



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Cuba Trip Report

Caribbean Endemic Birding I

*3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (10 days)*



Cuban Tody by Rich Lindie

**Trip report compiled by tour leader: Rich Lindie**



**Cuban Pygmy Owl by Rich Lindie**

Our first 2013 tour to Cuba was a resounding success. With a full sweep of all but one of the Cuban and available Caribbean endemics seen, a wonderful group of friends, great transport, fascinating cultural scenery and history, and fabulous weather throughout, we couldn't have asked for more. For the full report on this highly successful and wonderfully enjoyable tour, read on...

Shortly after meeting in the lobby of our hotel in Havana on day one, we jumped aboard our very comfortable bus for the hour long drive to Soroa, stopping along the way at Niña Bonita where we saw Eastern Meadowlark, Lesser Scaup and many American Coots.

Arriving at Soroa, as soon as we stepped out of the vehicle a Fernandina's Flicker flew into a tree by the parking lot for fantastic views and photo opportunities - a major target and a wonderful bird already in the bag! This was followed very shortly by Cuban Orioles and our first West Indian Woodpeckers and Tawny-shouldered Blackbirds. Rewarding ourselves with some much-desired coffee, we then watched our first Zenaida Doves, Loggerhead Kingbirds and American Kestrels of the trip, before making our way up the hill where we had an explosion of great birds including our first Cuban Trogon, Cuban Green Woodpecker, three Cuban Todies, a handful of Black-throated Green Warblers, a pair of Cuban Grassquits among many Yellow-faced Grassquits, Great Lizard Cuckoo and La Sagra's Flycatcher!

An afternoon stroll up the adjacent hill and around the lodge grounds gave us Louisiana Waterthrush, Cuban Pewee, more of those lovely Red-legged Thrushes, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Common Ground Doves, Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler and Northern Flicker, to complete the set of five woodpeckers on the very first day!

That evening some of us were lucky to observe a pair of magnificent Stygian Owls above our accommodation.

A fairly early start the next day saw us arriving in San Diego for a cup of coffee in the cool morning weather, before heading off to Cuevas de las Portales. Here, amid the stunning limestone formations, it took us no time at all to locate a Cuban Solitaire, giving its amazing song from above. Magnolia Warbler, Scaly-naped Pigeon, Cuban Bullfinch and "just another Cuban Trogon and Tody" all made their way on to our list next, before we set off to watch a Cuban Pygmy Owl - thanks to some mobbing Loggerhead Kingbirds.

A short excursion for some of us then produced great views of the delightful Yellow-headed Warbler, while others went to see the bats in Che Guevara's "hideout" cave.

On the journey back to San Diego we made a brief and successful stop for Olive-capped Warbler where we also saw our only Broad-winged Hawk of the tour. Thereafter, another short stop was made to admire more Cuban Grassquits, including a lovely male.





**Blue-headed Quail-Dove by Rich Lindie**

We had langoustines for lunch with Antillean Palm Swifts and “nice” Cuban Emeralds in attendance, before heading out to Hacienda Cortina for a stroll around the “ruins”. Here we saw many Little Blue and Green Herons, along with Purple Gallinule and our first Indigo Buntings. We also had more looks at Fernandina’s Flicker, Cuban Green Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker attending nests, while a Black-whiskered Vireo was spotted overhead.

The following morning we drove to Zapata where, upon our arrival in Playa Larga, we were able to admire a mixed flock of low-flying both Cave and Tree Swallows and a dark form of American Kestrel. While waiting to check in we also saw Cape May Warbler. We ate lunch at the hotel and then went on a walk to some nearby woodland, seeing Prairie Warbler, Cuban Vireo, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and Cuban Black Hawk. Then, at 4p.m. we went out to bird more woodlands where we saw our first Bee Hummingbird female, a wonderful little Bare-legged Owl and a pair of Cuban Amazons. Standing on the road that evening we had a very cooperative Greater Antillean Nightjar fly in to land on the road only a few meters away. A great start to our time in Zapata!

Early the next morning we drove to the famous swamp where some of us managed views of the very tricky Zapata Wren, while a pair of Zapata Sparrows were way more confiding. In another part of the swamp we then stopped to look at a flock of Red-shouldered Blackbirds before visiting the local crocodile farm for a little warbler-watching, where the last of us caught up with Yellow-headed Warbler and we all had our first Summer Tanager.

After lunch we went back to see the Bee Hummingbird again before making another attempt at seeing Zapata Wren, with the same results as before!

In the cold pre-dawn air the following day we found ourselves in the forest for a feeding spectacle of another kind. We had come to see some very special quail-doves and it wasn’t long before the first was to show - Key West. Thereafter, the stunning Blue-headed and finally Grey-fronted Quail-Doves followed suit, all eventually giving us fantastic views only meters away from our make-shift hide/blind!

Thereafter we took a short walk to see more Bare-legged Owls, after which we watched numerous female Bee Hummingbirds before finally seeing a brilliant male, perched in all his splendor! Lunch and unlimited Mojitos by the beach reminded us how relaxing a bird tour to Cuba actually is!





West Indian Whistling Duck by Rich Lindie

Our afternoon in Las Salinas then produced a number of sightings of Cuban Black Hawk and a host of other birds to pad the list, including Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, Blue-winged Teal, Royal and Caspian Terns, Least Sandpiper, Tricolored Heron and even a Peregrine Falcon to boot!

Finally leaving the Zapata region we made one more stop in the 'wren area', where we managed only to find our first Limpkin before the long drive to Camaguey.

With only a few targets in the area, we had a lie-in of sorts the next morning, enjoying breakfast with a sun rise over the old city! In the field, it took us no time at all to locate some Giant Kingbirds as well as the commoner Loggerhead Kingbirds for a great comparison. At the same site we enjoyed comparing the two crow species, after now having seen our first Cuban Palm Crows. Plain Pigeon too, made its way onto our list before we left the heat for lunch in the wonderful farmstead that is La Belén.

Our afternoon drive to Cayo Guillermo was reasonably uneventful until we stopped at a pan just outside our accommodation for some final birding in the day. Here we added a number of wader/shorebirds to our list, including Red Knot, American Avocet, Stilt Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher, while a few Sora and Clapper Rails showed fantastically well. Dinner and drinks at our all inclusive lodgings were enjoyed by all!

Our full day in the Keys began with a brief roadside stop to see the very understated Oriente Warbler. Following this, we stopped at a secluded spot where two freshwater 'puddles' were attracting a hive of bird activity including our target species, Western Spindalis.

Making our way to another all inclusive resort, we went straight to the water side for brilliant views of three West Indian Whistling Ducks, and then back to the vehicles - all without stopping at the bar! The remainder of the morning was spent heading further east where we picked up Thick-billed Vireo, the very neat Cuban Gnatcatcher and a host of supporting goodies including Magnificent Frigatebird and more Cuban Vireos.

We then dedicated a little time in the late afternoon to finding Bahama Mockingbird, which we did with no trouble at all, and another look at our 'wader pool'. There we found much the same species as before, but did manage to add Semipalmated Sandpiper to our already very healthy list.

Immediately after breakfast the following morning we headed to the Cayo Coco airport for the short hop back to Havana, where we relaxed before a thoroughly enjoyable walking tour of the old city. Then, in fitting style, we ended off our fantastic tour with a wonderful dinner and a sampling of more great Cuban liquor. Cheers to Cuba!





Grey-fronted Quail-Dove by Rich Lindie

## Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 3.3 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Total species recorded: 156

E = Endemic to Cuba, CE = Caribbean Endemic, I = Introduced.

#### Guineafowl Numididae

**Helmeted Guineafowl (I)** *Numida meleagris*

We saw small flocks on two days of the tour.

#### New World Quail Odontophoridae

**Northern Bobwhite** *Colinus virginianus*

Some of us were lucky to find this species on the grounds of our hotel in Soroa.

#### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

**West Indian Whistling Duck (CE)** *Dendrocygna arborea*

We had great looks at this species on Cayo Coco.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

Common at Las Salinas and in the Keys.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

As with the above species.

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*

Good numbers were seen at Niña Bonita, between Havana and Soroa.

#### Grebes Podicipedidae

**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus*

A pair of these little birds was seen at Hacienda Cortina.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*

We first saw this species at a fish farm outside Soroa.



**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****American Flamingo***Phoenicopterus ruber*

Seen at Las Salinas in the Zapata area, and in the Keys.

**Storks Ciconiidae****Wood Stork***Mycteria Americana*

Seen well at Las Salinas in the Zapata area.

**Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae****[American] White Ibis***Eudocimus albus*

Common in Zapata and the Keys, where it was seen daily.

**Roseate Spoonbill***Platalea ajaja*

Small flocks were seen at Las Salinas and in the Keys area.

**Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae****Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

Only recorded in Zapata, where quite common in the La Turba area.

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

We all got to see this species at Las Salinas.

**Green Heron***Butorides virescens*

Seen almost daily.

**[Western] Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Common throughout.

**Great Blue Heron***Ardea Herodias*

Also seen almost daily.

**[Western] Great Egret***Ardea alba*

Seen daily at small numbers.

**Reddish Egret***Egretta rufescens*

Seen in Zapata, where common at Las Salinas, and in the Keys.

**Tricoloured Heron***Egretta tricolor*

Seen in the Zapata area and in the Keys.

**Little Blue Heron***Egretta caerulea*

Seen in Soroa, Zapata and the Keys.

**Snowy Egret***Egretta thula*

Seen almost daily, at scattered wetlands throughout the tour.

**Frigatebirds Fregatidae****Magnificent Frigatebird***Fregata magnificens*

Seen only in the Cayo Coco area.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae****Brown Pelican***Pelecanus occidentalis*

Seen at the fish farm near Soroa, in the Zapata area and around the Keys.

**American White Pelican***Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Small numbers were seen at Las Salinas in Zapata.

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Common at reservoirs and inland waters.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Most commonly encountered in the Keys area.

### Aningas, Darters Anhingidae

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*

Seen only near Playa Larga in the Zapata area, where we had our first encounter at the crocodile farm.

### New World Vultures Cathartidae

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*

Very common throughout.

### Ospreys Pandionidae

**[Western] Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Seen at a handful of sites, including Las Salinas and Cayo Guillermo.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Seen in good numbers at the fish farm outside Soroa.

**Cuban Black Hawk (E)** *Buteogallus gundlachi*

Seen well on numerous occasions, at Las Salinas and in the Keys.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*

Seen well, near the caves.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*

Seen on just two separate days, starting with a few individuals in the San Diego area.

### Caracaras, Falcons Falconidae

**Northern Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*

Recorded almost daily and seen very well in the Keys.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*

Widespread in Cuba; we saw both pale and red morph birds in different areas.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Our first individual was seen at Las Salinas.

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus longirostris*

We had wonderful views of this species on Cayo Guillermo.

**Sora** *Porzana carolina*

Also seen very well on Cayo Guillermo.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica*

We saw this species around San Diego and in the Zapata area.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

First seen in the canals bordering the Zapata swamp.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*

Seen on most days of the tour, beginning with large numbers at Niña Bonita, between Havana and Soroa.



**Limpkin Aramidae**

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna*  
 Seen once in the Zapata area and again at La Belén.

**Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*  
 Seen in good numbers in the Keys.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*  
 One was seen on our first afternoon at Cayo Guillermo.

**Plovers Charadriidae**

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*  
 Seen in small numbers in the Keys.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
 A few were seen on Cayo Coco.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous*  
 Seen in the Zapata area and in the Keys.

**Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*  
 Seen in fair numbers on Cayo Guillermo.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*  
 Seen at Las Salinas and in the Keys.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*  
 Also seen at Las Salinas and in the Keys.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*  
 Seen at three separate sites, including Las Salinas where we saw some spotted individuals.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*  
 Seen on our first day on Cayo Guillermo.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*  
 Eventually seen well by all, in the Keys.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canatus*  
 We saw a few individuals of this species on our first afternoon on Cayo Guillermo.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*  
 A few of these small waders were seen at the pan near our accommodation on Cayo Guillermo.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*  
 Seen flocking in small numbers with other waders at Las Salinas in Zapata, and also at the Keys.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*  
 Seen only in the Keys.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*  
 Seen on both days in the Keys.

**Gulls, Terns and Skimmers Laridae**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*  
 Common along the coast in the Zapata area and in the Keys.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*  
 We made a brief stop on Cayo Coco to add this species to the list.



**Gull-billed Tern***Gelochelidon nilotica*

Small numbers of this distinctive tern were seen at Las Salinas.

**Caspian Tern***Hydroprogne caspia*

Less common than the following species but seen at both the Keys and Las Salinas.

**Royal Tern***Thalasseus maximus*

The most regularly encountered tern species during our tour and seen well at Las Salinas and the Keys.

**Forster's Tern***Sterna forsteri*

We had lovely views of this tern at the fish farm outside Soroa.

**Pigeons, Doves Columbidae****Rock Dove (I)***Columba livia*

Common in towns and cities.

**Plain Pigeon (CE)***Patagioenas inornata*

We scoped a calling individual at La Belén.

**White-crowned Pigeon (CE)***Columba leucocephala*

We managed to get some decent views of this species during our afternoon walk in Soroa.

**Scaly-naped Pigeon (CE)***Columba squamosa*

This species was seen well at the caves.

**Eurasian Collared Dove (I)***Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen in Havana, San Diego and in the Keys.

**Mourning Dove***Zenaida macroura*

Widespread in Cuba and a common sight on most days.

**Zenaida Dove***Zenaida aurita*

Commonly encountered in the Zapata area.

**White-winged Dove***Zenaida asiatica*

Fairly common in Soroa but also seen in the Keys.

**Common Ground Dove***Columbina passerina*

Seen on almost every day of the tour, beginning with our first birds in Soroa.

**Gray-fronted (-headed) Quail-Dove (E)***Geotrygon caniceps*

One of Zapata's specialties, we saw it very well Bermeja, as it fed only meters from our feet.

**Key West Quail-Dove (CE)***Geotrygon chrysis*

This was one of the first birds seen on our morning at the Bermeja trail. Eventually we went on to see multiple individuals there, and another in the Keys.

**Blue-headed Quail-Dove (E)***Starnoeanas cyanocephala*

These beautiful birds are the star attraction at Bermeja and we thoroughly enjoyed watching a pair as they fed in full view for what seemed like ages.

**Parrots Psittacidae****Cuban Parakeet (E)***Aratinga euops*

Small flocks were first seen in Zapata, while several more were spotted at La Belén.

**Cuban Amazon (Parrot) (CE)***Amazona leucocephala*

As with the above species, this beautiful parrot was seen in Zapata and at La Belén.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae****Smooth-billed Ani***Crotophaga ani*

Common in cultivated areas throughout Cuba.

**Great Lizard Cuckoo (CE)***Saurothera merlini*

Fairly common and seen at all sites visited during the tour.



**Owls Strigidae****Bare-legged (Cuban Screech) Owl (E)** *Gymnoglaux lawrencii*

One of Zapata's specialties, we had nice views of pairs and individuals roosting inside or near to dead palm trees.

**Cuban Pygmy Owl (E)** *Glaucidium siju*

We bumped into this species on a few occasions during our time in the Zapata area. Always a delight and a firm favorite.

**Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius*

Some of us were fortunate enough to see this fantastic species at our accommodation in Soroa.

**Nightjars Caprimulgidae****Cuban Nightjar (E)** *Caprimulgus cubanensis*

We had brilliant views of this species in the Zapata area.

**Swifts Apodidae****Antillean Palm Swift (CE)** *Tachornis phoenicobia*

Small flocks of this species were seen throughout Cuba – often in association with thatched buildings.

