



A **Tropical Birding** custom tour.

CARIBBEAN CLASSIC – Puerto Rico, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic), & Jamaica

9th - 30th March 2024



Four species of Tody featured on this three-island tour of the Caribbean, this **Jamaican Tody**, plus **Puerto Rican Tody** and both **Broad-billed and Narrow-billed Tody** on the island of *Hispaniola* (Sam Woods).

Guided by Sam Woods

Photos by the guide Sam Woods, and participants Benny Baeten & Sue Walsh.

Sam's Flickr Album of Tour Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/samwoodsbirding/albums/72177720315952998/>

INTRODUCTION:

This custom tour was put together for a group of largely well-traveled veterans of world birding, all of whom had only limited experience in the Caribbean. There are so many Caribbean endemics, and island endemics in this part of the world that even for “big” world listers, this 3-island tour offered plentiful lifebirds. We managed to record a list of **218 species**, which included **94 Caribbean specialty birds** being seen. Within this group, **80 single island endemics** were seen (**20 on Puerto Rico, 28 on Jamaica, and 32 on Hispaniola**). In addition to these marquee birds, outside of the endemics there were plenty of other target birds too, meaning that some people who were new to this region managed to get more than 100 lifebirds. Some of the other target species seen, which are not considered endemics, were **Masked Duck, Scaly-naped and White-crowned Pigeons, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Zenaida Dove, Northern Potoo, White-tailed Tropicbird, nesting Magnificent Frigatebirds, Caribbean Martin, Caribbean Elaenia, Lesser Antillean Pewee, Gray Kingbird, Peary-eyed Thrasher, Bicknell’s Thrush, and Black-whiskered Vireo**, in addition to a good size flock of **American Flamingos** during an enjoyable boat trip on Hispaniola. There were also some landmarks reached on the trip for some of the group, with a **Puerto Rican Woodpecker** on day 1 being Judith’s 7000th species, and a **Green Mango** on the same day being Marilyn’s 7500th species, and the **White-fronted Quail-Dove** on Hispaniola being Sue L’s 6000th bird.



PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE: This **Ashy-faced Owl** at Paraiso Cano Hondo was one of the birds of the entire tour (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

All-in-all it was a great tip, with almost all of the target species being seen, and seen well by most (if not all) of the group. This included no fewer than **SIX bird families that are endemic to the Caribbean (Todies and Spindalises seen on all 3 islands, Palmchat, Chat-Tanagers, Hispaniolan Tanagers on Hispaniola, and Puerto Rican Tanager on Puerto Rico)**. Among the many notable birds were **11 species of Caribbean specialty hummingbirds** (5 species on Puerto Rico, 4 species on Jamaica, and 3 species on Hispaniola-one of these was seen on two islands), **6 endemic parrot species** (including the exceedingly rare **Puerto Rican Parrot** that numbers under 50 birds), **5 endemic cuckoos** (including a striking lizard cuckoo on each island and the rare **Bay-breasted Cuckoo** in Hispaniola), **4 species of Tody** (Puerto Rican, Broad-billed, Narrow-billed and Jamaican Todies), **4 species of Quail-Dove** (Key West, Ruddy, White-fronted and Crested Quail-Doves), **4 species of endemic woodpecker**, **3 gorgeous Spindalis species**, regular **Palmchats** (a monotypic bird family) around palms in the Dominican Republic, **Hispaniolan Trogon, Golden Swallow, Hispaniolan Crossbill, Elfin Woods-warbler**, and the very rare **Ridgway's Hawk** also on Hispaniola, and a nice assortment of endemic nightbirds (**Puerto Rican Owl** and **Nightjar** on that island, **Least Pauraque** and **Ashy-faced Owl** (photo page 2) on Hispaniola, and daytime **Northern Potoos** and nighttime **Jamaican Owls** on Jamaica). And that is not to mention the excellent shorebirding, wetland birding and coastal birds that accompanied the tour too, as we sampled three very different islands in terms of culture, birding and character.



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: We got our best photos, of **Puerto Rican Tody** on our final morning there (*Sam Woods*)

TOUR SUMMARY:

PART I: PUERTO RICO

Day 1 (of birding): 10th March 2024 – San Juan, Barceloneta & Cambalache State Forest (PUERTO RICO).



Adelaide's Warblers were common by voice on *Puerto Rico*.

This one was photographed in *Barceloneta* in the north of the island (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

The first birding of the tour opened with a visit to a blooming tree close to our airport hotel in Puerto Rico's capital, *San Juan*, which was hosting a **Green-throated Carib** at the time. Our first **Pearly-eyed Thrasher** also appeared there, and some **Monk Parakeets** flew over too. Next up, we visited the *Barceloneta* area, which was very productive, with first a female **Puerto Rican Mango** spotted nesting on a roadside wire that was soon followed by a very confiding **Adelaide's Warbler** (photo above). Our first **Green Mango** also featured there, with a heady morning for *hummingbirds* with three specialty species recorded during this opening spell.

Other notable birds included our first **Puerto Rican Woodpecker**, **Puerto Rican Flycatchers**, **Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo**, and a pair of **Puerto Rican Orioles**. We moved on to *Manati*, taking lunch there and checking into our hotel after an unwanted delay to this. We finished the day at *Cambalache State Forest*, with some late afternoon birding and our first nightbirding of the tour. The late afternoon birding was something of a disappointment, with little seen save for our first showing from a *Puerto Rican Tody*, which performed considerably better several times later on the tour. However, the nightbirding was brilliant, with our first attempt at **Puerto Rican Owl** paying off swiftly!

Day 2: 11th March 2024 – Rio Abajo State Forest, Los Merenderos de Guajataca & Guanica State Forest (PUERTO RICO).

Two of the islands on this Caribbean tour offered us critically endangered species, and that is what was our focus on our second morning, as we visited *Rio Abajo State Forest* for the first of these. We spent most of the morning at a wonderful clearing that brought us a siege of endemics, with the first of these being the most significant, **Puerto Rican Parrot** (photo below), the endangered species we were most interested in seeing. It is said to number only 50 mature individuals, almost all of which are limited to this critical protected area. We, therefore, managed to see 10% of the population during our morning visit to the area! We were rooted to this clearing for hours, as various birds appeared right on cue, with other noteworthy species including **Puerto Rican Euphonia**, **Puerto Rican Vireo**, the local form of **Loggerhead Kingbird**, and **Lesser Antillean Pewee**.



The critically endangered **Puerto Rican Parrot** has been brought back from the very brink of extinction. This was photographed at *Rio Abajo State Forest*, the only remaining reliable site to see the species, which only numbers only around 50 mature birds (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

After lunch near the town of *Terranova*, we walked from the café to the clifftop, to view half dozen **White-tailed Tropicbirds** cruising around the coastline. This was followed by a relatively long drive to the southwest corner of the island and our tropical resort base for the next 3 nights, near the town of *Guanica*. The habitat changed markedly from morning to afternoon. In the morning, we had been in tropical lowland rainforest for the *parrots*, although as we entered the southwest, we witnessed a much drier, deciduous woodland and scrub dominating the landscape. This habitat hosts the endemic **Puerto Rican Nightjar**, and we walked from our lavish resort to some scrubby hillsides where we had some good views of this goatsucker as it hovered overhead to end another quality day in the Caribbean.



A large gathering of **White-cheeked Pintails** was seen at a small lake in *Combate* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

Day 3: 12th March 2024 – Maricao State Forest, Combate & Laguna Cartagena (PUERTO RICO).

We started the day by driving up into the mountains north of *Guanica*; we visited *Maricao State Forest* located within the main mountain range on the island, the *Cordillera Central*. There were some specific avian targets in mind, for which this offered our best chance. Notably, the local **Elfin-woods Warbler**, which could potentially be tricky. However, after meeting a couple of roaming birders there, they soon put us onto a pair of them nearby. We hurried there and quickly found the same pair quietly foraging by the roadside precisely where they'd indicated. We were flushed with success, and then, not long after we found the other. Major target species there, **Puerto Rican Tanager**, several of which featured over the next few hours. This was one of the main specialties of the tour, being a monotypic, island endemic, bird family.

Pink blossoms in the area also attracted two species of endemic hummingbird, **Green Mango**, which is more often found at higher altitudes on the island, as well as a few **Puerto Rican Emeralds** too. The views of **Puerto Rican Vireo** we had there also represented an upgrade on our earlier views at *Rio Abajo*. Following all of this, we were in great shape, with all of our possible targets found, and so we headed south, and returned into the dry deciduous scrub of the southwest coast. We did some birding around the town of *Combate*, where we had been hoping to find one of the *Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds* that had been seen there in recent weeks. We could not find any birds within the small neighbourhood we understood they had been recorded visiting feeders, and furthermore, could not find any feeders either! However, a small lake was packed with waterbirds, with 70 **Stilt Sandpipers**, hundreds of **White-cheeked Pintails** (photo page 6), 100 **Blue-winged Teals**, and more than 200 **Black-necked Stilts**. A few **Lesser Scaups**, a rarity on *Puerto Rico*, were also located there, part of a dwindling, though long staying, group that had been seen in the area. We had lunch at a pizza place nearby, where a couple of **Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds** flew over but were not seen long or well by all.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed a leisurely visit to *Laguna Cartagena* (photo below). The top sightings there were a group of **Masked Ducks** found hiding in the floating vegetation by *Merilyn*, and a family of **West Indian Whistling-Ducks** that comprised of at least 8 new-born chicks. Other wetland highlights included a **Northern Shoveler**, more than 70 **Ring-necked Ducks**, double figures of **Purple Gallinules**, and a handful of **Least Bitterns** and **Glossy Ibis**, as well as an unexpected group of flyover **White Ibis**.



