

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

CUBA

March 28- April 8, 2017



Gray-fronted Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon caniceps*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

Leader: David Ascanio

IE representative: Angel Cárdenas

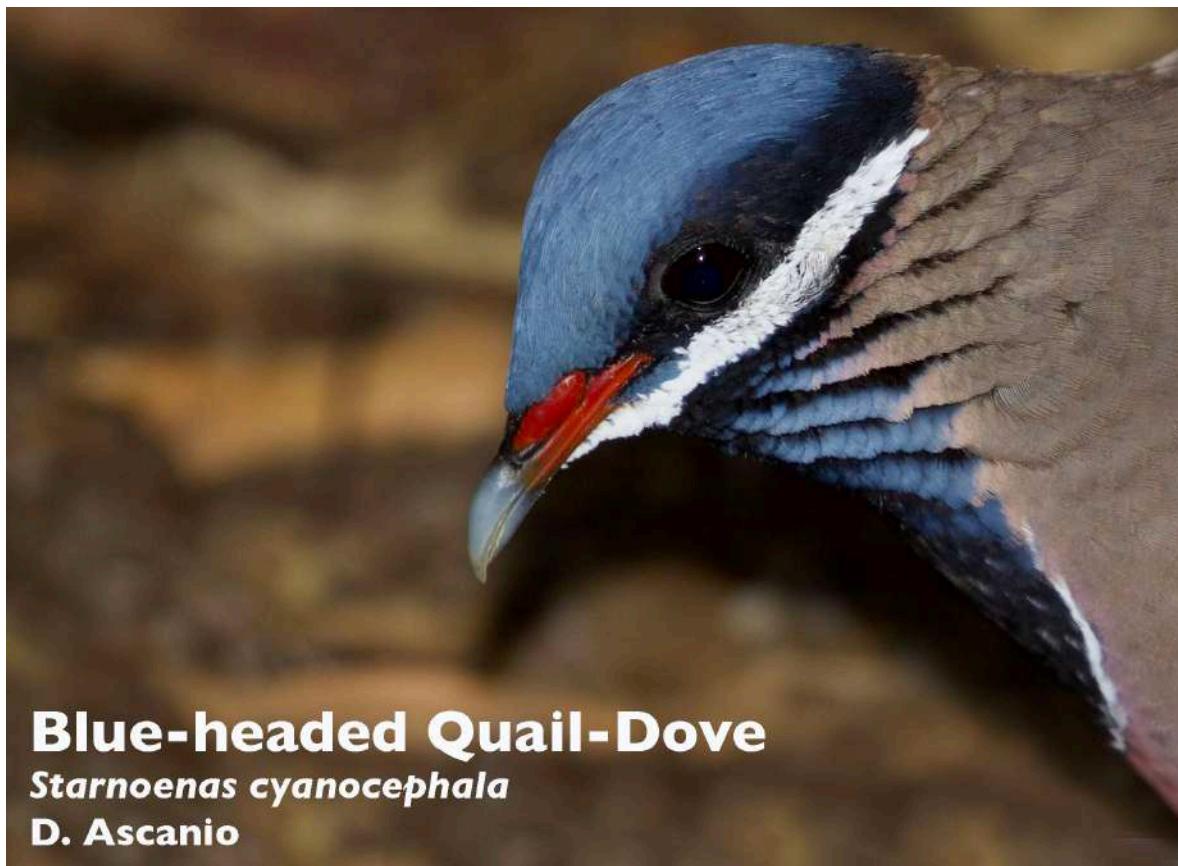
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Compiled by: David Ascanio

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
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Cuba, the largest of the Antilles welcomed us with Greater Antillean Grackles, Cuban Martin and Cuban Cowbirds flying around the picturesque city of Camaguey. Add to the scene Cubans greeting relatives coming from abroad and old American cars running in the streets. This was a starting point to figure out how much different this country is from what we had in our minds. To add more to these first impressions, during the first night we experienced one of the best shows of the whole tour with a Flamenco show and participants joining the dancers after a delicious dessert. Is there a better welcome to Cuba?



Blue-headed Quail-Dove

Starnoenas cyanocephala

D. Ascanio

The first full day in Cuba found us leaving the hotel with packed breakfast for an hour drive to Rancho la Belén. As we enjoyed crackers with peanut butter a Cuban Green Woodpecker landed on a bare branch next to the bus and a Cuban Pygmy-Owl was found singing in the opposite side of the road. Later, we were delighted with Cuban Parakeet flying around and a pair of Cuban Tropicbird that elegantly landed in an open branch. What a way to start a day! We had only few ours there to nail our target species thus we carry on and walked along the road in front of the headquarters of the ranch and soon enough we found it: the Giant Kingbird, the Cuban Palm Crow and the Plain Pigeon. After a successful morning, the day continued with a drive to Jardines del Rey Archipelago. During this drive we added laughing gulls, herons, egrets and the elegant American Flamingo to our day list.

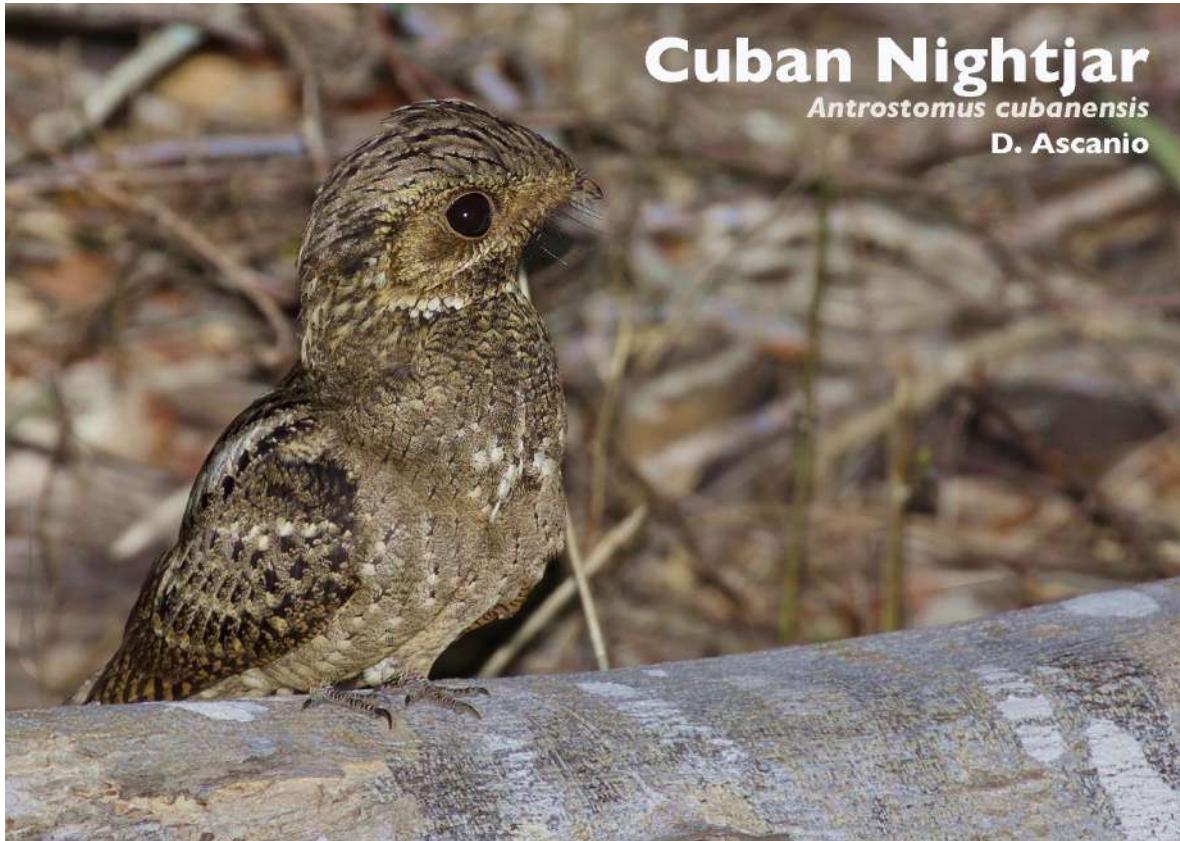
In Jardines del Rey archipelago we focused our birding effort in desert scrub, coastal wetlands and moist forest. Two of the emblematic birds of this area were seen after a bit of an effort. The first one was the secretive Zapata Sparrow and the second was the always-challenging Bahama Mockingbird. Other target species were the West Indian Whistling-Duck and the endangered Piping Plover, a Boreal migrant whose populations have declined and is currently estimated in less than 10,000 individuals.



Following the visit to Cayo Coco (and other keys) we drove south to the Ancón peninsula where various shorebirds, waterbirds (egrets and herons), White Ibis and Roseate Spoonbill were added to our list. A visit to Trinidad complemented the day. This important town was the third one founded by the Spanish crown in Cuba (back in 1514) and played an important role in the development of the sugar industry of Cuba.

The tour continued to the famous Zapata peninsula, an iconic location in Cuba's history and wildlife alike. Here, we visited the Ciénaga de Zapata (Zapata swamp), one of the six RAMSAR areas of Cuba. The Zapata swamp is also a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and is the largest and best preserved protected area of the Caribbean. This is where we nailed the famous and astonishing Blue-headed Quail-Dove as well as the smallest bird in the planet, the Bee Hummingbird. In the following day we visited the town of Santo Domingo where boarded small boats pulled by sticks across an old man-made water channel used to load charcoal in larger boats. Guided by Esdrey and the local rangers were taken to a new territory of the little known Zapata Wren. This is the only member of the genus and its scientific name; *Ferminia cerverai* honors the

person to first collect it, Fermín Zanón Cervera. After a successful view of the wren and a second sight of the Zapata Sparrow we loaded the bus and headed west, to Pinar del Río province. In between these two locations we enjoyed a superb lunch in El Divino and visited Hemingway's farm, *Finca Vigia*.



Cuban Nightjar
Antrostomus cubanensis
D. Ascanio

Our last birding couple of days took us to two contrasting locations, Viñales and Las Terrazas community. In both locations we combined birding and cultural activities. In Viñales we were astonished with the level of economic touristic development and the beauty of *Los Mogotes*, a unique geological formation. In these *mogotes* is where we enjoyed the suit song of the Cuban Solitaire that reverberated along the walls of it. Finding n individual singing and hearing its unique ascending whistle offered a unique moment to all. In the following day, Las Terrazas offered a different perspective of a community based in social commitment and organization. We learned about the wonderful work of various artists, tasted a delicious *Las Terrazas Coffee* and shared a great time with the kids of the maternal school. That day ended with superb views of the last endemic bird, the Cuban Grassquit, one that we saw pretty well with individuals in males, females and juvenile plumage.

The tour ended with a day-long visit to Old Havana. Here we learned much of Cuba's colonial times history and independence period. We also enjoyed great architecture that offered wonderful photo opportunities.

ZAPATA WREN



Ferminia cerverai. D. Ascanio

Now that you have learned much of Cuba's flora, fauna and people I want to invite you to join us in other destinations, equally interesting and beautiful but remarkably different from that of the Greater Antilles.

The Amazon Cruise

We sail aboard a small ship to explore the Amazon and its tributaries. Using skiffs we reach the flooded forest and other distinctive Amazonian habitats such as the sedimentary river islands and the igapo forest. We offer an optional walk to terra firme forest. Non-birding spouses like to join this cruise because of the variety of wildlife including several species of primates and an optional visit to a community. You can enjoy the photos and the video of our 2016 Amazon Cruise in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157663616158820>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b3xYG0cPS0>

The Panama Canal: a relaxed and easy tour.

Panama is to enjoy first class birding at a relaxed and easy pace. We spend most of the nights in a small inn located in the town of Gamboa (Panama Canal). Enjoy short walks around the town plus a boat trip to the Chagres River. We visit the famous Pipeline road and visit the Canopy Tower, where we can see canopy species at eye level. See the photos and the video of our 2015 Panama Canal tour in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157648765567967>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgnkUxwd5kw>

Costa Rica: a relaxed and easy tour.

Our *relaxed and easy* Costa Rica tour is for those who wish to see birds at various altitudinal levels, from cloud forest to lowland rain forest, all in slow pace. We include a ride along the aerial tram and we also learn about the flora and other fauna of this spectacular country. This tour is designed for seeing gaudy species such as tanagers and honeycreepers as well as many hummingbirds. We visit various hummingbird feeder stations. See the photos and video of our 2015 tour in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157659475059484>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzgD6NfVNSE>

I hope to see you again!





