



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Jamaica

### Island Endemics

*15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (6 days)*

## Trip Report



Red-billed Streamertail by Liz Southworth

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Adam Walley**

## Tour Summary

Our group met up at the very pleasant Green Castle Estate, where we settled in for our first of five nights here, some arriving later than others!! The next morning, we were out at daybreak for a relaxed stroll on one of the many trails leading off from the lodge. Our very first Jamaican endemic was a Sad Flycatcher, and then we were off and running as the next couple hours produced a windfall of endemics. Good views of a pair of scarce Yellow-shouldered Grassquit and a canopy-loving Jamaican Elaenia were perhaps the most notable, but equally interesting sightings included Jamaican Mango, tiny Vervain Hummingbird, our first of many delightful Jamaican Tody, noisy Jamaican Woodpecker, Jamaican Vireo, White-chinned Thrush, Jamaican Euphonia, stunning Jamaican Spindalis, Jamaican Oriole, and unique Orangequit. Wow – a lot to take in but, fortunately, the coming days would bring us lots of opportunities to enjoy these species at a bit more leisure!



**Jamaican Spindalis by Mark Rochkind**

During breakfast, we were entertained by Jamaica's iconic species, the Red-billed Streamertail, with multiple males visiting a flowering bottlebrush and displaying their impressive tails to full effect. Following breakfast, we birded another trail where we ended up focussing on the flycatchers – excellent views of Jamaican Elaenia and then all three of the island's *Myiarchus* were in view from a single spot: Sad, Rufous-tailed and Stolid Flycatchers allowed a wonderful opportunity for comparison! Wintering warblers were prominent as well, including Black-throated Blue and Black-and-white Warblers, Northern Parula and American Redstart. With the heat of the day now upon us, it was time for lunch and a break, before checking out the reservoir in the afternoon. Lots of water birds were added to the list at the reservoir, along with brief views of Ruddy Quail-Dove and Caribbean Dove on the trails. An excellent first day in Jamaica!

An early start saw us heading to the far east of the island and the Ecclesdown Road. Stepping out of the vehicle, we were greeted by a flock of scarce Black-billed Amazons and had some perched views of them.



**Rufous-tailed Flycatcher by Mike Austin**

Just up the road, we were thrilled to see a pair of Crested Quail-Doves walking around in the open as they fed in a recently planted taro crop, allowing views for as long as we wanted of this normally shy species. And then, just a bit further up, we were enjoying a pair of Jamaican Blackbirds, the island's most endangered species, at close range.

We were off to a phenomenal start, and spent the remainder of the morning walking up and down this quiet, birdy road. We heard several Jamaican Crows calling around and eventually found them perched



up. Black-billed Amazons were fairly prominent, and we had repeated perched views. Yellow-billed Amazons were less prominent, although we did have several pairs or small groups in flight over the course of the morning. We also found an area with several Black-billed Streamertails, a couple of stunning males showing very well. Additional highlights through the morning included scope views of Ring-tailed Pigeon, excellent views of a pair of Jamaican Lizard Cuckoos, Jamaican Pewee, Jamaican Becard, scarce Blue Mountain Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Arrowhead Warbler and Greater Antillean Bullfinch. What a morning!

We had a leisurely lunch at a famous jerk restaurant on the coast, and then made a short visit to a small bird reserve nearby, where we were treated to great views of a Caribbean Dove slowly walking on the road. Back at the Green Castle, we headed out after dinner in windy conditions and with a bright full moon. After a bit of a search, we tracked down a Jamaican Owl staring down at us and puffing out its throat each time it growled at us – superb! We also had a fantastic view of Northern Potoo to round off what had been an incredible day's birding in Jamaica.



**Jamaican Tody by Mike Austin**

We now had another full day around the Green Castle. It was a fairly relaxed day of birding, although we did target the Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, as it was one of only two endemics now missing from our lists. After a lot of searching, we did finally find one in the late morning; although by returning to the area in the afternoon, we had better looks at this huge and attractive cuckoo, including scope views. Of course, we enjoyed repeat views of many of the Jamaican endemics, and did add a few new birds to our tally, like Mangrove Cuckoo, Olive-throated Parakeet and Prairie Warbler. A Jamaican Giant Anole seen today was the herpetological highlight of the trip! Another post-dinner walk yielded perfect views of both Jamaican Owl and Northern Potoo.



**Jamaican Owl by Gary Brewer**

For our final full day of the tour, we headed out early again, this time to the Hardwar Gap in the Blue Mountains. Within minutes of starting our birding, we found some White-eyed Thrushes visiting a fruiting tree, joined by a pair of Rufous-throated Solitaires. We spent the remainder of a long and productive morning walking various stretches of roadside forest and enjoying abundant birdlife and great viewing of such species as Jamaican Spindalis, Blue Mountain Vireo, Ring-tailed Pigeon, brief Crested Quail-Dove, Jamaican Becard, several Arrowhead Warblers and Yellow-shouldered Grassquits, amongst many more. A final highlight was tracking down a scarce Greater Antillean Elaenia. After enjoying a cup of famous Blue Mountain coffee, we then worked our way back to the Green Castle, where a final walk to the reservoir yielded a Ruddy Quail-Dove, plus Ovenbird as our final new species for the trip.

After a relaxed breakfast, we were on our way to Kingston Airport, where the tour ended. Thanks to everyone for making this a fun and successful tour!



**White-eyed Thrush by Liz Southworth**



**Arrowhead Warbler by Liz Southworth**



# 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 (92 in total: 91 seen, 1 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.2).

**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 & Swans Anatidae

- Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.
- Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.
- Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.
- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

- Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus dominicus*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.
- Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps antillarum*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

### Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*  
(1) Observed 1 day in total.

### Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae

- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*  
(1) Observed 1 day in total.
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*  
(1) Green Castle Estate 16.2.
- Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*  
(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*  
(3) Green Castle Estate 18.2.
- Great Egret** *Ardea alba egretta*  
(2) Observed 2 days in total.
- Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*  
(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

- Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*  
(1) Observed 1 day in total.

**Frigatebirds *Fregatidae***

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 18.2.

**New World Vultures *Cathartidae***

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura aura*  
(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

**Osprey *Pandionidae***

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
(1) Green Castle Estate 16.2.

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae***

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis*  
(4) Observed Green Castle Estate 16-18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae***

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata cerceris*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana americana*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

**Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae***

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*  
(1) Green Castle Estate 16.2.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*  
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae***

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus maximus*  
(2) Observed 2 days in total.

**Cabot's Tern** *Thalasseus acufavidus acufavidus*  
(1) Observed 1 day in total.

**Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae***

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia var. domestica*  
(2) Observed 2 days in total.

**White-crowned Pigeon (NT)** *Patagioenas leucocephala*  
(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

**Ring-tailed Pigeon (VU)** *Patagioenas caribaea*  
(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina jamaicensis*  
(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

**Crested Quail-Dove (NT)** *Geotrygon versicolor*  
(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana montana*  
(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

- Caribbean Dove** *Leptotila jamaicensis jamaicensis*  
 (4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, San San 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.
- Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida aurita zenaida*  
 (4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2, Green Castle Estate 19.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.
- White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica asiatica*  
 (4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*  
 (1) Green Castle Estate 18.2.
- Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor*  
 (1) Green Castle Estate 18.2.
- Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** *Coccyzus pluvialis*  
 (1) Green Castle Estate 18.2.
- Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo** *Coccyzus vetula*  
 (2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

### Barn-Owls Tytonidae

- American Barn Owl** *Tyto furcata furcata*  
 (2) 1 heard Green Castle Estate 18.2 and 1 heard Green Castle Estate 19.2.

### Owls Strigidae

- Jamaican Owl** *Pseudoscops grammicus*  
 (2) Green Castle Estate 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

### Potoos Nyctibiidae

- Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis jamaicensis*  
 (3) Observed Green Castle Estate 16-18.2.

### Swifts Apodidae

- White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris pallidifrons*  
 (2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.
- Antillean Palm Swift** *Tachornis phoenicobia phoenicobia*  
 (1) Hardwar Gap 19.2.

### Hummingbirds Trochilidae

- Jamaican Mango** *Anthracothorax mango*  
 (3) Observed Green Castle Estate 16-18.2 and Ecclesdown Road 17.2.
- Red-billed Streamertail** *Trochilus polytmus*  
 (4) Observed Green Castle Estate 16-18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.
- Black-billed Streamertail** *Trochilus scitulus*  
 (1) Ecclesdown Road 17.2.
- Vervain Hummingbird** *Mellisuga minima minima*  
 (3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

### Todies Todidae

- Jamaican Tody** *Todus todus*  
 (4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Woodpeckers *Picidae*****Jamaican Woodpecker***Melanerpes radiolatus*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, San San 17.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*****American Kestrel***Falco sparverius*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2, Green Castle Estate 19.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**African & New World Parrots *Psittacidae*****Black-billed Amazon (VU)***Amazona agilis*

(1) Ecclesdown Road 17.2.

**Yellow-billed Amazon (VU)***Amazona collaria*

(1) Ecclesdown Road 17.2.

**Green-rumped Parrotlet***Forpus passerinus viridissimus*

(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Ecclesdown Road 17.2.

**Olive-throated Parakeet (NT)***Eupsittula nana nana*

(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

**Tyrant Flycatchers *Tyrannidae*****Jamaican Elaenia***Myiopagis cotta*

(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

**Greater Antillean Elaenia***Elaenia fallax fallax*

(1) Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Jamaican Pewee***Contopus pallidus*

(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Loggerhead Kingbird***Tyrannus caudifasciatus jamaicensis*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2, Green Castle Estate 19.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Sad Flycatcher***Myiarchus barbirostris*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Rufous-tailed Flycatcher***Myiarchus validus*

(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Stolid Flycatcher***Myiarchus stolidus*

(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

**Tityras, Becards *Tityridae*****Jamaican Becard***Pachyramphus niger*

(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Vireos, Greenlets *Vireonidae*****Jamaican Vireo***Vireo modestus*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Blue Mountain Vireo (NT)***Vireo osburni*

(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*****Jamaican Crow***Corvus jamaicensis*

(1) Ecclesdown Road 17.2.



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

(1) Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Cave Swallow***Petrochelidon fulva poeciloma*

(2) Hardwar Gap 19.2.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers *Mimidae***Northern Mockingbird***Mimus polyglottos orpheus*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

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

(2) 1 heard San San 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**White-eyed Thrush***Turdus jamaicensis*

(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**White-chinned Thrush***Turdus aurantius*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, San San 17.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

Finches *Fringillidae***Jamaican Euphonia***Euphonia jamaica*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

Spindalises *Spindalidae***Jamaican Spindalis***Spindalis nigricephala*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds *Icteridae***Jamaican Oriole***Icterus leucopteryx leucopteryx*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Jamaican Blackbird (EN)***Nesopsar nigerrimus*

(1) Ecclesdown Road 17.2.

**Shiny Cowbird***Molothrus bonariensis minimus*

(1) Green Castle Estate 16.2.

**Greater Antillean Grackle***Quiscalus niger crassirostris*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

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

(1) Green Castle Estate 19.2.

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

(2) San San 17.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.

**Louisiana Waterthrush***Parkesia motacilla*

(2) San San 17.2 and Green Castle Estate 19.2.

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

(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Arrowhead Warbler***Setophaga pharetra*

(2) Ecclesdown Road 17.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**American Redstart***Setophaga ruticilla*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Northern Parula***Setophaga americana*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, San San 17.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

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

(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Prairie Warbler***Setophaga discolor discolor*

(2) Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Cardinals, Grosbeaks and allies *Cardinalidae*****Indigo Bunting***Passerina cyanea*

(1) Green Castle Estate 18.2.

**Tanagers and allies *Thraupidae*****Bananaquit***Coereba flaveola flaveola*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2, Green Castle Estate 19.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

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

(1) Green Castle Estate 16.2.

**Black-faced Grassquit***Tiaris bicolor marchii*

(3) Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2, Green Castle Estate 19.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Yellow-shouldered Grassquit***Loxipasser anoxanthus*

(3) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Greater Antillean Bullfinch***Loxigilla violacea ruficollis*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**Orangequit***Euneornis campestris*

(4) Green Castle Estate 16.2, Ecclesdown Road 17.2, Green Castle Estate 18.2 and Hardwar Gap 19.2.

**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*****Javan Mongoose***Herpestes javanicus*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

**Reptiles (6 in total: 6 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**Iguanas *Iguanidae*****Jamaica Giant Anole***Anolis garmani*

(1) Green Castle Estate 18.2.

<b>Graham's Anole</b>	<i>Anolis grahami</i>
(5) Observed Green Castle Estate 15-19.2.	
<b>Stripefoot Anole</b>	<i>Anolis lineatopus</i>
(2) Green Castle Estate 16.2 and Green Castle Estate 18.2.	
<b>Short-tail Anole</b>	<i>Anolis valencienni</i>
(1) Green Castle Estate 18.2.	

**Geckos Gekkonidae**

<b>Common House Gecko</b>	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Observed 1 day(s) in total.	

**Sphaerodactylidae Sphaerodactylidae**

<b>Croaking Lizard</b>	<i>Aristelliger praesignis</i>
(1) Green Castle Estate 15.2.	

**Amphibians (2 in total: 2 seen)**

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**True toads Bufonidae**

<b>Cane Toad</b>	<i>Rhinella marina</i>
(4) Observed Green Castle Estate 16-19.2.	

**Eleutherodactylidae Eleutherodactylidae**

<b>Spaldings Robber Frog</b>	<i>Eleutherodactylus gossei</i>
(5) Observed Green Castle Estate 15-19.2.	

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