



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Dominican Republic **Endemics of Hispaniola**

Trip Report
14th to 21st February 2016



Broad-billed Tody by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Trip report by tour leader: Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

Top five birds as voted for by participants:

1. Ashy-faced Owl
2. Bay-breasted Cuckoo
3. Broad-billed Tody
4. La Selle Thrush
5. Hispaniolan Trogon



Palmchat by Dušan Brinkhuizen

The Dominican Republic is a fascinating country in the Caribbean, and holds a good number of endemics (including six endemic genera) found only on Hispaniola (Dominican Republic & Haiti). The national bird is the Palmchat, a unique species placed in its own bird family, *Dulidae*. Furthermore, the island has an impressive variety of range-restricted birds, plus rare and localized boreal migrants such as Bicknell's Thrush. We visited different corners of the country at different elevations successfully targeting endemics and other specialties. We managed to see all the possible 30 Hispaniolan endemics and 8 near-endemics, missing only Hispaniolan Nightjar, which unfortunately remained heard-only.

Day 1: Arrival day, Santo Domingo. Today was scheduled as an arrival day with participants flying in from different destinations. Some of us that had arrived

early and did get to see some interesting birds in downtown Santo Domingo, with goodies including our first Palmchats, Hispaniolan Parakeets and Hispaniolan Woodpecker. The tour officially started with a welcome dinner at a fine restaurant in the old town.

Day 2: Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens to Puerto Escondido. Early morning birding started in the Botanical Gardens on the outskirts of Santo Domingo. It is a wonderful, large park and a great introduction to the birds of Dominican Republic. Furthermore, the park also holds some important target birds like West Indian Whistling Duck, a species that we most likely would not get anywhere else. At the entrance we started off with Grey Kingbird, Antillean Palm Swift and the gregarious Palmchat, the latter being especially abundant at this site. We had a good look at the Palmchats that were present in small noisy flocks and quickly got familiar with their characteristic alarm call. We located a few of their huge nests and learned from our local guide that the nest structure in the palm was actually a cluster of multiple nests and that the species breeds communally. Next was a male Vervain Hummingbird, the second smallest bird in the world, perched atop a bush.



Mangrove Cuckoo by John Bjorkman





La Selle Thrush by Dušan Brinkhuizen

We heard Black-whiskered Vireo singing from the canopy and since it was one of our targets for the morning we tried to get it into view. It took a couple of minutes before everybody got on it and consequently we got a little 'warbler neck' with the bird remaining high in the canopy. Another target, Mangrove Cuckoo was brilliantly seen shortly afterwards. We also got our first Stolid Flycatcher, a near-endemic species. It didn't take long to work out that Hispaniolan Woodpecker was common and we enjoyed great views of this handsome Hispaniolan endemic. A pair of Hispaniolan Parakeets was perched at their nest cavity giving away stunning views.

We also got our first looks at Black-crowned Tanager, another cracking island specialty. A family group of West Indian Whistling Ducks, our principal target for the morning, was located at a small stream.

This vulnerable species is heavily hunted on the island, but luckily the Botanical Gardens give protection to a stable population. We also got good views of Least Grebe a little further down the stream. Our first Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo was scoped on the way back. We enjoyed a great lunch stop in Bani and continued our drive to the south-western part of the country. In the late afternoon we birded a forest trail at the base of the Sierra de Bahoruco. Here we targeted White-fronted Quail-Dove, and after carefully scanning the forest floor we located a pair. The birds were quite shy but through the telescope we all got superb views. Owling after dusk was productive with good views of the tricky endemic Least Poorwill. Hispaniolan Nightjar and Northern Potoo were heard at the same site.

