

Birding Cuba 2018

Trip Report

By Yeray Seminario

February 1-11, 2018



The endemic Cuban Tody, relatively easy to see and a highlight of every trip to Cuba

Cuba has become a very popular destination for birders due to its good number of endemics and regional endemics, which are shared with other islands of the West Indies. It holds diverse ecosystems that can be visited with ease, and provides excellent food and fascinating culture and history, making a trip to the island a most enjoyable experience.

On our second tour to Cuba we were fortunate to have a fantastic group of people join us, which helped create a very easy-going, friendly atmosphere. On this trip, thanks to a recent collaboration with prominent artist and ornithologist Nils Navarro, we counted with his presence during the whole trip, as part of his preparation for his next book covering all the birds of Cuba.

During this tour we accomplished our main target: seeing all the Cuban endemics and seeing most of the regional endemics, with the exception of the **Cuban Nightjar**, which we only heard.

Tour Leaders: Ángel Muela, Yeray Seminario

Local Guide: Maikel Cañizares

Supporting Local Guides: Nils Navarro, Maydiel Cañizares and Odey Martínez

Highlights of the trip

1. As it's become a custom in our Cuba tour, we begin learning about the different ecosystems of Cuba at the National Botanical Gardens — it's a great way to start our Cuban Tour.
2. Enjoying the unique landscape of Viñales while adding good numbers of endemics with Nils Navarro, renowned expert and author of the book "Endemic Birds of Cuba," who accompanied us during the tour thanks to a collaboration with Whitehawk.
3. Our afternoon at Rosario provided the opportunity to see our first **Cuban Grassquits** and a phenomenal **Gundlach's Hawk** carrying a snake.
4. Filling our eyes with hundreds of waterbirds in Salinas de Brito while the sun set down in the Zapata Swamp - those flamingos!
5. Hitting the targets during a pleasant walk in La Turba, within the Zapata Swamp, with splendid views of **Zapata Wren** and **Zapata Sparrow**.
6. Adding the smallest bird of the world, the **Bee Hummingbird**, to our list it's always a highlight for the trip!
7. Our morning walk at Bermeja, which gave us the chance to see 3 new fantastic endemics: **Bare-legged Owl**, **Gray-fronted Quail-Dove** and **Cuban Parakeet**.
8. The impressive numbers of **American flamingos** and **American Avocets**, beyond hundreds, in Tunas de Zaza.
9. Our last morning in Cayo Coco provided an excellent record, the second confirmed sighting and the first with pictures of a **Wilson's Phalarope** for Cuba.

Itinerary

Day 1 - February 1

As usual, our tour began in Havana, the capital of Cuba. After a short briefing at our *Casa Particular*, we drove to the National Botanical Gardens in the early afternoon. There, we were given an introduction to the different ecosystems of Cuba, and were able to see and learn about some of the most relevant species of plants of the country. The garden grounds are an excellent place for a birding walk, and we got to add the first endemics to our list: several **Cuban Blackbirds** were feeding on the blossoms of Carolina trees as we entered the gardens, **Cuban Green Woodpeckers** were seen at ease while they were working up and down some branches, and the **Cuban Vireo**, even though it was reluctant to leave the tangles of a tree, was finally seen too. We also had our first experience with a few regional endemics, including the **Tawny-shouldered Blackbird** flying overhead, several **Cuban Emeralds**, **Antillean Palm-Swifts**, conspicuous **West Indian Woodpeckers**, one **La Sagra's Flycatcher** and the endemic subspecies of the **Eastern Meadowlark** (ssp. *hippocrepis*), a good candidate for a future split into a full species. We got the chance to see our first **Cuban Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius sparveroides*). To finish the afternoon, we found a nice small flock of **Northern Bobwhites**, which belong to a endemic subspecies (*Colinus virginianus cubanensis*).

Day 2 - February 2

Our second day in the country began with a good breakfast on a terrace overlooking Havana. From here we began our drive to Viñales, making a few stops on our way. We stopped at the Niña Bonita Reservoir, where we spent some time looking for waterbirds, including good numbers of **Lesser Scaup**, **Ring-necked Duck** and **Ruddy Duck**. Another strategic stop along the way allowed us to see up to sixteen **Snail Kites** just next to the road, as well as **Least Grebe**, **Tree Swallow** and **Belted Kingfisher**.

We arrived to Viñales and after our lunch at Rancho San Vicente, we spend most of the afternoon walking in the area. Here we could enjoy at pleasure a **West Indian Woodpecker** that was feeding

on termites, **Scaly-naped Pigeons** flying overhead and a beautiful pair of **Cuban Tody**, a new endemic for us, which, doesn't matter how many times you see, they are as striking as the very first time!

We went to meet Nils Navarro, author of the book "Endemic Birds of Cuba", who thanks to a donation from Whitehawk was able to join us for the rest of the trip. Certainly a big plus for the group to have one of the most renowned ornithologists with us!

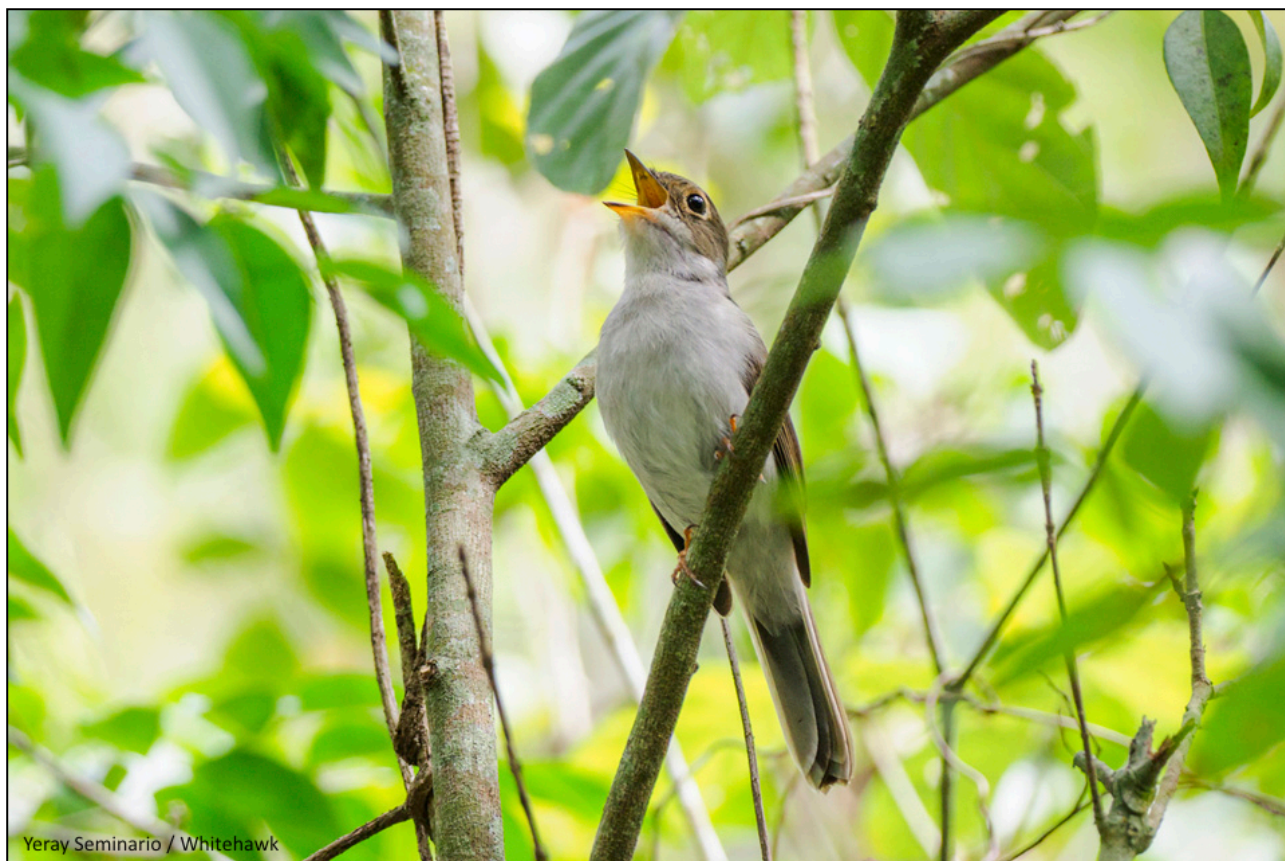


The West Indian Woodpecker is a regional endemic that can be seen in Bahamas, Cayman Islands and, of course, Cuba. We saw this bird working feeding on termites at Rancho San Vicente.

Day 3 - February 3

We headed to Sendero Las Maravillas in the morning, probably one of the best birding spots in Viñales National Park. It was indeed a very productive morning, with some new birds for the group, starting with the **Cuban Bullfinch**. This bird formerly considered an endemic subspecies is now considered a full species by most authorities, due to differences in morphology and vocalizations with the birds found in Cayman Islands. The beginning of the trail was packed with **Gray Catbirds** and **Palm Warblers**. We waited for some time to see the **Cuban Solitaire**, which we could hear in the distance, but instead we saw a beautiful male **Western Spindalis**. After a couple of hours in this very rich bird area, we moved to look for the **Cuban Grassquit**, but we couldn't find it. Then, we gave it another try to the **Cuban Solitaire**, and this time, after some effort, we found it perched on a relatively low and open branch, singing its heart out - an amazing song!

We had another fantastic lunch with traditional Cuban food and took a break before heading to Rosario, near the coast. We walked while looking for the **Cuban Grassquit** that we missed in the morning. While in search for the Grassquit, we came upon the most difficult endemic bird to see in Cuba: a **Gundlach's Hawk** was seen flying with a small snake in its talons and was enjoyed by the whole group at pleasure! After several tries we finally could see the **Cuban Grassquit** along with a flock of **Yellow-faced Grassquit**. Then we stopped in an area where there were seemingly dozens of warblers, getting to add to the list a few, including **Prairie Warbler**.



After a few unsuccessful tries, we got great views of a singing Cuban Solitaire

Day 4 - February 4

Today we drove to the Zapata Swamp, one of the most popular birding destinations in the world, and certainly the most important in Cuba, as the majority of the Cuban endemics can be seen in this relatively small area. Before heading to Zapata, we stopped in a lookout over the town of Viñales, where we had great scope views of **Scaly-naped Pigeon**, and had a good ficus tree with dozens of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (Myrtle).

After arriving to Playa Larga, the town where we stayed to explore Zapata, had a good lunch (there were no such thing as bad meals on this trip) with views to the shoreline and four **Red-breasted Mergansers**. We then drove to Salinas de Brito, a spectacular tidal flat area where thousands of waterbirds concentrate. We drove the very long road in the middle of the Salinas, stopping conveniently whenever we saw good numbers of birds, including **American Flamingo**, **Wood Stork**, **Neotropic and Double-crested cormorants**, **American White Pelican** (not so long ago they were considered rare in Cuba), **Tricolored Heron**, **Reddish Egret**, **Roseate Spoonbill** and **White Ibis**. There were also good numbers of ducks, mainly **Blue-winged Teal**, but also had **American Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler** and a few **White-cheeked Pintails**, which are not easily seen in Cuba. **Black Skimmers**, and a variety of shorebirds and terns were also abundant, and included flocks of **Greater and Lesser yellowlegs**, **Caspian Tern** and **Royal Tern**. We got the opportunity to add a new endemic to our list: the **Cuban Black Hawk**, seen well in the scope and later an individual let us see it at pleasure just next to the road. As the sun was setting, we heard the **Clapper Rail** before turning around and driving back to Playa Larga where we had a fantastic dinner with fresh fish and seafood.



Yeray Seminario / Whitehawk

We had a fantastic opportunity to take pictures of this obliging Cuban Black Hawk

Day 5 - February 5

Zapata is the only place where one of the Cuban endemics can be found: the **Zapata Wren**, so we prepared ourselves for an early morning walk in La Turba, one of the popular locations for the wren. We started early and drove to this beautiful trail, stopped in a specific spot and played a recording. Almost immediately we heard a response on the opposite side of the trail, and shortly afterwards a **Zapata Wren** jumped very close to us, giving us a great chance to see it and hear its song. We were very happy about the wren and kept going for our next target, the **Zapata Sparrow**, which can only be found in three different areas in Cuba: Zapata, Cayo Coco and Guantanamo, each locality holding its own subspecies. While we approached one of the sparrow's favorite spots, we added quite a few species, including some warblers: **Northern Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroat** and **American Redstart**, to name a few. It's worth mentioning that Cuba is a fantastic destination to watch mixed flocks of North American warblers in their wintering grounds or during migration. When we arrived to the **Zapata Sparrow** spot, we saw up to five birds feeding near and on the ground, and to finish our walk on a high note, we saw four **Red-shouldered Blackbirds**!



One of the Juvenile Bee Hummingbirds seen during our trip

The day still held some little surprises for us. We had **Cuban Crow** and **Cuban Parrot** near the Crocodile Breeding Center, and later we went to visit Bernabé, a local farmer that's become well known for having **Bee Hummingbird** in his backyard. There they were! at least five birds could be seen feeding in the flowers around us. With one of our most important targets seen and photographed, we went to a local restaurant for lunch.

In the afternoon, we went to Soplillar Savannah and had a relaxing but productive afternoon with several **Great-Lizard Cuckoos**, **Cuban Trogon**, **Cuban Green Woodpecker**, among others, as well as a good collection of North American warblers, including a **Swainson's Warbler** and a **Worm-eating Warbler**, which are not that easily seen in migration.

Day 6 - February 6

The day started with a **Cape May Warbler** at sunrise, while we were having breakfast. Then, we had a thirty-minute drive to Los Hondones, where we took a walk and explored the semi-deciduous forest in search of the quail-doves. It took some time, but we got to see **Ruddy Quail-Dove** and **Gray-fronted Quail-Dove** here. The place was also teeming with warblers, and we had good views of **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**, which were new for the trip. After Los Hondones we went to Cueva de Los Peces, a popular location for **Blue-headed Quail-Dove**, as they seem to have habituated to feed on some of the leftovers from the restaurant. Soon enough, we could see several of these beautiful endemic birds near the entrance of the restaurant. There were also some amazing Saw-scaled Curlytail lizards at the place and enjoyed taking pictures of them as well as of the quail-doves.



Blue-headed Quail-Dove at Cueva de Los Peces

As we had been pretty successful with the endemics in Zapata, instead of looking for missing birds we decided to repeat Salinas de San Brito, a favorite for the group. This turned to be a great decision and we added, among others, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Stilt Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

Day 7 - February 7

We left Playa Larga early in the morning and stopped near the town of Bermejas, to look for quail-doves and **Bare-legged Owl**. We saw two **Gray-fronted Quail-Doves** and two **Blue-headed Quail-Doves** and succeeded with this fantastic owl, which made for a great start to the day. We also enjoyed a very close flock of **Cuban Parakeets** as they were preening in a tree.

Our next stop was at the Botanical Gardens of Cienfuegos, where we took a short walk and had lunch. Our main targets for the afternoon included two endemics, the **Cuban Gnatcatcher** and the **Giant Kingbird**, now widely considered a Cuban endemic as it's most likely extinct in Bahamas.

We couldn't hear any Palm Crows, as it's the only way to tell them apart from the Cuban Crow, but could find a close **Giant Kingbird**, that performed in front of us. This is a magnificent tyrant flycatcher, and one of the most sought after species on the island! We also found a **Cuban Gnatcatcher** on the side of the road. A lovely small bird, with a prominent black crescent behind the eye that distinguishes it from the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. We then continued to Lomas de Banao Protected Reserve where we had dinner and heard **Cuban Nightjar** and another **Bare-legged Owl**.



Yeray Seminario / Whitehawk

Cuban Gnatcatcher, one of the endemics that we got acquainted with on our way to Banao

Day 8 - February 8

In the morning we visited the wetland of Tunas de Zaza, where we had impressive numbers of waterbirds, including hundreds of **American Avocets**, **Black-necked Stilts** and **American Flamingos**. We also enjoyed the presence of a very dark **Merlin** and added **Sandwich Tern** and **Double-crested Cormorant** to our list.

After having lunch in very pleasant company at the station, we drove to Cayo Coco. From the causeway to Cayo Coco we stopped and checked out mixed flocks of waterbirds. We saw up to six **Herring Gulls** and two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. There were dozens of **Black Skimmers** and a good mix of egrets and herons too. We made a quick try to find **West Indian Whistling-Duck** but didn't see any. We stayed at the Melia Jardines del Rey Hotel for the last part of the trip.