**Hummingbirds Trochilidae****Cuban Emerald (CE)** *Chlorostilbon ricordii*

Very common. Seen at every site visited during the tour.

**Bee Hummingbird (E)** *Mellisuga helenae*

After seeing only females initially, we were delighted to see an adult male perched at close quarters, in Bermeja.

**Trogons Trogonidae****Cuban Trogon (E)** *Priotelus temnurus*

Cuba's national bird, this very attractive species is very common and we saw it in every place that we visited.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*

Seen in Soroa, Zapata and in the Keys.

**Todies Todidae****Cuban Tody (E)** *Todus multicolor*

Arguably Cuba's most beautiful bird! While more often heard than seen, we nonetheless managed to see it everywhere except for Najasa.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****West Indian Woodpecker (CE)** *Melanerpes superciliosus*

We saw this colorful woodpecker at all sites visited, except the Keys.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*

Seen in Soroa and in the Zapata area.

**Cuban Green Woodpecker (E)** *Xiphidiopicus percussus*

We had great looks at this species at a number of sites, including Soroa and Zapata.



**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*

We saw this striking bird very well in Soroa.

**Fernandina's Flicker (E)** *Colaptes fernandinae*

One of the first birds of the tour! Just as we pulled into the parking lot at Soroa, one of these birds flew into a tree next to the bus, starting our haul of 5 species of woodpecker for the morning.

**Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae****Cuban Pewee (E)** *Contopus caribaeus*

Very common and widespread. We saw it everyday.

**Giant Kingbird (CE)** *Tyrannus cubensis*

One of Najassa's specialties, we saw it at Hacienda La Belén.

**Loggerhead Kingbird (CE)** *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*

Seen everyday and at all sites visited

**La Sagra's Flycatcher (CE)** *Myiarchus sagrae*

Almost as common as the previous species. We only missed it on one day of the tour.

**Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae****Thick-billed Vireo (CE)** *Vireo crassirostris*

One showed well as it fed on the fruits of a 'tourist' tree in Paredon.

**Cuban Vireo (E)** *Vireo gundlachii*

We had some great views of this species in the Zapata area and in the Keys.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*

Seen briefly in Soroa and again in the Zapata area.

**Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus*

Seen in Soroa and in the Keys.

**Crows, Jays Corvidae****Cuban Palm Crow (E)** *Corvus minutus*

One of Najassa's specialties, we saw it at Hacienda La Belén.

**Cuban Crow (CE)** *Corvus nasicus*

Seen in Zapata and La Belén – where it was nice to compare the two crow species.

**Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae****Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*

We had some great views of this species as we watched a mixed flock of swallows feeding over a field in Playa Larga.

**Cuban Martin (CE)** *Progne cryptoleuca*

Seen first at the caves, then at many sites thereafter.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

We had small flocks of this species in the Zapata area.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Seen in Soroa and the Zapata area.

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva*

Seen nesting in Cueva de los Portales, though better views were had in Zapata.

**Wrens Troglodytidae****Zapata Wren (E)** *Ferminia cerverai*

One was poorly seen in the area of La Turba, Zapata.



**Gnatcatchers Polioptilidae****Blue-gray Gnatcatcher***Poliophtila caerulea*

This species was encountered on a few occasions in the Zapata area.

**Cuban Gnatcatcher (E)***Poliophtila lembeyi*

Seen very well on Cayo Paredón Grande. Always a great little bird to see.

**Mockingbirds, Thrashers Mimidae****Grey Catbird***Dumetella carolinensis*

Seen on more than half the days of the tour.

**Northern Mockingbird***Mimus polyglottos*

A very common bird, seen on every day of the tour.

**Bahama Mockingbird (CE)***Mimus gundlachii*

One individual was seen very well on Cayo Guillermo.

**Thrushes Turdidae****Cuban Solitaire (E)***Myadestes elisabeth*

We scoped a singing bird near Cueva de los Portales – who can forget that song!