Day 3: Northern Sierra de Bahoruco. We had an early start driving up a rough track into the Bahoruco Mountains. Today was an important day regarding high elevation targets species and luckily up near the top we got exactly what we were looking for. Our first stop was for Hispaniolan Nightjar. At least two birds were perched calling at fairly close range but the viewing conditions were bad with thick mist hanging over the pine forest. At one point two birds flew by swiftly but they were not picked up by the group because of the dense fog. Not seeing the nightjar was a bit of a dip, but at least we heard them call nicely. At dawn we secured our prime target: the rare and local La Selle Thrush. A crisp adult was foraging on the track just past the appropriate La Selle Thrush sign. Here we also heard a Bicknell's Thrush calling from the undergrowth. The Bicknell's Thrush responded surprisingly well to tape playback and even though it remained secretive we all obtained good looks. At our field breakfast spot we got to see our first Green-tailed Warbler, an interesting species that used to be called Green-tailed Ground-tanager. Rufous-throated Solitaires were singing all around us and soon we watched this handsome species perched on a bare snag. A



**Hispaniolan Trogon
by Dušan Brinkhuizen**



male Hispaniolan Emerald was foraging at close range while we were having hot coffee. Another important target was the White-winged Warbler that we located fairly quickly. A single individual was seen well by most of us but only briefly. A responsive Antillean Piculet was seen in silhouette. The fancy Hispaniolan Spindalis showed itself in better light, so we could enjoy its striking plumage. We still needed to see the skulky Western Chat-Tanager. Luckily our local guide had a stake-out where we got an instant response to tape playback. Within a few minutes we watched a small family group of these chunky, somewhat babbler-like birds in the understory.



Black-crowned Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Hispaniolan Trogon was also high on our list of sought after species, but was surprisingly difficult to see. We had heard individuals along the track but none of them had come into view. The weather was probably also a factor as it remained quite foggy. During a short window of sunshine we got fantastic scope views of a splendid male Hispaniolan Trogon. The female was perched nearby and seen well too. We looked for a possible crossbill in the pine forest higher up

but instead got nice scope views of a singing Pine Warbler (the resident subspecies)

instead. At this point one of our 4x4 vehicles had gotten a flat tire. It was not surprising given the bad conditions of the track with many sharp rocks. While we were changing the flat tire of the car, Ken spotted a striking red bird with wing bars along the road bank a few meters away from us. To our great surprise it was a male Hispaniolan Crossbill. Apparently a pair had come down silently even though we had been making quite some noise! We watched the pair at close range for a couple of minutes while they were seemingly consuming clay from the bank. With a new tire and all the major targets in the bag we drove down to the guard station for a delicious super-sandwich-style lunch. A little later we watched a White-winged Warbler (our local guide preferred the name Hispaniolan Highland Tanager) that showed itself nicely. Further down the mountain our “toy” spare tire went flat as well so we had to make a plan. The other vehicle dropped off part of the group at the cabins for an afternoon break while others birded their way down walking. In the meanwhile Miguel got the tires repaired in town. The people that stayed for the afternoon hike got to see both Broad-billed Tody and Narrow-billed Tody nicely. Other goodies that were seen on the way down included Hispaniolan Amazon and Zenaida Dove. Two Bay-breasted Cuckoos were heard in the distance but it was getting late and therefore the birds did not seem to come closer after trying with playback. In the end our plan had worked out well but again we had a late supper.

Day 4: Puerto Escondido to Pedernales.

The early morning was dedicated to a few important targets found in the lower foothills. We started off with a nice cooperative Flat-



Hispaniolan Palmcrow by Dušan Brinkhuizen



billed Vireo. Next on the list was Bay-breasted Cuckoo but we knew this rare species would be a tough one to see. After trawling with playback we got a Bay-breasted Cuckoo to respond. It perched atop a tall tree but the upcoming sun was right behind it so light conditions were rather of dangerous for our eyes! The bird was scoped and everybody got a quick view of its silhouette but it was not really the best way to see this large and attractive species. We waited for the cuckoo to come closer to us but it never did. However, at another spot we hit the jackpot. A Bay-breasted Cuckoo flew right over our heads! It remained very secretive but everybody got on it when the bird perched in the open for a split second: a truly spectacular species!