Day 9 - February 9

This was our full day in Cayo Coco, with the assistance of local guide Odey. In the early morning, in Cueva del Jabalí, we searched for two target birds: **Oriente Warbler** and **Key-West Quail-Dove**. We had brief views of the first one, along with a **Cape-May Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, and **Painted Bunting**, but the quail-dove wasn't anywhere to be seen. We drove towards Cayo Paredón Grande, making a few stops looking for **West Indian Whistling-Duck**, with no avail, but

got superb views of **Oriente Warbler** this time. Here, the destruction produced by Hurricane Irma five months before was more obvious than ever. Once in Cayo Paredón, we were surprised to find **Thick-billed Vireo**, as it had been very difficult to locate after the hurricane, so that's a big plus for us. We tried but didn't have luck with **Bahama Mockingbird**, but added **Mangrove Cuckoo** and **American Oystercatcher** to our list.



Cayo Coco is an excellent location to enjoy mixed flocks of migratory warblers, like this Northern Parula

In the afternoon we went to a small beach near the hotel where we found **Sanderling** and **Ruddy Turnstone**, and at Cueva del Jabalí we were finally successful with the **Key-West Quail-Dove**, seeing two of them in the last light of the afternoon.

Day 10 - February 10

With all the endemic Cuban birds under our belts, we had a relaxed morning at the hotel with an excellent breakfast and prepared to drive back to Havana. We had time, however, to stop at La Silla, where a final surprise was awaiting us. We had some reports of people seeing a Red-necked Phalarope in the area, so we examined the mix flocks of shorebirds, where good numbers of **Stilt Sandpipers**, both **Greater** and **Lesser yellowlegs** could be found. To our surprise, we found the phalarope, but it was in fact a **Wilson's Phalarope**! This is only the second confirmed record of the species in Cuba, and the first one that could be documented with a picture, which Nils took. It was an excellent way to finish the birding part of our trip.

In Havana we had a farewell dinner with traditional Cuban music performed by an excellent trio, and we enjoyed talking about our favorite moments of the trip, the birds, the people... It was a very nice way to finish our trip.



First registered picture of a Wilson's Phalarope in Cuba by Nils Navarro

Day 11 - February 11

Our last morning was dedicated to driving to the International Airport in Havana as all members of the group had an early flight back home.

Thanks!

We want to thank all the participants for their enthusiasm and great sense of teamwork to find some of the most difficult birds, as well as for putting up with some long drives. Thanks for being a part of this tour! Also, we owe a debt of gratitude to our local guides, particularly Maikel Cañizares, who did an excellent job. Our gratitude goes as well to Nils Navarro, Maydiel Cañizares and Odey Martínez for providing our group with the best possible experience.

Wildlife Observation List

Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2016.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1 American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	A few dozens seen at Salinas de Brito, Zapata Nature Reserve
2 Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Common in all water reservoirs, salt-pans, and flooded areas throughout the country
3 Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Fairly common in water reservoirs, at Salinas de Brito and Tunas de Zaza
4 White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	Distant views of a few individuals at Salinas de Brito, Zapata Nature Reserve
5 Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	3 at Niña Bonita Reservoir
6 Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Abundant in large reservoirs and lagoons
7 Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	3 at Playa Larga and exceptionally abundant in and around Cayo Coco
8 Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Abundant at Niña Bonita Reservoir
9 Helmeted Guineafowl (Feral)	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Feral birds at the Botanical Gardens of La Havana, among other locations
10 Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Endemic subspecies <i>cubanensis</i> present in the island. We saw 8 birds at the Botanical Gardens of La Havana
11 Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	1 in a pond near the road from Havana to Viñales
12 Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Several at Niña Bonita and 1 at Cienfuegos Botanical Garden
13 American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Hundreds at Salinas de Brito in Zapata, as well as in Tunas de Zaza
14 Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	A few individuals seen at Salinas de Brito during our two visits to the area
15 Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Fairly common near the coast
16 Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	Relatively common anywhere near water
17 Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 seen at Tunas de Zaza and several in Cayo Coco
18 Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	1 at Rosario, 1 at Tunas de Zaza and 1 at Cayo Coco
19 American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	A few dozens at Salinas de Brito during our two visits to the area
20 Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Common along the coast

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
21	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Fairly common throughout, always near water
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Common throughout
23	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Fairly common near water
24	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Common near water
25	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Common near water, particularly in Salinas de Brito and Cayo Coco
26	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Fairly common, particularly in Salinas de Brito and Cayo Coco. White morph relatively common in Cayo Coco
27	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Regularly seen in farms and pastures
28	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Seen almost everyday, in small ponds and other water areas
29	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Few individuals seen, at Niña Bonita, Salinas de Brito and La Turba
30	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	1 seen at Rosario
31	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	Fairly common in Zapata. Also seen at Tunas de Zaza and Cayo Coco
32	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	3 birds seen in a small pond near Tunas de Zaza
33	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	8 seen at Salinas de Brito, 2 in Tunas de Zaza and several in Cayo Coco
34	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Very common throughout
35	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Migratory subspecies <i>carolinensis</i> seen at Salinas de Brito, and on our way to Banao
36	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	15 seen next to the road to Viñales
37	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1 seen at Salinas de Brito
38	Gundlach's Hawk	<i>Accipiter gundlachi</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Endangered. 1 seen flying with a snake at Rosario
39	Cuban Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus gundlachii</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Endangered. several seen at Salinas de Brito and Playa Larga and a few in Cayo Coco
40	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1 at Sendero Las Maravillas
41	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1 at Botanical Gardens of La Havana, 1 at Palpite, 1 at Cienfuegos Botanical Garden and 1 near Tunas de Zaza
42	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	1 seen and several heard at Salinas de Brito
43	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	1 in a pond near the road from Havana to Viñales
44	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	Common near fresh water
45	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Common near fresh water

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
46 Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	1 heard at Salinas de Brito, 1 seen at Las Cuchillas, 1 at Pitajones and 1 in Cayo Coco
47 Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Fairly common in fresh shallow waters
48 American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	More than 700 at Tunas de Zaza
49 American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	2 birds at Cayo Paredón Grande
50 Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Fairly common in shallow waters and mudflats
51 Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Fairly common in shallow waters, mudflats and nearby areas
52 Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Fairly common in mudflats and rocky shores
53 Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A few individuals at Salinas de Brito
54 Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Only a few individuals at Salinas de Brito. A larger flock in La Silla, on the way to Cayo Coco
55 Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	A small flock with 20-25 birds at Las Coloradas
56 Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Small flock at Salinas de Brito and La Silla
57 Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Near Threatened , a few birds seen at Salinas de Brito
58 Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Abundant in mudflats at Salinas de Brito and Cayo Coco
59 Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Very rare in Cuba . Second confirmed record of the species in Cuba and first documented record with a photograph. Another group of birders saw the same individual five days before us
60 Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	A few individuals at Salinas de Brito and Tunas de Zaza
61 Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Fairly common in mudflats
62 Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	A few birds at Salinas de Brito and fairly common at Cayo Coco
63 Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Fairly common in mudflats
64 Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	Fairly common near the coast
65 Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	8 birds seen at La Silla
66 Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2 birds seen at La Silla
67 Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	6 birds seen at Salinas de Brito
68 Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Fairly common at Salinas de Brito and Cayo Coco
69 Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	Common near water, coastal shores, salt-pans and reservoirs
70 Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	10 birds at Tunas de Zaza

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
71 Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	A flock of 25 individuals in Salinas de Brito, a flock of more than 50 birds at La Silla
72 Rock Pigeon (Feral)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Fairly common in towns and cities
73 Scaly-naped Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas squamosa</i>	Several seen at Rancho San Vicente and near Viñales
74 White-crowned Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>	1 seen at Botanical Gardens of La Havana, 1 seen at Los Hondones, 1 seen at Cayo Coco
75 Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Introduced, seen in La Havana
76 Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common throughout
77 Blue-headed Quail-Dove	<i>Starnoenas cyanocephala</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Endangered. 1 seen at Los Hondones, 12 birds seen at Cueva de Los Peces, 2 birds at Bermejas
78 Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	1 seen at Los Hondones
79 Gray-fronted Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon caniceps</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Vulnerable. 1 seen at Los Hondones, 1 seen at Bermejas
80 Key West Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon chrysia</i>	Regional Endemic. 1 bird seen at Cueva del Jabalí, in Cayo Coco
81 White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Fairly common in towns and cities
82 Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	Fairly common in Zapata, Tunas de Zaza and Cayo Coco
83 Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Common throughout
84 Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Fairly common throughout
85 Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	1 bird at Cayo Paredón
86 Great Lizard-Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus merlini</i>	Regional Endemic, Cuban nominal subspecies <i>merlini</i> . Fairly common throughout
87 Bare-legged Owl	<i>Margarobyas lawrencii</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 1 seen at Bermejas
88 Cuban Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium siju</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 1 seen at Las Maravillas, 1 heard at Soplillar, 1 seen at Los Hondones and 1 seen at Banao
89 Stygian Owl	<i>Asio stygius</i>	Endemic subspecies <i>siguapa</i> . 1 seen at Las Terrazas
90 Cuban Nightjar	<i>Antrostomus cubanensis</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Considered a subspecies of Greater Antillean Nightjar by some authorities. 1 bird heard at Banao
91 Antillean Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>	Regional Endemic. Common throughout
92 Bee Hummingbird	<i>Mellisuga helenae</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Near Threatened. 8 birds seen at Pálpite
93 Cuban Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>	Regional Endemic. Fairly common throughout