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: Sunset at *Reserva Natural Laguna Cartagena* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

Day 4: 13th March 2024 – La Parguera, Susua State Forest & Laguna Cartagena (PUERTO RICO).

On this day we mixed it up again, starting at a lowland, coastal mangrove site, *La Parguera*, then visiting a forested hill site (*Susua State Forest*), before finishing again by visiting a different part of *Laguna Cartagena*. We chose to visit *La Parguera* as this town is at the center of the population of the endangered “Mariquita”, **Yellow-shouldered Blackbird**. The *blackbirds* roost in the coastal mangroves in the area, and so we hoped to some of them emerging from there, and while a couple were seen, the views were still not what we had been hoping for. However, the **Clapper Rails** (photo below), performed fantastically in that area, stomping around on the mud, and approaching very close to us. Some half-a-dozen rails were seen at this one site. **Caribbean Martins**, **Yellow Warblers**, and **White-crowned Pigeons** also made appearances there too.



Clapper Rails were very cooperative beside the mangroves in the town of *La Parguera* (Sam Woods)

We followed this with a visit to the forested hills of *Susua State Forest* seeing a few **Puerto Rican Tody**, a single **Puerto Rican Euphonia**, another **Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo**, and several more **Adelaide’s Warblers**. The final few hours of the day were spent back at *Laguna Cartagena*, although we visited the area by the tower this time. Highlights there included more **Ring-necked Ducks**, a lonely **Northern Shoveler**, a single **Merlin** on the wing, and several **Purple Gallinules**, **Green Herons**, and **Glossy Ibises** to finish off the day, although no sign of the rarely seen *Yellow-breasted Crake* we had been hoping for!

Day 5: 14th March 2024 – Susua State Forest, Combate, Cabo Rojo, Boqueron NWR & Central Aguirre (PUERTO RICO).

The day started with a drive into *Susua State Forest*, where we were hoping to track down a **Key West Quail-Dove** (photo below). During our previous day's visit, the main gate was closed, and we needed to walk a considerable distance in. However, this morning we were greeted a friendly park guard, who opened the gate for us, and gestured us on, so we drove down to the end of the road, where the best forest can be found. On arrival, several *quail-doves* were calling close to the clearing, and we tentatively ventured into the forest, fearing we may flush it as we did so, as it sounded so, so close. However, the bird remained rooted to the spot. The only problem was that we could not locate the spot! We moved around a little and inadvertently flushed the quail-dove from its high perch, which then allowed Judith to find it when it landed in another, much more convenient place. We were then all able to watch it calling, dozing, and preening in full view of all of us, at length! Quite literally, we could not have had better views.



This **Key West Quail-Dove** gave us all great looks at *Susua State Forest* (Sam Wood/Tropical Birding Tours)

This was not the only highlight at *Susua* though, as we also enjoyed some perched views of some noisy **White-winged Parakeets** and got our first looks at a **Mangrove Cuckoo** by the visitor center. This gave us time before lunch to visit Cabo Rojo NWR, mainly in search of shorebirds.

However, we started off by the tower where a few **Caribbean Elaenias** were new for us, and we had long looks at a male **Puerto Rican Mango** (photo below) perched beside there too.



Male **Puerto Rican Mango** was found perched beside the tower at *Cabo Rojo NWR* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

A good selection of *shorebirds* were also found, including more than 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Sanderlings**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Willet**, and **Whimbrel**. We took lunch at a new restaurant close to the salt flats and then drove east to *Central Aguirre*, where a single tree that was loaded with pink flowers attracted first a **Green-throated Carib** (only one of two seen on the tour), and single male of the hoped for **Antillean Crested Hummingbird**. In the evening, we arrived at *Fajardo* for our final two nights on the island.

Day 6: 15th March 2024 – El Yunque National Forest & Borinquen (PUERTO RICO).

A rainy morning greeted us at *El Yunque National Forest*. However, we still enjoyed some good birds, including the most confiding **Puerto Rican Tanagers** (photo page 11) of the tour. Several **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were heard in full song, leading us to see several of them as they emerged on to the rain-soaked road to feed. These were our only sightings of the species on the tour. Another **Green Mango** was found too, and we also enjoyed our best looks at several male **Puerto Rican Spindalis** (photo page 11), and the seemingly always cooperative **Pearly-eyed Thrasher** (photo page 12). After a relaxed morning birding this montane cloud forest, we visited *Borinquen* to the south of *Fajardo*, a known stake out for *Plain Pigeon*, a scarce Caribbean species for which we only had a few possible sites on the tour. With us ahead of the game, with all of the Puerto Rican endemics already seen, we had made time to insert this in the schedule. We arrived in late afternoon, with rain still

present. However, it was soon apparent that this area was full of pigeons, and the rain was not perturbing them one bit. The vast majority of the pigeons were **Scaly-naped Pigeons**, although **White-winged** and **Zenaida Doves** were present in smaller numbers too. After an hour of scouring all the various pigeons with no success a large pigeon landed in a bamboo stand beside us, and we were very soon treated to great looks at a perched **Plain Pigeon**, which was our cue to leave as rain started to lash down once more, in spite of our visit being timed for the driest season of the year!



PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: [Puerto Rican Tanager](#), (TOP) & [Puerto Rican Spindalis](#) *El Yunque National Forest* (Sam Woods)



[Pearly-eyed Thrashers](#) were confiding at many sites on *Puerto Rico*, including in our resort bar in *Guanica*! (Sam Woods)

Day 7: 16th March 2024 – Ceiba to San Juan (PUERTO RICO); fly to the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

The final morning of the tour held no particular targets, as we had seen all of these by then, although we enjoyed some good birding within some coastal scrub near *Ceiba*. We enjoyed our best photos yet of [Puerto Rican Tody](#) (photo page 3), saw several more **Mangrove Cuckoos**, and picked up our only sighting of **Northern Waterthrush** of the entire tour within the mangroves there. We had been hoping for some shorebirds, as some plovers were new for some of the *Australian* birders on the tour, and we found one of these, **Wilson's Plover**, along **Black-billed and Semipalmated Plovers** too. After lunch near *Fajardo*, we drove west to *Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport* in *San Juan*, flying from there to *Santo Domingo*, on the island of *Hispaniola*, arriving in the evening there, with no time to bird that day.

PART II: HISPANIOLA (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)

Palmchats were omnipresent on *Hispaniola*, present wherever we found palm trees. This one was photographed on our first morning there, at the *Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Day 8: 17th March 2024 – Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens to Paraiso Cano Hondo (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

We awoke with a fizz of excitement on being on a completely new Caribbean island with plenty of new endemic birds in play. The island of *Hispaniola* has more than 30 endemic birds and we quickly started adding them as we visited the wonderful botanical gardens, only a short drive from our hotel in the scenic colonial district of the country capital. First to show up was **Hispaniolan Parakeets**, which were both very vocal and very visible in the early morning there, (though not later on). Second to fall was one of the island's most wanted birds and also one of the most ubiquitous, **Palmchat** (photo above), a monotypic bird family confined to the island. We got some crackerjack looks at them as they fed low in some trees in a largely deserted gardens at this hour. Then we started to see one of many, many **Hispaniolan Woodpeckers** (photo next page), which are one of the most abundant and vocal species on the island, dozens of which featured each and every day at all elevations. Some of these visiting the vivid pink flowers of a gaudy *Shaving Brush Tree* were particularly memorable. Plentiful **Antillean Palm-Swifts** were also circling above their nesting palms near the park entrance too. A narrow channel held a pair of **West Indian Whistling-Ducks** that shared the area with several **Least Grebes**. Our first **Stolid Flycatchers**, a species we were to see regularly in the *Dominican Republic*, then again later on *Jamaica*, also featured there.



Hispaniolan Woodpecker was one of the most abundant birds on the island. This one was photographed within the smashing *Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

After we finished in the park, we set off for the northeast of the island, as we travelled to *Cano Hondo*, taking lunch at a restaurant enroute. We checked in to our odd hotel, set within a limestone cliff, in the mid-afternoon, spending the late afternoon walking nearby in search of the rare *Ridgway's Hawk*. While we did not score the rare raptor we were ultimately seeking, we did pick up a fine **Antillean Piculet** (photo next page), found our first **Broad-billed Tody**, and also noted several **Hispaniolan Mangos**, making our afternoon worthwhile all the same. That evening, we were treated to excellent views of the endemic **Ashy-faced Owl** (photo next page), at the back of our hotel, a species we had expected to give us considerably more trouble!

PHOTOS NEXT PAGE: Ashy-faced Owl, *Altos Cano Hondo* (TOP)
& **Antillean Piculet**, *Paraiso Cano Hondo* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)



Day 9: 18th March 2024 – Paraiso Cano Hondo to Santo Domingo (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

Our morning agenda was clear; find the rare *Ridgway's Hawk*, which often nests in the area at this time of year. We positioned ourselves where we could look over the forested hills for our quarry, pre-breakfast, and surveyed the surrounding area. The oddly quiet **Hispaniolan Pewee** was picked up in the area, and we got some absolutely cracking looks at another **Broad-billed Tody** (photo below), there too, though there was no sign of our main target before we returned to the lodge for breakfast.



Broad-billed Tody was our second Tody of the tour, with four species seen during this three island tour. This one was photographed at *Paraiso Cano Hondo* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

After breakfast, we changed locations, but still struggled to locate the hawk at another forest lookout. Then, approaching lunchtime, a distant raptor was picked up by *Sam*, which was the one we wanted: *Ridgway's Hawk*. We found it perched a couple of times though the views were more distant than we would have liked. Then, we had an odd bit of luck. A military group carrying out an exercise in the area passed by, which were being led by another local park guide, who informed us of a nesting area for the hawk. He indicated they were nesting close to where we had seen it and gave us instructions on how to find them at closer quarters.

Several people were happy with their views and so left for lunch, while some of us wanted to see if we could upgrade what we had seen. *Sam* and *Yovanny* went ahead and were able to locate the palm that the birds were nesting in and also locate the pair of **Ridgway's Hawks** (photo below), one of which was hunkered on the nest and the other perched nearby. They returned to the group and were able to get much better scope looks of the sentinel bird that was keeping an eye out from a neighbouring tree. We lunched a little later than planned but in a much better place than we had been over breakfast; we had managed to find our two main targets in the area (*Ashy-faced Owl* and *Ridgway's Hawk*), and so were able to enjoy a more relaxed lunch before we returned to *Santo Domingo* in the afternoon.



The rare **Ridgway's Hawk** numbers only just over 300 mature individuals, though has been increasingly steadily in recent years due to some concerted conservation efforts by the Peregrine Fund (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

Day 10: 19th March 2024 – Salinas de Bani (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

This was largely a travel day, covering the vast distance west towards the *Sierra de Bahoruco*, which was where the majority of the endemics could be found. However, we did add the endemic **Hispaniolan Oriole** during the morning, and also spotted a **Cape May Warbler** and a **Black-crowned Palm-Tanager**, and also had a good number of wetland birds on the *Salinas*. This included some white morph **Reddish Egrets**, which were a new species for some of the non-American based members of the group. In the evening we arrived in Pedernales,

our gateway into the eastern *Sierra de Bahoruco* the next day...

**Day 11: 20th March 2024 – The Alcoa Road, La Charca Sierra de Bahoruco & El Aceitillar – Southern Sierra de Bahoruco - (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).**

An early start was made to try and get a *Hispaniolan Nightjar* before daybreak, and while we managed to hear one, we did do any better than that before dawn. However, we had a fantastic morning in this area of native pine forest. *Parrots* were noisy and conspicuous along the *Alcoa Road*, where we had some nice perched views at **Hispaniolan Parrots**, and got further looks at **Hispaniolan Parakeets** as they flew overhead in flocks. Not long after dawn we heard the distinctive calls of a **Hispaniolan Trogon** (photos next page) and walked into the pines to get some superb looks at this beautiful island endemic.

Photos: Hispaniolan Palm Crow (LEFT) El Aceitillar & Hispaniolan Trogon Alcoa Road (NEXT PAGE)



However, the best sighting of the morning was arguably the group of very confiding **Hispaniolan Crossbills** (photo below), that came in to drink at a local bird bath and posed extensively for photos in the surrounding pine trees. A particularly approachable group of vociferous **Hispaniolan Palm Crows** were also in the same area. *Benny* also found our first **Green-tailed Warbler** (actually within the *Hispaniolan Tanager* family, which is endemic to the island). **Pine Warblers** were also a welcome addition within the native pines, which held a goodly number of *American Wood Warblers*, with 8 species recorded, also including **Ovenbird**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Palm**, and **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. However, we failed to locate any *Golden Swallows* in the blue skies overhead during a very enjoyable time in this area.



Male **Hispaniolan Crossbill** *El Aceitillar* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

Day 12: 21st March 2024 – La Charca Sierra de Bahoruco & Laguna Olviedo - (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

We decided to return to the *Southern Sierra de Bahoruco* on this morning, mainly to try and find a *Golden Swallow*. On this front we were frustrated. Plentiful **Caribbean Martins** were hawking insects on a bright clear morning there, though no other *hirundines* were seen. However, we had another good morning there, with some great looks at **Hispaniolan Spindalises** there, our first **Narrow-billed Tody** on a *two-tody* morning with more **Broad-billed Tody** seen too.

Greater Antillean Elaenia was new for us there, and the various island forms may well represent distinct forms at the species level, and so we ensured we also saw this species on Jamaica too, in case they decide to split them at a later stage. **Hispaniolan Emerald**, **Hispaniolan Mango**, **Hispaniolan Parakeet**, **Hispaniolan Parrot**, and **Green-tailed Warbler** were all also seen again before we retired for lunch near *Laguna Olviedo*, where we took a boat trip later that day. However, the most unusual sighting of the day came when Judith spotted a **Northern Harrier** gliding overhead, which was seen by all, and was an unexpected new bird for some of the Australians in the group.

Our afternoon boat trip on *Laguna Olviedo* was very enjoyable, watching nesting **Magnificent Frigatebirds**, **Snowy and Great Egrets**, and **White Ibis** (photo below), in full breeding refinery. A good number of ducks also featured there too, including **American Wigeons**, and **Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals**. We got back to our *Juan Esteban* hotel to find that *Benny* had located a **Hispaniolan Oriole** nest in the garden, which repeatedly came into its chosen palm tree, to feed its chicks during the late afternoon.



The nesting **White Ibis** in *Laguna Olviedo* at this time of year were spectacular! (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

Day 13: 22nd March 2024 – Cachote & Rabo de Gato (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

2 **White-fronted Quail-Doves** (ABOVE) and 5 **Ruddy Quail-Doves** (PHOTO NEXT PAGE) visited a forest feeding area in Cachote (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

We started out early, this time swapping our van for a series of 4-wheel drive vehicles in order to visit *Cachote*, which is only accessible via a rough, unpaved road. Our main quarry there was the very local **Eastern Chat-Tanager**. From a two species family that is endemic to the island of *Hispaniola*, the *Chat-Tanagers* are both notoriously difficult birds to see well, being both shy and skulking, typically preferring to call from within dense vegetation. They are locally common though, so hearing one was not difficult, and at the second territory we tried with local guide *Ramon*, we scored, when one came in close and landed on an open branch for a short time, before quickly melting back into the understory. We tried to upgrade these looks on multiple occasions over the course of the morning, but this was the only view we were to get, when more than half of the group managed to see the bird. In spite of some inevitable frustrating moments with this infamously tricky species, we had a great morning on site, with a number of other birds making the trip very worthwhile. The morning soundtrack was definitely the haunting, fluty notes of the **Rufous-throated Solitaire**, which we managed to locate early on.

At around 9am in the morning *Ramon* led us into the forest while intriguingly holding a bag of corn. He knew that one of our main targets was the *White-fronted Quail-Dove*, and so we were all rather excited as to what this bag of corn might mean for that. We walked a narrow forest trail to a certain point, when *Ramon* called to his local roosters, and liberally scattered a considerable amount of corn on the trail. Immediately, his domestic roosters (raised for cock-fighting) came charging in to feast on the grain. Not long later, his “herd” of chickens were satisfied, and left the corn alone, disappearing off into the forest once more. This was the cue for the next visitors, which turned out to be no fewer than five different **Ruddy Quail-Doves** (photo below)!



These too, also returned into the forest once they had had their fill of the food. We waited impatiently for the main attraction, and after getting several brief glimpses of a nervy bird, we decided to back off from the food a little, which saw us rewarded when two different **White-fronted Quail-Doves** (photo page 22), visited the feeding site, one of which even remained in full view on the trail while it preened in front of us! For the last major addition of the morning, *Ramon* led us into a clearing where some of the upper branches of the trees were cloaked in mistletoe. Here, we found a pair of **Hispaniolan Euphonias** to cap off a good morning on site.

PHOTO NEXT PAGE: **Narrow-billed Tody** was seen at higher elevations on *Hispaniola* than **Broad-billed Tody**. This one was photographed at the highest site of the tour *Zapoten* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

We returned to our hotel in *Juan Esteban* for lunch, to reconnect with our van, and to check out. In the afternoon, we drove to *Duverge*, from where we visited the famous *Rabo de Gato* trail near the town of *Puerto Escondido*. This turned out to be an inspired choice, as we first added a **Thick-billed Vireo** in the dry deciduous woodland there, then got one of the birds of this leg of the tour, when we located a responsive pair of **Bay-breasted Cuckoos** in the late afternoon, one of the toughest of all the *Hispaniolan* specialties.

We decided to remain in the *Puerto Escondido* area until dusk in order to try for two goatsuckers in the area. However, we had just enough time to track down some **Antillean Siskins** within a mango orchard on the way there, when two males showed up. Then it was just a case of waiting until darkness fell and listening...Not long after the forest was darkened by dusk the first **Least Pauragues** began calling. Our first overtures left us frustrated as they called close, flew over us and perched closeby, though always within dense foliage, making getting acceptable views impossible. Following several unsuccessful tries to get them to be visible from the main trail, we opted to walk inside the forest, when Sam located one perched out in a great position that even allowed some photos to be taken. We also tried to call in a *Hispaniolan Nightjar*, which was considerably less cooperative and merely flew over us a few times in the dark but remained hidden. With a very early start beckoning for us the next day we retired to a local restaurant to take our late dinner (a particularly tasty one at that), and get some sleep before our trip into the highest mountains of the tour the following day...



Day 14: 23rd March 2024 – Zapoten & Rabo de Gato (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

This **Red-legged Thrush** was photographed by the Haitian border at *Aguacate* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

This day was always billed as one of the most demanding of this entire, three-island, tour, involving the earliest start of the tour (we left the hotel in *Duverge* at 03:40am!), roughest roads of the tour, and highest site of the tour, (*Zapoten*, at around 1750m/5740ft). We utilised a series of four-wheel drive vehicles again in order to reach *Zapoten*, arriving just before dawn had risen. We heard *Hispaniolan Nightjar*, although it never showed any sign of coming any closer. Then, as night turned to dawn we turned our attention to the dirt road at “*La Selle Corner*” a well-known stake out for *La Selle Thrush* in the early morning. Not long after dawn broke, a thrush was seen hopping along the road, which proceeded to move closer and closer, when it revealed itself to be a **Bicknell’s Thrush**, which was also a target species for much of the group. Then, not long after **La Selle Thrush** also ventured on to the road. Over the next hour or so up to 4 different **La Selle Thrushes** were seen, including one feeding in a tree once the sun was fully up, and the best morning light was present. With the thrush in the bag, we took a field breakfast, noting a trinity of **Golden Swallows** gliding above the broadleaf trees. More *swallows* were seen later that morning, further up the road, a species that has basically become an island endemic after becoming extinct in *Jamaica* at the end of the 20th Century. This site is particularly good for **Narrow-billed Tody** (photo page 24), with 14 recorded that morning, and our best photo opps. obtained up there.

While the *tody* was easy there, the **Western Chat Tanager** predictably proved a much trickier customer, only eventually allowing us decent looks in the late morning. *Zapoten* was a productive area for **Hispaniolan Spindalis**, with at least 8 individuals being seen, some in wonderfully good morning light, before the mist and rain moved in during the late morning. Other highland highlights included **Hispaniolan Emerald**, **Hispaniolan Trogon**, **Greater Antillean Elaenia**, and **Green-tailed Warbler**. However, in spite of a concerted effort, we never managed to find the local *White-winged Warbler* for which this represented the only site of the tour.

On the way down the mountain for a late lunch back in *Duverge*, we paused at the border with *Haiti*, seeing a **Red-legged Thrush** (photo page 25), though nothing more in that area, then halted the vehicles again for a raucous group of **Olive-throated Parakeets** that were perched by the roadside further along. *These were the last major additions on the Dominican Republic, with the group choosing to have some downtime the next day and visit the historic district in the colonial part of Santo Domingo rather than track down some of the last possible new species on the island, getting some much-needed downtime before the last leg in Jamaica...*

PART III: JAMAICA



PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE: **Jamaican Tody** (photographed in the *Blue Mountains*) was the fourth tody species seen on this 3-island tour, and they were wonderfully common on the island (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

Day 17: 26th March 2024 – Hellshire Hills, Hope Botanical Gardens, Great Portmore Sewage Ponds & Blue Mountains (JAMAICA).

Following a hearty breakfast in our *Kingston* hotel, we drove southwest out of the city to *Hellshire Hills*. The reason for visiting there was simple; it is the best site in Jamaica for the **Bahama Mockingbird** (photo below). It did not take long to locate our first one, when a pair landed in the bushes right next to us, and one gave frame-filling views...



Bahama Mockingbirds showed very well at *Hellshire Hills* to the southwest of *Kingston* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

We also got reacquainted with **Stolid Flycatcher** at *Hellshire*, a Caribbean endemic species we were already familiar with from our time on *Hispaniola*. At one point it was also seen in the presence of the smaller **Sad Flycatcher**. The latter species featured regularly through the tour, including within the grounds of our mountain chalet in the *Blue Mountains*, where it frolicked around the buildings in the early morning. Another island endemic showed up in the form of **Jamaican Mango**.

We had a variety of views of this bronzy hummingbird that morning, including a single bird incubating its eggs on a nest, and two individuals fighting each other regularly over some pink flowers. A few people also managed to get some flight views of **Caribbean Doves** that flew by. Other new birds included our first “Auntie Katie” (**Jamaican Oriole**), and “Sewi-Sewi” (**Jamaican Vireo**), both being named locally after the sounds they make. By mid-morning, we had moved on to the nest site, *Great Portmore Sewage Ponds*. We walked around the fusty ponds, picking up some nice waterbirds in the process, including **Glossy Ibis**, **Least Bittern** (one of which posed at length in the open), **Green and Tricolored Herons**, and **Northern Jacana**. We also came across some introduced exotic songbirds, which have become established in *Jamaica*, like **Yellow-crowned Bishop** and **Chestnut Munia**. We also noted our only **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** of the tour and first **Common Yellowthroat**. We went to the famous *Sonia’s Homestyle* restaurant for lunch, a favoured hang out for the great and good of Jamaican celebrities. After that, we visited nearby *Hope Botanical Gardens*, an area of tranquillity in the city, close to the *Bob Marley Museum*, which is located where the “Reggae King” used to reside. Within seconds of exiting our van we were staring up at another new endemic species, with several **Yellow-billed Parrots** (photo below), betraying their presence in the canopy with their harsh calls.



Hope Gardens, in Kingston, proved itself to be the best place to see the endemic Yellow-billed Parrot once again, (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

Entering the park itself, we quickly found our first “Doctorbird”, A.K.A. **Red-billed Streamertail**, with a streamer-tailed male plundering the flowers beside the entrance gate. We also spotted an **Olive-throated Parakeet** (photo below), with a seed pod clasped in its claws in the same area. This is an endemic subspecies that might be split in the future, so we were particularly keen on seeing them in Jamaica. The park held a nice selection of *American wood warblers* too, with **American Redstart**, **Northern Parula**, and **Black-and-white and Prairie Warblers** seen there.



Olive-throated Parakeet was seen in *Hope Botanical Gardens* on Jamaica and also at *Puerto Escondido* on *Hispaniola*. It is an introduced species on the latter island (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

We moved deeper into the park, where **Zenaida Doves** and **Greater Antillean Grackles** “grazed” on the lawns, a **Loggerhead Kingbird** perched above, and *Lyndon* located no fewer than 4 different **Northern Potoos** (photo page 31), (two singles and an adult with a gleaming white downy chick). One of the most approachable **American Kestrels** (photo page 32), of the tour was also found resting on a pavilion within the well-manicured grounds. We also saw one of the smallest birds in the world in the form of a **Vervain Hummingbird** singing from up on high. It is only beaten to the smallest bird in the world title by Cuba’s marginally smaller *Bee Hummingbird*; both birds are listed as measuring 5 centimeters/nearly 2 inches long. We also got our first looks at **Jamaican Woodpeckers** and **White-chinned Thrushes** – photo page 32 - (amusingly called “Hopping Dick” locally), both of which were to feature daily on the island. After that, we drove 90 minutes up into the *Blue Mountains* that loom conspicuously above the city of *Kingston*.

We arrived in time to do our first birding there in the *Newcastle* area, and quickly picked up our first **Arrowhead Warblers** (photo below), **Jamaican Euphonias**, **Jamaican Pewee**, and **Jamaican Spindalis**. After checking into our mountain chalet in *Silver Hill Gap*, we took dinner and ate a traditional Jamaican staple desert of rum cake. After finishing our cake we walked out from our chalet and gave a first try for Jamaica's "Brown Owl", A.K.A. *Jamaican Owl* without success, and so we vowed to try harder the next night.



PHOTOS PAGE BEFORE: **Arrowhead Warbler** from the *Blue Mountains* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)



FOUR different **Northern Potoos** were seen in *Hope Botanical Gardens* in *Kingston* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

Day 18: 27th March 2024 – Hardwar Gap to Silver Hill Gap, the Blue Mountains (JAMAICA).