Ashy-faced Owl
by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Next was we wanted to catch up with Narrow-billed and Broad-billed Tody. Both species were present in the area but Broad-billed was clearly more abundant by voice. The two species are very similar in appearance but Narrow-billed Tody has a paler iris and a black tip on the lower mandible. Their voices also differ significantly. Broad-billed Tody's were very confiding to us and eventually we got onto a Narrow-billed Tody as well. Hispaniolan Pewee was also seen along the road. In more open habitat some of us caught up with Hispaniolan Oriole and a male Black-faced Grassquit. Inside the forest we searched again for Key-west Quail-Doves but did not get lucky. A Chuck-will's-widow was flushed and seen by few. An adult male Hooded Warbler, a rare migrant to Hispaniola, was a real treat. White-necked Crows were seen in flight at the forest edge. During lunch both Hispaniolan Emerald and Vervain Hummingbird were foraging nicely on the flowers in the garden. We made one stop along the way to Pedernales for White-necked Crow. Several individuals were seen roosting in the palms. In the scope we could actually see the red eye and the white neck feathers blowing in the wind. Palmchats became numerous again and our first Cape May Warbler for the trip showed itself nicely.

Day 5: Cabo Rojo & Southern Sierra de Bahoruco. Today we started along the impressive coastline of Cabo Rojo, the 'Red Cap'. A small roadside marsh yielded a lot of new species including White-cheeked Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Tricolored Heron, American White Ibis, Least Bittern and a white morph Reddish Egret. A Clapper Rail was very vocal but never came into view. At the rocky cliffs we soon located the White-tailed Tropicbirds. They were flying fairly distantly in small groups above sea but with the telescope, details like the bright bill and distinct back pattern were clearly visible. Two Cave Swallows flew overhead but no sign of Caribbean Martin yet. A flock of Wilson's and Semipalmated Plovers were perched at close range along the shoreline. We soon went up into the mountains to look for targets along the Alcoa Road. Hispaniolan Palmcrow, our principal target, was located fairly quickly along the road side. A few noisy individuals were watched for a prolonged time at close range in the pine forest. A nice bonus here was a pair of Hispaniolan Amazon that had landed in a tree top. We had a field breakfast at a specific site in the



Hispaniolan Woodpecker
by Dušan Brinkhuizen



forest where we were hoping for second encounters with the Hispaniolan Crossbill.



Ridgway's Hawk by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Unfortunately it was foggy and drizzling so our chances for the crossbill were slim. We watched a large flock of boreal migrant warblers in the pine trees (mainly Myrtle with a few Black-throated Green) but there was no sign of the crossbills. We did get nice scope views of Hispaniolan Amazon again. At the quarry we got fantastic looks at Golden Swallow that were flying around at eye level. They were just about to occupy the nest boxes that were put out for this Vulnerable, endemic species. On the way down Marlene spotted a Loggerhead Kingbird. An important target since it is most likely a future split. The subspecies *gabbii* is endemic to Hispaniola and recent studies on both morphology and vocalizations strongly suggest that it is best treated as a distinct species (Garrido *et al.* 2009)*.

At the edge of the pine forest we looked for other targets in transitional habitat. A wonderful male Antillean Euphonia was one of the highlights here. We also got a male Antillean Piculet that played hide-and-seek with us. A pair of Olive-throated Parakeets (a species introduced from Jamaica) flew out of their nesting cavity which was located in a termite mount. Lower down the road in more arid habitat we successfully targeted the

handsome Greater Antillean Bullfinch. We also enjoyed watching several Broad-billed Todies amongst other species.

After a rich and delicious seafood lunch we continued our way towards Barahona. We checked in to our hotel, and shortly after we went to target the highly sought-after Ashy-faced Owl. The bird was already calling when we arrived at the spot. We waited patiently but it did not fly in after playing the tape gently. We decided to relocate ourselves nearer to the bird and suddenly it flew overhead. What a beautiful owl in flight and clearly different in “jizz” compared to Western Barn Owl. We continued to hear it calling from nearby so we all moved carefully towards the sound. At this point we knew the bird was perched really close to us but possibly it was well hidden in the canopy. Some birders in the group started whispering about seeing a possible shape of an owl, and yes, when we switched on the spotlight there it was, right in the open! We all got superb looks of the bird, and fairly soon we decided to turn off the spotlight again. What a great sighting to end the day with!

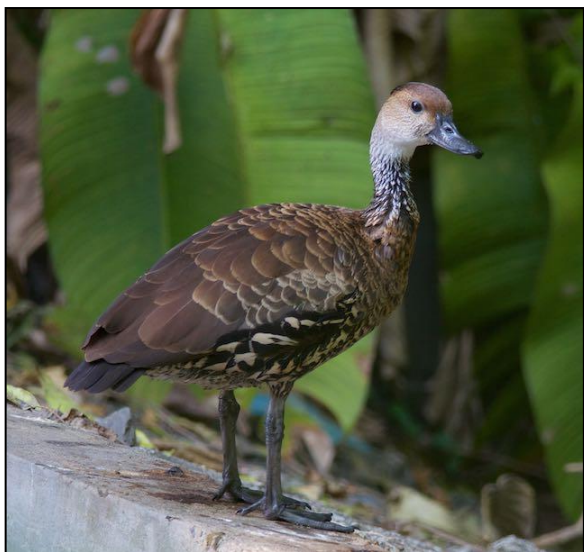
Day 6: Birding to Sabana de la Mar. We had a single target left for the morning: the localized and little known Eastern Chat-Tanager. We went back into to mountains and drove up to the right habitat. The road was in a bad condition so we had to drive carefully.



Hispaniolan Parakeet by Adam Riley



Just after dawn we tried for it at a known territory but did not get any response. We continued further up and from the car window a possible Chat-tanager was heard singing. When we got out of the vehicles there was no direct confirmation. Are we sure we had heard it? We waited a little longer and yes, a pair started calling - bingo! The group got into position and within a few minutes everybody got on the birds. The pair remained fairly skulky but we got decent views. Overall the species looked very similar to Western Chat-Tanager. Subtle differences were noted like a more pronounced yellow eye-ring, a paler cap and a browner plumage compared to Western Chat-Tanager. It also appeared smaller in size. On our way down we got another flat tire but it was replaced quickly. We had lunch in Barahona and while waiting for our meals we scoped a Laughing Gull. In the trees surrounding the restaurant we watched Antillean Mango, Vervain Hummingbird and Hispaniolan Woodpecker. En route to Sabana de la Mar we picked up a flock of impressive White-collared Swifts.



West Indian Whistling Duck by Clayton Burne

the scope views were just brilliant. The female moved to the same tree and soon we were watching a live prey transfer: a spectacular sight! After the pair had flown off we returned to our hotel. On the way we finally got scope views of a nice male Antillean Piculet. Some of us went to look for Spotted Rail in a marshy area nearby while others decided to stay at the hotel for some downtime. The original marsh of the rail had dried out completely but we tried in a nearby swampy field. A Black-whiskered Vireo showed itself nicely but no sign of the rail. On the way back we encountered a nesting tree of Hispaniolan Woodpeckers. It was a very special tree since multiple pairs were nesting in the same tree at the same time. We counted at least 15 cavities and woodpeckers were flying in and out from all directions! Apparently the species is known to nest in small colonies and our tree looked just like a busy apartment building. At lunch, two White-necked Crows surprised us at the dining table. The staff had put out some food for the crows in the corner. Soon the pair came down the tree and joined us for buffet lunch! At the parking place we watched two Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoos in dispute just before starting our journey back to Santo Domingo. En route we searched for Caribbean Martin at several sites but it was windy and the martins had seemingly not around. We did pick up a few new trip birds like Cabot's Tern and Magnificent Frigatebird.

Day 7: Sabana de la Mar to Santo Domingo. After a good night sleep and a delicious breakfast we went to look for one of the rarest raptors in the world: the endemic and Critically Endangered Ridgway's Hawk. We walked to the forested hillside nearby our hotel. As soon as we got to a forest clearing we heard a Ridgway's Hawk calling. Can it be this easy? Yes, indeed. Half a minute later we located an adult female in a tall tree. We could see her nicely in the scope while she was calling frequently. The bird was colour-banded but it was too distant to make up the numbers. We were discussing if we should try and get a little closer to the bird but Miguel said better to stay at a distance since the pair was probably nesting. We followed his advice and did not go closer. Shortly after we got rewarded when the adult male flew right overhead with a large anole lizard in its talons! It landed in a tree nearer to us and



Day 8: International departure. Today was a departure day for most of us. Our local leader had told the group to look out of the windows at the airport terminal for Caribbean Martins. The terminal had only a few windows, but sure enough Caribbean Martins were indeed present and some of us got to see it!

* Reference: Garrido, O.H., Wiley, J.W. & Reynard, G.B. (2009). Taxonomy of the Loggerhead Kingbird (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus*) Complex (Aves: Tyrannidae). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 121(4): 703–713.

Annotated List of Birds (Total species: 124)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2014. IOC World Bird List (v 5.2) *Birds of the World: Recommended English Names* (2006) Princeton University Press.

Key to abbreviations:

E: an endemic species

NE: a near-endemic species (i.e. occurring on Hispaniola only)

I: an introduced species

Conservation Status

C: critical **En:** endangered **V:** vulnerable **NT:** near-threatened

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

West Indian Whistling Duck (V)

Dendrocygna arborea

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2

Nice views of a family group along a stream inside the gardens.

Blue-winged Teal

Anas discors

Cabo Rojo 18.2

A few birds at a small roadside marsh.

Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Cabo Rojo 18.2

A few birds at a small roadside marsh.

White-cheeked Pintail

Anas bahamensis bahamensis

Cabo Rojo 18.2

A few birds at a small roadside marsh.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Least Grebe

Tachybaptus dominicus dominicus

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2

Foraging at close range near the Whistling Ducks.

Tropicbirds Phaethontidae

White-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon lepturus catesbyi

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Good scope views of a few birds flying above sea.



Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

American White Ibis

Eudocimus albus albus

Cabo Rojo 18.2 and en route 20.2

A few birds at a small roadside marsh.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis exilis

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Swiftly seen in flight.

Green Heron

Butorides virescens virescens

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Western Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Species observed 5 days in total.

Common in the fields.

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias occidentalis

Cabo Rojo 18.2

A few birds at a small roadside marsh.

Great Egret

Ardea alba egretta

Cabo Rojo 18.2 and en route 20.2

Reddish Egret (NT)

Egretta rufescens

Cabo Rojo 18.2

A white morph at the roadside marsh.

Tricolored Heron

Egretta tricolor ruficollis

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Many at a small roadside marsh.

Little Blue Heron

Egretta caerulea

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Snowy Egret

Egretta thula thula

en route 15.2 and Cabo Rojo 18.2

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis

en route 17.2, Cabo Rojo 18.2, en route 19.2 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 20.2

Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

Magnificent Frigatebird

Fregata magnificens

en route 20.2

New World Vultures *Cathartidae*

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura aura

en route 19.2 and en route 20.2



Seemingly a fairly scarce species on Hispaniola.

Osprey *Pandionidae*

Western Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Cabo Rojo 18.2 and en route 20.2

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae*

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus striatus

Cachote 19.2

Only seen by part of the group.

Ridgway's Hawk (E) (C)

Buteo ridgwayi

Cano Hondo 20.2

Superb views of a male bringing a food item to the female.

