



CUBA

February 21-March 3 2018

Guides: Josh Engel and Freddy García

Cuba may be famed among tourists for its music, dancing, historic architecture, and beautiful beaches, but to birders, the long list of endemic birds adds considerably to its allure. This trip followed a classic birding itinerary, with the addition of a stopover in Cienfuegos and a day at the end to tour the historic center of Havana. We saw almost all of the endemic birds possible on the route, including difficult ones like **Gundlach's Hawk**, **Blue-headed Quail-Dove**, and **Zapata Wren**. We had wonderful views of many other charismatic endemics as well, like **Bee Hummingbird**, **Cuban Trogon**, and the delightful **Cuban Tody**, as well several endangered species, including **Zapata Sparrow**, **Fernandina's Flicker** and **Cuban Parakeet**. We enjoyed the many more widespread West Indian specialties as well, including **Cuban Parrot** and **West Indian Whistling Duck**. Northern migrants were abundant, and it was fun seeing familiar birds like **Northern Parula** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and less familiar ones like **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Painted Bunting**. The countryside was beautiful, and both the northern and southern coasts had stunning blue waters. The cities were fascinating and the people welcoming.

TOP 5 BIRDS

1. Bee Hummingbird
2. Cuban Tody
3. Cuban Trogon
4. Cuban Parrot
5. (tie) American Flamingo, Great Lizard Cuckoo, Zapata Wren & Western Spindalis



Classic cars in Havana.

Day 1-2: Soroa

After a nighttime arrival, we eagerly started the birding part of the trip after breakfast. It was a beautiful morning as we set out walking. We quickly found our first Caribbean specialties, like **Western Spindalis**, **Cuban Pewee**, **Great Lizard Cuckoo**, and **West Indian Woodpecker**. A small mixed flock contained **Yellow-headed Warbler**, a member of the newly created Cuban Warbler family Teretristidae. We saw several *tocororo*, Cuba's national bird, better known to us as **Cuban Trogon**, with its bright colors and strange tail. Migrants from the north were also in evidence, with **American Redstart**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush**. Reaching a little higher on the trail, we heard **Cuban Solitaire**, which after quite some effort a few people got good views of.

We took a stroll through the nearby Orchid Garden, and besides some beautiful orchids, we found **Cuban Grassquit**, **Cuban Oriole**, beautiful views of **Red-legged Thrush** and **Loggerhead Kingbird**, and more migrants. After an afternoon siesta, we took the bus to the top of a hill adjacent to the hotel and walked back. We were surrounded by birds as soon as we stepped out of the bus. **Cuban Trogon**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, **La Sagra's Flycatcher**, **Cuban Oriole**, **West Indian Woodpecker**, **White-crowned Pigeon**, **Cuban Vireo**, and several migrant warblers filled the trees. A short walk down the road got us excellent views of the amazing **Cuban Tody**, at one point with a huge grasshopper in its beak. A welcome surprise was a flyover of the endangered endemic **Gundlach's Hawk**. We made it back to the hotel just as rain was starting and capped the day with dinner in a nearby private home.



Cuban Tody, the cutest of the Cuban endemics and also one of the most colorful.

Day 3-4: To Soroa to Cayo Coco

We set out again after breakfast with some target birds in mind. Our first stop was Las Terrazas, where our local guide knew right where to go to find a roosting **Stygian Owl** in a pine grove, the rare owl preening wearily as we admired it. Soon **Olive-capped Warbler** was singing from the same pine grove, and we pished it in for great views, some people resorting to lying on their backs as the bird foraged directly overhead, showing off its brilliant yellow throat if not its olive cap. We made one more stop nearby at a local pig farm, where a farmer threw out seed when we arrived. On cue a flock of our morning's third target species, **Cuban Grassquit**, appeared, with plenty of **Yellow-faced Grassquits** for company. We also picked up our first **Killdeer** of the trip here.

We made a couple of short stops along the long road to Cienfuegos, finding our first **Brown Pelican** and a variety of migrant ducks. We arrived in Cienfuegos and had a short tour of the town, and a few people opted for a walk down to the bay where a small group of **Black Skimmers** passed by.

The following morning we continued on our way to Cayo Coco after a lovely breakfast in our B&B. We only made a couple of brief stops, first at a reservoir where we picked up several new waterbirds for the trip, including **Anhinga** and **Little Blue Heron**. Our second stop was at a café for a bathroom and coffee break, but it quickly became a birding stop when we spotted a pair of **Cuban Pygmy Owls**, which stuck around long enough not only for the entire group to see but for the entire restaurant staff to see as well.

We made it to Cayo Coco in time for a short afternoon break before heading out again. A visit to the beach yielded our first **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Sanderlings**, and **Magnificent Frigatebird**. As the afternoon cooled off we went to a nearby forest, where after visiting the rather astounding bat cave disco we checked out the feeder setup nearby which revealed our first **Zenaida Dove** and our target, **Key West Quail Dove**, which everyone got scope views of at close range as it showed off its green crown and purple back. We also had our best views yet of **Cuban Tody** along with several migrants, including **Painted Bunting**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler**.

Day 5: Los Cayos

We had a full day to explore the cays along Cuba's northern coast. We started our morning on Cayo Coco, not far from our hotel, where our local guide took us to a stretch of forested road where we were to look for many of our target birds. They came fast and furious, first with **Zapata Sparrow**, then **Oriente Warbler**, and finally **Cuban Gnatcatcher**, with excellent views of all three. On top of that we found a beautiful little flock of tree-perching **West Indian Whistling Ducks**, got stunning views of **Cuban Green Woodpecker** and **Great Lizard Cuckoo**, and found a decent number of migrants, including **Yellow-rumped** and **Prairie Warbler**.

We continued on to Cayo Paredón Grande, but by the time we got there it was hot, sunny, and windy and birds were quiet. We stopped in the shallow wetlands along the road connecting the cays, where there were flocks of **American Wigeon** and **Blue-winged Teal** along with a variety of long-legged waders. We had nice views of the recently split endemic **Cuban Black Hawk** in the area as well. A beach stop revealed a few shorebirds, including a flyby flock of **Piping Plovers**, here on their wintering grounds.

After lunch and a siesta, we headed out again, this time driving west to Cayo Guillermo. Some excellent roadside wetlands were full of birds, including large numbers of **Short-billed Dowitchers** and smaller numbers of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated** and **Black-bellied Plovers**, along with excellent views of **Tricolored Heron** and other waders. We continued down the road until we spotted a **Bahama Mockingbird** sitting up in the sunlight, showing off its streaked flanks.



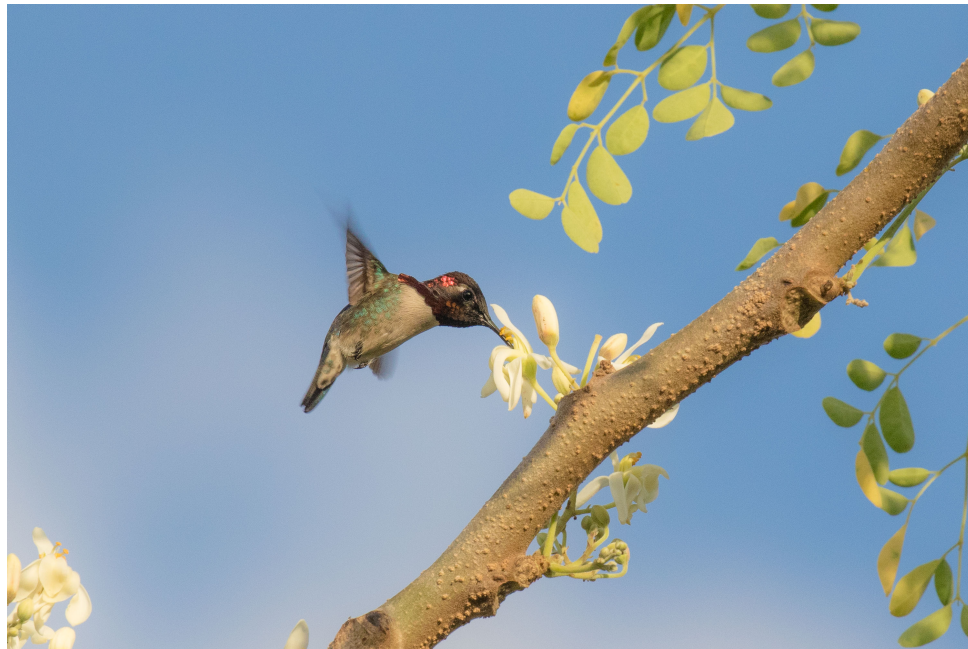
The local guide in Bermejas knew exactly where this Bare-legged Owl was living.

Days 6-8: Zapata area

We took a walk around our beachfront hotel grounds before breakfast. We had great views of another recently split endemic, **Cuban Oriole**, and while we were watching it, a more familiar oriole, a beautiful male **Baltimore Oriole**, getting ready to migrate north, popped out of the mangroves for great views. After breakfast it was time to return to the main island and head west, to the famed Zapata area, home to the majority of Cuba's endemic birds.

We arrived at the Bermejas area in the late afternoon, after stops when we encountered migrant **Peregrine Falcon** and **Northern Harrier** along the road, ready to begin our Zapata birding. We made a first attempt for the world's smallest bird, **Bee Hummingbird**, but it didn't show, so we headed across the street into the forest. Before long, our local guide positioned us

around a broken tree trunk, rubbed the trunk with a stick, and out popped the head of a **Bare-legged Owl**. It checked us out, found us uninteresting, and returned to its hole, probably not knowing how happy it made the group of people standing next to its home. We returned to look for Bee Hummingbird again, finding **Cuban Emerald**, **Cuban Vireo**, **Tawny-shouldered Blackbird**, **Cuban Pewee**, and, after some waiting, a female, then a male, **Bee Hummingbird**. We had particularly good views of the male as it fed from a small flowering tree, sat, fed some more, sat some more, showing us every angle in every light, so we got to see its rose-colored head light up in the sun. Several members of the group had thus seen the biggest bird in the world, the heaviest flying bird in the world, and the smallest bird in the world in less than four months. Ecstatic, we moved just down the road to look for parrots and parakeets. We had good views of **Cuban Parrots**, both in flight and perched, and brief views of a swift flock of **Cuban Parakeets**. As we drove on to our hotel, we watched the sun set over the Bay of Pigs, then enjoyed a delicious dinner on the rooftop terrace of the hotel.



The world's smallest bird, Bee Hummingbird. In Cuba it goes by the charming name zunzuncito.

The next morning we were up early, heading to the marshes that help make the area rich in endemic fauna. We tried and tried to find **Zapata Wren**, but only heard one singing distantly. We did see plenty of birds in the wooded roadway through the marsh, including improved views of **Yellow-headed Warbler** along with lots of migrants, including a **Worm-eating Warbler**. On our drive out of the marshes, we had great views of a **Great Lizard Cuckoo** eating a lizard in the middle of the road.

After an afternoon break in the seaside town of Playa Larga where we were staying, we visited Las Salinas, the salt lagoons that are home to vast numbers of waterbirds. **American Flamingos** put on a great show, with many hundreds present, along with large numbers of **Tricolored**

Hérons, Reddish Egrets, and other wading birds, smaller numbers of **Wood Storks**, and several **Gull-billed Terns** among the more numerous **Royal** and **Caspian Terns**. Just before the end of the road we found a good number of shorebirds, with everybody eventually getting good looks at gray-plumaged **Red-Knots** and pale-bellied **Black-bellied Plovers**. We capped the day with a fresh seafood dinner at a local restaurant.

Having not seen Zapata Wren the previous afternoon, we decided for another go at it, considering that the Zapata Swamps are the only place in the world that it occurs. We drove through the forest for over an hour, reaching the small village of Santo Tomás, where we boarded small boats and were poled down a canal to a short boardwalk. We got out and were soon enjoying hearing the loud, rich song of **Zapata Wren**, and watching the bird quiver as it sang. We couldn't find the **Red-shouldered Blackbird** that was calling in the distance, but we did see lots of other birds in the area, including **Cuban Green Woodpecker**, **Cuban Parakeet**, and the usual crowd of migrants, this time including nice looks at an **Ovenbird**.



Yellow-headed Warbler is one of two members of the Cuban Warbler family, Teretristidae. We had great views of them in the Zapata Swamps.

Our afternoon outing was another excellent one, visiting the coastal sinkhole Cueva de los Peces, where several of the once extremely hard to find **Blue-headed Quail-Dove** were calmly feeding on rice behind the restaurant, allowing us to approach within a foot or two and admire the wonderful details of their intricate plumage. Here we also had our best looks yet at **Western Spindalis** here, along with **Prairie Warbler** and other migrants. We wrapped up the day's birding around the nearby rural town of Sopllillar. Our main target was **Fernandina's Flicker**, an endangered endemic, which we found easily and had excellent looks at as they fed on the ground in typical flicker fashion. The birding here was outstanding, and we had incredible views of many **Cuban Parrots** feeding on guavas, showing off their pink throats in the

fading sunlight. A **Cuban Trogon** put on a good, if brief, show for the group, and as we were leaving a flock of **Cuban Parakeets** flew in and landed in a treetop, allowing us scope views of yet another endangered Cuban endemic. And if the birding weren't enough, we watched the full moon rising over the fields before heading back to the bus and returning to town.

Days 9-11: Zapata area to Havana

We started our final birding morning walking around the town of Playa Larga near our B&B. We had some great looks at migrants like **Northern Parula** and **Prairie Warbler** and a few of us saw a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. After breakfast we started the northward drive to Havana. We made several stops along the way, first at a crocodile farm not far from Playa Larga. Here we saw our first **Purple Gallinule** for the trip and had nice studies of **Anhinga**, **West Indian Woodpecker**, **Tawny-shouldered Blackbird**, and a good number of migrant warblers. We continued on to some nearby marshes where we were again skunked on finding Red-shouldered Blackbird.



Red-legged Thrush became a familiar site throughout the island, but nowhere did we have better views than at Hemingway's estate on the outskirts of Havana, Vinca Figía.

As we neared Cuba's capital city, we visited Finca Vigía, Ernest Hemingway's long-time home. We had a nice tour of the house and property, and of course we thoroughly enjoyed watching the **Red-legged Thrushes**, **Palm Warblers**, and other birds that were taking advantage of the lush vegetation of the estate.

We arrived to our B&B in historic Old Havana, with its wonderful (if sometimes crumbling) architecture, narrow roadways, and vibrant energy. After settling in, the guides revealed special

dinner transportation—including a yellow 1951 Pontian Chieftain and a hot pink 1948 Ford Super Deluxe. We had a wonderful sunset tour of the city, stopping at the Plaza de la Revolución and the Hotel Nacional, driving back along the Malecón, before being dropped off in the oldest part of the old city for our rooftop dinner. We walked back to the B&B with Cuban music ringing out from the many restaurants and bars.

Our final day was devoted to touring Old Havana, starting with a morning walking tour that took us past many of the area's most important buildings and historical sites (and allowed us great looks at nesting **Cave Swallows**). The tour ended at Hotel Ambos Mundos, Hemingway's home when he lived in Old Havana, where we had lunch in the rooftop restaurant, with its spectacular views over Old Havana to the harbor mouth and fort. People spread out over the afternoon, resting, shopping, and sightseeing in this wonderful, safe, and walkable city. We regrouped in the evening in time to see **Cuban Martins** mixed in with **Cave Swallows** feeding high over the city. We took one last walk to a local restaurant for our farewell dinner, after which a couple of adventurous souls stayed out to check out what Cuban music and dancing were on offer in the area.

After our final breakfast of fresh tropical fruits and strong Cuban coffee, it was time for our goodbyes, as the group returned across the Florida Straits. It was a tremendous trip, full of great birds, wonderful experiences, and a first-hand look at a country that has loomed large in the American consciousness for more than a century.



The endangered West Indian Whistling Duck took a hit in Cuba from Hurricane Irma, so we were encouraged to see a small flock on Cayo Coco.

BIRD LIST. 144 species. Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2017 update. Names in *Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba* are in parentheses. (^) after the bird's English name denotes Cuban endemic and (*) denotes West Indies endemic. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened. ORDER NAME: Family Name precedes the list of birds observed in each family.

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

West Indian Whistling-Duck* (VU)

Dendrocygna arborea

Great views of this regional endemic a small flock in a mangrove on Cayo Coco. A bird we were very happy to find after Hurricane Irma made them scarce.

Blue-winged Teal

Spatula discors

Northern Shoveler

Spatula clypeata

American Wigeon

Mareca americana

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Least Grebe

Tachybaptus dominicus

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae

American (Greater) Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Wood Stork

Mycteria americana

SULIFORMES: Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird

Fregata magnificens

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

Anhinga

Anhinga anhinga

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Reddish Egret (NT)	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>

CATHARTIFORMES: Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
----------------	-----------------------

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae

Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
--------	--------------------------

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>
Gundlach's Hawk^ (EN)	<i>Accipiter gundlachi</i>

We had nice views of the rare endemic flying over us in Soroa.

Cuban (Common) Black Hawk^ (NT)	<i>Buteogallus gundlachii</i>
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Sora (H)	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>
Common Gallinule (Moorhen)	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>

GRUIFORMES: Aramidae

Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
---------	------------------------

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
--------------------	-----------------------------

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>

Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus

Killdeer

*Charadrius vociferus***CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Red Knot

Calidris canutus

Great views of a pretty good number of this declining migrant in Las Salinas.

Stilt Sandpiper

Calidris himantopus

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Short-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus griseus

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

Lesser Yellowlegs

*Tringa flavipes***CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Laughing Gull

Leucophaeus atricilla

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus

Black Skimmer

*Rhychops niger***COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon (In)

Columba livia

White-crowned Pigeon (NT)

Patagioenas leucocephala

Eurasian Collared-Dove (In)

Streptopelia decaocto

Common Ground-Dove

Columbina passerina

Blue-headed Quail-Dove^ (EN)

Starnoenas cyanocephala

Astounding views of this stunning dove from just a few feet away as they fed on rice thrown to them outside a restaurant in the Zapata area.

Ruddy Quail-Dove

Geotrygon montana

Key West Quail-Dove*

Geotrygon chrysis

Another feeder dove, we had very nice views of this shy bird on Cayo Coco.

White-winged Dove

Zenaida asiatica

Zenaida Dove*

Zenaida aurita

Mourning Dove

*Zenaida macroura***CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Smooth-billed Ani

Crotophaga ani

Great Lizard-Cuckoo*

*Coccyzus merlini***STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Bare-legged Owl (Cuban Screech Owl)^

Margarobyas lawrencii

Wonderful views of one sticking its head out of its roosting tree cavity.

Cuban Pygmy-Owl^

Glaucidium siju

Stygian Owl

*Asio stygius***CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae**

Antillean Palm-Swift*

*Tachornis phoenicobia***CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Trochilidae**

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Trochilus colubris

Bee Hummingbird^ (NT)

Mellisuga helenae

We had tremendous views of the smallest bird in the world, a male showing off its brilliant pink iridescence.