The entire day was spent in the glorious *Blue Mountains*, with wonderful weather and great birding through the day, peppered with some nice meals and *Blue Mountain Coffee* too. We met at 6:00am and did a few hours of birding before returning to our mountain chalet for a hearty breakfast at around 08:30am. There were three particularly special finds during this precious few pre-breakfast hours. Firstly, as we drove out from the lodge one of the first birds we found was a pair of **Crested Quail-Doves** walking along the road. We quickly jumped out of the van and tried following them for a bit, though they took off downhill before we could all see them satisfactorily. Within the same few hours spell before breakfast we found another two individuals, the last of which was found sitting on an open forest branch, which finally allowed everyone to chalk this species up on their list. By the end of our time in Jamaica we managed to see six different **Crested Quail-Doves** and got some nice photos too of the final one of these. Another major find during this first proper period in the *Blue Mountains* was a **Jamaican Blackbird** delving into a bromeliad, which is typical of this strange, canopy dwelling, solitary *icterid*. The *blackbird* is arguably the hardest of the 28 endemic bird species found in *Jamaica*.



PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: **American Kestrel** of the *sparverioides* Caribbean race (TOP) & **White-chinned Thrush** (known as “Hopping Dick” in Jamaica) both from *Hope Botanical Gardens* in Kingston



The **Blue Mahoe** is a native *Hibiscus* that is the national flower of *Jamaica*, which was photographed in the *Blue Mountains*. It is native to only *Jamaica* and *Cuba* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

The other significant find was a superb **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** that was tempted into the trees above us and was studied at length. This was the only one seen during our entire time on Jamaica. We also observed a nest building female **Jamaican Becard**, admired the “glass eye” of a **White-eyed Thrush** (the local name is “glasseye”), and recorded our first **Orangequits** (which was one of the most abundant birds on this leg), **Rufous-tailed Flycatchers**, and **Jamaican Elaenias**.

After breakfast we spent some time near *Greenwich*, in the neighbouring parish of *St. Andrew*. We were captivated there by just a couple of fruiting trees, which drew in a series of nice birds. The first significant one was **Greater Antillean Elaenia**, (here of the distinctive Jamaican form), which may yet be given full species status.

These same trees also attracted a slew of other birds, including **Jamaican Elaenia**, **Sad Flycatcher**, **Jamaican Oriole**, **White-eyed and White-chinned Thrushes**, **Jamaican Spindalis**, **Jamaican Euphonia**, **Orangequit**, and **Greater Antillean Bullfinch**! This same area also held a sooty gray male **Jamaican Becard**, yet another **Jamaican Tody**, another **Arrowhead Warbler**, **Prairie and Black-throated Blue Warblers**, and our first **Rufous-throated Solitaire** on this island. A **Jamaican Pewee** (photo below), gave us some close ups there too. A couple of hours quickly flew by there with all of this action, and it was soon time for lunch, which we took at a café in *Irish Town*, with plenty of exceedingly good cakes!



Jamaican Pewee in the coffee-filled *Blue Mountains of Jamaica* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

The afternoon birding on the way back to *Silver Hill Gap* was quite slow, save for the only flock of **White-collared Swifts** of the entire tour. Before dinner, we made a determined effort to track down a **Jamaican Owl**, hearing an unseen juvenile calling, and getting some rear views of the adult but it would not turn around to look at us, and left with us still yearning for something better from this flagship endemic species, so we decided to try again, once we got to *San-San* on the next night...

Day 19: 28th March 2024 – Silver Hill Gap, the Blue Mountains to San-San (JAMAICA).

This was our SIXTH **Crested Quail-Dove** (A.K.A. “Mountain Witch” to locals), of the tour, all seen in the *Blue Mountains*. This one featured on our final morning there (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

For our final morning in the *Blue Mountains*, we took a stroll right from the doorstep of the lodge. A **Sad Flycatcher** perched right on our mountain chalet, presumably to pick off some of the insects that had been attracted to the lodge lights overnight. We look out from the new pavilion there, and soon found one of the birds we were still missing, when Sam spotted a **Blue Mountain Vireo** from there, which was quickly followed by another key species, when Judith noticed a male **Yellow-shouldered Grassquit** foraging in the grasses. It was quite responsive, and came into some closer branches several times, while we admired it at length. We also enjoyed some of our last views of **Jamaican Tody** that morning too. However, the star performer of the morning was our final **Crested Quail-Dove** (photo above), which remained on a branch long enough for us to ‘scope it and take photos. A **Merlin** on the hunt was also seen before breakfast, as was another **Arrowhead Warbler**. After breakfast, we did some final birding around *Silver Hill Gap* and *Padhouse*, getting some cracking views of several **Jamaican Orioles** (photo next page), foraging, along with **Ovenbird** and a pair of **Prairie Warblers**, on the way to a café in *Portland Parish* for lunch.



“Auntie Katie” to locals, **Jamaican Oriole**, photographed in *Silver Hill Gap* in the *Blue Mountains*,
(*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

Following lunch, we continued our journey towards *Port Antonio*, within *Portland Parish*, on the north coast of *Jamaica*. We were actually staying in the suburb of *San-San* just outside of *Port Antonio*, where we spent a little time birding before we checked in, seeing several of the **White-crowned Pigeons** that were calling from the dense *figus* canopies there. We had been hoping to see a better **Caribbean Dove** there, which we had only seen in flight several times until then, although it was not to be. In the late afternoon, we checked into our villas overlooking a secluded Caribbean bay. We had decided to look for the **Jamaican Owl** (photo page 37), once again that night, starting by checking the grounds of our resort first. *Lyndon* arrived to do just that at around 8pm, while we were still finishing up after dinner, and he quickly set about locating a calling individual that initially was hidden within the depths of some dense palm fronds there. It was finally tempted into a more open tree above the parking lot, where it stared down at us from its lofty perch! Finally, we had the crisp views we had been looking for, at the third attempt!



The much-wanted **Jamaican Owl** finally gave itself up at the third attempt, within the grounds of our bayside villas in *San-San* on the north coast of Jamaica (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

Day 20: 29th March 2024 – Ecclesdown Road, Errol Flynn Marina & Sherwood Forest (JAMAICA).

The *Ecclesdown Road* is one of Jamaica's most revered birding sites, boasting all 28 endemic species along the length and breadth of it. The road meanders through a variety of elevations from near coast level into hill country. By this stage of the trip (this was our last full day of the tour), we had only a few gaps in our birding list to fill there: namely *Black-billed Streamertail*, *Black-billed Parrot*, *Green-rumped Parrotlet*, and *Jamaican Crow*. The latter was predicted to be the toughest of these (it has been mysteriously declining on the east of the island), and so it proved to be. With these in mind, we started at a lookout that can be good for parrots. Unfortunately for us, the day dawned cool and breezy, and so the parrots were largely hunkered down. However, we did manage to see several **Black-billed Parrots** all the same, flashing their diagnostic red wing patches at us in flight. A few more **Yellow-billed Parrots** also passed by too. However, we simply could not locate any of the calling *parrotlets* in the area, and the same went for some distantly cawing *crows*, which never showed any signs of coming in closer. A steady stream of **Ring-tailed and White-crowned Pigeons** passed overhead too. The **Black-billed Streamertail**, a species that is restricted to eastern part of the island, was more straightforward, thankfully. We first saw the *streamerless*, pale-breasted female, then a *streamerless* male, and finally a fully-tailed *streamer-tailed* adult male! One of the tiniest birds in the world was also seen again in the form of several **Vervain Hummingbirds**.

Some of the regularly recorded *flycatchers* on *Jamaica* featured again too, with **Loggerhead Kingbird**, **Sad Flycatcher**, and even **Gray Kingbird**, the latter being a newly arrived migrant in the area. **Black-whiskered Vireos** were an ever-present background noise there, as were **Jamaican Vireos**. Other morning highlights included **Jamaican Oriole**, **Jamaican Spindalis**, **Jamaican Euphonia**, **Jamaican Tody**, and many **Orangequits**, as usual. A **Peregrine Falcon** that passed overhead was the only one seen on *Jamaica*, and only the second one seen during this 3-island trip. We returned to right where we started later in the morning, now the wind had eased somewhat, and were rewarded with some parrots! This include a brace of **Green-rumped Parrotlets** sharing a treetop with a foraging **Olive-throated Parakeet**, both of which were pillaging the same canopy fruits.

Lunchtime soon came around, and we were all pretty excited about this one, as we had planned to visit the birthplace of jerk cuisine, *Boston Beach*. We visited *Lyndon's* favourite “jerk centre”, and sampled chicken, pork, fish, and even lobster jerk, done the authentic way over grilled coals and covered with a metal plate, and accompanied by festival (a sweet, doughy, fried bread), and sweet potato, just the way Jamaicans like it. We absolutely loved it, and we ate far more meat than usual as a result, with chicken and pork being the favourites among the group, which just so happens to be the meats that were apparently originally used when jerk cuisine was developed by the Jamaican Maroons in the 17th Century.