Map of locations
IE / VENT Cuba People-to-People Tour
March 28 - April 8, 2017
Prepared by David Ascanio



Cuban Tody
Todus multicolor
D. Ascanio

VENT CUBA 4, 2017

February March 28 – April 8, 2017

Leader: David Ascanio

ITINERARY

28 March. Miami.

29 March. Flight to Camaguey.

30 March. Rancho La Belen. Drive to Cayo Coco.

31 March. Jardines del Rey: Cayo Coco, Cayo Paredon Grande & Cayo Guillermo.

01 April. Cayo Coco, Trinidad (Ancon peninsula).

02 April. Parque El Cubano. Drive to the Zapata Peninsula.

03 April. Zapata Peninsula: Bermeja, Palpite and Soplillar.

04 April. Santo Tomas, Havana & Soroa.

05 April. Viñales.

06 April. Las Terrazas & Havana.

07 April. Old Havana.

08 April. Departure.

THE BIRDLIST

The order, and common and scientific names are those given by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds, 7th edition with all current updates.

Photo album for all tours:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/>

Photo album for this tour:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157684061200705>

Waterfowl / Anatidae

West Indian Whistling-Duck. *Dendrocygna arborea*. Cayo Coco.

Blue-winged Teal. *Anas discors*. 30+ individuals near Cayo Coco.

Northern Shoveler. *Aythya collaris**Anas clypeata*. 12+ near Cayo Coco.

Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus serrator*. Pairs and a dozen individual were seen in various wetlands in Jardines del Rey archipelago.

Guineafowl / Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl. *Numida meleagris*. Widespread in farmland. Semi-captive.

Flamingos / Phoenicopteridae

American Flamingo. *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Dozen and up to thousands (4,500+ ind) were observed in Cayo Guillermo and along the causeway out of Cayo Coco.

Grebes / Podicipedidae

Least Grebe. *Tachybaptus dominicus*. 2. Cayo Guillermo.

Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae

Feral Pigeon, Rock Pigeon (I). *Columba livia*. Common in urban areas.

White-crowned Pigeon. *Patagioenas leucocephala*. Zapata peninsula and Soroa.

Plain Pigeon. *Patagioenas inornata*. 12+ individuals. Rancho La Belen and road Camaguey-Najasa.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I). *Streptopelia decaocto*. Widespread in urban areas.

Common Ground-Dove. *Columbina passerina*. Pairs were observed arid scrubby vegetation in all locations. Seen almost everyday.

Blue-headed Quail-Dove (E). *Starnoenas cyanocephala*. One of the favorite species.

Two pairs were seen at a stakeout in Bermeja. A big thanks to Orlando for this!

Ruddy Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon montana*. Heard only. Bermeja,

Gray-fronted Quail-Dove (E). *Geotrygon caniceps*. We enjoyed wonderful views of three individuals in Bermeja.

Key West Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon chrysa*. 14 individuals were observed in Cayo Coco.

A single individual was observed later in Bermeja.

White-winged Dove. *Zenaida asiatica*. A common species observed in lowland locations.

Zenaida Dove. *Zenaida aurita*. This was a hard-to-see species in other Antilles. It was fairly common in the Zapata peninsula.

Mourning Dove. *Zenaida macroura*. Common and widespread in open areas.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Mangrove Cuckoo. *Coccyzus minor*. We enjoyed great views of an individual in Cayo Coco.

Great Lizard-Cuckoo. *Coccyzus merlini*. Lizard-cuckoos are amazing birds. Not only because of their extravagant size and behavior but also for their voice. We enjoyed views of single individuals and loose pairs in the Zapata peninsula, Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Soroa.

Smooth-billed Ani. *Crotophaga ani*. A fairly common species found in lowland open habitats.

Nightjars and allies / Caprimulgidae

Greater Antillean Nightjar (Cuban Nightjar). *Antrostomus cubanensis*. A pair was observed in Cayo Coco and later we nailed about 9 individuals along the road in the Zapata peninsula.

Swifts / Apodidae

White-collared Swift. *Streptoprocne zonaris*. Seen flying above the road near Cienfuegos.

Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelasgica*. Reported by Craig and Jan near Havana.

Antillean Palm-Swift. *Tachornis phoenicobia*. Seen in lowland open habitats. It was a common species in Cienfuegos botanical gardens.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Bee Hummingbird (E). *Mellisuga helenae*. We saw seven individuals in two locations, Bermeja and Palpite. This is THE smallest bird in the world and only slightly larger than the Vervain Hummingbird, found in Hispaniola.

Cuban Emerald. *Chlorostilbon ricordii*. A very common endemic hummingbird found in Cuba. It was seen every day.

Rails, Gallinules and Coots / Rallidae

Clapper Rail. *Rallus crepitans*. Cayo Coco. A pair was observed in Red Mangrove along the causeway from moron to Cayo Coco.

Common Gallinule. *Gallinula galeata*. It was seen along the road near Moron and Las Terrazas.

Limpkin / Aramidae

Limpkin. *Aramus guarauna*. Four individuals were seen in Santo Tomas.

Stilts and Avocets / Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt. *Himantopus mexicanus*. Cayo Coco. 40+ individuals.

Oystercatchers / Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher. *Haematopus palliatus*. 2 individuals. Cayo Paredon Grande.

Plovers and Lapwings / Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover. *Pluvialis squatarola*. Cayo Coco and Ancon peninsula.

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. 50+ Cayo Guillermo in mudflats.

Piping Plover. *Charadrius melanotos*. A single individual was observed in Playa Las Coloradas, Cayo Coco.

Killdeer. *Charadrius vociferous*. Seen in several lowland locations.

Sandpipers and Allies / Scolopacidae

Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres*. Cayo Coco.

Stilt Sandpiper. *Calidris himantopus*. 120+ individuals. Cayo Guillermo.

Sanderling. *Calidris alba*. 50+ Playa Las Coloradas.

Least Sandpiper. *Calidris minutilla*. 24+ Ancon peninsula.

Short-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus griseus*. Few individuals were observed in Cayo Guillermo.

Long-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. A single individual was observed in a freshwater pond in Cayo Coco.

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria*. Cayo Coco and Sato Tomas.

Greater Yellowlegs. *Tringa melanoleuca*. Cayo Coco.

Willet. *Tringa semipalmata*. Various individuals were observed in Cayo Coco.

Lesser Yellowlegs. *Tringa flavipes*. Cayo Coco.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers / Laridae

Laughing Gull. *Leucophaeus atricilla*. A common species in Cayo Coco and other keys.

Ring-billed Gull. *Larus delawarensis*. Cayo Coco.

Caspian Tern. *Hydroprogne caspia*. Cayo Coco. Only one individual seen in Cayo Guillermo by some participants.

Royal Tern. *Thalasseus maximus*. Jardines del Rey archipelago.

Sandwich Tern. *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. 2 individuals were observed in a metallic structure near Moron.

Frigatebirds / Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird. *Fregata magnificens*. Jardines del Rey archipelago and Ancon peninsula.

Cormorants / Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Common in Jardines del Rey archipelago. A single individual was observed in the Ancon peninsula.

Pelicans / Pelecanidae

American White Pelican. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. 24+ individuals were observed along the causeway Cayo Coco-Moron.

Brown Pelican. *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Seen almost daily.

Herons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias*. Common in Cayo Coco and other keys. Also in wetlands in Soroa. 1 individual in white morph was observed in Cayo Coco.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. Seen in various wetlands.

Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula*. Seen in various wetlands.

Little Blue Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. Seen in Cayo Coco and Las Terrazas.

Tricolored Heron. *Egretta tricolor*. Jardines del Rey archipelago.

Reddish Egret. *Egretta rufescens*. About 15 individuals in white morph plumage were seen in Jardines del Rey. Individuals in regular plumage were also observed in various locations.

Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis*. Seen daily.

Green Heron. *Butorides virescens*. Cayo Coco, rice fields and Las Terrazas.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. *Nyctanassa violacea*. 1 immature. Cayo Guillermo.

Ibis and Spoonbills / Threskiornithidae

White Ibis. *Eudocimus albus*. Cayo Coco is named after this species (locally called coco). More than 30 individuals were seen in Cayo Coco and in the Ancon peninsula.

Roseate Spoonbill. *Platalea ajaja*. 3+ individuals. Ancon peninsula.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. Seen daily. A numerous species in Cuba.

Osprey / Pandionidae

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. Seen in Cayo Coco. Ssp. *carolinensis*.

Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae

Snail Kite. *Rosthramus sociabilis*. About 12 individuals were seen near Soroa. Some juveniles were observed.

Gundlach's Hawk (E). *Accipiter gundlachi*. We had to work really hard to see this species. It was first seen briefly by Jan near Rancho La Belen. Later, by most of us near the Cienfuegos botanical gardens and finally seen by everyone flying near Soroa.

Cuban Black Hawk (E)(Common Black Hawk). *Buteogallus anthracinus*. Seen in Jardines del Rey. Common in Cayo Guillermo. Nowadays treated as a Cuban endemic, Cuban Black Hawk *Buteogallus gundlachii* by most taxonomists.

Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. This is resident and widespread in the Antilles. Two individuals were seen near Vinales.

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis*. Soroa. Seen along the road to the Ancon peninsula.

Barn-Owls / Tytonidae

Barn Owl. *Tyto alba*. 2 individuals were observed flying in Soroa.

Owls / Strigidae

Bare-legged Owl (E). *Margarobyas lawrencii*. Two individuals were observed in nests located in Bermeja.

Cuban Pygmy-Owl (E). *Glaucidium siju*. This endemic owl of Cuba was seen in Rancho La Belen. Another individual was observed nesting in Soplillar.

Stygian Owl. *Asio stygius*. We enjoyed superb views of a sub-adult and a female near Soroa.

Trogons / Trogonidae

Cuban Trogon (E). *Priotelus temnurus.* This is Cuba's national bird. Pairs were seen almost daily. The term *Priotelus* (genus) means *an accomplished or complete saw* and refers to the rugged appearance of the tail feathers.

Todies / Todidae

Cuban Tody (E). *Todus multicolor.* Todies are unique birds. To me, they resemble a cartoon characters. The one in Cuba is the most colorful of all. It was seen in Cueva de los Jabalies. Fossil evidence suggests that todies evolved from Central America but became extinct for unknown reasons. Five species remain in the Great Antilles. The todies are relatives of the motmots and more distantly to the kingfishers. We saw it almost every day.

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher. *Megaceryle alcyon.* Seen along the causeway to Jardines del Rey.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

West Indian Woodpecker. *Melanerpes superciliaris.* Seen daily in the lowlands. This species is a relative of Red-bellied Woodpecker (of North America) and the Red-crowned Woodpecker (of South America). It is another West Indies specialty found in all the Greater Antilles.

Cuban Green Woodpecker (E). *Xiphidiopicus percussus.* This was one of the tour participant favorites. We saw it five times!

Northern Flicker. *Colaptes auratus.* Cayo Coco and other keys.

Fernandina's Flicker (E). *Colaptes fernandinae.* We observed a nesting pair in the Zapata peninsula, near Bermeja.

Falcons and Caracaras / Falconidae

Crested Caracara. *Caracara cheriway.* Seen in Cayo Coco and the Zapata Peninsula.

American Kestrel. *Falco sparverius.* This common and widespread species was seen everyday. The pale subspecies found in Cuba is *sparveroides*. And we observed two morphs, the pale and the rufous one.

Peregrine Falcon. *Falco peregrinus.* Great views of a single individual at the Revolution Square in Havana.

Parrots / Psittacidae

Cuban Parakeet (E). *Aratinga euops.* Groups were observed in various locations. Nice studies in Bermeja. We noticed its similarities with Scarlet-fronted, White-eyed and Hispaniola's parakeets. These species may be closely related one another.

Cuban Parrot. *Amazona leucocephala.* Two individuals were seen in the Zapata peninsula.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

Cuban Pewee (E). *Contopus caribaeus*. We saw it almost everyday. Fond to forest and mangrove edge.

La Sagra's Flycatcher. *Myiarchus sagrae*. The genus *Myiarchus* comprises similar and hard-to-tell-apart species and, is distributed from southern USA to Argentina. In Cuba there's only one option, so its identification is pretty straightforward. We came across various pairs of this flycatcher. It is usually associated with forest habitats. By the way, its common (and specific) name is after Ramón de La Sagra (1801-1871), a Cuban writer and naturalist. He authored *Historia física, política y natural de la isla de Cuba*, in 1837.

Gray Kingbird. *Tyrannus dominicensis*. Various pairs were observed. Only seen in the previous Cuba tour just a week behind. These are local migrants and were just starting their breeding season.

Loggerhead Kingbird. *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*. Observed everyday. Similar to the previous one but plumage contrasts in head are bolder.

Giant Kingbird (E). *Tyrannus cubensis*. Nice studies of a pair in Rancho la Belen. This species is threatened and apparently due to lost of habitat. Further studies needed (Camilo, our local guide is currently studying the breeding biology of it).

Vireos / Vireonidae

Thick-billed Vireo. *Vireo crassirostris*. A single individual was observed in Cayo Paredón Grande. It was also seen in Cayo Guillermo.

Cuban Vireo (E). *Vireo gundlachii*. Seen well at various locations. Quite vocal!

Black-whiskered Vireo. *Vireo altiloquus*. Heard in various locations. It was seen at various locations. A nesting pair was observed near Vinales.

Crows, Jays and Magpies / Corvidae

Palm Crow. *Corvus palmarum*. Nice studies of various individuals in Rancho La Belén. It is found in large tracks of royal palm contiguous to forested areas. A single individual was seen carrying nesting material.

Cuban Crow. *Corvus nasicus*. Found in Rancho La Belén. We noticed its loud voice.

Swallows / Hirundinidae

Cuban Martin. *Progne cryptoleuca*. Observed in Camaguey and Vinales.

Tree Swallow. *Tachycineta bicolor*. Seen by some participants in Cayo Coco.

Cliff Swallow. *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*. Common in Camaguey.

Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*. Light house in Cayo Paredon Grande.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

Zapata Wren (E). *Ferminia cerverai*. We observed a pair singing some 10 feet from us! This is the only member of its genus and both, the genus and specific name are taken from the persona that apparently first collected it, Fermín Cervera.

ENDANGERED.

Gnatcatchers / Polioptilidae

Cuban Gnatcatcher (E). *Polioptila lembeyei*. Two pairs were observed in Cayo Paredón Grande.

Thrushes and Allies / Turdidae

Cuban Solitaire (E). *Myadestes elisabeth*. I think everyone agreed that seeing this bird was not as spectacular as it was hearing it. The specific name *elisabeth* was given after Queen Isabel I of Castile and Spain (1451-1504). It will remain as a mystery why the person that described this species (Lembeye) used the English equivalent (*Elisabeth*) rather than the Spanish name (*Isabel*). We enjoyed views of one individual singing from a tree contiguous to a Mogote in Viñales.

Red-legged Thrush. *Turdus plumbeus*. Another gorgeous species of the Greater Antilles. We saw it in every location visited during this tour. Both subspecies found in Cuba have a nice dark orange belly (*schistaceus* & *rubripes*).

Mockingbirds and Thrashers / Mimidae

Gray Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Seen in bushy habitat at various locations.

Bahama Mockingbird. *Mimus gundlachii*. If it wasn't for Odey's perseverance and capacity to find it we would have missed this species. After much effort we saw it in Cayo Guillermo.

Northern Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos*. Common. Seen daily.

Waxbills and allies / Estrildidae

Tricolored Munia. *Lonchura malacca*. 5+ individuals near Soroa.

Nutmeg Mannikin or Scaly-breasted Munia. *Lonchura punctulata*. Few individuals were seen feeding in a seeding exotic bamboo in Cienfuegos.

Old World Sparrows / Passeridae

House Sparrow. *Passer domesticus*. Common in urban areas.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

Ovenbird. *Seiurus aurocapilla*. Seen in Bermeja and Soplillar.

Worm-eating Warbler. *Helmitheros vermivorum*. Bermeja, Zapata peninsula.

Louisiana Waterthrush. *Parkesia motacilla*. Cayo Coco and Santo Tomas. A Boreal migrant.

Northern Waterthrush. *Parkesia noveboracensis*. Cayo Coco.

Black-and-white Warbler. *Mniotilla varia*. Bermeja.

Common Yellowthroat. *Geothlypis formosa*. Seen frequently near wetlands.

American Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla*. A common Neotropical migrant in Cuba.

Cape May Warbler. *Setophaga tigrina*. Seen in the first half of the tour.

Northern Parula. *Setophaga americana*. Seen in open country and gardens in urban areas. Found mostly in the first half of the tour.

Yellow Warbler. *Setophaga petechia*. Cayo Coco.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Setophaga caerulescens*. A common Boreal migrant. Seen about three times.

Palm Warbler. *Setophaga palmarum*. This species is among the commonest Boreal migrants in Cuba. It was found in edge of forest, scrubby vegetation and gardens.

Olive-capped Warbler. *Setophaga pityophila*. Another specialty of the Greater Antilles. This species is only found in N Bahamas, W and E of Cuba. We enjoyed views of a pair near Viñales.

Yellow-rumped Warbler. *Setophaga coronata*. Bermeja. Seen by Kathlyn.

Prairie Warbler. *Setophaga discolor*. La Belen.

Yellow-headed Warbler (E). *Teretistris fernandinae*. A pair was observed in Viñales and another pair near Las Terrazas.

Oriente Warbler (E). *Teretistris fornsi*. Fairly common in Cayo Coco and Cayo Paredón Grande. Two pairs were seen.

Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae

Red-legged Honeycreeper. *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. Nice views of a vocal pair near Viñales.

Cuban Grassquit (E). *Tiaris canorus*. We owe a big thank you to our guide of Las Terrazas for taking us to the best site for this species where we got to see more than 5 individuals!

Yellow-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris olivaceus*. This is a common species that was seen in most locations.

Cuban Bullfinch. *Melopyrrha nigra*. Seen mainly in forest edge in various locations. Extensively trapped for use in the bird sound contest.

Genera INCERTAE SEDIS

Western Spindalis. *Spindalis zena*. The spindalis are endemic to the Greater Antilles. Some taxonomists consider them to be part of the cardinals rather than to the tanagers. This lovely species was observed in Cayo Coco and Las Terrazas.

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies / Emberizidae

Zapata Sparrow (E). *Torreornis inexpectata*. We enjoyed nice studies of a pair in Cayo Coco. The first individual seen was the subspecies *varonai* (described in 1981) in Cayo Coco and the second one was *inexpectata*, seen in the Zapata swamp.

Cardinals and Allies / Cardinalidae

Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea*. Cienfuegos botanical gardens. Not seen by everyone.

Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

Red-shouldered Blackbird (E). *Agelaius assimilis*. We enjoyed superb views of a pair and a male singing in Bermeja, Zapata Peninsula.

Tawny-shouldered Blackbird. *Agelaius humeralis*. A common lowland species in open habitats. It was seen in various locations.

Eastern Meadowlark. *Sturnella magna*. An individual was seen in Esmeraldas.

Cuban Blackbird (E). *Dives atroviolaceus*. Observed at various locations. Sometimes treated as *Ptiloxena atroviolacea*. It was originally described as a grackle, in 1892.

Greater Antillean Grackle. *Quiscalus niger*. This species is widespread and tolerates human presence, like other grackles. It was seen everyday.

Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonairensis*. Cayo Coco.

Cuban Oriole. *Icterus melanopsis*. We came across this species in three locations. The population found in Cuba was believed to be conspecific with the populations in Central America and the Caribbean. Nowadays it is accepted as an endemic species of Cuba.

OTHER SPECIES LIST

MAMMALS

White-tailed Deer. *Odocoileus virginianus*. Seen by Rebecca in la Belen. Introduced.

Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bat. *Macrotus waterhousii*. Cueva de los Jabalíes.

Big Brown Bat. *Eptesicus fuscus*. Cueva de los Jabalíes.

Guayabito mouse. *Mus musculus*.

REPTILES

Cuban Boa. *Chilabothrus angulifer*.

Allison's (Blue-headed) Anole. *Anolis allisoni*.

Knight Anole. *Anolis equestris*.

Carolina Anole. *Anolis carolinensis*.

Tropical House Gecko. *Hemidactylus mabouia*. Introduced from Africa.

Cuban Iguana. *Cyclura nubila*. An individual was seen by some participants crossing the Esmeralda road.

Curly-tailed Lizard. *Leiocephalus sp.*

OTHER SPECIES

Land crab. *Geocarcinus sp.*

Hermit crab. *Paguroidea*.

Arboreal termites. (*Nasutitermes*).

Cuban Snail. *Polymita sp.*

Dragonfly.

Jellyfish.