**Red-legged Thrush (CE)***Turdus plumbeus*

Seen on every day of the tour.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae****House Sparrow (I)***Passer domesticus*

Common in towns and cities.

**New World Warblers Parulidae****Ovenbird***Seiurus aurocapilla*

We saw this species very well on forest trails in the Zapata area and again in the Keys.

**Worm-eating Warbler***Helmitheros vermivorum*

We only encountered this species on one occasion, in the Zapata area.

**Louisiana Waterthrush***Seiurus motacilla*

Seen in Soroa and Zapata only.

**Northern Waterthrush***Seiurus noveboracensis*

We saw this species well in the Zapata area and in the Keys.

**Black-and-white Warbler***Mniotilta varia*

A delightful little warbler, seen on every day of the tour..

**Swainson's Warbler***Limnothlypis swainsonii*

One of these shy warblers was seen feeding in the understory, in Zapata.

**Common Yellowthroat***Geothlypis trichas*

Seen in San Diego, Najasa, the Keys and Zapata, where it was particularly common in La Turba.

**American Redstart***Setophaga ruticilla*

A very common warbler during our tour.

**Cape May Warbler***Setophaga tigrina*

After our initial encounter at Playa Larga, we went on to see this species as a number of other sites, including the Keys.

**Northern Parula***Setophaga americana*

Also commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**Magnolia Warbler***Setophaga magnolia*

Only seen in the Soroa area and in Zapata.

**Mangrove Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*

We called out a small group of these birds on Cayo Coco.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*

Common in Soroa, Zapata and Najasa.

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*

Very common and seen every day.

**Olive-capped Warbler (CE)** *Setophaga pityophila*

Seen well near San Diego de los Baños.

**Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*

We briefly saw this species at the fish farm near Soroa.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*

Commonly seen in the Zapata area.

**Prairie Warbler** *Setophaga discolor*

Seen well and on a number of occasions in the Zapata area.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*

Common during the first half of the tour.

**Yellow-headed Warbler (E)** *Teretistris fernandinae*

This fantastic endemic was seen near the caves and in Zapata.

**Oriente Warbler (E)** *Teretistris fornsi*

We saw it only at the Keys, where it was common and widespread.

### Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds Icteridae

**Cuban Oriole (E)** *Icterus melanopsis*

Quite common, mainly in western Cuba, where we saw it in Soroa, San Diego de los Baños and Zapata.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*

We only encountered this species in San Diego de los Baños

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*

Seen in Soroa and at scattered locations thereafter.

**Cuban Blackbird (E)** *Dives atrovioleaceus*

Common and widespread in Cuba.

**Red-shouldered Blackbird (E)** *Agelaius assimilis*

Highly restricted to Zapata, where we had great looks at a small flock.

**Tawny-shouldered Blackbird (CE)** *Agelaius humeralis*

Seen well over the first few days of the tour, especially in Soroa.

**Greater Antillean Grackle (CE)** *Quiscalus niger*

A common species seen every day of the tour.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*

Seen particularly well at Niña Bonita.

### Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies Emberizidae

**Zapata Sparrow (E)** *Arremon brunneinucha*

We saw a wonderfully confiding pair in the Zapata area.

### Tanagers & Allies Thraupidae

**Cuban Bullfinch (CE)** *Melopyrrha nigra*

A smart little bird that we saw in the Soroa area and in the Keys.

**Cuban Grassquit (E)** *Tiaris canorus*



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This is a western Cuba specialty, and we were fortunate to see in it both San Diego de los Baños and Soroa, always in small flocks and sometimes mixed with the following species.

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus*

Very common and widespread in Cuba.

**Western Spindalis (CE)** *Spindalis zena*

We finally caught up with this great little bird in the Keys.

**Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies Cardenalidae**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*

We had great looks at males and females in the Zapata area.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*

We had some good looks at this species at Hacienda Cortina.

**Rockjumper Birding Tours CC**

**Worldwide Birding Adventures**

Registration number 2001/059480/23

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