Northern Mockingbird, Errol Flynn Marina, Jamaica (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)

After lunch, the group split up, some opting to rest at the resort for a while, and others visited the *Errol Flynn Marina* in order to try and photograph hummingbirds. We had expected a good number of **Jamaican Mangos** there, what with the enormous amount of blooming pink flowers present there, although only managed to see one or two during this very hot part of the day. Aside from them, a **Red-billed Streamertail** was noted, as was **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **American Redstart**, **Northern Parula**, and a very obliging **Northern Mockingbird** (known locally as “Nightingale”). The group was reassembled for a late afternoon visit to *Sherwood Forest*, just 5 kilometres (3 miles) or so south from our resort. Our goal there was to find more **Black-billed Parrots**, our first **Jamaican Crows**, or upgrade our looks at **Caribbean Dove**. We succeeded on the first part, with a brace of **Black-billed Parrots** flashing their red wing blotches at us as they flew low over the canopy. Several **Yellow-billed Parrots** also came by too. We also came upon some **Yellow-faced Grassquits** and a **Common Yellowthroat** foraging in some rank grasslands and got our best photos yet of **Jamaican Tody**, (photo page 1). However, we simply could not track down one of the calling **Caribbean Doves** or find any trace of **crows** in the area, and so hatched a plan for our final day on *Jamaica* the next day...

Day 21: 30th March 2024 – San-San to Kingston airport via Castleton Botanical Gardens (JAMAICA).

This was largely a travel day as we drove from *San-San* on the *north* coast to *Kingston* airport for departures on the *south* coast. However, we had one special stop left in mind. As we had missed the *Jamaican Crow* around Port Antonio, we had planned to stop off at *Castleton Botanical Gardens* in the parish of *Saint Mary* on the way south. This worked our marvellously, as it took all of 3 minutes to locate some raucous **Jamaican Crows** alongside the highway that splits the park in two, so quickly that *Sam* did not even managed to erect his tripod yet! This was our 28th endemic and the final piece of our Jamaican “jigsaw puzzle”. The final stop of the tour was along the entrance road to the airport, which skirts around *Kingston Harbour*. Resting on some false groins just offshore were a mixed gathering of **Royal and Sandwich Terns**, **Laughing Gulls**, **Brown Pelicans** and **Ruddy Turnstones**, and then one of the final birds of the tour was a **Great-tailed Grackle** beside the airport, a species that is scare on this tour (being largely replaced by Greater Antillean Grackle in the Caribbean, except around this *Jamaican* airport. It was then time to bids farewell to Jamaica and the Caribbean after picking up some jerk and Bob Marley-themed gifts at the airport of course!



The **African Tulip Tree** (*Spathodea Campanulata*) is common along the *Ecclesdown Road* and around *Sherwood Forest*. We saw it being visited by **Black-billed Streamertail**, **Jamaican Mango** and **Jamaican Crows** during our time on *Jamaica*, where it is also known locally as the “*Donkey Peepee*” tree, as the buds fill with water and can be used as a natural water gun or even an eye cleanser! (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*)

SOME PHOTOS FROM SOME OF THE TOUR PARTICIPANTS:



Puerto Rican Mango & Puerto Rican Parrot (Benny Baeten)





Least Parakeet *Hispaniola* & *Jamaican Becard* (Benny Baeten)





Orangequit & Jamaican Blackbird (*Benny Baeten*)





Puerto Rican Bullfinch & Puerto Rican Oriole (*Sue Walsh*)





Clapper Rail & Caribbean Elaenia Puerto Rico (Sue Walsh)





Mangrove Cuckoo Puerto Rico & Shaving Brush Tree Hispaniola (Sue Walsh)





Antillean Piculet & Broad-billed Tody *Hispaniola* (Sue Walsh)





Stolid Flycatcher & Red-billed Streamertail Jamaica (Sue Walsh)



CHECKLIST:

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 changes published by Cornell in **October 2023**.

KEY:

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

HIS – REFERS TO THE ISLAND OF HISPANIOLA.

JAM – REFERS TO THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA.

PRO – REFERS TO THE ISLAND OF PUERTO RICO.

CE - INDICATES CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC.

HE - INDICATES HISPANIOLAN ENDEMIC.

JE - INDICATES JAMAICAN ENDEMIC.

PRE – INDICATES PUERTO RICAN ENDEMIC.

ALL THESE REGIONAL ENDEMIC ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED.

BIRDS**Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)**

West Indian Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arborea* (CE): A family with 8 chicks at Laguna Cartagena (PRO), then a pair in Santo Domingo in HIS.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*: Recorded on all 3 islands, with a maximum of 100 seen near Combate on PRO.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*: Recorded on 2 islands, Puerto Rico and Hispaniola.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*: Around 60 birds were seen during our boat trip on Laguna Olviedo in HIS.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*: Seen on PR and HIS, with a maximum of 350 seen near Combate (PRO).

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*: 2 at Laguna Cartagena (PRO).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*: At least 70 birds were seen on Laguna Cartagena (PRO).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*: A few were seen near Combate and Laguna Cartagena both on PRO.

Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*: Merliyn put us on to 6 hiding in floating vegetation at Laguna Cartagena (PRO).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*: A handful were seen at a few sites on PRO (e.g., Combate, Laguna Cartagena).

Numididae (Guineafowl)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*: A couple of groups were seen in Puerto Rico.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: At least 1 was seen on Puerto Rico.

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*: 162 birds were seen during our boat trip on Laguna Olviedo (HIS).

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*: 5 individuals were seen at the botanical gardens in Santo Domingo (HIS).

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*: Seen at Combate and Laguna Cartagena on PRO.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Recorded regularly in urban areas through the tour on all of the islands.

Scaly-naped Pigeon *Patagioenas squamosa* (CE): Good numbers were seen on PRO (e.g., near Caguas) & HIS.

White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala*: Recorded on all 3 islands, particularly conspicuous on JAM.

Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornate* (CE): Perched views at Borinquen in PRO & La Charca de Sierra de Bahrucó on HIS.

Ring-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas caribaea* (JE): Good numbers were seen each day on Jamaica.
Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: Regularly recorded on Puerto Rico.
African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*: Just a few were identified on Puerto Rico.
Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine*: Recorded on all 3 islands, being most regular on PRO.
Crested Quail-Dove *Geotrygon versicolor* (JE): 6 individuals were seen in the Blue Mountains on JAM.
Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*: 5 birds came into a feeding area at Cachote (HIS), and several flew off the roads in JAM.
White-fronted Quail-Dove *Geotrygon leucometopia* (HE): 2 birds were seen in Cachote (HIS).
Key West Quail-Dove *Geotrygon chrysis* (CE): We got amazing views of a singing bird at Susua State Forest (PRO).
Caribbean Dove *Leptotila jamaicensis*: Just a couple of flights views was a poor showing on JAM.
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*: Regularly noted on all 3 islands.
Zenaida Dove *Zenaida aurita*: Seen regularly throughout the tour, on all of the islands.
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*: Recorded on all 3 islands, with most records in PRO.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Noted on all 3 islands.
Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*: Seen on both PRO (e.g., Susua State Forest) & HIS.
Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo *Coccyzus pluvialis* (JE): 1 was seen well in Jamaica's Blue Mountains.
Bay-breasted Cuckoo *Coccyzus ruficularis* (HE): This often difficult species was seen late in the day at Rabo de Gato (HIS).
Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo *Coccyzus vetula* (JE): Just the one was seen, near Greenwich in the Blue Mountains.
Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo *Coccyzus vieilloti* (PRE): Recorded regularly throughout our time on PRO.
Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo *Coccyzus longirostris* (HE): Noted regularly in the Dominican Republic.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

Least (Poorwill) Pauraque *Siphonorhis brewsteri* (HE): Wonderful perched views were had at Rabo de Gato.
Hispaniolan Nightjar *Antrostomus ekmani* (HE) (H): Frustratingly only heard in 4 concerted attempts.
Puerto Rican Nightjar *Antrostomus noctitherus* (PRE): Some great looks of a bird flying right over our heads near our fancy resort in Guanica in Southwest PRO.

Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis*: 4 roosting birds were seen during one afternoon at Hope Botanical Gardens in Kingston, Jamaica, which included 1 bright white chick.

Apodidae (Swifts)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: A flock of around 15 birds were seen in Jamaica's Blue Mountains.
Antillean Palm-Swift *Tachornis phoenicobia* (CE): Recorded regularly on both Hispaniola & Jamaica.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

Jamaican Mango *Anthracothorax mango* (JE): Seen first at Hellshire Hills, with one on the nest there, then others at the Errol Flynn Marina, Ecclesdown Road and in the garden of Goblin Hill Villas.
Hispaniolan Mango *Anthracothorax dominicus* (HE): Only recorded at 2 sites, Cano Hondo & La Charca.
Puerto Rican Mango *Anthracothorax aurulentus* (PRE): A female on a nest in Barceloneta & a male at Cabo Rojo.
Green Mango *Anthracothorax viridis* (PRE): A good tour for this species, 1 Barceloneta, 3 Maricao & 1 El Yunque.
Green-throated Carib *Eulampis holosericeus holosericeus* (CE): 1 in San Juan & a single in Aguirre (both PR).
Vervain Hummingbird *Mellisuga minima* (CE): Seen on 3 days in Hispaniola, then again twice on Jamaica.
Hispaniolan Emerald *Chlorostilbon swainsonii* (HE): Seen on 4 occasions (e.g., La Charca, Zapoten).
Puerto Rican Emerald *Chlorostilbon maugaeus* (PRE): Recorded on 2 days (Maricao & La Parguera).
Antillean Crested Hummingbird *Orthorhyncus cristatus* (CE): A male was seen in Central Aguirre on Puerto Rico.

