There are up to 29 species currently recognized as endemic to Jamaica; most are easy to see, even on a short trip. One of the most common of these is the spectacular, and tiny, Jamaican Tody, which was recorded every day.

Tour Leader: Sam Woods with Ricardo Miller & Lyndon Johnson

Report and all photos by Sam Woods/Tropical Birding
INTRODUCTION

The islands of the Caribbean are species poor relative to the nations of mainland Central America. However, what they lack in species richness, they more than make up for in terms of endemic species; Jamaica alone boasts up to 29 endemic species of birds (dependent on taxonomy), in a country smaller than the US state of Connecticut! With the ease of access from the hub of Miami (Florida), it is an easy choice for a short getaway, or a first dip into the avian riches of the Caribbean. In this case, a short trip does NOT mean an abridged bird list; it is highly possible to see all of the Jamaican endemic birds, even in only a short visit. This tour was no exception; it was set up for a birding father and son combo, who had limited time available to work within a spring break, and Jamaica fit the bill perfectly of a destination that they had not yet been to, offered a healthy set of lifebirds, all of which were likely to be seen within this short venture onto the island. We managed to find all 29 of the endemic species, with minimum fuss, and time to spare. On top of that, we also added some Caribbean specialties too, like Bahama Mockingbird, Plain Pigeon, Antillean Palm Swift, Vervain Hummingbird, Greater Antillean Elaenia, Loggerhead Kingbird, Stolid Flycatcher, Rufous-throated Solitaire, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, and Jamaican Oriole; not to mention birds like White-tailed Tropicbird (photo below) too. Thus, the first timers to the Caribbean among us, walked away with in excess of 40 new birds. Among the favorites within the endemic horde were, of course, the Jamaican Tody (title page), Yellow-shouldered Grassquit (not your average grassquit), Crested Quail-Dove, Jamaican Owl (that gave exceptional views on several days-photo next page), and Jamaica’s resplendent national bird, the Red-billed Streamertail.
In order to amass all of these great birds we started out in Jamaica’s bustling capital, Kingston, the infamous origin of reggae music, and late, great Bob Marley; from there we visited the nearby hot coastal lowland scrub of Hellshire Hills. After picking up the site’s celebrity species, Bahama Mockingbird, we moved into the city itself, and the peace and tranquility of Hope Gardens, where parrots were on the agenda. From there we moved up into coffee country, and the pleasantly cool climate of the Blue Mountains, the source of some of the World’s most revered coffee. The vast bulk of our endemic target list was found there, including the scarce Crested Quail-Dove and inconspicuous Jamaican Blackbird, before we headed north into the humid forests of the Ecclesdown Road, near the laid back city of Port Antonio, within the parish of Portland. The tour finished with the sight of White-tailed Tropicbirds darting in and out of their nesting cliffs beside a private deserted beach within the grounds of our hotel, while a daytime Jamaican Owl slept nearby - a perfect way to end the perfect introduction to Caribbean birds!
ITINERARY

23rd March  Kingston arrival; Kingston environs/night Kingston
24th March  Hellshire Hills & Hope Gardens to the Blue Mountains/night Blue Mountains
25th March  Blue Mountains/night Blue Mountains
26th March  Blue Mountains to Ecclesdown Road/night Port Antonio
27th March  Happy Grove & Ecclesdown Road/night Port Antonio
28th March  Port Antonio to Kingston/DEPARTURE
TOUR SUMMARY

DAY ONE (23rd March): KINGSTON ENVIRONS

Rick and Andrew wasted no time in tucking into those Jamaican endemic birds, which were to be the clear focus of the trip; they touched down in Kingston in the early afternoon, and by late afternoon could claim Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, Jamaican Woodpecker (photo page before), White-chinned Thrush, Orangequit, and Jamaican Tody as lifebirds! That afternoon we visited a nearby dam, close to our quiet hotel on the outskirts of Kingston, (and therefore free from the heavy vibe of reggae music that dominates some parts of the city). In addition to these endemic species, we also racked up White-crowned Pigeon, Jamaican Oriole (not actually endemic to Jamaica, in spite of its name), although the Jamaican Owl and Northern Potoo, which were the evening’s focus, failed to show. We also got to experience, firsthand, how important a venue for wintering boreal birds Jamaica is, with Black-throated Blue and Prairie Warblers, both a mainstay of Jamaican birding in this season, both showing up during the afternoon’s activities. The nearby dam also held Least and Pied-billed Grebes, and Belted Kingfisher. Compensation for our period of nightbirding (which did not yield the hoped for Jamaican Owl) was provided by a showy Barn Owl, a surprising nemesis bird for Andrew, which showed both in flight and perched. We slept well that night, in a family run hotel well away from the general hustle and bustle, and well-advertised crime, of downtown Kingston, eager to get yet more of those treasured, and highly prized, endemic birds…
DAY TWO (24th March): **HELLSHIRE HILLS & HOPE GARDENS to BLUE MOUNTAINS**