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
94	Cuban Trogon	<i>Priotelus temnurus</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Several seen and many heard during the trip. Fairly common in forests
95	Cuban Tody	<i>Todus multicolor</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Several seen and many heard during the trip. Fairly common in forests
96	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Fairly common near water, 1 bird seen at almost any body of water
97	West Indian Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes superciliaris</i>	Regional Endemic. Fairly common throughout
98	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	1 bird seen at Bermejas
99	Cuban Green Woodpecker	<i>Xiphidiopicus percussus</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 2 birds at Botanical Gardens of La Havana and 2 at Las Maravillas
100	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Endemic subspecies <i>chrysocaulosus</i> . Recently recognized within the Yellow-shafted Flicker species. 1 at Soplillar and 1 at Los Hondones
101	Fernandina's Flicker	<i>Colaptes fernandinae</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Vulnerable. At least three seen near Las Terrazas, 2 at Soplillar
102	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	1 bird flying near Bermejas, 2 birds in Cayo Coco
103	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Most of the birds from the Endemic subspecies <i>sparverioides</i> .
104	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1 at Botanical Gardens of La Havana, 1 at Salinas de Brito, 1 near Tunas de Zaza
105	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 adult at Salinas de Brito
106	Cuban Parrot	<i>Amazona leucocephala</i>	Regional Endemic, Endemic subspecies <i>leucocephala</i> . 2 seen at the Crocodile farm in Zapata, and a few more at El Soplillar. A small flock of 10 birds seen at Bermejas
107	Cuban Parakeet	<i>Psittacara euops</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Vulnerable. Heard at Los Hondones and a large flock of around 40 birds in Bermejas
108	Cuban Pewee	<i>Contopus caribaeus</i>	Regional Endemic. Fairly common in forests
109	La Sagra's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus sagrae</i>	Regional Endemic. Fairly common in forests
110	Loggerhead Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>	Regional Endemic. Fairly common throughout
111	Giant Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus cubensis</i>	Endemic to Cuba after the disappearance of the species in Bahamas. 1 seen near Banao
112	White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	Several seen in Viñales and 1 in Cayo Coco
113	Thick-billed Vireo	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i>	Regional Endemic. 1 seen very well at Cayo Paredón Grande

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
114	Cuban Vireo	<i>Vireo gundlachii</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Fairly common in forests
115	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	1 at Las Maravillas
116	Cuban Crow	<i>Corvus nasicus</i>	Regional Endemic. Several individuals seen in Zapata
117	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Small flock at Salinas de Brito and Tunas de Zaza
118	Cuban Martin	<i>Progne cryptoleuca</i>	First arriving individuals seen in Viñales and Las Cuchillas
119	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Small flocks in Viñales
120	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1 bird among tree swallows on the way to Viñales
121	Zapata Wren	<i>Ferminia cerverai</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Endangered. 1 bird seen and 1 more heard at La Turba
122	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	2 birds at Botanical Gardens of La Havana, fairly common in mixed flocks in Zapata
123	Cuban Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila lembeyei</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 1 bird seen near Trinidad
124	Cuban Solitaire	<i>Myadestes elisabeth</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Near Threatened. Several birds heard at Rancho San Vicente. 1 bird seen well at Las Maravillas.
125	Red-legged Thrush	<i>Turdus plumbeus</i>	Regional Endemic. Endemic subspecies rubripes seen. Common throughout.
126	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Common in forests, specially in mixed flocks
127	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Common throughout
128	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	1 bird seen at Las Maravillas and several seen in Zapata
129	Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	1 seen at Los Hondones and 1 at Bermejas
130	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	1 at Botanical Gardens of La Havana, 1 at Rosario
131	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	1 at Rosario, 1 at Palpite and 1 at Bermejas
132	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Fairly common in forests throughout, specially within mixed flocks
133	Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	1 bird seen at Los Sábalos
134	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>	At least 1 bird at Rosario
135	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Fairly common throughout
136	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Common throughout
137	Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	1 bird at Zapata and 1 in Cayo Coco
138	Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>	Fairly common throughout
139	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	1 bird at El Rosario
140	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	2 birds at Salinas de Brito and several on the Causeway to Cayo Coco