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis

1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2, La Placa 17.2, en route 18.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*

Clapper Rail

Rallus crepitans caribaeus

1 heard Cabo Rojo 18.2

Common Gallinule

Gallinula galeata cerceris

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Cabo Rojo 18.2

Limpkin *Aramidae*

Limpkin

Aramus guarauna elucus

1 heard Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

Black-necked Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Small flock next to the car.

Wilson's Plover

Charadrius wilsonia wilsonia

Cabo Rojo 18.2

Small flock next to the car.

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus ternominatus

Cabo Rojo 18.2



Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

Greater Yellowlegs Cabo Rojo 18.2	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs Cabo Rojo 18.2	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Solitary Sandpiper Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2	<i>Tringa solitaria solitaria</i>
Ruddy Turnstone Cabo Rojo 18.2	<i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i>
Stilt Sandpiper Cabo Rojo 18.2	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae*

Laughing Gull Barahona 19.2	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla atricilla</i>
Royal Tern Cabo Rojo 18.2, Barahona 19.2 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 20.2	<i>Thalasseus maximus maximus</i>
Cabot's Tern Sabana de la Mar Wharf 20.2	<i>Thalasseus acuflavidus acuflavidus</i>

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove (I) Species was observed 5 days in total. Common in human settlements.	<i>Columba livia</i>
White-crowned Pigeon (NT) La Placa 17.2	<i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>
Scaly-naped Pigeon 1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2 and Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2	<i>Patagioenas squamosa</i>
Plain Pigeon (NT) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2, 1 heard Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, Enriguillo 17.2, Alcoa Road 18.2 and 1 heard Cano Hondo 20.2 Only fly by birds seen.	<i>Patagioenas inornata</i>
Mourning Dove Species was observed 5 days in total. A common species.	<i>Zenaida macroura macroura</i>
Zenaida Dove 1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2 and Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2	<i>Zenaida aurita zenaida</i>
White-winged Dove Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2	<i>Zenaida asiatica asiatica</i>
Common Ground Dove Species was observed 6 days in total.	<i>Columbina passerina insularis</i>
White-fronted Quail-Dove (E) (En) Rabo de Gato 15.2	<i>Geotrygon leucometopia</i>



Prolonged scope views of a pair foraging on the forest floor.

Ruddy Quail-Dove

Geotrygon montana montana

Rabo de Gato 15.2

Brief views by some participants only.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani

Crotophaga ani

Species was observed 5 days in total.

Common and easily identified.

Mangrove Cuckoo

Coccyzus minor

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2

Seen well inside the complex.

Bay-breasted Cuckoo (E) (En)

Coccyzus ruficularis

1 heard Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and La Placa 17.2

Brief but great views of this rare bird perched and several times seen in flight.

Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo (NE)

Coccyzus longirostris longirostris

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Alcoa Road 18.2, 1 heard Cachote 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Fairly common and seen on most days.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae

Ashy-faced Owl (NE)

Tyto glaucops

Cachote 18.2

Stunning looks of an adult in the spotlights.

Owls Strigidae

Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia troglodytes

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Brief views by some participants only.

Potoos Nyctibiidae

Northern Potoo

Nyctibius jamaicensis abbotti

1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae

Least Poorwill (NE) (NT)

Siphonorhis brewsteri brewsteri

Rabo de Gato 15.2

Seen well with the spotlight.

Chuck-will's-widow

Antrostomus carolinensis

Rabo de Gato 17.2

Flushed and shortly seen while perched by some.



Hispaniolan Nightjar (NE)*Antrostomus ekmani*

1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2 and 1 heard Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Calling at close range but it was too foggy!

Swifts Apodidae**White-collared Swift***Streptoprocne zonaris pallidifrons*

en route 18.2 and en route 19.2

Antillean Palm Swift*Tachornis phoenicobia phoenicobia*

Species observed 6 days in total.

A common species seen daily.

Hummingbirds Trochilidae**Antillean Mango (NE)***Anthracothorax dominicus dominicus*

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Cachote 18.2, Barahona 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Common and widespread.