The birding began in earnest on this day, with a pre-dawn start to get us out to nearby **Hellshire Hills** well before the intense heat of the day had begun. These low, coastal hills are home to an endemic race of the **Bahama Mockingbird**, (photo page 5), a rare species on Jamaica, with only two small populations on the island. Thankfully, rare and localized, did not mean difficult, and before we had even reached the main area for the mockingbird, we had pulled the car over and were admiring a pair of them in song, right off the bat. The other key species on site was the **Stolid Flycatcher**, not an endemic to the island, but only found on Jamaica, Hispaniola and Grand Cayman, making this another target for some. This was to be our only site for the species, but they proved straightforward with half a dozen or so being found during our short visit. However, they were somewhat overshadowed by another more colorful bird, and another of Jamaica’s beautiful endemics, the **Jamaican Mango**, several males of which posed at length. Another more subdued endemic, in the form of a cooperative **Jamaican Vireo**, also showed up at Hellshire before we left. We hoped we might also find the erratic, and rare and local, **West Indian Whistling-Duck** in a nearby sewage pond, but only found a huge (approaching 15-feet long) **American Crocodile**, **Purple Gallinule**, and plentiful **Glossy Ibis**, among others.
All too soon, we were retreating into the air-con paradise or our vehicle, and were on our way to **Hope Gardens**, a well-manicured enclave within the city of Kingston, passing by the colorfully adorned **Bob Marley Museum** as we did so, which reminded us again that we were, after all, in the birthplace of reggae music. Just outside the gates of the garden the usual hustle and bustle of a modern city goes on unabated; however, once inside the gates we found ourselves inside a haven from the usual metropolitan hub bub; colorful red flowers were in bloom, and being regularly visited by Jamaica’s national bird, the fantastic Red-billed Streamertail, as well as a myriad of butterflies too. Walking the quiet gardens we found several **Gray Kingbirds** noisily proclaiming their recent arrival in the area (this austral migrant only comes to Jamaica to breed, having spent the non-breeding months in northern South America. **White-crowned Pigeons** zipped from tree to tree, although parrots, which we were here for after all, were initially inconspicuous, just the odd distant calls betraying their presence in the gardens. Riccardo located a perched **Vervain Hummingbird**, where its miniscule size was all too obvious to see; it is the second smallest bird in the world, marginally behind the **Bee Hummingbird** of Cuba. Eventually, Riccardo and Rick locked on to a handsome **Yellow-billed Parrot**, which evaporated before the arrival of Sam and Andrew. However, a short time later we found first the recently recognized **Jamaican Parakeet**, a newly added species to the endemic batch on Jamaica, (formerly being considered part of the more widespread Olive-throated Parakeet complex). Then, there it was, a super close and confiding **Yellow-billed Parrot**, and this time for all to see. In between our parrot sightings we noted some migrants working the trees in the park, including the usual **Prairie Warbler** but a **Northern Parula** and a tail-wagging **Palm Warbler** too. It was then time for lunch in the city and some more of that infamous Jamaican jerk chicken and festival bread; while we waited for our food to arrive in an outdoor restaurant nearby, a female **Cape May Warbler** flitted around the garden, and a **Black-faced Grassquit** brought a whole new level to the term “confiding”, when it hopped around a flowerbed right beside our table. We were now joined by our Blue Mountain expert, Lyndon Johnson (like the president), who was keen to show us the birds of his “backyard”...

After lunch, it was brutally hot in Kingston, and the **Blue Mountains**, visible lurking in the distance offered some respite from the heat, with low cloud hanging over the hillsides; and we were soon off on our way there, working our way up the winding mountain road to this next destination. As we rose ever higher in the Blue Mountains (reaching about 4000ft/1225m), the unpredictable mountain weather showed its
hand-heavy rain splattered the windscreen, and the hope of some afternoon birding looked ever bleaker. We made some birding headway, birding between the showers. Our first endemic notched up in the mountains was the first of several Jamaican Pewees, flitting in and out of their favored hunting perches, and a pair of jaffa-orange Jamaican Spindalis hopped into view. The distinctive soundtrack of the Blue Mountains is provided by the haunting song of the Rufous-throated Solitaire, and this day was no different. Soon after we alighted our vehicle for our first Blue Mountain birding session, the calls of the solitaire drifted to our ears, and with some careful repositioning we soon set our eyes on this handsome and melodious thrush. We also encountered the first of five Arrow-headed Warblers for the afternoon, and chanced upon our first pair of Jamaican Becards too. By the time we rolled into our mountain chalet, the clouds had parted, and even hints of blue sky were being seen; showing that mountain weather is nothing if not changeable and highly unpredictable, even in this, the dry season. While Andrew, fresh in from a round of heavy exams at his university, took the chance to catch up on some rest, within the pleasant surrounds of our scenic mountain retreat; Rick, Sam and Lyndon headed out for some birding now the rain had subsided. This proved a very fortuitous decision; the first signs of success were revealed when Lyndon noticed a Blue Mountain Vireo foraging alongside the road. Then things hit a new high when a Crested Quail-Dove (photo page before), was spotted sitting on a low branch. Fearing it might take flight Rock was soon alerted to its position, and we nervously raised our binoculars to this close bird. However, far from being shy and retiring, the bird remained on the branch, in full and fantastic view for some five minutes! This was potentially the hardest of the Blue Mountain species we were seeking and we already had it in the bag within hours of our arrival. New heights were then reached when Lyndon latched on to the calls of a nearby Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo, (photo page 6), a bird we all very much wanted to see. Sam tried playing the call, and was shocked to see the bird drop into some near branches, where the bird gave marvelous views, culminating in a
showing when the bird appeared with an anole lizard clasped in its bill!

The final finale of the day revolved around an owl. There are just two species of owl on the island of Jamaica, and we had already seen a Barn Owl well the evening before; this just left us with the endemic Jamaican Owl to find. As this was Sam’s first time leading a bird tour on Jamaica, he had come in a few days early to scout the Blue Mountains. While doing so, with Ricardo, they had managed to find a young Jamaican Owl, and so that evening we decided to check on this young owl, thinking this may be the fastest way to track down a Jamaican Owl for our list. This proved true; shortly after dusk fell like a curtain the screams of a young Jamaican Owl were heard. As we searched for the culprit, we found the adult sitting in a lichen-covered tree in full view! Its offspring continued to call conspicuously, and as a result of this, we soon found that too, better concealed within the understory than the bold adult, which provided a great end to a great day (photos pages 2 and 8).
DAY THREE (25th March): THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

As Andrew had taken off the afternoon before, due to some well-needed, post-exam, downtime, the pressure was on to refine some of the quality birds enjoyed by the rest of us the afternoon before. And so the plan was to start by trying to find another Crested Quail-Dove at a “secret spot” of Lyndon’s. However, before we made it there, we took in the wonderful surrounds of our mountain chalet, which was positively birdy in the early hours of the morning, as birds came to the lodge to pick insects off the side of it (which had been attracted during the night to the lights of the building), and the first visitors of the day appeared at the chalet’s feeders too. Sad Flycatchers made steady work of the insects on the sides of the chalet, Red-billed Streamertails were quick to appear at the feeders (photos pages 20 & 21), and a very confiding Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo hopped about above the flower garden at the rear of the chalet, (photo below). The first Rufous-tailed Flycatcher of the tour (yes, another endemic species!) also made its first appearance of the tour in the chalet garden.

Lyndon took us to an area of forest, draped in bromeliads, near the tiny Blue Mountain town of Section; where the whiff of ganja is often in the air, and the local people tout high-end coffee for a living. However, coffee was not our target that morning. We were led up into a private orchard, just off the road, where a burst of wings, led us to a handsome figure perched on a low branch, and bathed in early morning sunlight which brought out the rich...
rufous and magenta tones in its plumage: Crested Quail-Dove! A “John Che"wit", better known to non-Jamaican birders as Black-whiskered Vireo, also foraged in the orchard, and both Louisiana Waterthrush and Ovenbird were seen there too.

With our early flush of success over the day before, our target list was shrinking, and with each success our remaining target birds became clearer; we were not principally on the hunt for the endemics Yellow-shouldered Grassquit and the uncommon Jamaican Blackbird. We knew the blackbird could take some work, and while we searched for this inconspicuous bird, we saw plenty of other endemics, like Orangequit, Jamaican Becard, and White-chinned Thrush (that hopped on and off the road on a regular basis). Often the best way to track down the blackbird, from an odd, endemic monotypic genus, is to listen for the noise of rustling within the bromeliads (for this is where they often feed singly); however, this was not the case that morning, the loud song of the Jamaican Blackbird led us to this bird instead, as it fed, alone within some close trees, giving us prolonged views of one of the Blue Mountain’s toughest resident endemic birds. We also found another Blue Mountain Vireo that morning, good news in particular for Andrew, who had been absent for the first showing the afternoon before. Columbids are prominent in Jamaica; we had seen Zenaida and Mourning Doves in Kingston the day before, and on this morning we also tracked down the endangered Ring-tailed Pigeon too, and a responsive Caribbean Dove, which called from a high perch, in full view of our trained ‘scope. One of the most popular sightings of the morning involved a handsome yellow-backed male Yellow-shouldered Grassquit (photo below), which showed well so that we could see his coal black underside, yellow-green upperside, and burnt red vent.
Just before lunch, we made a visit to Woodside, a famed birding venue in the Blue Mountains. Here, a quiet private road cuts through the montane forest, allowing good access to the habitat. This can be a great spot for the quail-dove, although that was no longer a priority bird, following two great sightings of the bird already. We made our way to a forest clearing, where recently Sam and Ricardo had seen a Greater Antillean Elaenia, and with little fuss this wing-banded flycatcher was seen again there too for all of us. Several male Greater Antillean Bullfinches and a super confiding and photogenic Jamaican Tody featured too (photo, title page), before we retired for lunch back to our mountain chalet.

By lunchtime, we were doing so well, that we took a long break around the lodging for the first period of the afternoon, which allowed some to sleep and catch up on their reading, and others to enjoy the procession of birds coming to the chalet’s sugar feeders: most frequent were a series of male Red-billed Streamertails, interspersed with visits from a male Yellow-faced Grassquit, a female Black-throated Blue Warbler, a pair of bold Jamaican Orioles (photo page 9), a few Orangequits, several Bananaquits (photo page 22), and a superb male Prairie Warbler (photo below).
In the afternoon, that changeable mountain weather played a role again; we were covered in cloak of low cloud hampering viewing. Therefore, we took this opportunity to visit a small local coffee producer. Blue Mountain coffee is frequently listed as one of the best coffees on the planet, and Rick and Andrew experienced this during our “fog break” from birding, Andrew proclaiming it as “the best coffee he had ever tasted”. While they tasted the goods, and purchased some for taking back home, the tiny Vervain Hummingbird flitted around the orange flowers in the well-kept mountain garden. By late afternoon, clear patches broke up the low cloud hanging over the mountain, and we added yet another endemic to our list, in the form of a vocal pair of Jamaican Elaenias. As darkness fell, we, once again, took in the sight of a young Jamaican Owl, as well as a nearby adult, this time for Andrew to enjoy too. We followed this by a short, successful, search for Northern Potoo, a pair of which was seen near Silver Hill Gap (photo below), before we returned to the lodge for dinner, to be washed down with Jamaica’s famous Red Stripe beer.

DAY FOUR (26th March):

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS to PORT ANTONIO

By our final morning in the Blue Mountains, we had very little to try and find; by then our main endemic target being the beady-eyed White-eyed Thrush, which, somehow, had managed to elude most of us. During Sam’s recent scouting he had sighted several of these handsome thrushes in a large fruiting tree near Silver Hill Gap, and so that was where Rick, Sam and Lyndon started the day. As we arrived at the tree, we were pleased to see activity, with several movements within its fruit-laden branches. We were to be initially disappointed as our first checks revealed “only” the endemic White-chinned Thrush, a bird we had seen well, and repeatedly over previous days, but then we saw our first of three or four White-eyed Thrushes too (photo next page), also taking full advantage of the abundant fruit crop, plundering the hanging berries regularly over the next half hour on site. We also got our third, and no less spectacular, Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, of the tour, foraging in their typically lethargic manner nearby. It was so lackluster in fact that Andrew managed to line up the Swarovski ‘scope, and “I-phone scope” the bird with his new I-Phone 6! Just before leaving the Blue Mountains in the rearview, a Worm-eating Warbler was spotted from the car. Others, of the regular and common endemics, featured that morning too, like Orangequit, Jamaican Woodpecker, Jamaican Spindalis, and Jamaican Pewee (photo page 15), as well as the considerably less abundant Rufous-tailed Flycatcher.
It was a long drive to our next stop, as we headed north out of the Blue Mountains and up into the coastal lowlands of the north coast; although we did stop by a set of city palms en-route, which provided point blank views of Antillean Palm Swifts, which were nesting within them at the time. By late afternoon we had crossed the Rio Grande River, the dividing line between the Black-billed Streamtails of the northeast, and the Red-billed Streamtails of the rest of the island. By our late afternoon arrival time we had just enough time to drop into the famed Ecclesdown Road, a revered Jamaican birding destination, which boasts all but one of the 29 endemic birds. By this late stage, with some extraordinary luck behind us, we were on the hunt for just three of these: Black-billed Streamtail, Black-billed Parrot, and Jamaican Crow, all of which are somewhat local on the island.

During a brief afternoon stint along the road, we were frustrated by two of these; only a female Black-billed Streamtail was seen (i.e. not god enough!), and, in spite of high activity of parrots that afternoon, the only birds we managed to identify, as they passed by in rapid flight, were Yellow-billed Parrot and Jamaican (Olive-throated) Parakeet. Better luck, though, was had with Jamaican Crow, several of which noisily flew over the valley and alighted in some distant trees. Other highlights included further looks at one of the World’s smallest birds, Vervain Hummingbird, as well as the always-welcome Jamaican Tody, which flitted around at close range, as is their habit. In light of all of this, we vowed to return the next day, refreshed and ready to nail
every single one of our final avian targets. That night we ate at a local restaurant, where the table legs were just short of being in the Caribbean Sea, and we sampled the excellent local seafood and traditional Jamaican jerk dishes.

DAY FIVE (27th March): HAPPY GROVE, ECCLESDOWN ROAD & FALMOUTH

This was to be our last full day on Jamaica, and so we took full advantage of the opportunity and birded all day long. We left our comfortable resort pre-dawn, and drove 45-minutes to the scenic setting of Happy Grove. Here we perched ourselves on a cliff top, overlooking an idyllic cove, where the Caribbean Sea laps the base of the cliffs. Our visit was for the chance at finding the elegant White-tailed Tropicbird, which comes ashore to breed at this time of year. The seasons in Jamaica had been a little out of whack recently with the tropicbirds having been absent until very recently (whereas they should have been around for several months by this stage), and so we were all very nervous when we looked into the cove and saw no slim white shapes hanging on the breeze. The reason for visiting in the early morning (by the time of our arrival it was 30-minutes or so after first light), was that
Tropical Birding Trip Report

JAMAICA: March 2015

the birds often spend much of the day far out at sea, and are sometimes only ashore during these early hours. However, all we were faced with was an empty cove, and so we scanned nervously, searching for any pure white shapes over the perfect deep blue sea. Twenty, nervy, minutes went by, and then, suddenly, a first White-tailed Tropicbird appeared, (photo below). It came in fast and high, but then dropped down low, and swooped in and landed in a small hollow in the cliff-face! As we were scattered about while scanning for them, panic set in that not all had seen it. However, in spite of us being separated, we had all locked on to the bird immediately, and soon after we could see the bird sitting quietly in its nesting “cave”. Over the next thirty minutes on site we also saw at least another half dozen tropicbirds swooping in and out of the cove, and giving close flybys as we stood on the edge of the cliff. It was a magical, and classically Caribbean, start to the day. We also saw a large flock of Cave Swallows, which were our first of the tour before we left this scenic spot.

It was then time to settle some scores; our afternoon on the Ecclesdown Road, although only brief, and therefore not exactly the best way to judge a venue, left us with an underwhelming impression of what is commonly considered one of the finest birding destinations on the island. With more time on our hands, and having timed our visit this time for the considerably more active morning time, we got to see this firsthand on this day. This quiet, very little driven, narrow road cuts through a mixture of agricultural lands, open country, and lowland forest, with plentiful clearings, where the raised position of the road allows great views of the treetops. This makes for particularly good parrot viewing, all of which frequent the canopy. Our key target bird remained the
endemic **Black-billed Parrot**, several of which may have been seen flying high the evening before, but with plentiful Yellow-billed Parrots also on site, we could not be sure. However, shortly after arrival we located some calling birds as they fluttered into the treetops, which allowed good, long scope looks. Parrots were very much in evidence during the hours of our visit, with small flocks of **Yellow-billed Parrots** also passing low overhead and allowing great looks in great light as they flew by. Ecclesdown Road gave us some great birds that morning, and we took them all in. There is something very special about your very first look at a species, and there is something very different, but also special, at what is likely to be your last look at a species too; and that is what we got that day, many “final” looks at some of Jamaica’s finest avian treats: our final **Jamaican Woodpecker**, **Chestnut-belied Cuckoo**, **Jamaican Tody**, **Arrow-headed Warbler**, and **Orangequit**, all showed up for that one more view, along with the regular migrant warblers, like **Prairie Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Northern Parula**, and **American Redstart**. Other migrants were seen too, with a **Merlin** standing guard overhead for some time, a winter visitor to Jamaica; as well as a recently arrived **Black-whiskered Vireo**. Overhead, a **Red-tailed Hawk** also glided by, while other “final” views were given by **Sad Flycatchers**, and **Ring-tailed Pigeons**. However, try as we might, the usually regular **Black-billed Streamertail** just would not give us what we wanted; unhindered views of a full adult male ([photo left](#)), streamers and all! We got fleeting glimpses of males minus tail feathers, and females (which lack these fancy adornments), but not a single streamered male. Clearly, desperate times called for desperate measures! Ricardo, our local guide, had a final back up site up his sleeve, and so drove us to nearby hotel, where feeders and floral blooms, usually
ensure success.

Within minutes of our arrival, the characteristic whirring sound of a male streamertail in flight was heard, and seconds later we watched on as a male landed right in front of us. We spent a good deal of time with a superb male, while a Jamaican Mango also visited both the feeders and the local blooms in the garden. Another distraction was provided by a tame male Black-throated Blue Warbler, which was seen hopping around the foliage near the hotel's reception. As we watched the hummingbirds at length, a Jamaican Turquoise Anole, an endemic lizard species, was also noticed on the walls of the hotel.

With a fantastic morning behind us, we returned to our resort, where we searched for, and found, the regular Jamaican Owl slumbering by the hotel reception, although these were not the stellar views we had enjoyed earlier on the trip, and so we were grateful we had put in the effort in the Blue Mountains, where our views were unbeatable!

After a short rest, and with all of our main targets in the bag, and after sampling what are regarded as Jamaica’s best burgers nearby, we decided to do something crazy (this being a custom tour), and drive a considerable distance to where Ricardo had recently discovered a population of the rare Plain Pigeon, further west along the coast. And so, in the afternoon we took a drive along the coast, passing by Ian Fleming International Airport and the resort of Goldeneye, both betraying the long standing history between the fictional character of James Bond and Jamaica; (the character, created by the author Ian Fleming, had lifted his main hero’s name from the cover of a bird book—“Birds of the West Indies”, by none other than an ornithologist called James Bond). In the late afternoon we arrived in Falmouth, and surveyed the tops of the surrounding mangroves where pigeons come in to roost each night. Our arrival was a little early, and so we drove up into the nearby hills, birding the dry scrub and thickets, in the hope of finding some final new birds for the trip. By this stage, the possibilities of new birds were dwindling, although we had missed Mangrove Cuckoo (photo above), while searching for Bahama Mockingbird at Hellshire Hills, near the start of the tour, and so that was a clear gap we were keen to have filled. Just a short burst of the call of the cuckoo saw a bird drop in close beside us, where it remained for long, clear looks! The same area also yielded two more North American migrant species: Indigo Bunting and Gray Catbird, both uncommon species on Jamaica. It was then time to return to our
viewpoint to search for *Plain Pigeons* coming in to roost. Some very unexpected rain showers (in this, the dry season) hindered some of our viewing, but in amidst the intermittent flow of *White-crowned Pigeons* dropping into the mangroves, a single *Plain Pigeon* passed over; *we expected this to be our final addition to the bird list!* A final dinner of jerk meats followed, before we rolled into our resort after dark for one final night on the island, before our departures the next day…

DAY SIX (28th March): **PORT ANTONIO to KINGSTON/DEPARTURE**

All too soon, the final morning of our tour had come around; we had experienced the best of Jamaican food, sampled some of the World’s best coffee in the Blue Mountains, take in the very best of Jamaican birding, and even heard some of that famous reggae music along the way! With just hours available, before we had to roll out of our resort on the northeast coast, and travel south to Kingston for departures, on the south coast; we did some final birding right on the grounds of our coastal resort. *Black-whiskered Vireo* called and showed in the trees; *White-chinned Thrushes* hopped around on the lawns; *Greater Antillean Grackles* displayed on the private beach in the grounds (*photo above*), and more *White-tailed Tropicbirds* swooped in and out of the cliffs beneath our feet, just outside our rooms. Lastly, the same *Jamaican Owl* snoozed by the reception, visible as we departed for our journey south to Kingston. This was a great way to end. While no major birding stops were made as we got into Kingston, a small group of seabirds gathered on a pier near the airport were quickly checked and
produced a vagrant Ring-billed Gull, as well as Roseate Tern among the more common species like Royal and Sandwich Terns, and Laughing Gull.

It had been a great trip, with nice accommodations in which to view those fantastic Jamaican birds. We had seen all 29 of the endemic species, but also added some classic Caribbean species like Caribbean and Zenaida Doves, White-crowned and Plain Pigeons, Vervain Hummingbird, Antillean Palm-Swift, Greater Antillean Elaenia, Stolid Flycatcher, Bahama Mockingbird, Rufous-throated Solitaire, and Greater Antillean Bullfinch, to provide more than enough lifers for the group in just six days birding! It is hard to find a crack in the veneer of Jamaican birding; after all, this is a country where one of the most numerous of all birds is the spectacular, and enchanting “Doctor Bird”, or Red-billed Streamertail (photo right and next page)!
Bananaquit (above) & Loggerhead Kingbird
BIRD LIST

The taxonomy of the bird list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Cornell, 2007. This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2014.

- Jamaican endemic bird species and subspecies are indicated in RED.
- Caribbean endemic bird species and subspecies are indicated in BLUE.
- H indicates a species that was HEARD only.

Numbers: 121 species recorded (all of the species were seen by the entire group).

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE
Blue-winged Teal \textit{Arnas discors}
A dozen or so were seen on some ponds near Hellshire Hills.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE
Least Grebe \textit{Tachybaptus dominicus}
Several were seen at Hermitage Dam, near Kingston.

Pied-billed Grebe \textit{Tachybaptus polyceps}
A dozen or so were seen on the outskirts of Kingston.

TROPICBIRDS: PHAETHONIDAE
White-tailed Tropicbird \textit{Phaethon lepturus}
Up to eight different birds were seen at Happy Grove, near Port Antonio; and another four more were seen in the grounds of our Port Antonio resort.

FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE
Magnificent Frigatebird \textit{Fregata magnificens}
Regularly seen in coastal areas.

PELICANS: PELECANIDAE
Brown Pelican \textit{Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis} \textbf{CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES}
Commonly seen in coastal areas, and also on a reservoir within Kingston.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS: ARDEIDAE
Great Egret \textit{Ardea alba}
Seen in and around Kingston and Hellshire Hills.

Snowy Egret \textit{Egretta thula}
Seen at Hermitage Dam (Kingston) and also in wetland areas around Hellshire Hills.
Little Blue Heron  
*Egretta caerulea*

Seen at Hermitage Dam (Kingston), and also in wetland areas near Kingston.

**Tricolored Heron**  
*Egretta tricolor*

A few were seen in a wetland area just outside Kingston.

**Reddish Egret**  
*Egretta rufescens*

A single white morph was seen just outside Kingston.

**Cattle Egret**  
*Bubulcus ibis*

Scattered sightings throughout.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Three birds were seen on a Kingston dam.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**  
*Nycticorax violacea*

One was seen in some mangroves at Hellshire Hills, and another was in our resort grounds in Port Antonio.

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

**White Ibis**  
*Eudocimus albus*

One flew by at Hellshire Hills.

**Glossy Ibis**  
*Plegadis falcinellus*

Commonly encountered around the wetlands just outside Kingston on a single day.

**NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE**

**Turkey Vulture**  
*Cathartes aura*

Known locally as “John Crow”; these were a regular, daily site.

**OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE**

**Osprey**  
*Pandion haliaetus ridgwayi*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES

One was seen, with a fish clasped in its talons, at a dam on the outskirts of Kingston.

**HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE**

**Red-tailed Hawk**  
*Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES

Two were seen; one from our chalet in the Blue Mountains, and another along the Ecclesdown Road, near Port Antonio.

**RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE**

**Purple Gallinule**  
*Porphyrio martinicus*

One was seen around a sewage pond near Kingston.

**Common Gallinule**  
*Gallinula galeata cerceris*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES

Half a dozen birds were seen near Kingston on a single morning.

**American Coot**  
*Fulica americana*

Three were seen on a large reservoir on the outskirts of Kingston.
STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURIROSTRIDAE
Black-necked Stilt  *Himantopus mexicanus*
More than twenty birds were seen on a wetland between Hellshire Hills and Kingston.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE
Wilson’s Plover  *Charadrius wilsonia*
A good number were seen on a large shorebird-filled wetland near Kingston.
Semipalmated Plover  *Charadrius semipalmatus*
A few were seen among the Wilson’s Plovers seen near Kingston.
Killdeer  *Charadrius vociferus ternominatus*  CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
A few birds were seen beside a sewage pond just outside Kingston.

JACANAS: JACANIDAE
Northern Jacana  *Jacana spinosa violacea*  CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
One was seen on the return journey from Port Antonio to Kingston.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE
Spotted Sandpiper  *Actitis macularis*
A handful were seen in and around Kingston.
Greater Yellowlegs  *Tringa melanoleuca*
A few were seen on a distant, shorebird-covered, lagoon just outside of Kingston.
Lesser Yellowlegs  *Tringa flavipes*
At least one was seen near Kingston.
Ruddy Turnstone  *Arenaria interpres*
One was seen near Norman Manley International Airport, in Kingston.
Least Sandpiper  *Calidris minutilla*
Several singles were seen in and around Kingston, including near the airport.
White-rumped Sandpiper  *Calidris fuscicollis*
A pair of these long-winged peeps was seen on a large lagoon, just outside of Kingston.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS: LARIIDAE
Laughing Gull  *Leucophaeus atricilla*
Good numbers were seen sitting on some small piers near the airport in Kingston.
Ring-billed Gull  *Larus delawarensis*
One by the airport in Kingston just before leaving Jamaica was a surprise find; a vagrant species which was a Jamaican lifebird for our high listing local guide.
Roseate Tern  *Sterna dougallii*
A single bird was seen in a roost of terns and gulls near Kingston airport, shortly before departure. This was the last bird added for the tour.
Royal Tern  
*Thalasseus maximus*
Good numbers were seen in a tern/gull roost by the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston.

Sandwich Tern  
*Thalasseus sandvicensis*
Small numbers were seen at a tern and gull roost beside Kingston airport.

**PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**

Rock Pigeon  
*Columba livia*
Seen commonly around urban areas.

White-crowned Pigeon  
*Patagioenas leucocephala*
Seen regularly in Kingston (including Hope Gardens), as well as the Ecclesdown Road, near Port Antonio. This handsome pigeon was recorded on all but one day of the trip.

Plain Pigeon  
*Patagioenas inornata exigua*
A mad, last day twitch for this faraway species was planned and executed, once we had racked up all of the endemic species a bit earlier than expected. A single bird flew overhead on the way to roost in the late afternoon.

Ring-tailed Pigeon  
*Patagioenas caribaea*
Good numbers of these large pigeons were seen in the Blue Mountains, with smaller numbers also seen along the Ecclesdown Road, near Port Antonio.

Common Ground-Dove  
*Columbina passerina jamaicensis*
Recorded on four of the days, in small numbers on each day, both in the Blue Mountains and lowlands.

Crested Quail-Dove  
*Geotrygon versicolor*
Known locally as the “Mountain Witch”. This is usually one of the toughest of the endemics to see, and also get a good look at. Not so on this tour; we got prolonged, clear, looks on our first afternoon in the Blue Mountains, when a single bird was seen perched on a low branch for five minutes close to the Starlight Chalet; another was seen very well, if briefer, the next morning near to Section in the same mountains. A very satisfactory showing for the species!

*ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP*

Caribbean Dove  
*Leptotila jamaicensis jamaicensis*
After a couple of lightning speed flyovers at Hellshire Hills, we were pleased to get killer looks at a perched bird near Section in the Blue Mountains later on the tour; the only decent look of the entire tour.

White-winged Dove  
*Zenaida asiatica*
Recorded a number of times, including within Hope Gardens in Kingston, and along the Ecclesdown Road near Port Antonio.

Zenaida Dove  
*Zenaida aurita*
Commonly seen around Kingston, where it is one of the most abundant birds.
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura macroura*  
Just seen at Hellshire Hills, where a handful of birds were seen.

**CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE**

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*  
One was seen very well close to the coastal port of Falmouth on the north coast.

Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo *Coccyzus pluvialis*  
The Jamaican local name is “Old Man Bird”. 4 singles were seen; a first came on the outskirts of Kingston on our first afternoon; another two were seen in the Blue Mountains, including within the garden of our mountain chalet; and a final bird was seen along the Ecclesdown Road.

Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo *Coccyzus vetula*  
Known locally as the “Old Woman Bird”. We enjoyed a good run with this spectacular species, with three separate sightings in the Blue Mountains, including one bird with a lizard clasped in its bill!  
*ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP*

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*  
Regularly recorded at scattered localities throughout.

**BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE**

Barn Owl *Tyto alba furcate*  
One was seen well, both perched and in flight, by a large dam near Kingston on the first night.

**OWLS: STRIGIDAE**

Jamaican Owl *Pseudoscops grammicus*  
We enjoyed a rare tour for this species. During some pre-tour scouting in the Blue Mountains, Sam and Ricardo had found a young bird, which was still present in the same area on the tour, where it was seen on two different nights, when an adult was also seen well too. Another adult was seen roosting on our resort grounds in Port Antonio on two different days. Therefore, this species was seen on 4 different days of the tour; a good run!  
*ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP*

**POTOOS: NYCTIBIDAE**

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis jamaicensis*  
A pair was seen well one night near Silver Hill Gap, in the Blue Mountains.