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
141	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	Several in the Zapata Swamp and 1 at Cueva del Jabalí, Cayo Coco
142	Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	Common throughout
143	Olive-capped Warbler	<i>Setophaga pityophila</i>	Regional Endemic. 1 at Las Terrazas,
144	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	1 seen at National Botanical Gardens, very common in Viñales, and 1 seen at Salinas de Brito
145	Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>	1 at National Botanical Gardens, 1 at Sendero Maravillas and 1 at Bermejas
146	Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>	1 at Rosario, 2 at Los Sabalos, 1 at Las Cuchillas, 2 at Cayo Coco
147	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	1 at Los Sabalos
148	Yellow-headed Warbler	<i>Teretistris fernandinae</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 2 at Las Terrazas, very common in Viñales, 4 at Rosario and fairly common in Zapata
149	Oriente Warbler	<i>Teretistris fornsi</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 4 in Cayo Coco
150	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	2 at National Botanical Gardens
151	Cuban Grassquit	<i>Tiaris canorus</i>	Endemic to Cuba - A few seen at Rosario in a mixed flock with Yellow-faced Grassquit
152	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	Fairly common throughout
153	Cuban Bullfinch	<i>Melopyrrha nigra</i>	Regional Endemic , endemic nominal subspecies <i>nigra</i> . Fairly common in Viñales, also a few in Zapata and Cayo Coco
154	Western Spindalis	<i>Spindalis zena</i>	Endemic subspecies pretrei - 2 seen in Viñales and 2 seen in Zapata
155	Zapata Sparrow	<i>Torreornis inexpectata</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Endangered. Two subspecies seen: <i>inexpectata</i> in Zapata and <i>varonai</i> in Cayo Coco
156	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	2 seen at Sendero Maravillas, Viñales
157	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	1 seen at Niña Bonita Reservoir and 1 seen at Hotel Los Jazmines
158	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	1 bird seen at Cueva del Jabalí, Cayo Coco
159	Red-shouldered Blackbird	<i>Agelaius assimilis</i>	Endemic to Cuba - four birds seen at La Turba
160	Tawny-shouldered Blackbird	<i>Agelaius humeralis</i>	Regional Endemic - Common throughout
161	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Endemic subspecies hippocrepis. Candidate for a split and full species. Seen at National Botanical Gardens and on the road from Viñales to Havana.
162	Cuban Blackbird	<i>Dives atrovioleaceus</i>	Endemic to Cuba - Common throughout
163	Greater Antillean Grackle	<i>Quiscalus niger</i>	Regional Endemic - Very common throughout

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
164	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	2 birds seen at Bermejas
165	Cuban Oriole	<i>Icterus melanopsis</i>	Endemic to Cuba - 2 seen at Las Maravillas and many seen in Palpite
166	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Introduced - Seen in towns and gas stations

Reptiles

1	Bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	1 at Banao
2	Slender Cliff Anole	<i>Anolis lucius</i>	1 individual seen at Banao
3	West Cuban Anole	<i>Anolis bartschi</i>	1 individual at Banao
4	Cuban Brown Curlytail	<i>Leiocephalus cubensis</i>	1 individual at Palpite
5	Saw-scaled Curlytail	<i>Leiocephalus carinatus</i>	Several at Cueva de Los Peces
6	Ashy Sphaero	<i>Sphaerodactylus elegans</i>	Regional Endemic - 1 at Banao
7	Cuban Slider	<i>Trachemys decussata</i>	Several at Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens