



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Dominican Republic

Endemics of Hispaniola

21st to 28th January 2017 (8 days)

Trip Report



Hispaniolan Trogon by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, Dušan Brinkhuizen



Top ten birds as voted for by participants:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ridgway's Hawk | 6. Narrow-billed Tody |
| 2. La Selle Thrush | 7. Northern Potoo |
| 3. Bay-breasted Cuckoo | 8. Palmchat |
| 4. Ashy-faced Owl | 9. Golden Swallow |
| 5. Hispaniolan Trogon | 10. Hispaniolan Palm Crow |

Tour Summary



Palmchat by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Our Endemics of Hispaniola tour started with some quality capital birding in the Botanical Garden of Santo Domingo. At arrival, we were greeted by the Dominican Republic's national bird: the Palmchat, a common and conspicuous endemic placed in its own monotypic family, *Dulidae*. We watched several of the gregarious Palmchats as they were building their huge stick nest, actually a cluster of multiple nests, as it is a communal breeder. One of our targets, Black-whiskered Vireo, was soon heard singing. It was Andrew who spotted two vireos in the canopy that we saw nicely. A few Hispaniolan Parakeets, a fairly common island endemic in the capital,

were scoped. A little further down the track, we heard another target, a Mangrove Cuckoo. It took a few minutes but eventually, we got great views of this neat cuckoo. Some also got brief looks at a Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo.

Our principal target for the morning, West Indian Whistling Duck, was easily located along a small stream. The Botanical Garden is a safe haven for this vulnerable species of Whistling Duck that is still hunted illegally in many places. We watched several of these handsome ducks foraging in the stream; while some had a brief glimpse of an Asian Mongoose running by. Antillean Mango and Vervain Hummingbird were both seen perched, the latter being tiny compared to the other (*it's the second smallest bird in the world!*). Hispaniolan Woodpeckers were present in good numbers and we had great views of this spectacular island endemic. We also enjoyed watching a few fancy Red-legged Thrushes foraging in the grass. After bagging our targets successfully, we started the longish drive to Villa Barancoli at the base of the magical Sierra de Bahoruco at the far western end of the country. A late afternoon walk along the Rabo de Gato trail produced several Ruddy Quail-Doves but not the hoped for White-fronted Quail-dove. We also got to see our first Narrow-billed Tody – *a real stunner!*

The next morning, we had an early start with two 4x4 vehicles. In order to see the nightjar, we needed to get to the higher parts of the Sierra de Bahoruco before dawn.



Vervain Hummingbird by Ann Duff



The road was in a very bad condition and, unfortunately, some minor vehicle problems delayed us. We made a quick stop to secure hearing the Hispaniolan Nightjar (*which we heard well*) but we didn't make it to the site in time for visual observations. The rare and endangered La Selle Thrush was our next major target bird at Zapoten. The species is typically found foraging on the track but



Hispaniolan Spindalis by Dušan Brinkhuizen

only in the early morning hours. Once we reached the upper part of the Sierra de Bahoruco (Zapoten), we walked the first few curves in the forest in search of the thrush. A Red-legged Thrush on the track got us excited for a split second and kept us sharp. A little further up, we luckily got the real deal: a stunning adult La Selle Thrush! The bird was hopping peacefully on the track in front of us and we got excellent scope views of it. We walked back to the vehicles for breakfast while looking for other highland targets. A female Black-throated Blue Warbler confused us for a moment, but soon we realised it was not the hoped for White-winged Warbler. Green-tailed Warblers were common along the track and back at the car, we enjoyed great views of a true White-winged Warbler (the species is sometimes called Hispaniolan Highland Tanager).

After breakfast, we heard a Bicknell's Thrush respond to our tape but the bird didn't want to show itself. A fruiting tree attracted Rufous-throated Solitaires and another splendid La

Selle Thrush. The local guide called us back and to our surprise, he pointed out a Bicknell's Thrush foraging in the open along the roadside! We knew that we were extremely lucky because this rare migrant is usually very hard to see on its wintering grounds. A male Hispaniolan Emerald showed itself beautifully. Antillean Piculet was taped in successfully, but it didn't stick around for too long. Antillean Siskin and Antillean Euphonia were soon added to the mix and we also found a nice Greater Antillean Elaenia. Next was a superb Hispaniolan Trogon spotted by Dave and it was soon followed by great looks of a male Hispaniolan Spindalis – *endemic target birding at its best!* The Western Chat-Tanager played hard to get but with the help of playback, most of us got decent views of this real skulker. The cute Narrow-billed Todies were heard and seen again at several places. Black-crowned Tanager, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, Hispaniolan Pewee and Golden Swallow were other goodies that were added to the growing prize list.

In the pine forest, we trawled for the crossbill which was our last target endemic for the morning. Fairly soon we got a vocal response, but after a lot of waiting, we decided to move on and try another patch of pine forest. The resident Pine Warblers were singing at various places and easily taped in. A male Hispaniolan Trogon that perched right above our heads was a real treat! Another crossbill was heard calling and we took a narrow forest trail in order to get closer to the bird. Intense scanning of the canopy paid off and a female of this endangered endemic was watched by everybody through the scope – *mission accomplished!* Happy with all the targets in the bag, we drove the rough track back down to Puerto Escondido. At the border checkpoint, we tried for Loggerhead Kingbird



White-winged Warbler by Dušan Brinkhuizen



but got a Grey Kingbird instead. From the checkpoint, we could see the deforested and completely devastated landscape of Haiti – a very sad contrast to the green forests on the Dominican side of Sierra de Batoruco. About halfway down we stopped for a stakeout of Northern Potoo, with stunning eye-level views of a bird on its day roost! After a short break at Villa Barancoli, we went



Northern Potoo by Dušan Brinkhuizen

back to the Rabo de Gato trail to try for some more endemics. A superb Broad-billed Tody was seen nicely in the understorey and we also got to see our first White-necked Crow perched in a palm tree. We found two crisp Key West Quail-doves and several more Ruddy Quail-doves but not a sniff of the much-desired White-fronted Quail-dove. After dusk, we successfully targeted Least Poorwill – a great ending to a day packed with fantastic endemics!

In the early morning, we visited La Placa in the lower foothills of the Sierra de Batoruco. Our two main targets were Flat-billed Vireo and Bay-breasted Cuckoo. The cuckoo is a rare and endangered endemic that is difficult to target so we knew that seeing it was kind of a long shot. The vireo was not too difficult to find and fairly soon we all got our bins on a singing individual. After trawling with playback, we suddenly got a response of a Bay-breasted Cuckoo nearby! It was a loud and spectacular call that got us all excited. We placed a Bluetooth speaker along the side of the road and played the cuckoo call again carefully. Within minutes, the bird popped up, providing

us with full frame views of this spectacular endemic – *amazing!* Broad-billed Tody, Antillean Piculet, Green-tailed Warbler and Black-crowned Tanager were other species of interest seen at La Placa. On our way back to Puerto Escondido, we searched for the Hispaniolan Oriole but without success. White-necked Crow, Zenaida Dove, Vervain Hummingbird, Hispaniolan Woodpecker and Scaly-breasted Munia were a consolation. Interesting was the report of a Black-capped Petrel in captivity kept in town so we went to look for it. A few days before, the petrel was found injured at Zapoten and it was brought down by the rangers. When we arrived at the right place in town, we were told that the bird had just died. When we asked them to show us the dead petrel they told us that they had just buried the bird. *It was a rather weird story and we were very sad to realise that the bird did not make it.*

Before lunch, we tried again for quail-doves at Rabo de Gato by walking up and down the trail. Again we located several Ruddy Quail-doves but no sign of the White-fronted – very weird and unfortunate. Other species that we saw included Stolid Flycatcher, Mangrove Cuckoo and Ovenbird. After lunch, we said goodbye to Kate and the lovely staff at Villa Barancoli and started our longish journey to the town of Pedernales. A birding stop at Laguna de Oviedo produced a few nice water birds, including American Flamingo, American Wigeon, Grey Plover, Killdeer, Magnificent Frigatebird and a neat white morph Reddish Egret. Dinner in town with a cold beer and fresh lobster was simply delicious!



Bay-breasted Cuckoo by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Another pre-dawn start paid off. On our way to Alcoa road, I



heard a possible Ashy-faced Owl from the open car window. We stopped and got out to check it. Indeed, after playing the tape, an Ashy-faced Owl flew right over our heads in the spotlight! Unfortunately, the other vehicle was not aware that we had stopped so half of the group missed it. When the others returned, we tried again but the owl had seemingly lost its interest. We quickly continued our drive up to the higher parts because it was our only shot at the nightjar. Our first stop



Hispaniolan Palmcrow by Dušan Brinkhuizen

was an immediate success: a Hispaniolan Nightjar responded not too far away and we walked towards it. It was singing loudly and there it was, right in front of us perched on the road – *great views!* The palm crow was now our main target for the morning, so we continued to the hotspot. The ranger had not seen the crows yet but he said that they typically come in after nine and we were there a little too early. We birded the forest edge for about an hour in hope for the palm crows to show up. In the meantime, we enjoyed great scope views of Plain Pigeon and Sharp-chinned Hawk. A crisp Pine Warbler showed up at eye-level in front of us and Myrtle and Palm Warbler were new additions to the list. We then decided to drive the Alcoa road up and

down in order to maximise our search for the Hispaniolan Palm Crow. The species is often noisy, which makes them fairly easy to detect. Close up views of perched Hispaniolan Amazons were a real treat but our new search tactic for the crows did not work out. The ranger told us that he feeds the palm crows on a daily basis at his dorm. However, when birders are around the crows typically don't show up he – *a classic story!*

We decided to look at the nearby abandoned quarry for Golden Swallow. No sign of the crows here either but superb Golden Swallows were flying by at close range. We were way behind our time schedule but decided to try once more at the ranger station. The ranger told us he had just heard them and indeed we could hear the palm crows in the far distance. Very soon, a large flock of Hispaniolan Palm Crows flew in and indeed the birds went straight to the ranger's house for the food. Patience and persistence had certainly paid off, as we got excellent looks at this rare endemic at the eleventh hour! *Now the ranger surely deserved a good tip.* Very satisfied, we continued our way to Cabo Rojo for lunch. At a small roadside marsh called Laguna Cabo Rojo, we added a significant number of trip birds, including Blue-winged Teal, Tricolored Heron, Great Blue Heron, Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Gallinule and a Sora. Some birding around the beach restaurant, while waiting for our seafood platter, produced nice views of Mangrove Cuckoo, Black-crowned Tanager, Myrtle Warbler and Green-



The Group after seeing the palmcrow, by Ann Duff



tailed Warbler, among others. Ann was lucky to spot a flyby White-tailed Tropicbird. Later on, a couple of Brown Boobies were seen by all of us but no more tropicbirds were seen. A late afternoon drive up Cachote road yielded two Cape May Warblers, including a male in breeding plumage. After dusk, we quickly located another Ashy-faced Owl that was marvellously seen by the entire team!



Narrow-billed Tody by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Up at Cachote, we had a single target the following morning: Eastern Chat-Tanager. We were at the right spot at dawn and several chat-tanagers were singing around us. It was still dark and the birds were hidden in dense foliage, so seeing them was nearly impossible. As it got lighter, we tried to attract the birds with playback. Some people obtained brief views but the birds proved to be extremely difficult to see. Luckily, after a couple of hours' hard work, everybody got tick-able views of this notorious skulker! After a nice local breakfast on site, we started our long drive to Sabana de la Mar in the north-eastern corner of the country.

Los Haitises National Park, west of Sabana de la Mar, is the stronghold for one of the rarest raptors in the world: the critically endangered Ridgway's Hawk. Our local guide at Caño Hondo, Juan Sepede, carefully monitors the hawks in the area and the day before we arrived, he had found the potential nesting site of a pair. During the hike to the nest site, we trawled for Hispaniolan Oriole, which was one of the island endemics that had eluded us. Fairly soon, we got a vocal response from the oriole that was followed by two birds flying in and perching atop a nearby palm tree. *A great start!* Once we arrived at the hawk stake-out, we waited patiently. The hawks had been investigating a palm tree the day before, strongly suggesting that they were going to nest there. Bird activity around us was good, with species including Antillean Piculet, Antillean Mango, Broad-billed Tody, Village Weaver, Vervain Hummingbird, Palmchat and Black-crowned Tanager keeping us busy. After about an hour of waiting, Juan suddenly called out the hawk. Indeed, there it was, in the opposite direction, a male Ridgway's Hawk perched in the open! For several minutes, we enjoyed great scope views of this mega bird before it flew off. A few of us decided to hang around a little longer in the hope the hawk would show up again; while others returned to our very comfy lodge for a break.

A few more Hispaniolan Orioles were seen while waiting but the hawks did not return to the palm tree. We searched the other side of the area, where the hawk had flown to, and Juan soon found the male again. We followed Juan and after a muddy hike, we encountered the male up in a tree and were able to approach it nicely. The male was resting and did not seem to mind our presence at all. Juan was worried that there was only a single bird, because this time of year the pair typically stays close together. He told us that he was involved in an ongoing struggle with some of the local farmers because they threatened to shoot the hawk. According to



Ridgway's Hawk by Dušan Brinkhuizen



the farmers, the hawk hunts the small chickens that they have. According to Juan, the only way to solve this problem was the construction of small henhouses to keep the chicks safe from predation. Therefore, after going through some details, we made a direct donation to Juan so he could start his small-scale conservation project as soon as possible. It was a huge relief to discover that the female Ridgway's Hawk was perched in the same tree but lower down. *Where did she suddenly come from?* A couple of minutes later, the pair flew to a nearby tree where we witnessed copulation! What a marvellous ending for our trip – *it couldn't get any better than this!*

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (113 in total: 111 seen, 2 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2015. IOC World Bird List (v 6.1).

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

West Indian Whistling Duck (VU) *Dendrocygna arborea*

(1) 4 Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1.

An endemic to the West Indies. At least four of this Vulnerable species were watched along a stream inside the Botanical Garden.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

(1) 2 Laguna de Oviedo 24.1.

Two drakes were observed with the telescope at the edge of the lagoon.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A few were observed at a small wetland locally known as Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

(2) Rabo de Gato 23.1 and La Placa 24.1.



An introduced species of which several wild-types were seen in the Puerto Escondido area.

Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

American Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

(1) Laguna de Oviedo 24.1.

A couple of small groups were scoped at the far edge of the lagoon.

Tropicbirds *Phaethontidae*

White-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon lepturus catesbyi

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A bird was observed flying by at our seafood restaurant Cueva de las Aguilas.

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Green Heron

Butorides virescens virescens

(2) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Seen at two sites only.

Western Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

(5) en route 22.1, observed en route 24-26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common and widespread species seen on most days.

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias occidentalis

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A singleton was observed at the small marsh Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Great Egret

Ardea alba egretta

(4) Laguna de Oviedo 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1, en route 26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common and widespread species observed at various sites.

Reddish Egret (NT)

Egretta rufescens

(2) Laguna de Oviedo 24.1 and Cabo Rojo 25.1.

This Near-Threatened species was seen beautifully at two sites.

Tricolored Heron

Egretta tricolor ruficollis

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A few were present at the small wetland Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Little Blue Heron

Egretta caerulea

(1) Caño Hondo 27.1.



A bird was seen in the garden of our hotel.

Snowy Egret

Egretta thula thula

(3) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Laguna de Oviedo 24.1 and Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A fairly common species seen at several sites.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis

(3) en route 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

Only seen along the coast, where fairly common.

Frigatebirds Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird

Fregata magnificens

(3) Laguna de Oviedo 24.1, en route 26.1 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

Only seen along the coast, where fairly common.

Boobies and Gannets Sulidae

Brown Booby

Sula leucogaster leucogaster

(1) 2 Cabo Rojo 25.1.

At least two individuals were observed flying close to shore.

New World Vultures Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura aura

(3) 2 en route 25.1, en route 26.1 and 45 Caño Hondo 27.1.

A widespread species, but in the Dominican Republic: fairly scarce and only seen at a few sites.

Osprey Pandionidae

Western Osprey

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis

(1) 2 Laguna de Oviedo 24.1.

Two birds were seen flying in the distance at the lagoon.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus striatus

(2) Alcoa Road 25.1 and Cachote 26.1.



Along Alcoa road, we got great scope views of a bird perched in a tree top.

Ridgway's Hawk (CR)*Buteo ridgwayi*

(1) 2 Caño Hondo 27.1.

A Critically Endangered species. Superb looks at a resident pair of this major target endemic. The female was colour-banded.

Red-tailed Hawk*Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis*

(3) 2 Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Alcoa Road 25.1 and Cachote 26.1.

Birds in flight were seen at several sites during the tour.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae**Sora***Porzana carolina*

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A single Sora was observed at the edge of a mangrove patch at Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Common Gallinule*Gallinula galeata cercheris*

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A few were present at Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**Grey Plover***Pluvialis squatarola cynosurae*

(1) 5 Laguna de Oviedo 24.1.

Five birds in non-breeding plumage were scoped at the edge of the lagoon.

Semipalmated Plover*Charadrius semipalmatus*

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A few were seen on the sand bars of Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Killdeer*Charadrius vociferus ternominatus*

(2) 8 Laguna de Oviedo 24.1 and Cabo Rojo 25.1.

Killdeers were seen at two sites. A flock at Laguna de Oviedo was observed at close range.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**Greater Yellowlegs***Tringa melanoleuca*

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A few were observed at Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Spotted Sandpiper*Actitis macularius*

(1) Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

A single bird was observed at the wharf.

Least Sandpiper

Calidris minutilla

(1) 3 Cabo Rojo 25.1.

At least three birds were present hiding on the sand bars of Laguna Cabo Rojo.

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus maximus

(4) 8 Laguna de Oviedo 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1, en route 26.1 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

A common species along the shore. A large flock was observed at Sabana de la Mar Wharf.

Cabot's Tern

Thalasseus acuflavidus acuflavidus

(1) Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

Small numbers mixed in with a large flock of Royal Terns at Sabana de la Mar Wharf.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo hirundo

(1) 1 Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

A single bird was picked out of the large flock of terns at Sabana de la Mar Wharf.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove

Columba livia

(5) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1 and observed en route 24-27.1.

A feral species, commonly seen in the towns.

Scaly-naped Pigeon

Patagioenas squamosa

(2) Rabo de Gato 22.1 and 1 heard Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A few birds were observed along the Rabo de Gato trail.

Plain Pigeon (NT)

Patagioenas inornata

(2) 2 Rabo de Gato 24.1, Cachote 25.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

This species was seen at various sites. We had prolonged scope views of a perched bird along Alcoa road.

Common Ground Dove

Columbina passerina insularis

(5) en route 22.1, en route 23.1, 15 Puerto Escondido 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common resident seen on most days of the tour.

Ruddy Quail-Dove

Geotrygon montana montana

(3) Up to 2 Rabo de Gato 22-24.1.



Quite a few of this species were observed during three consecutive days of searching for the White-fronted Quail-dove along Rabo de Gato trail.

Key West Quail-Dove*Geotrygon chrysia*

(1) 2 Rabo de Gato 23.1.

Two birds of this handsome quail-dove were observed well along Rabo de Gato.

Mourning Dove*Zenaida macroura macroura*

(4) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

A common resident seen throughout the tour.

Zenaida Dove*Zenaida aurita zenaida*

(1) Puerto Escondido 24.1.

A single perched bird was observed well in town.

White-winged Dove*Zenaida asiatica asiatica*

(1) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1.

This species was only seen in Santo Domingo.

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

(3) La Placa 24.1 and observed en route 24-26.1.

A common and widespread species seen at various sites en route.

Mangrove Cuckoo*Coccyzus minor*

(3) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1 and Cabo Rojo 25.1.

Not uncommon on Hispaniola. Seen well at several different localities.

Bay-breasted Cuckoo (EN)*Coccyzus ruficularis*

(1) La Placa 24.1.

A superb endemic seen fantastically at La Placa. We got very lucky to get such good looks at this rare and Endangered species.

Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo*Coccyzus longirostris longirostris*

(5) Up to 1 Rabo de Gato 22-24.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, 1 heard Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Cachote 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A fairly common and widespread endemic seen at various sites during the tour. Its distinct call was typically heard at dawn and dusk.



Barn-Owls Tytonidae**Ashy-faced Owl***Tyto glaucops*

(1) Cachote 25.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

Endemic to Hispaniola. First seen by a few participants along Alcoa Road where it flew in to the tape. At Cachote everybody was able to connect with this major target bird. We got great looks of a calling adult in the spotlights.

Owls Strigidae**Burrowing Owl***Athene cunicularia troglodytes*

(3) 2 La Placa 23.1, La Placa 24.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

A common resident in Hispaniola seen at several sites.

Potoos Nyctibiidae**Northern Potoo***Nyctibius jamaicensis abbotti*

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A bird at a day-roost was seen fantastically on our way down from Zapoten.

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**Least Poorwill (NT)***Siphonorhis brewsteri brewsteri*

(1) Rabo de Gato 23.1.

Brief views of this Near-Threatened endemic after dusk along Rabo de Gato track towards La Mina.

Spotlight views of this tiny nightjar were quick but we heard it very nicely.

Hispaniolan Nightjar*Antrostomus ekmani*

(2) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

Endemic to Hispaniola. At Alcoa road, we got great views of a singing bird in the spotlight.

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

(2) en route 22.1 and en route 26.1.

A large species of swift seen twice en route.

Antillean Palm Swift*Tachornis phoenicobia phoenicobia*

(4) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, en route 26.1, Caño Hondo 27.1 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.



A common and widespread Caribbean species seen on all days of the tour.

Hummingbirds Trochilidae

Antillean Mango

Anthracothorax dominicus dominicus

(3) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A regional endemic seen well at several sites, especially at Caño Hondo.

Hispaniolan Emerald

Chlorostilbon swainsonii

(1) 2 Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A Hispaniolan endemic only seen in the higher parts of Sierra de Bahoruco, where it was fairly common.

Vervain Hummingbird

Mellisuga minima vielloti

(3) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Endemic to Hispaniola and Jamaica. The second smallest bird in the world!

Trogon Trogonidae

Hispaniolan Trogon (NT)

Priotelus roseigaster

(2) 2 Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1 and 1 heard Cachote 26.1.

A stunning Hispaniolan endemic seen beautifully at Zapoten. Near-Threatened.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher

Megasceryle alcyon

(2) Puerto Escondido 24.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1 and Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A fairly common non-breeding migrant seen at several sites.

Todies Todidae

Broad-billed Tody

Todus subulatus

(5) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 22.1, Rabo de Gato 23.1, La Placa 24.1, 1 heard Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A superb Hispaniolan endemic seen at several sites, especially at lower elevations.

Narrow-billed Tody

Todus angustirostris

(4) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, 1 heard Rabo de Gato 24.1 and 1 heard Cachote 26.1.



Another superb Hispaniolan endemic observed at several sites, especially at higher elevations. Along Rabo de Gato trail both species of today occur side-by-side.

Woodpeckers *Picidae*

Antillean Piculet

Nesocittes micromegala micromegala

(3) 2 Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, La Placa 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A neat island endemic seen at several sites. Some were able to upgrade their views at Caño Hondo.

Hispaniolan Woodpecker

Melanerpes striatus

(6) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1, 1 heard Alcoa Road 25.1, Cachote 26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A very attractive Hispaniolan endemic common to abundant throughout the tour.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius dominicensis

(6) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, en route 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1, en route 26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common and widespread species seen at several sites.

African & New World Parrots *Psittacidae*

Hispaniolan Amazon (VU)

Amazona ventralis

(3) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 22.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

Our best views of this Vulnerable island endemic were along Alcoa road. Great perch views as well as birds in flight.

Hispaniolan Parakeet (VU)

Psittacara chloropterus chloropterus

(4) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 22.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, 1 heard Rabo de Gato 24.1, 8 Alcoa Road 25.1 and 1 heard Cachote 26.1.

A Hispaniolan endemic common in Santo Domingo but generally scarce throughout the island. Vulnerable.

Tyrant Flycatchers *Tyrannidae*

Greater Antillean Elaenia

Elaenia fallax cherriei

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A scarce Hispaniolan endemic that we saw well in the higher parts of Sierra de Bahoruco.



Hispaniolan Pewee*Contopus hispaniolensis hispaniolensis*

(2) Rabo de Gato 22.1 and Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A fairly common and widespread island endemic seen at several localities.

Grey Kingbird*Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis*

(6) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, observed en route 24-26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common species on Hispaniola, especially in the lowlands.

Loggerhead Kingbird*Tyrannus caudifasciatus gabbii*

(1) 1 heard Alcoa Road 25.1.

A bird was heard well at dawn but we were unable to connect visually with this target.

Stolid Flycatcher*Myiarchus stolidus dominicensis*

(6) Up to 1 Rabo de Gato 22-24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1, Alcoa Road 25.1, 1 heard Cachote 26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Endemic to Hispaniola and Jamaica. A commonly seen *Myiarchus* on the island.

Vireos Vireonidae**Flat-billed Vireo***Vireo nanus*

(1) La Placa 24.1.

Great views of a singing bird at La Placa.

Black-whiskered Vireo*Vireo altiloquus altiloquus*

(2) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1 and 1 heard Caño Hondo 27.1.

Good views of several birds in the Botanical Garden of Santo Domingo.

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

(1) 11 Alcoa Road 25.1.

A large noisy flock flew in at the eleventh hour! Patience paid off. Eventually, we had fantastic views of this Near-Threatened island endemic. Several birds came to feed on food left-over's of the park guard.

White-necked Crow (VU)*Corvus leucognaphalus*

(4) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 22.1, Rabo de Gato 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A Vulnerable island endemic with a beautiful call. Several were seen well during the tour, especially at Caño Hondo where birds were fairly tame.



Palmchat *Dulidae***Palmchat***Dulus dominicus*

(5) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1, Cachote 25.1, Cachote 26.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

The national bird of Dominican Republic and endemic to Hispaniola. Abundant in the lowlands.

These conspicuous birds were seen well at many sites, including birds at their impressive nests. A species placed in its own monotypic family.

Swallows *Hirundinidae***Golden Swallow (VU)***Tachycineta euchrysea sclateri*

(2) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

A Vulnerable island endemic (now extinct on Jamaica). Seen well in flight at Zapoten. Eye-level views at the quarry of Alcoa road were unbeatable.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*

(1) en route 24.1.

A scarce migrant seen en route.

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

(1) 2 heard Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

Two birds were heard below Zapoten while searching for the Loggerhead Kingbird.

Northern Mockingbird*Mimus polyglottos orpheus*

(6) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, La Placa 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1, Alcoa Road 25.1, en route 26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common and widespread resident.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae***Rufous-throated Solitaire***Myadestes genibarbis montanus*

(2) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1 and 1 heard Cachote 26.1.

A beautiful singer, seen well in the higher parts of the Sierra de Bahoruco.

Bicknell's Thrush (VU)*Catharus bicknelli*

(1) 2 Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A scarce boreal migrant to the highlands of Hispaniola. We were lucky to get great views of two



birds foraging at the side of the track to Zapoten. Its diagnostic call was heard well fully confirming its id. Vulnerable.

La Selle Thrush (EN)*Turdus swalesi swalesi*

(1) 2 Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A major target bird and sought-after island endemic. Endangered. At least two adults were seen beautifully at Zapoten in the higher part of the Sierra de Bahoruco.

Red-legged Thrush*Turdus plumbeus ardosiaceus*

(5) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1, Alcoa Road 25.1 and 1 heard Cachote 26.1.

A common and widespread species in the Caribbean. A very attractive thrush.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***House Sparrow***Passer domesticus domesticus*

(3) en route 22.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Sabana de la Mar Wharf 27.1.

An introduced species, commonly seen in human settlements.

Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae***Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

(2) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Several of this introduced species were seen during the tour.

Waxbills and Allies *Estrildidae***Scaly-breasted Munia***Lonchura punctulata*

(1) Puerto Escondido 24.1.

Also named Nutmeg Mannikin. A couple of this introduced species were observed in the town of Puerto Escondido.

Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae***Hispaniolan Crossbill (EN)***Loxia megalaga*

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

An Endangered island endemic. A calling female was eventually located in the canopy. Everybody got decent scope views.

Antillean Siskin*Spinus dominicensis*

(2) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 22.1 and Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A Hispaniolan endemic, seen well in the forest at Zapoten.

Antillean Euphonia

Euphonia musica musica

(2) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 22.1 and Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

Several of this fancy island endemic were seen up at Zapoten.

New World Warblers Parulidae

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla aurocapilla

(2) Rabo de Gato 22.1 and Rabo de Gato 24.1.

A boreal migrant seen twice at Rabo de Gato.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Parkesia motacilla

(1) Caño Hondo 27.1.

A scarce boreal migrant seen at the pool of the hotel.

Northern Waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

(1) Rabo de Gato 24.1.

A boreal migrant observed at the stream at Rabo de Gato.

Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

(4) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, La Placa 24.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1 and Cachote 25.1.

A common boreal migrant seen at several sites during the tour.

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

(5) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1, Cachote 25.1 and Cachote 26.1.

A common boreal migrant seen on most days of the tour.

Cape May Warbler

Setophaga tigrina

(1) 2 Cachote 25.1.

A male in crisp breeding plumage was seen at a flowering tree along Cachote road.

Northern Parula

Setophaga americana

(4) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1, Cachote 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common boreal migrant seen at several sites during the tour.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Setophaga caerulescens caerulescens

(5) Rabo de Gato 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1, Cachote 25.1 and



Cachote 26.1.

A fairly common boreal migrant, especially in the highlands.

Palm Warbler

Setophaga palmarum palmarum

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

Small numbers of this boreal migrant were seen at two sites.

Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus chrysoleuca

(2) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

A resident to the highlands of Hispaniola. We had great eye-level views at Alcoa road.

Myrtle Warbler

Setophaga coronata

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

Small numbers of this boreal migrant were seen at two sites.

Prairie Warbler

Setophaga discolor discolor

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

Only a single bird was observed.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Setophaga virens

(2) Rabo de Gato 22.1 and Alcoa Road 25.1.

This neat boreal migrant was seen at two sites.

Family uncertain Incertae Sedis 2

Green-tailed Warbler

Microligea palustris

(2) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1 and La Placa 24.1.

vasta:

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

A fairly common Hispaniolan endemic. Many were observed foraging along the roadside in the higher parts of Sierra de Bahoruco.

White-winged Warbler (VU)

Xenoligea montana

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A Vulnerable Hispaniolan endemic. We got great views of this species at Zapoten. Sometimes called Hispaniolan Highland Tanager.

Troupials and Allies Icteridae

Hispaniolan Oriole

Icterus dominicensis

(2) 1 heard Rabo de Gato 23.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.



A widespread island endemic that we connected with nicely at Caño Hondo.

Greater Antillean Grackle*Quiscalus niger niger*

(3) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and en route 26.1.

A common and widespread species in the Caribbean.

Bananaquit Coerebidae**Bananaquit***Coereba flaveola bananivora*

(4) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1, Rabo de Gato 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common and widespread species seen throughout the tour.

Tanagers and Allies Thraupidae**Yellow-faced Grassquit***Tiaris olivaceus olivaceus*

(3) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common species seen at several sites.

Greater Antillean Bullfinch*Loxigilla violacea affinis*

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A regional endemic seen well in the higher parts of Sierra de Bahoruco.

Black-crowned Tanager*Phaenicophilus palmarum*

(5) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1, La Placa 24.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1, Cachote 26.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A common and attractive island endemic. Mainly observed in the lowlands.

Western Chat-Tanager*Calyptophilus tertius*

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A Vulnerable Hispaniolan endemic. Skulking birds were seen well in the higher parts of the Sierra de Bahoruco.

Eastern Chat-Tanager (VU)*Calyptophilus frugivorus neibae*

(1) Cachote 26.1.

A Near-Threatened Hispaniolan endemic. Birds were beautifully heard singing at dawn along Cachote road. In the end, everybody was able to connect visually with this notorious skulker.

Hispaniolan Spindalis*Spindalis dominicensis*

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A very attractive Hispaniolan endemic (especially the male!) seen well up at Zapoten.



Mammals (1 in total: 1 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Mongoose *Herpestidae*

Small Asian Mongoose

Herpestes javanicus

(1) Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 22.1.

One was swiftly observed at the water edge near the Whistling Ducks.

Amphibians (1 in total: 1 seen)

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True toads *Bufonidae*

Cane Toad

Rhinella marina

(2) Rabo de Gato 22.1 and Rabo de Gato 23.1.

A few sightings of this toad along Rabo de Gato trail.

Butterflies and skippers (12 in total: 12 seen)

This list of butterflies and skippers has been kindly prepared by Andrew Duff

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Skippers *Hesperiidae*

Tropical Checkered Skipper

Pyrgus oileus

(1) Puerto Escondido 24.1.

One at Villa Barancoli.



Brush-footed Butterflies Nymphalidae**Gulf Fritillary***Agraulis vanillae*

(1) Cachote 26.1.

At the Ashy-faced Owl site.

White Peacock*Anartia jatrophae*

(3) Puerto Escondido 23.1, Cabo Rojo 25.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

A few in the lowlands.

Hispaniolan King*Anetia jaegeri*

(1) Zapoten, Sierra de Bahoruco 23.1.

A few only at the lowest pines in the park.

Queen*Danaus gilippus*

(1) Alcoa Road 25.1.

One near the water tank.

Julia Heliconian*Dryas iulia fucatus*

(3) Puerto Escondido 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Common in lowland and mid-elevation gardens.

Pale Cracker*Hamadryas amphichloe*

(1) Cabo Rojo 25.1.

At La Cueva restaurant. "Caribbean Cracker".

Zebra Heliconian*Heliconius charithonia churchi*

(3) Puerto Escondido 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Common in lowland and mid-elevation gardens.

Bates' Calisto*Calisto batesi*

(1) Cachote 26.1.

At the visitors centre.

Malachite*Siproeta stelenes*

(3) Puerto Escondido 23.1, Puerto Escondido 24.1 and Caño Hondo 27.1.

Common in lowland and mid-elevation gardens.

Whites and Sulphurs Pieridae**Florida White***Appias drusilla*

(2) Puerto Escondido 23.1 and Puerto Escondido 24.1.

Common on *Poinsettias* at entrance of Villa Barancoli.

Great Southern White

Ascia monuste eubotea

(1) Laguna de Oviedo 24.1.

One in a salt marsh.

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