**SWIFTS: APODIDAE**

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger niger*  
A small flock was seen over Hermitage Dam, near Kingston on our first evening.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris pallidifrons*  
Seen on two different occasions, including once in the Blue Mountains.
Antillean Palm-Swift       *Tachornis phoenicobia*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
A dozen or more birds were seen very well at a nesting site within a small shopping mall in Kingston.

**HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE**

Jamaican Mango         *Anthracothorax mango*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
Seen on two different days of the tour; at Hellshire Hills, and also in Port Antonio.

Vervain Hummingbird      *Mellisuga minima minima*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
*Known in Jamaica as the “Jamaican Doctorbird”.* This is the one of the smallest birds on Earth; second only to the Bee Hummingbird of Cuba. Seen on at least three days, in Hope Gardens, in a garden in the Blue Mountains, and lastly, on the Ecclesdown Road.

Streamertail (Red-billed)  *Trochilus polytmus polytmus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
*Locally known as “Doctor Bird”, this is the national bird of Jamaica. Seen numerous times, especially in the Blue Mountains, where they are, and were, especially abundant. Our best views came at the feeders at our mountain chalet, where several full adult males visited daily. NB. Under Clements taxonomy Red-billed and Black-billed Streamertails are lumped under one species, while on the IOC list they are considered distinct, endemic, species.*  
*ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP*

Streamertail (Black-billed)  *Trochilus polytmusscitulus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/SUBSPECIES
This form (under Clements), or species (under IOC), is confined to the northeast of the island. We saw it along the Ecclesdown Road, although got our best looks of a superb male in a hotel garden in Port Antonio.

**TODIES: TODIDAE**

Jamaican Tody          *Todus todus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
*Also locally known as the “Robin Red Brest” or “Rasta Bird”. A fantastically abundant, and tame, bird, recorded on all but one day of the tour.*  
*ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP*

**KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE**

Belted Kingfisher      *Megaceryle alcyon*
2 birds were seen; one near Kingston, and another on the journey north to Port Antonio.

**WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**

Jamaican Woodpecker      *Melenerpes radiolatus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
A common and striking endemic species, seen on five of the six days of the tour.
FALCON & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE
American Kestrel  
*Falco sparverius dominicensis*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
Regularly recorded at multiple sites.
Merlin  
*Falco columbarius*
A single bird was seen perched along the Ecclesdown Road.

NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE
Black-billed Parrot  
*Amazona agilis*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
The Ecclesdown Road offered our only chance of finding this local species; on our second visit there we enjoyed prolonged looks at half a dozen or so perched birds.
Yellow-billed Parrot  
*Amazona collaria*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
One was seen very well perched in Hope Gardens in Kingston, a stronghold for the species. Others were also seen, both perched and in flight, along the Ecclesdown Road.
Olive-throated (Jamaican) Parakeet  
*Eupsittula nana*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
NB. A paper has recently been published splitting this endemic form from the rest, making it an endemic species; this will most likely be followed in the next Clements/e-Bird update due in late 2015. One was seen well perched in Hope Gardens in Kingston, and others were seen along the Ecclesdown Road, near Port Antonio.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE
Jamaican Elaenia  
*Myiopagis cotta*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
A pair was seen late one afternoon near Section in the Blue Mountains.
Greater Antillean Elaenia  
*Elaenia fallax fallax*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
This bird can be hard to find on this tour, outside of their breeding season, when they are less vocal, although we managed to track a single bird down in the Blue Mountains.
Jamaican Pewee  
*Contopus pallidus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
One of the most conspicuous endemics; seen repeatedly in the Blue Mountains.
Sad Flycatcher  
*Myiarchus barbirostris*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
Known in Jamaica as “Little Tom Fool”. Seen on several occasions in the Blue Mountains, including a pair that came to pick insects off the side of our chalet in the early morning; another pair was seen on the Ecclesdown Road.
Rufous-tailed Flycatcher  
*Myiarchus validus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
Known locally as “Big Tom Fool”. Seen on three occasions; 1 was seen in our chalet garden in the Blue Mountains, with another individual also seen in that area too; a final sighting came on the Ecclesdown Road.
Stolid Flycatcher  
*Myiarchus stolidus stolidus*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
Known locally as “Tom Fool”. Only recorded at Hellshire Hills, where a handful was seen.
Gray Kingbird  
*Tyrannus dominicensis*
This austral migrant had just recently arrived from their wintering grounds to breed; birds were seen in Hope Gardens in Kingston, and also in Port Antonio.

Loggerhead Kingbird  
*Tyrannus caudifasciatus jamaicensis*
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
A very common and conspicuous bird in Jamaica; recorded daily throughout.

**TITRAS & BECARDS: TITRIDA**

Jamaican Becard  
*Pachyramphus niger*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
Two pairs were seen in the Blue Mountains, as well as several of their large hanging nests.

**VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABBLERS & ERPORNIS: VIREONIDA**

Jamaica Vireo  
*Vireo modestus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
The more abundant of the two endemic vireos; one was seen extremely well at Hellshire Hills on our first morning, and another was seen in the Blue Mountains. They were regularly heard throughout.

Blue Mountain Vireo  
*Vireo osburni*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
In spite of being scarcer and less conspicuous (by voice at least) than the former species, we managed to see this species on three separate occasions, all in the Blue Mountains.

Black-whiskered Vireo  
*Vireo altiloquus*
Also known locally as “John Chewit”, in relation to its call. Heard widely throughout the tour, with a few seen, in the Blue Mountains and on the Ecclesdown Road.

**CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVID**

Jamaican Crow  
*Corvus jamaicensis*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES
Known locally as “Jabbering Crow”. As the species is not known from the Blue Mountains, this was a key target bird for our time on the Ecclesdown Road; we saw several of them on both of our visits to the site. This is the only crow on Jamaica.

**SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDA**

Cave Swallow  
*Petrochelidon fulva poeciloma*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
A flock of twenty or so was seen while watching the tropicbirds at Happy Grove, and others were seen on the journey between Port Antonio and Kingston.

**THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDA**

Rufous-throated Solitaire  
*Myadestes genibarbis solitarius*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
The beautiful call of this songster is the classic soundtrack of the Blue Mountains, where we heard many, and got great looks at one bird.
White-eyed Thrush  *Turdus jamaicensis*  JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES

Known locally as “Glass Eye” “Shine Eye”. Only seen well on one morning in the Blue Mountains, where up to four different birds were observed visiting a fruiting tree, with White-chinned Thrushes.

White-chinned Thrush  *Turdus aurantius*  JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES

Known locally as “Hopping Dick”. The common thrush in Jamaica, which was frequently seen hopping along the roads, and recorded almost every day.

**MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: MIMIDAE**

Gray Catbird  *Dumetella carolinensis*

One of these uncommon migrants was seen near Falmouth, as part of our Plain Pigeon twitch!

Bahama Mockingbird  *Mimus gundlachii hillii*  CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES

Known locally as “Spanish Nightingale”. This rare and local subspecies has just two main populations in Jamaica; we visited one of the main sites, Hellshire Hills, and had little trouble in finding several singing individuals, and at least five birds were seen.

Northern Mockingbird  *Mimus polyglottos orpheus*  CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES

Known locally as “Nightingale”. Commonly encountered throughout.

**STARLINGS: STURNIDAE**

European Starling  *Sturnus vulgaris*

This introduced species was seen in Hope Gardens in Kingston.

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE**

Worm-eating Warbler  *Helmitheros vermivorum*

One was seen in the Blue Mountains.

Louisiana Waterthrush  *Parkesia motacilla*

One was seen as we were successfully searching for Crested Quail-Dove in the Blue Mountains.

Common Yellowthroat  *Geothlypis trichas*

One was seen in the Blue Mountains, and another was seen at Ecclesdown Road.

Arrowhead Warbler  *Setophaga pharetra*  JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES

Five birds were seen on one day in the Blue Mountains, with another four seen in the Section area of the mountains the next day; a final bird, a single, was seen at Ecclesdown Road.

American Redstart  *Setophaga ruticilla*

Scattered sightings throughout; this is one of the most abundant wintering warblers in Jamaica.

Cape May Warbler  *Setophaga tigrina*

A male was seen within the grounds of our Port Antonio resort, and another (a female) was seen from our restaurant table in Kingston!

Northern Parula  *Setophaga Americana*

Seen on four different days of the tour, including within Kingston and in the Blue Mountains.
Yellow Warbler  *Setophaga petechial*  
A handful of these warblers were seen at Hellshire Hills.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**  *Setophaga caerulescens*  
One of the most abundant wintering warblers in Jamaica; a few were seen daily.

**Palm Warbler**  *Setophaga palmarum*  
One was seen in Hope Gardens in Kingston.

**Yellow-throated Warbler**  *Setophaga dominica*  
Rick spotted one of these dashing warblers at Hermitage Dam.

**Prairie Warbler**  *Setophaga discolor*  
An abundant warbler in Jamaica, a few were seen each day, with the best views coming of a bird that visited the mountain feeders at our chalet in the Blue Mountains.

**TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE**

**Bananaquit**  *Coereba flaveola flaveola*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES  
Bananaquit is ubiquitous in Jamaica and was seen regularly throughout.

**Yellow-faced Grassquit**  *Tiaris olivaceus olivaceus*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES  
A single male visited the sugar feeders at our chalet in the Blue Mountains, on three separate days.

**Black-faced Grassquit**  *Tiaris bicolor marchii*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES  
Seen in Kingston (from our restaurant table over lunch!), and also several times in the Blue Mountains.

**Orangequit**  *Euneornis campestris*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES  
A genus, as well as a species, that is unique to Jamaica. This is a common species, encountered daily.

**Greater Antillean Bullfinch**  *Loxigilla violacea ruficollis*  
CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES  
Seen at least three times while we were in the Blue Mountains.

**Yellow-shouldered Grassquit**  *Loxipasser anoxanthus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES  
A popular bird; a male was seen at length and well near Section in the Blue Mountains; and another was seen poorly, and briefly at Hellshire Hills.

**Jamaican Spindalis**  *Spindalis nigriceps*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES  
This gaudy and stunning tanager was regularly encountered throughout the tour.

**TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE**

**Jamaican Blackbird**  *Nesopsar nigerrimus*  
JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES  
An odd bird, from not only an endemic species, but genus too. It is usually found singly, foraging within bromeliads in the rainforest, which is exactly how we saw our single bird, in the Blue Mountains.

**Great-tailed Grackle**  *Quiscalus mexicanus*  
This species has recently (possibly naturally) moved into Jamaica, and was seen around Kingston airport, which is currently the only population in the country.
Greater Antillean Grackle  
*Quiscalus niger crassirostris*

**CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES**

Encountered regularly throughout, seen especially well in Hope Gardens and in our Port Antonio resort, where they were seen displaying on the beach.

Shiny Cowbird  
*Molothrus bonariensis*

Just seen twice on the tour, including one near Kingston.

Jamaican Oriole  
*Icterus leucoperyx leucoperyx*

**CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC SPECIES/JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES**

Seen on five of six days of the tour, with point blank views being had at our mountain chalet in the Blue Mountains, where a pair dropped in to the feeders on several occasions.

**FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE**

Jamaican Euphonia  
*Euphonia Jamaica*

**JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES**

First seen near Hermitage Dam, on the outskirts of Kingston, and then regularly during our stay in the Blue Mountains.

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE**

House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*

This introduced species was seen at Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston.

**WEAVERS & ALLIES: PLOCEIDAE**

Yellow-crowned Bishop  
*Euplectes afer*

One or two of this introduced African species were seen briefly around a sewage pond near Kingston.

**OTHERS:**

American Crocodile  
*Crocodylus acutus*

A couple of enormous individuals were seen in a sewage pond near Kingston.

Jamaican Giant Anole  
*Anolis garmani*

One was seen in the Blue Mountains.

Jamaican Turquoise Anole  
*Anolis graham*

One was seen in Port Antonio.