Red-billed Streamertail *Trochilus polytmus* (JE): Seen on at least 4 days in Jamaica, a wonderfully common bird!

Black-billed Streamertail *Trochilus scitulus* (JE): Seen on the Ecclesdown Road & in garden of our San-San resort.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans*: We got some cracking looks at this bird in La Parguera (PR).

Sora *Porzana carolina*: 1 was seen in flight at Laguna Cartagena (PR).

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*: Recorded on all 3 islands, being most numerous at Laguna Cartagena (PR).

American Coot *Fulica americana*: Only recorded on Puerto Rico (Combate & Laguna Cartagena).

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*: Only recorded at Laguna Cartagena in Puerto Rico.

Aramidae (Limpkin)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*: Recorded a few times in both PR (e.g., Cartagena) and HIS (Santo Domingo).

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*: Recorded on all 3 islands, with the most being seen on Puerto Rico.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

Black-bellied (Gray) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: A few were seen in PR (La Parguera) and HIS (Salinas).

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*: 1 was seen on PR, near Ceiba.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*: 1 was seen with the Wilson's Plover at Ceiba (PR).

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*: Seen on several days in PR and then once each on HIS and JAM.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*: 2 were seen at Great Portmore Sewage Ponds (JAM).

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

(American/Hudsonian) Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*: 1 was seen at Cano Rojo on Puerto Rico.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: Recorded twice on Puerto Rico and once on Jamaica.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*: A flock of at least 70 birds was seen at Combate in Puerto Rico.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: Recorded once on Puerto Rico (Cabo Rojo) & once on Hispaniola (Olviedo).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: Seen on single days on all the islands, with the most being at Cabo Rojo (PR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*: 300 at Cabo Rojo (PR) and another at La Salinas on HIS.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*: 3 birds were seen from our boat at Laguna Olviedo (HIS).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*: A few on Puerto Rico and Jamaica (e.g., Great Portmore Sewage Ponds).

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*: Single records on PR (Combate) & HIS (Cano Hondo).

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*: A few on Puerto Rico (La Parguera) & on HIS (e.g., La Salinas)

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*: 1 was seen at Cabo Rojo (PR).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*: Recorded on all three islands, with most records on Puerto Rico.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*: A few were seen in HIS and JAM.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*: 1 of these tiny terns was seen at Laguna Olviedo (HIS).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: 1 was seen on our boat trip on Laguna Olviedo (HIS).

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*: Seen on all 3 islands.

Sandwich (Cabot's) Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis acutiflavus*: A handful on HIS, then others near Kingston (JAM).

Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*: 9 birds were seen at Los Merenderos de Guajataca on Puerto Rico.

Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*: Easily seen within coastal areas on all 3 islands.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Scattered sightings in coastal areas on all of the islands.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*: Seen on PR (Cartagena) & JAM (Great Portmore Sewage Ponds).

Great Blue Heron *Ardea Herodias*: A few were seen on PR (Cartagena) and HIS (Salinas, Olviedo).

(American) Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*: Scattered sightings throughout, on all 3 islands.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: Scattered sightings throughout, on all 3 islands.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: Single to a few sightings on all 3 islands.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*: Recorded on all 3 islands.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*: A couple of white morph birds were seen at Salinas de Bani (HIS).

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Regularly encountered throughout the tour, on all 3 islands.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*: Recorded on PR (Laguna Cartagena) & at Great Portmore on JAM.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: A few were seen on 1 visit to Laguna Cartagena (JAM).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*: Recorded on all 3 islands, with the most being seen on PR.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*: Recorded on each island, with breeding birds seen at Laguna Olviedo (HIS).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: Noted at Laguna Cartagena (PR) and Great Portmore Sewage Ponds (JAM).

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Commonly recorded throughout. Known as “John Crow” on JAM.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

(Western) Osprey *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*: Recorded on PR (e.g., Cartagena) and HIS (Cano Hondo).

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*: A very rare sighting at La Charca de Sierra de Bahuco found by Judith.

Ridgway's Hawk *Buteo ridgwayi* (HE): A nest and nesting pair were located at Paraiso Cano Hondo.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*: Seen near Rio Abajo on Puerto Rico.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*: Noted in small numbers on all 3 islands.

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

Ashy-faced Owl *Tyto glaucops* (HE): Excellent views at the first try, behind our hotel in Cano Hondo.

Strigidae (Owls)

Puerto Rican Owl *Gymnasio nudipes* (PRE): A single bird seen on the first attempt at Cambalache State Forest!

Jamaican Owl *Pseudoscops grammicus* (JE): It took 3 tries until we saw one well but then we saw it perfectly, in our hotel garden in San-San.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

Hispaniolan Trogon *Priotelus roseigaster* (HE): This gorgeous bird was seen and photographed at La Charca.

Todidae (Todies) *CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FAMILY*

Broad-billed Tody *Todus subulatus* (HE): Regularly seen at lower elevations in Hispaniola (recorded on 5 days).

Narrow-billed Tody *Todus angustirostris* (HE): The higher elevation tody in Hispaniola, seen at 3 sites there, with 14 recorded on 1 morning at Zapoten.

Jamaican Tody *Todus todus* (JE): We had many wonderful encounters with this bird in the Blue Mountains and north of there too, with our nest photos coming from Sherwood Forest.

Puerto Rican Tody *Todus mexicanus* (PRE): Seen repeatedly on Puerto Rico (almost every day).

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*: 1 was seen near Borinquen (PR), and a few were seen on JAM also.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

Antillean Piculet *Nesocittes micromegas* (HE): 1 was seen in Paraiso Cano Hondo.

Puerto Rican Woodpecker *Melanerpes portoricensis* (PRE): A pleasantly common endemic recorded every day.

Hispaniolan Woodpecker *Melanerpes striatus* (HE): An extremely common bird seen multiple times every day!

Jamaican Woodpecker *Melanerpes radiolatus* (JE): Recorded on at least 4 days on Jamaica.

[Falconidae \(Falcons and Caracaras\)](#)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: Recorded regularly; (on at least 10 days and on all islands).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*: 1 at Laguna Cartagena (PR) and another in Jamaica's Blue Mountains.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: 1 at Cano Hondo (HIS) and another on the Ecclesdown Road (JAM).

[Psittacidae \(New World and African Parrots\)](#)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*: Recorded on at least 5 days on Puerto Rico.

White-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris versicolurus*: Seen just a couple of times on PR (e.g., Susua State Forest).

Black-billed (Amazon) Parrot *Amazona agilis* (JE): Pairs were seen on the Ecclesdown Rd and at Sherwood Forest.

Yellow-billed (Amazon) Parrot *Amazona collaria* (JE): Seen in Hope Botanical Gardens and on the Ecclesdown Road, with the best views being at the former.

Hispaniolan (Amazon) Parrot *Amazona ventralis* (HE): Seen several times in the Southern Sierra de Bahoruco.

Puerto Rican (Amazon) Parrot *Amazona vittata* (PRE): This critically endangered species was seen in its last remaining site, Rio Abajo State Forest, where 5 birds were seen, including lengthy perched views of one of these. They are said to number under 50 mature birds, having seemingly been wiped out from El Yunque by the hurricanes of 2017.

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerines*: A pair was seen foraging in a treetop on the Ecclesdown Rd (JAM).

Olive-throated (Jamaican) Parakeet *Eupsittula nana nana*: Recorded once in HIS, and 3-4 times in JAM.

Hispaniolan Parakeet *Psittacara chloropterus* (HE): Seen on 3 occasions (in Santo Domingo and Southern Southern Sierra de Bahoruco).

[Tityridae \(Tityras and Allies\)](#)

Jamaican Becard *Pachyrhamphus niger* (JE): A nestbuilding female and a male was seen in the Blue Mountains.

[Tyrannidae \(Tyrant Flycatchers\)](#)

Caribbean Elaenia *Elaenia martinica riisii*: Seen at Cabo Rojo & Ceiba in Puerto Rico.

Greater Antillean (Hispaniolan) Elaenia *Elaenia fallax cherriei* (CE): Several were seen at Zapoten (HIS).

Greater Antillean (Large Jamaican) Elaenia *Elaenia fallax fallax* (CE): 1 was seen in the Blue Mountains (JAM).

(Small) Jamaican Elaenia *Myiopagis cotta* (JE): Recorded on 3 days, in the Blue Mountains and northern Jamaica.

Jamaican Pewee *Contopus pallidus* (JE): 2-3 sightings in the Blue Mountains.

Hispaniolan Pewee *Contopus hispaniolensis* (HE): This oddly unvocal pewee was seen twice (e.g., Cano Hondo).

Lesser Antillean (Puerto Rican) Pewee *Contopus latirostris blancoi* (CE): Seen twice, at Rio Abajo & Susua.

Sad Flycatcher *Myiarchus barbirostris* (JE): Recorded almost every day and at multiple locations in JAM.

Rufous-tailed Flycatcher *Myiarchus validus* (JE): Recorded on 2 days in the Blue Mountains.

Stolid Flycatcher *Myiarchus stolidus* (CE): Recorded regularly on Hispaniola, and at Hellshire Hills on Jamaica.

Puerto Rican Flycatcher *Myiarchus antillarum* (PRE): Noted on 4 days on the island.

Gray Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis*: Very regular on PR and HIS. A few were recently arrived on JAM too.

Loggerhead Kingbird *Tyrannus caudifasciatus jamaicensis* (CE): Seen every day on Jamaica.

Loggerhead (Puerto Rican) Kingbird *Tyrannus caudifasciatus taylori* (CE): 2 were seen at Rio Abajo (PR).

[Vireonidae \(Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis\)](#)

Blue Mountain Vireo *Vireo osburni* (JE): Seen twice in the Silver Hill Gap area of the Blue Mountains.

Jamaican Vireo *Vireo modestus* (JE): Recorded daily at all elevations and all sites.

Puerto Rican Vireo *Vireo latimeri* (PRE): Noted at Cambalache, Rio Abajo & Maricao.

Flat-billed Vireo *Vireo nanus* (HE): 1 was seen one afternoon at Rabo de Gato.

Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus*: An abundant Caribbean species, seen on all 3 islands.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

(Hispaniolan) Palm Crow *Corvus palmarum palmarum* (HE): Excellent looks at El Aceitillar & at Laguna Olviedo.

White-necked Crow *Corvus leucognaphalus* (HE): Seen twice, at Cano Hondo & Rabo de Gato.

Jamaican Crow *Corvus jamaicensis* (JE): Heard on the Ecclesdown Rd, then seen well at Castleton Gardens.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*: 3 flew by at Great Portmore Sewage Ponds (JAM).

Caribbean Martin *Progne dominicensis*: Recorded twice on Puerto Rico and at La Charca on Hispaniola.

Golden Swallow *Tachycineta euchrysea* (HE): Up to 6 birds were seen at Zapoten.

(Caribbean) Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva fulva*: Seen twice on PR (e.g., Rio Abajo) & at Cano Hondo on HIS.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

Pearly-eyed Thrasher *Margarops fuscatus*: Recorded a few times on most days in Puerto Rico. Some very tame individuals were seen in the bar of our resort in Guanica.

Bahama Mockingbird *Mimus gundlachi hillii* (CE): 4 were seen at Hellshire Hills (JAM).

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*: Recorded regularly throughout the entire tour on all 3 islands.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

Rufous-throated Solitaire *Myadestes genibarbis* (CE): At Cachote & Zapoten on HIS, & the Blue Mountains (JAM).

Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli*: 1 gave extremely good views at La Selle Corner at Zapoten (HIS).

White-eyed Thrush *Turdus jamaicensis* (JE): Seen 3-4 times in the Blue Mountains. Locally known as “glasseye”.

White-chinned Thrush *Turdus aurantius* (JE): Very commonly encountered; known as “Hopping Dick” to locals.

(Eastern) Red-legged Thrush *Turdus plumbeus ardosiaceus* (CE): Regularly encountered on PR & less so on HIS.

Dulidae (Palmchat) *CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FAMILY*

Palmchat *Dulus dominicus* (HE): Very common, anywhere there were palms in the lowlands of Hispaniola.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*: A few were seen at Great Portmore Sewage Ponds (JAM).

Estrilidae (Waxbills and Allies)

Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica*: 4 birds were seen in Combate in Puerto Rico.

Scaly-breasted (Checkered) Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Seen at Laguna Cartagena (PR) & at Cano Hondo (HIS).

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Recorded regularly in PR and HIS.

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

Hispaniolan Euphonia *Chlorophonia musica* (HE): A nesting pair was seen at Cachote.

Puerto Rican Euphonia *Chlorophonia sclateri* (PRE): Noted at Rio Abajo, Maricao & Susua.

Jamaican Euphonia *Euphonia jamaica* (JE): Recorded on 4 days in Jamaica.

Hispaniolan Crossbill *Loxia megalaga* (HE): A flock of 5 birds was seen well at El Aceitillar; some visited a bird bath.

Antillean Siskin *Spinus dominicensis* (HE): 2 males were seen in a mango orchard in Rabo de Gato.

Calyptophilidae (Chat-Tanagers) *CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FAMILY*

Western Chat-Tanager *Calyptophilus tertius* (HE): Eventually, 1 showed well at Zapoten, where 6 were heard.

Eastern Chat-Tanager *Calyptophilus frugivorus* (HE): 1 gave good but brief views at Cachote.

Phaenicophilidae (Hispaniolan Tanagers) *CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FAMILY*

Black-crowned Palm-Tanager *Phaenicophilus palmarum* (HE): Recorded on 5 days in Hispaniola.

Green-tailed Warbler *Microligea palustris* (HE): Seen twice at La Charca and once in Zapoten.

Nesospingidae (Puerto Rican Tanager) *CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FAMILY*

Puerto Rican Tanager *Nesospingus speculiferus* (PRE): Seen a few times at Maricao and also El Yunque.

Spindalidae (Spindalises) *CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FAMILY*

Jamaican Spindalis *Spindalis nigricephala* (JE): Noted on 4 days on the island.

Hispaniolan Spindalis *Spindalis dominicensis* (HE): Recorded at La Aceitillar, La Charca & Zapoten.

Puerto Rican Spindalis *Spindalis portoricensis* (PRE): Recorded on 4 days (e.g., Rio Abajo, El Yunque).

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

Hispaniolan Oriole *Icterus dominicensis* (HE): 1 at Las Dunas & a pair nesting in our Juan Esteban hotel garden.

Puerto Rican Oriole *Icterus portoricensis* (PRE): 3 seen: Barceloneta, Rio Abajo & in Combate.

Venezuelan Troupial *Icterus icterus*: This gorgeous bird was seen regularly in Southwest Puerto Rico.

Jamaican Oriole *Icterus leucopteryx* (JE): A few were seen on most days.

Jamaican Blackbird *Nesopsar nigerrimus* (JE): Twice seen in the Blue Mountains.

Yellow-shouldered Blackbird *Agelaius xanthomus* (PRE): Some good views were had in a fruiting tree in Combate, and another flew over La Parguera.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*: Recorded daily in Puerto Rico.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*: A few were seen in the vicinity of Kingston airport & Hellshire (JAM).

Greater Antillean Grackle *Quiscalus niger* (CE): Commonly recorded on PR and JAM, less so in HIS.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*: Seen a couple of times each on HIS (La Charca) & JAM (Blue Mountains).

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*: 3 birds were seen at El Yunque (PR), which were in full song.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*: A calling bird was seen in mangroves at La Salinas de Bani (HIS).

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*: Seen several times in HIS (La Charca) & JAM (Blue Mountains).

(Eastern) Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas trichas*: Only seen on JAM (Great Portmore & Sherwood).

Elfin-woods Warbler *Setophaga angelae* (PRE): A pair of these dapper warblers was seen at Maricao State Forest.

Arrowhead Warbler *Setophaga pharetra* (JE): Noted on at least 3 occasions in Jamaica's Blue Mountains.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: Most regularly encountered warbler, seen multiple times on HIS & JAM.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrine*: Recorded on multiple occasions in HIS (e.g., La Charca).

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*: Recorded multiple times on all 3 islands.

Yellow (Golden) Warbler *Setophaga petechia* [*petechia* Group]: 1 La Parguera (PR) & 1 Hellshire (JAM).

Yellow (Northern) Warbler *Setophaga petechia* [*aestiva* Group]: A handful of them were seen in HIS.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*: Recorded multiple times on HIS & JAM.

(Western) Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum palmarum*: Noted 3 times on HIS and once on JAM.

Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus*: Regularly seen in the native pine forest in the Southern Sierra de Bahoruco (HIS).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler *Setophaga coronata coronate*: A few were seen in the pines at La Charca (HIS).

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*: A couple on HIS, then more on JAM (e.g., Hope Gardens, Blue Mountains).

Adelaide's Warbler *Setophaga adelaidae* (CE): Some great looks at Barceloneta & Susua on Puerto Rico.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*: Lyndon found a nice adult male in the Blue Mountains (JAM).

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

(Common) Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola portoricensis*: Recorded in good numbers daily on Puerto Rico.

(Greater Antillean) Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola bananivora/flaveola*: Regularly encountered on HIS & JAM.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*: Recorded in small numbers on all 3 islands, with the most on JAM.

Orangequit *Euneornis campestris* (JE): One of the most abundant Jamaican birds, recorded in numbers daily.

Puerto Rican Bullfinch *Melopyrrha portoricensis* (PRE): Recorded almost every day in PR.

Greater Antillean Bullfinch *Melopyrrha violacea* (CE): Seen at Las Dunas (HIS), then multiple times in JAM.

Yellow-shouldered Grassquit *Loxipasser anoxanthus* (JE): Seen just twice, including in the garden of our mountain chalet in the Blue Mountains.

Black-faced Grassquit *Melanospiza bicolor*: Recorded on all 3 islands, being most abundant on PR.



An extra **Adelaide's Warbler** from Puerto Rico (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours)