco. After an hour or so we stopped in Sierra de Cubitas where we quickly found our first White-crowned and Scaly-naped Pigeons and the delightful Oriente Warbler. Our stay was extended somewhat due to a technical problem with the bus and we went on to see Broad-winged Hawks, Prairie and Cape May Warblers, Northern Parula, Western Spindalis, Black-whiskered Vireos and several others. Continuing towards Cayo Coco we eventually met up with our replacement bus having seen several Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, a Solitary Sandpiper, Neotropic Cormorants and

numerous Cave Swallows at the final resting place of our original bus. Once on Cayo Coco we ate lunch before visiting a nearby lagoon where a few West Indian Whistling Ducks were in residence as Cuban Martins hawked overhead. At another lagoon we found four Stilt Sandpipers and a very obliging and unexpected Mangrove Cuckoo. The rest of the afternoon was spent at Cueva de Jabile where food and water provided by the locals attracted many birds. After last year's hurricane, many of the larger trees have disappeared so it was well on towards dusk when a shade loving Key West Quail Dove eventually appeared and showed very well. Amongst the many other species seen while we waited were Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbirds, Painted and Indigo Buntings and many Zenaida Doves.



Great Lizard Cuckoo (Chris Kehoe)

A quick look at the lagoon in the grounds of our hotel at first light the next morning produced a single singing Mangrove Warbler and a few commoner herons but we were on our way to Cayo Guillermo straight after breakfast and once there it didn't take long to find a pair of very showy Bahama Mockingbirds. Retracing our route, we visited some of the wetlands passed earlier and enjoyed great views of several new species such as Cuban Black Hawks, Blue-winged Teals and Northern Shovelers, American White Ibises, 'Great White' Herons, Clapper Rail, Royal Terns, Short-billed Dowitchers, Red Knot and Semipalmated Plovers. Our next stop was at a site for Cuban Gnatcatcher which performed admirably. At another large lagoon we watched about 30 American White Pelicans, American Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls and numerous Reddish Egrets. We ended the morning along a wooded road where our first Northern Waterthrushes showed well along with the likes of Prairie and Oriente Warblers. In the afternoon we visited Cayo Paredon Grande, an area particularly ravaged by the recent hurricane and where it is now very difficult indeed to find the once very locally common Thick-billed Vireo (though some are believed to have survived), but we gave it a good try anyway and did manage to see a rare American Oystercatcher. On a nearby wetland we watched numerous Blue-winged Teals with a few American Wigeons mixed in before concentrating on more wooded areas where a pair of Zapata Sparrows of the Cayo Coco subspecies showed well. After excellent views of a very distinctive *ridgwayi* Western Osprey we ended the day at a

beach near our hotel where we had a fruitless search for Piping Plover amongst the many Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones and Semipalmated Plovers present.

Most of the next day was spent travelling to the Zapata area but we had a successful pre-dawn jaunt for Cuban Nightjars near the hotel and then checked some coastal sites in the Cayo Coco area where a good selection of wetland species was seen though nothing new. By late afternoon we had reached Bermejas where we soon took up positions in an area favoured by Bee Hummingbirds and were soon enjoying very good views of a couple of individuals which came and went along with many Cuban Emeralds and several other bits and pieces. From here it was a short journey to our base for the next five nights at Playa Larga at the head of the Bay of Pigs.



Zapata Wren (Chris Kehoe)

We were on our way to Santo Tomas well before first light and saw a couple of Cuban Nightjars in the headlights as we headed deep into Zapata Swamp. On arrival we made our way down towards where two punts were waiting to transport us to a site for Zapata Wren and with a fleeting Ruddy Quail Dove as we went. Once we had disembarked it didn't take too long to coax a Zapata Wren into view and though it played hide and seek for a while we eventually had some wonderful close views. Also seen in the general area where a couple of Zapata Sparrows, both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes and a good selection of migrant warblers along with the likes of Yellow-headed Warblers, Cuban Todys and Trogons. Back on land we explored an area of woodland where further warblers were found along with a showy Cuban Pygmy Owl and our first Grey-fronted Quail-Dove before we commenced the lengthy return journey to Playa Larga. After a lunch break we explored one of the wooded trails at nearby Soplillar where the chief highlight was a sleepy Bare-legged Owl at its roost hole while the supporting cast included Fernandina's Flicker, Worm-eating and Magnolia Warblers. We checked several potential roosting sites for Stygian Owl but with no recent sightings

it was little surprise that we left empty-handed, a theme that sadly, and somewhat surprisingly, continued until the end of the tour.

The next morning we arrived at Bermejas a little before sunrise and soon took up positions at a screen overlooking a stretch of trail where locals provide food and water for ground birds, in particular Quail-Doves. Numerous Zenaida Doves were immediately in evidence, along with a couple of Ovenbirds and several Red-legged Thrushes but it didn't take long for the first of several Grey-headed Quail-Doves to put in an appearance. Not long afterwards a pair of quite superb Blue-headed Quail-Doves walked out onto the trail and as we watched them they just came closer and closer, eventually wandering onto our side of the viewing screen and virtually walking between our legs at times! Well pleased with this we spent a little while watching flocks of White-crowned Pigeons flying overhead before exploring a series of trails and drinking pools in the forest interior. Little new was found, a Prothonotary Warbler seen by some being the highlight, but we had excellent views of many spectacular species such as Yellow-throated Vireo, Western Spindalis and Prairie Warblers and several more Grey-fronted Quail Doves. Before returning to Playa Larga we enjoyed further views of a single Bee Hummingbird. That species was the order of the day straight after lunch too when we visited a small private garden in Palpitte where a flowering bush and a couple of feeders attracted several birds including a splendid full plumaged male which performed admirably. Also seen here where a couple of Cuban Orioles, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Northern Waterthrush, all at very close range. We spent the rest of the afternoon at Soplillar where we concentrated on more open areas in the hope that a Gundlach's Hawk might appear overhead but it failed to do so, though some compensation came in the shape of a Scaly-naped Pigeons, very close views of Cuban Trogon and an excellent selection of overwintering warblers.



American Flamingos (Chris Kehoe)

A change of scene the next morning saw us visiting the vast expanse of shallow lagoons at Las Salinas, one of the foremost wetland areas in the country. Highlights this morning amongst huge numbers of waterbirds included a flock of Black Skimmers, about 150 American White Pelicans (by far the largest flock ever recorded in Cuba), our first Wood Storks, over 200 spectacular American Flamingos, 150 Roseate Spoonbills, Several Reddish Egrets (one of nine species of heron present) and, amongst several other shorebird species, five Dunlins, supposedly a Cuban rarity. Mangrove Warblers were also seen very well

along with a couple of marauding Peregrines, though a distantly heard Sandhill Crane refused to cooperate. We spent the afternoon at Palpitte and Soplillar where we were in pursuit of a couple of remaining targets, Stygian Owl and Gundlach's Hawk, neither could be found so we watched a fine selection of warblers along with some very showy Cuban Todys and Cuban Trogons.

The whole of the next morning was spent at Soplillar, in an open area and along a different trail to those visited previously. Hopeful scanning for Gundlach's Hawk proved unsuccessful though both Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks put in appearances. Along the trail there was high activity as the sun hit the forest edge and we saw numerous small birds in busy feeding flocks, one of which contained a locally rare Blue-winged Warbler, though the obvious highlight, a superb Swainson's Warbler, kept itself to itself as it crept about the forest floor. In the afternoon we visited a wooded trail at Palpitte where our local guide spent a considerable time off searching for roosting Stygian Owls without success while we enjoyed views of a fine selection of warblers, including another Worm-eating, and very close views of Cuban Todys and Trogons. After dinner we drove to another wooded area and searched for Stygian Owl there but our only reward was a very obliging Cuban Nightjar.



Bee Hummingbird (Chris Kehoe)

We spent a little while at some roadside pools north of Playa Larga the next morning as we began our return journey to Havana. Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes in close proximity offered a useful comparison and Purple Gallinules showed well along with many species that had kept us entertained during the tour. Cuban Martins atop a large antenna were the first perched individuals we had seen. Just before reaching Havana we diverted to a stretch of coastline where a couple of Cabot's Terns were found amongst a group of roosting Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls. Shorebirds here included numerous Least Sandpipers and among them were a couple of Semipalmated Sandpipers as a final addition to our tour list. After lunch in Havana and a short tour of some of the major landmarks in this characterful city we made our way to the airport where the tour ended.

Bird of the trip:

- 1 – Bee Hummingbird
- 2 – Blue-headed Quail-Dove
- 3 – Cuban Tody
- 4 – Cuban Trogon
- 5 – Zapata Wren



Waiting for Key West Quail-Dove and Havana Skyline (Chris Kehoe)





Cuban Tody (Chris Kehoe)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

West Indian Whistling Duck ◊ *Dendrocygna arborea* Six on Cayo Coco.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* Around 500 on the northern cays.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* About 40 on the northern cays.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana* Four on Cayo Romano.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* About 400 at Rio Bonita Reservoir near Havana.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* Over 100 on the northern cays and, unusually, one at Las Salinas.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* Up to 40 at Rio Bonita Reservoir.

Helmeted Guineafowl (introduced) *Numida meleagris* Feral groups at Soplillar.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* Two at Rio Bonita Reservoir.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Up to 40 at Rio Bonita Reservoir, an unusually large gathering.

American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* Several hundred at Las Salinas but absent on the cays post-hurricane.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Four at Las Salinas and six over Soplillar.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Numerous at the northern cays and at Las Salinas, a few elsewhere.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* About 10 at a comfort stop east of Bermejas.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Common on the northern cays and at Las Salinas, a handful elsewhere.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* One at Santa Clara.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Singles on Cayo Coco and at Playa Larga.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Small numbers on seven dates.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread and generally common.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Widespread and fairly common, several 'Great Whites' in coastal areas.

Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta* Noted on eight days, sometimes 100 per day or more.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* Up to 100 on the northern cays and at Las Salinas.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Common at the northern cays and at Las Salinas

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Most prominent on the northern cays and at Las Salinas.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Common at Las Salinas with others on five dates.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Thirty on Cayo Coco and an impressive 150 at Las Salinas.



American White Pelicans and Great Blue Heron (Chris Kehoe)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Prominent at the coast with smaller numbers at some inland wetlands.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* About 10 over Las Salinas with a few on the northern cays.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* About 200 at Las Salinas with smaller numbers elsewhere.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* Numerous on the reservoirs near Havana and on the northern cays.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Two on Cayo Guillermo.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Very Common and widespread, almost omnipresent.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Noted on six dates, a strikingly pale-headed *ridgwayi* race bird on Cayo Coco.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* About six at San Diego fish ponds.

Cuban Black Hawk ♦ *Buteogallus gundlachi* A handful on the northern cays and a couple at Las Salinas

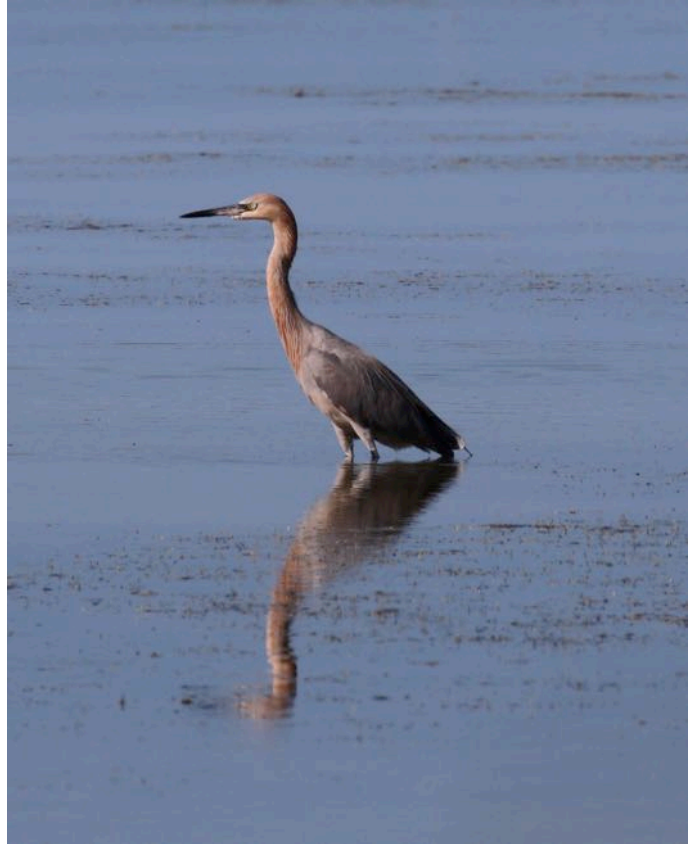
Broad-winged Hawk ♦ *Buteo platypterus* Three at Sierra de Cubitas and a couple more at Zapata sites.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* Four singles at widespread wooded sites.

Clapper Rail ♦ *Rallus crepitans* One at Cayo Coco.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* Three near La Guira and a couple more near Playa Larga and Camaguey.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Eight on the reservoirs near Havana and a couple elsewhere.



'Caribbean' Osprey and Reddish Egret (Chris Kehoe)

American Coot *Fulica americana* Noted in small numbers on four wetlands.

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* (H) Heard distantly at Las Salinas.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Ones and twos on five dates.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* One at Cayo Paredon Grande, a rarity in Cuba.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Noted on six dates, large numbers at Las Salinas.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Fairly numerous at coastal sites.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* About 20 at Cayo Coco and near Havana.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Noted most days, nesting at Playa Larga.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Two near Camaguey.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Several at coastal sites.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* Two on Cayo Guillermo and four at Las Salinas, rather uncommon in Cuba.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Four on Cayo Coco.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* About 30 on Cayo Coco and several more near Havana.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Five at Las Salinas, supposedly only a vagrant but seen on most recent tours.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Numerous near Havana after a few earlier encounters.

Semipalmated Sandpiper* *Calidris pusilla* A couple near Havana.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* Thirty at Cayo Guillermo and a handful at Las Salinas.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Ones and twos on four dates.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* One near Esmerelda as we waited for a replacement bus, another at Zapata.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Similar in numbers and distribution to its larger relative.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Small numbers on the northern cays and at Las Salinas.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Over 100 at the northern cays and Las Salinas, far more than usual.

Black Skimmer*** *Rynchops niger* Fifteen at Las Salinas, an irregular visitor to Cuba.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Fairly common at coastal sites.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* One on Cayo Coco.
American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* Five on the northern cays and one at Las Salinas.
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* At least seven on Cayo Coco, seems to be rapidly increasing.
Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (NL) One at Cayo Guillermo was a good find, a write-in.
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Noted on three dates with about 10 at Las Salinas the peak count.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Widespread at the coast with about 50 at Las Salinas.
Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Fairly common in coastal areas, especially the northern cays..
Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus* A couple near Havana.
Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* Seen most days, regrettably.
White-crowned Pigeon ◊ *Patagioenas leucocephala* Commonly seen in flight at Bermejas, a few elsewhere.



Grey-fronted Quail-Dove (Chris Kehoe)

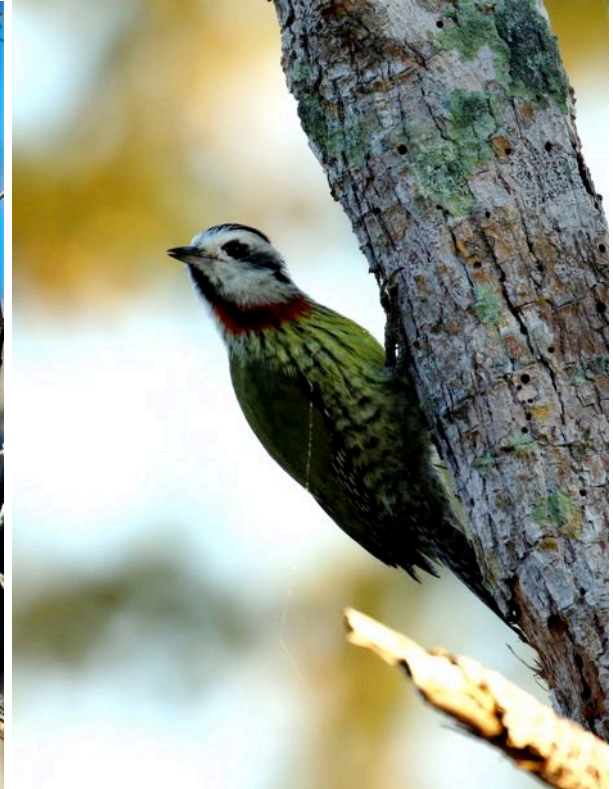
Scaly-naped Pigeon ◊ *Patagioenas squamosa* Good scope views at sierra de Cubitas, a few at Zapata.
Plain Pigeon ◊ *Patagioenas inornata* A handful around Najasa.
Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia decaocto* Occasional encounters.
Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* Fairly common and widespread.
Blue-headed Quail-Dove ◊ *Stanoenas cyanocephala* Amazingly close views of two at Bermejas, stunning.
Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana* Three at Zapata sites but rather fleeting.
Grey-fronted Quail-Dove ◊ *Geotrygon caniceps* Fantastic views of eight or more at Bermejas and a couple elsewhere.
Key West Quail-Dove ◊ *Geotrygon chrysis* One at Cueva de Jabile after quite a long wait.
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* Fairly common, especially prominent at roadsides as we travelled.
Zenaida Dove ◊ *Zenaida aurita* Seen almost daily, common at Bermejas and Cueva de Jabile.
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Small numbers on eight dates.
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Common and widespread.
Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor* One at Cayo Coco was unexpected, scarce in Cuba.
Great Lizard Cuckoo ◊ *Coccyzus merlini* Seen on eight dates after the first at La Guira.
Bare-legged Owl (Cuban Screech O) *Margarobryas lawrencii* A sleepy bird at Soplillar.
Cuban Pygmy Owl ◊ *Glaucidium siju* A total of six (others heard) after the first at La Guira.
Cuban Nightjar ◊ *Antrostomus cubanensis* Spotlighted on Cayo Coco and a couple more at Zapata sites.

Antillean Palm Swift ◊ *Tachornis phoenicobia* Locally common.

Cuban Emerald ◊ *Chlorostilbon ricardii* Widespread and often common. seen on eight dates.

Bee Hummingbird ◊ *Mellisuga helenae* Fabulous views at Bermejas and Palpitte, Zapata.

Cuban Trogon ◊ *Priotelus temnurus* Seen almost daily except on the cays, some wonderful views.



Mangrove Cuckoo and Cuban Green Woodpecker (Chris Kehoe)



Cuban Amazon and 'Cuban' Northern Flicker (Chris Kehoe)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* Small numbers on four dates.
Cuban Tody ◊ *Todus multicolor* Fabulous views on six dates, always a favourite.
West Indian Woodpecker ◊ *Melanerpes superciliaris* Fairly common and very widespread.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* One at Santa Clara.
Cuban Green Woodpecker ◊ *Xiphidiopicus percussus* Ones and twos on six dates.
Northern Flicker ◊ *Colaptes auratus* Five singles including nesting birds on Cayo Coco.
Fernandina's Flicker ◊ *Colaptes fernandinae* Great views near Najasa and at Soplillar.



Cuban Trogon and Cuban Solitaire (Chris Kehoe)

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Widespread in small numbers.
American Kestrel ◊ *Falco sparverius* Small numbers on nine dates.
Merlin *Falco columbarius* A total of eight was far more than usual.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Two at Las Salinas, one over Soplillar.
Cuban Amazon ◊ (Rose-throated Parrot) *Amazona leucocephala* Fairly common at Zapata after a few at Najasa.
Cuban Parakeet ◊ *Psittacara euops* Four near Najasa and up to 30 at Bermejas.
Cuban Pewee ◊ (Crescent-eyed P) *Contopus caribaeus* A few on almost all days.
Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* Seen most days in modest numbers.
Giant Kingbird ◊ *Tyrannus cubensis* Great views of four in the Najasa area.
Loggerhead Kingbird ◊ *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* Widespread and fairly common.
La Sagra's Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus sagrae* Small numbers seen almost daily after the first at La Guira.
Cuban Vireo ◊ *Vireo gundlachii* Seen on five dates after the first at La Guira.
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* Three singles at widespread sites.
Black-whiskered Vireo ◊ *Vireo altiloquus* Frequently heard and regularly seen.
Cuban Palm Crow ◊ *Corvus minutus* About 30 around Najasa.
Cuban Crow ◊ *Corvus nasicus* Common around Najasa with smaller numbers at Zapata.
Cuban Martin ◊ *Progne cryptoleuca* Seen best on the northern cays and near Playa Larga.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Noted on four dates.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A couple in the Zapata area.
Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* Scattered encounters after the first at La Guira.
Zapata Wren ◊ *Ferminia cerverai* Excellent views of one at Santo Tomas.
Cuban Gnatcatcher ◊ *Poliophtila lembeyei* Splendid views on Cayo Coco.

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* Small numbers on four dates.
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* Common and widespread.
Bahama Mockingbird ◊ *Mimus gundlachii* A pair of hurricane survivors at Cayo Guillermo.
Cuban Solitaire *Myadestes elisabeth* Great views of three at La Guira.
Red-legged Thrush ◊ *Turdus plumbeus* Common and widespread, very dapper.



Black-and-white Warbler and Olive-capped Warbler (Chris Kehoe)

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Noted on six dates.
Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* Three on Cayo Coco and about 10 more at Zapata sites.
Worm-eating Warbler ◊ *Helmitheros vermivorum* One on Cayo Coco and five at Zapata sites.
Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* Two more after the first at La Guira.
Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* A handful after the first on Cayo Guillermo, fewer than usual.
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Seen daily at Zapata sites but surprisingly not elsewhere.
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* (NL) One for some of the group at Bermejas.
Swainson's Warbler ◊ *Limnothlypis swainsonii* A lingering bird at Soplillar was very welcome.
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* Small numbers on seven dates, mainly in wetter areas.
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* Noted daily, especially prominent at Zapata sites.
Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* Noted on six dates, some splendid males. Cuba is the main wintering area.
Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* Noted on eight dates.
Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* About 10 at Zapata sites was more than usual.
Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* Small numbers on the northern cays and at Las Salinas.
Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* Seen almost daily in small numbers.
Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* The commonest wintering warbler, seen daily.
Olive-capped Warbler ◊ *Setophaga pityophila* Great views of about six at La Guira.
Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* Four more after the first two near Camaguey, far more than usual.
Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* A total of eight spread over five dates.
Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* Small numbers on the northern cays and at several Zapata sites.
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* Small numbers on eight dates.
Yellow-headed Warbler ◊ *Teretistris fernandinae* Seen most days at Zapata after earlier birds at La Guira.
Oriente Warbler ◊ *Teretistris fornsi* Six at Sierra de Cubitas and two on the northern cays.
Eastern Meadowlark ◊ *Sturnella magna* A total of six in the east, a potential split.
Cuban Oriole ◊ *Icterus melanopsis* Noted on eight dates.
Tawny-shouldered Blackbird ◊ *Agelaius humeralis* Regularly seen after the first at La Guira.
Red-shouldered Blackbird ◊ *Agelaius assimilis* Good views of four at Hato de Jacarita.
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Noted on four dates.

Cuban Blackbird ◊ *Ptiloxena atrovioacea* Widespread encounters, seen on 10 dates.
Greater Antillean Grackle ◊ *Quiscalus niger* Widespread and common.
Zapata Sparrow ◊ (Cuban S) *Torreornis inexpectata* A total of seven at Zapata sites and two on Cayo Coco.
Red-legged Honeycreeper (introduced) *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Noted on five dates.
Cuban Bullfinch ◊ *Melopyrrha nigra* Ones and twos on four dates.
Cuban Grassquit ◊ *Tiaris canorus* Two near San Diego and up to 25 at Las Terrezas.
Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* Widespread encounters.
Western Spindalis ◊ *Spindalis zena* Noted on four days in more wooded areas.



Western Spindalis (Chris Kehoe)

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* Two on Cayo Coco and another at Soplillar.
Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* Two at Cueva de Jabile.

Mammals

Desmarest's Hutia *Capromys pilorides* One at Santa Clara.



Cuban Pygmy Owl and Fernandina's Flicker (Chris Kehoe)



Blue-headed Quail-Dove showing well (Chris Kehoe)