

Cuba - A Birdwatching Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 17 March 2009



Bee Hummingbird



Cuban Solitaire



Cuban Tody



Cuban Pygmy Owl

Report compiled by Andy Mitchell

Images by kind courtesy of John Bennett



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Day 1

Saturday 7th March

Various members of the group had different itineraries for reaching our 7th March destination and everything went according to plan with the furthest traveller (from Australia) reaching Jose Marti airport in Havana first. With all our luggage, and after meeting up with our driver Reuben and local tour guide Erik, we drove to the Hotel Vedado in Havana and got settled in quickly.

Day 2

Sunday 8th March

We had an early start to get out birding so it was still dark as we sped along the motorway towards San Diego de los Baños with Cuba's best bird guide, Arturo Kirkconnell having been introduced to the group, along with his son Arturito, with us for the day to learn more about bird guiding. We collected another local guide César who had staked out one of our target birds for the day, Cuban Grassquit. After a bit of scrambling through scrub and getting distracted by other species, everyone got excellent views of this beautiful endemic seed-eater.

We then headed for Cabañas los Pinos but had to take the long route around as the road (previously poor) had been ruined by last season's hurricane. We found a lot of tree damage and a crew of forestry workers with chainsaws, clearing the fallen and broken trees. We climbed a little away from the noise and soon connected with another target species, Olive-capped Warbler although it was a bit of a neck-breaker in the tops of the pines. Down near the bat cave, our final target for the day, Cuban Solitaire, was proving elusive until one was seen almost at our feet, drinking from a pool. We also ticked off some other, more widespread endemics, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Cuban Blackbird with the national bird, Cuban Trogon giving stunning close-up views.

We retired to the Hotel Mirador in San Diego for a well-earned lunch and then stopped off at a reservoir close to Havana. As it was Sunday there were rather a lot of people fishing which reduced the species on offer. However, we did see several herons and egrets, three species of duck (rather distantly), Osprey and another endemic, Cuban Martin. We arrived back at our Havana hotel in time to relax, log and dinner. A successful first day with the three target species seen by everyone and a total of 54 species!

Day 3

Monday 9th March

This was the day for the long drive to Cayo Coco. We did various stops in the course of a long day on the coach and arrived on Cayo Coco in daylight, giving the opportunity for some birding along the causeway. We got absolutely cracking views of a Clapper Rail out in the open catching crabs but the brilliant Caribbean Flamingos were just a pink slash on the horizon. Although we didn't add any endemics, we managed a very creditable 59 species for the day. After checking in at Hotel Krystal Laguna and eating dinner, everyone went to bed eager for new birds in the morning.

Day 4

Tuesday 10th March

We headed out at 7am for Cayo Paredón Grande where Reuben took the decaying bridge in his stride whilst we watched the ever-faithful Lesser Black-backed Gull and other waterbirds. On reaching the lighthouse, we set off along the track but it was rather quiet.

Eventually, our local guide, Paulino, located some delightful Cuban Gnatcatchers and everyone got good views. A Mangrove Cuckoo called in the distance but refused to come any closer and there was a frustratingly brief glimpse of Thick-billed Vireo for some. A plus point was the appearance of a Bahama Mockingbird out in the open. The beach at the end of the track was empty so we returned to the lighthouse and walked back along the road for a while. Suddenly there were Thick-billed Vireos everywhere and the group got close-up views as well as seeing the endemic Oriente Warbler. Several Cuban Black Hawks were seen close to the bus on our way back to the hotel but another raptor stole the show as Arturo spotted a Gundlach's Hawk flying past. Some of group saw it and we all dashed off the bus - but to no avail. This rare and difficult species was not to be seen again.

Our late afternoon session was woodland birding in the region of Cueva de Jabali with the specific target of the local race of Cuban Sparrow. This proved to be most uncooperative with everyone having to crouch down to see a brown bird scratching around in the leaf litter in a dark wood! We did get to see another endemic, Cuban Vireo, and many other woodland species. The log showed that we had seen 63 species for the day.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th March

A pre-breakfast visit to a wet area in front of Hotel Playa Coco was very rewarding with very close views of the superb West Indian Whistling Duck and a number of interesting waders. After breakfast at our hotel we drove to a Gundlach's Hawk nesting area but had no luck. On the way back we stopped at the roadside and got extremely close views of the Cuban Sparrow for all. After lunch we began our journey to the next stop in the provincial capital of Camagüey. We made a stop at Laguna Larga to see many Osprey and a single Anhinga. We arrived at Hotel Camagüey and retired after dinner and the log (72 species for the day) to be ready for an early start the next day.

Day 6

Thursday 12th March

Away from the hotel at 6am after coffee and a sandwich. The sacrifice was well worth it with two stops on the way to the reserve at La Belén, Najasa producing Cuban Palm Crow, Cuban Crow, Plain Pigeon, Cuban Parakeet, Fernandina's Flicker and Giant Kingbird – a real handful of top species. At the reserve, we took a gentle birding stroll along the track, picking up things like the endemic Cuban Pygmy Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Lizard Cuckoo and a couple of Rose-throated Parrots.

The afternoon was given over to looking at a slice of Cuban life, past and present. We hired bici-taxis (eight of them) to take us around the town to various spots where Erik gave interesting and informative talks about the city and various buildings and other landmarks. This included a 'bodega' where Cubans buy goods on ration and Erik's explanation of the idea behind this, and its current shortcoming, was excellent. After just over an hour of frightening the good citizens of Camagüey, we said goodbye to our bici-taxi drivers and made for the Casa de la Trova for live music and a beer before getting our coach back to the hotel. We saw 49 species for the day.

Day 7

Friday 13th March

We left Hotel Camagüey for our final stay in the Zapata Swamp at 9 am and en route visited the pasta de guyaba factory in La Vallita.

This delicious jelly is made just with guyaba fruit and sugar and is perfect with cheese - a number of people decided to take some home. After lunch at Aguada de Pasajeros we went to Playa Girón in Zapata the "back" way and had a stop at La Cuchilla, looking across the eastern swamp but it was rather quiet in the heat of the afternoon, although a Peregrine landed conveniently on a bare tree stump to allow good views. Nearing our hotel, we stopped at Bermejas and the row of piñon trees down a track and were soon rewarded with close views of a stunning breeding-plumaged male Bee Hummingbird, his gorget, head and neck shining brilliant coral pink in the late afternoon sun. Another Fernandina's Flicker nearby allowed the rest of the group to catch up with this endemic woodpecker. After checking in to our rooms and eating at Hotel Playa Girón, the log gave a total of 48 species for the day.

Day 8

Saturday 14th March

A civilised start with breakfast at 7am and away at 7.30am on the short drive to the reserve within the National Park at Bermejas, where the warden Orlando met us. The Zapata Swamp has the reputation for the best birdwatching in Cuba and this morning showed why. We soon saw four Blue-headed Quail-doves, a Gray-fronted Quail-dove, Cuban Screech Owl Fernandina's Flicker, Blue-winged Warbler and Black-whiskered Vireo. We ended up at Laguna la Majagua where there was an obliging Solitary Sandpiper and some close views of the engaging Cuban Parakeet. An excellent morning's birding in delightful surroundings. We returned to Bermejas after lunch with our local guide Angel and caught up with the other two quail-doves, Key West and Ruddy and also got superb views of another Gray-fronted Quail-dove, with Rose-throated Parrot passing overhead. The total for the day was 59 species.

Day 9

Sunday 15th March

An early start was required to drive to La Turba in search of Zapata Wren. After a couple of fruitless tries and a good walk, we caught up with some other birders and their guide who had a bird coming to tape.

After a short while the whole group had had good views of this most difficult of species. Unusually, the Red-shouldered Blackbird was rather tricky and was only seen rather poorly into the light. We had a brief stop on the way back for a line of Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the roadside wires before stopping at La Boca for some warblers, waterbirds and coffee.

After some hard days and early starts, the afternoon was at leisure. Then, following an early dinner, we drove to Bermejas and immediately connected with a very obliging Cuban Nightjar, which perched on a branch for us. Back to Playa Girón and a search around the hotel grounds was just starting to get frustrating (although Yellow-crowned Night-herons were wandering about) when a Stygian Owl was spotted in a tree. This species is usually in the tops but this one was not much above head height and provided best- ever views for the group. Not long afterwards a Short-eared Owl was found on prey underneath a lamppost! Everyone retired to bed with all three species seen exceptionally well. The days total was 72 species.

Day 10

Monday 16th March

As we had now seen all the target species, i.e. the “gettable” endemics, we had breakfast at the hotel before taking the short drive to Los Hondones and a track through the woodland for some quality birding with no pressure!

This gave everyone time to take long looks at some familiar species and we managed to pick up a few new ones such as White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo and Worm-eating Warbler. Some members also caught up with species that had only been seen by some of the group. After hearing an Antillean Nighthawk calling, we moved a few kilometres to Los Canales to try to see one. We had no luck but spent a pleasant hour watching waterbirds and more woodland species before returning for lunch at our hotel.

The afternoon session was dedicated to La Salinas, a huge area of mangrove and shallow brackish lagoons. It has been a very dry “dry season” in Cuba this year and consequently the numbers and range of species was reduced. However, we saw the largest group of Roseate Spoonbill ever recorded by Arturo (65) and several other waterbirds. We returned rather late in the day and so left the log until we were on the coach the following morning – we recorded 84 species.

Day 11

Tuesday 17th March

We left Playa Girón at very sensible 8.30am for the drive to Havana (stopping briefly for a Red-tailed Hawk) and a short tour on the bus, taking in the Plaza de la Revolución and El Capitolio in Parque Central. A very Cuban lunch was provided at El Aljibe restaurant where we said goodbye to Arturo.

After the drive along the famous seafront road Malecón to the old city, Erik led a walking tour around some of main places of interest, shortened only by lack of time. We took in parts of the whole range of Cuba’s history, from the first Spanish conquest through a brief British interlude up to the present-day superb restoration work on the buildings via, of course, Ernest Hemingway. We then went to Hotel Sevilla, where one of the group was staying on for a few days, to recover ourselves before the drive to the airport and flight home.

Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
1	West Indian Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>				✓									
2	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>				✓							✓		✓
3	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	✓												
4	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	✓												
5	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓		✓									
6	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	✓												
7	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	✓												
8	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓
9	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		✓		✓									✓
10	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						✓
11	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				✓								✓	
12	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓
13	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		✓
14	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
16	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
17	Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
18	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
19	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>												✓	
22	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>			✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
23	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
24	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>		✓											✓
25	Caribbean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>		✓		✓									✓
26	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
28	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	✓	✓										✓	
29	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		✓											✓
30	Gundlach's Hawk	<i>Accipiter gundlachi</i>			✓										
31	Cuban Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus gundlachi</i>			✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
32	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	✓	✓											✓
33	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓												✓
34	Northern Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>			✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
35	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			✓	✓									✓
37	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							✓						
38	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓			✓	✓							
39	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>		✓		✓									
40	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>												✓	
41	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓					✓					✓		✓
42	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	✓			✓									
43	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>						✓	✓						
44	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓										✓
45	Semi-palmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>			✓										✓
46	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>				✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>				✓			✓						✓

	Common name	Scientific name										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
48	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>					✓				✓	
49	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>										✓
50	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>				✓						
51	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>								✓		
52	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>			✓							
53	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Tringa macularia</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓
54	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
55	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓							
56	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>				✓						✓
57	Semi-palmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>				✓						
58	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Micropalama himantopus</i>				✓						
59	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>			✓							
60	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>				✓						
61	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>		✓		✓						✓
62	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>			✓							
63	American Herring Gull	<i>Larus smithsonianus</i>		✓	✓							
64	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓							
65	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>		✓		✓						✓
66	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
67	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>				✓						
68	Rock Dove (feral)	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
69	Scaly-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba squamosa</i>	✓		✓							
70	White-crowned Pigeon	<i>Columba leucocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
71	Plain Pigeon	<i>Columba inornata</i>					✓					
72	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓						
73	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>		✓		✓						
74	Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓
75	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Key West Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon chrysia</i>								✓		
78	Gray-fronted Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon caniceps</i>								✓		
79	Blue-headed Quail-Dove	<i>Starnoenas cyanocephala</i>								✓		
80	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon</i>								✓		
81	Cuban Parakeet	<i>Aratinga euops</i>					✓			✓		
82	Rose-throated Parrot	<i>Amazona leucocephala</i>					✓			✓		✓
83	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americana</i>					✓			✓		
84	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>			H							
85	Great Lizard-Cuckoo	<i>Saurothera merlini</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	✓									
88	Bare-legged Owl	<i>Otus lawrencii</i>								✓		
89	Cuban Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium siju</i>					✓			✓		✓
90	Stygian Owl	<i>Asio stygius</i>									✓	
91	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>									✓	
92	Antillean Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles gundlachii</i>									H	
93	Cuban Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus cubensis</i>									✓	
94	Antillean Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>	✓			✓						
95	Cuban Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Bee Hummingbird	<i>Mellisuga helenae</i>						✓				
97	Cuban Trogon	<i>Priotelus temnurus</i>	✓				✓			✓		✓
98	Cuban Tody	<i>Todus multicolor</i>				✓	✓			✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
99	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
100	West Indian Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes superciliaris</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
102	Cuban Green Woodpecker	<i>Xiphidiopicus percussus</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>				✓				✓		✓
104	Fernandina's Flicker	<i>Colaptes fernandinae</i>						✓	✓	✓		
105	Cuban Pewee	<i>Contopus caribaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
106	La Sagra's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus sagrae</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
107	Loggerhead Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Giant Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus cubensis</i>					✓					
109	Cuban Martin	<i>Progne cryptoleuca</i>	✓									
110	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	✓	✓							✓	✓
111	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>									✓	
112	Cave Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>		✓					✓			
113	Zapata Wren	<i>Ferminia cerverei</i>									✓	
114	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>		✓								✓
115	Cuban Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila lembeyi</i>			✓							
116	Cuban Solitaire	<i>Myadestes elisabeth</i>	✓									
117	Red-legged Thrush	<i>Turdus plumbeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
119	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Bahama Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gundlachii</i>			✓							
121	Cuban Palm Crow	<i>Corvus palmarum</i>					✓					
122	Cuban Crow	<i>Corvus nasicus</i>					✓	✓			✓	
123	White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>										✓
124	Thick-billed Vireo	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i>			✓							
125	Cuban Vireo	<i>Vireo gundlachii</i>			✓	✓				✓		✓
126	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>										✓
127	Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>			✓					✓		✓
128	Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>								✓		✓
129	Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>			✓						✓	
131	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>								✓		
132	Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓	
133	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
134	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>									✓	
135	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>					✓		✓			✓
136	Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Olive-capped Warbler	<i>Dendroica pityophila</i>	✓									
138	Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
139	Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓
141	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>										✓
143	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>		✓						✓		
145	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓				
146	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Yellow-headed Warbler	<i>Teretistris fernandinae</i>		✓						✓		✓
148	Oriente Warbler	<i>Teretistris fornsi</i>			✓	✓						
149	Western Spindalis	<i>Spindalis zena</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
150	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>									✓	✓
151	Cuban Bullfinch	<i>Melopyrrha nigra</i>	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
152	Cuban Grassquit	<i>Tiaris canora</i>	✓									
153	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
154	Cuban Sparrow	<i>Torreornis inexpectata</i>			✓	✓						
155	Red-shouldered Blackbird	<i>Agelaius assimilis</i>							✓		✓	✓
156	Tawny-shouldered Blackbird	<i>Agelaius humeralis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>		✓			✓			✓		
158	Cuban Blackbird	<i>Dives atrovioacea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Greater Antillean Grackle	<i>Quiscalus niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
160	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>									✓	
161	Cuban Oriole	<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	✓		✓		✓				✓	
162	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓				

Lepidoptera

The most commonly seen species were The Zebra *Heliconius charitonia*, White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*, The Flambeau Dryas *iulia* and Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*. In addition, we identified Common Ringlet *Calisto herophile*, Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius*, Cuban Admiral *Adelpha iphiclea* and Dismal Skipper *Astraptus cassander*.

We also saw numerous 'yellows' (*Pieridae*) and 'blues' (*Lycaenidae*) which I cannot reliably name without having had a closer look. There was also the occasional 'skipper' (*Hesperiidae*) in the same category.

Reptiles and Amphibians

We saw many lizards in the genus *Anolis* and several gekkos – the common ones on the island are in the genus *Hemidactylus* – and there were a number of frogs around.

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