Hispaniolan Emerald (NE)*Chlorostilbon swainsonii*

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Good views on several occasions.

Vervain Hummingbird (NE)*Mellisuga minima vielloti*

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2, Alcoa Road 18.2, Barahona 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Multiple views of this tiny hummingbird.

Trogons Trogonidae**Hispaniolan Trogon (NE) (NT)***Priotelus roseigaster*

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Fantastic looks of both male and female.

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

en route 17.2 and Cabo Rojo 18.2

Todies Todidae**Broad-billed Tody (NE)***Todus subulatus*

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2, Cabo Rojo 18.2, Alcoa Road 18.2 and Cachote 19.2

Very confiding species.

Narrow-billed Tody (NE)*Todus angustirostris*

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2, 1 heard Alcoa Road 18.2 and 1 heard Cachote 19.2



Tougher than Broad-billed Tody but eventually we all got great views.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Antillean Piculet (NE)

Nesocittes micromegas

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, 1 heard La Placa 17.2, Alcoa Road 18.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Seen nicely, especially on the last day

Hispaniolan Woodpecker (NE)

Melanerpes striatus

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, Enriguillo 17.2, La Placa 17.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2, Barahona 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

A common but stunning Hispaniolan endemic.

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius dominicensis

Observed en route 17-19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Merlin

Falco columbarius

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and en route 17.2

African & New World Parrots Psittacidae

Olive-throated Parakeet (I) (NT)

Eupsittula nana

Alcoa Road 18.2

Nesting in a termite mount.

Hispaniolan Parakeet (NE) (V)

Psittacara chloropterus chloropterus

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2 and La Placa 17.2

A pair at their nest hole in the gardens.

Hispaniolan Amazon (NE) (V)

Amazona ventralis

1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, 1 heard Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Nice scope views at Alcoa road.

Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae

Greater Antillean Elaenia (NE)

Elaenia fallax cherriei

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Only seen at high elevation where it was fairly common.

Hispaniolan Pewee (NE)

Contopus hispaniolensis hispaniolensis

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, 1 heard Alcoa Road 18.2 and 1 heard Cachote 19.2

Grey Kingbird

Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, La Placa 17.2 and observed en route 18-20.2

Loggerhead Kingbird

Tyrannus caudifasciatus gabbii

Alcoa Road 18.2

Fantastic looks at this most probable future split, "Hispaniolan Kingbird" *.

Stolid Flycatcher (NE)

Myiarchus stolidus dominicensis

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, La Placa 17.2, Cabo Rojo 18.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Seen well at several sites.



Vireos Vireonidae**Flat-billed Vireo (NE)***Vireo nanus*

La Placa 17.2

Good looks after playback.

Black-whiskered Vireo*Vireo altiloquus altiloquus*

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Seen well on both days.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae**Hispaniolan Palm Crow (NE) (NT)***Corvus palmarum*

Alcoa Road 18.2

Close encounters with a few noisy individuals.

White-necked Crow (NE) (V)*Corvus leucognaphalus*

1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2, Enriguillo 17.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Seen nicely, especially at Cano Hondo where it came to the dining table.

Palmchat Dulidae**Palmchat (NE)***Dulus dominicus*

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Enriguillo 17.2, en route 18.2, en route 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Abundant in the lowlands. Seen well, including their impressive nests.

Swallows Hirundinidae**Golden Swallow (NE) (V)***Tachycineta euchrysea sclateri*

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Great views at eye-level at the quarry.

Caribbean Martin*Progne dominicensis*

1 heard Cabo Rojo 18.2 and Santo Domingo airport 21.2

Only seen at the airport during our international departure.

Cave Swallow*Petrochelidon fulva fulva*

Cabo Rojo 18.2 and en route 20.2

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

1 heard Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Rare migrant.

Northern Mockingbird*Mimus polyglottos orpheus*

Species observed 6 days in total.

Especially common at lower elevations.



Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

Rufous-throated Solitaire

Myadestes genibarbis montanus

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, 1 heard Alcoa Road 18.2 and 1 heard Cachote 19.2

Great scope views at higher elevations.

Bicknell's Thrush (V)

Catharus bicknelli

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

One individual showed well after calling it in with playback.

La Selle Thrush (NE) (En)

Turdus swalesi

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Superb looks of a pair on the track early morning.

Red-legged Thrush

Turdus plumbeus ardosiaceus

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2 and Rabo de Gato 17.2

Fairly common.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

House Sparrow (I)

Passer domesticus domesticus

Species observed 5 days in total.

Common in human settlements.

Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae*

Village Weaver (I)

Ploceus cucullatus

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2 and 1 heard Cano Hondo 20.2

Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae*

Hispaniolan Crossbill (NE) (En)

Loxia megaplaga

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Lucked in to a pair that was feeding next to the car while we were changing the flat tire!

Antillean Siskin (NE)

Spinus dominicensis

1 heard Rabo de Gato 15.2 and Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Immature male seen well.

Antillean Euphonia

Euphonia musica musica

Rabo de Gato 15.2, 1 heard Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Adult male seen beautifully at Alcoa road.

New World Warblers *Parulidae*

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla aurocapilla

Rabo de Gato 15.2

Louisiana Waterthrush

Parkesia motacilla

Rabo de Gato 15.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2,



Alcoa Road 18.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

Cabo Rojo 18.2 and 1 heard Cano Hondo 20.2

Hooded Warbler

Setophaga citrina

Rabo de Gato 17.2

Great views of an adult male.

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2 and Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Cape May Warbler

Setophaga tigrina

en route 17.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Northern Parula

Setophaga americana

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Setophaga caerulescens caerulescens

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Rabo de Gato 17.2, Alcoa Road 18.2 and Cachote 19.2

Palm Warbler

Setophaga palmarum palmarum

Alcoa Road 18.2

Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus chrysoleuca

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Myrtle Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Alcoa Road 18.2

Large flocks in the pine trees.

Prairie Warbler

Setophaga discolor discolor

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Enriguillo 17.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Black-throated Green Warbler

Setophaga virens

Alcoa Road 18.2

Family uncertain *Incertae Sedis* 2

Green-tailed Warbler (NE)

Microligea palustris

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2 and Cabo Rojo 18.2

Great looks of individuals on several occasions.

White-winged Warbler (NE) (V)

Xenoligea montana

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Seen nicely in the highlands on two occasions.

Troupials and Allies *Icteridae*

Hispaniolan Oriole (NE)

Icterus dominicensis

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and La Placa 17.2

Good views of adults but also immature birds.

Greater Antillean Grackle

Quiscalus niger niger

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2 and en route 18.2



Bananaquit *Coerebidae*

Bananaquit

Coereba flaveola bananivora

Species observed 5 days in total.
Especially abundant by voice.

Tanagers and Allies *Thraupidae*

Yellow-faced Grassquit

Tiaris olivaceus olivaceus

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, La Placa 17.2, en route 18.2, en route 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Black-faced Grassquit

Tiaris bicolor marchii

La Placa 17.2

Nice looks at an adult male singing.

Greater Antillean Bullfinch

Loxigilla violacea affinis

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Attractive species seen best at Alcoa road.

Black-crowned Tanager (NE)

Phaenicophilus palmarum

Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 15.2, Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2, La Placa 17.2, Cabo Rojo 18.2, Alcoa Road 18.2, Cachote 19.2 and Cano Hondo 20.2

Stunning species and fairly common throughout.

Western Chat-Tanager (NE) (V)

Calyptophilus tertius

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2

Great looks of a few singing individuals.

Eastern Chat-Tanager (NE) (V)

Calyptophilus frugivorus

Cachote 19.2

A pair was seen well, inside dense habitat.

Hispaniolan Spindalis (NE)

Spindalis dominicensis

Sierra de Bahoruco 16.2 and Alcoa Road 18.2

Seen nicely at higher elevations.

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