Cuban Emerald*

*Chlorostilbon ricordii***TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

Cuban Trogon^

Priotelus temnurus

A beautiful bird, heard frequently and seen several times. Cuba's national bird.

CORACIIFORMES: Todidae

Cuban Tody^

Todus multicolor

Another spectacular (if diminutive) endemic, we had wonderful views.

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher

*Megaceryle alcyon***PICIFORMES: Picidae**

West Indian Woodpecker*

Melanerpes superciliaris

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus varius

Cuban Green Woodpecker^

Xiphidiopicus percussus

Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

Fernandina's Flicker^ (VU)

Colaptes fernandinae

We had wonderful views of this rare woodpecker at the village of Sopllillar.

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Crested Caracara

Caracara cheriway

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**Cuban Parrot* (NT)***Amazona leucocephala*

We had a great time watching these parrots eating guavas in perfect light and at close range near the end of our trip.

Cuban Parakeet^ (VU)*Psittacara euops***PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae****Cuban Pewee****Contopus caribaeus***La Sagra's Flycatcher****Myiarchus sagrae***Loggerhead Kingbird****Tyrannus caudifasciatus***PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae****Cuban Vireo^***Vireo gundlachii***PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae****Cuban Crow****Corvus nasicus***PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae****Northern Rough-winged Swallow***Stelgidopteryx serripennis***Cuban Martin***Progne cryptoleuca*

A breeding endemic, we saw it on our last day of the trip, in Havana, where they nest in the Old City.

Tree Swallow*Tachycineta bicolor***Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica***Cave Swallow***Petrochelidon fulva***PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae****Zapata Wren^ (EN)***Ferminia cerverai*

It took us two mornings to see this marsh-dwelling wren, but it was worth the effort, finally getting excellent views after a short boat ride into the marshes of Zapata.

PASSERIFORMES: Polioptilidae**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher***Polioptila caerulea***Cuban Gnatcatcher^***Polioptila lembeyi***PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae****Cuban Solitaire^ (NT)***Myadestes elisabeth***Red-legged Thrush****Turdus plumbeus***PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae****Gray Catbird***Dumetella carolinensis***Bahama Mockingbird****Mimus gundlachii*

Word was that this species had become very hard to find since Hurricane Irma passed through last September, so we were very happy to see one and to see it well on Cayo Guillermo.

Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos

PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla

Worm-eating Warbler

Helmitheros vermivorum

Louisiana Waterthrush

Parkesia motacilla

Northern Waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

Hooded Warbler

Setophaga citrina

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

Cape May Warbler

Setophaga tigrina

Northern Parula

Setophaga americana

Yellow Warbler

Setophaga petechia

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Setophaga caerulescens

Palm Warbler

Setophaga palmarum

Olive-capped Warbler*

Setophaga pityophila

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Yellow-throated Warbler

Setophaga dominica

Prairie Warbler

Setophaga discolor

Black-throated Green Warbler

Setophaga virens

PASSERIFORMES: Thraupidae

Red-legged Honeycreeper

Cyanerpes cyaneus

Cuban Grassquit^

Tiaris canorus

The local guides have this one down—we visited a pig farm where a farmer came and spread on some bird seed. Within seconds, the seed of covered in both grassquit species.

Yellow-faced Grassquit

Tiaris olivaceus

Cuban Bullfinch*

Melopyrrha nigra

PASSERIFORMES: Passerellidae

Zapata Sparrow^ (EN)

Torreornis inexpectata

PASSERIFORMES: Spindalidae

Western Spindalis (Stripe-headed Tanager)

Spindalis zena

A stunning bird, now considered to belong to its own family, we saw it well several times, especially in the Zapata area.

PASSERIFORMES: Teretistridae

Yellow-headed Warbler^ (EN)

Teretistris fernandinae

Oriente Warbler^ (EN)

Teretistris fornsi

PASSERIFORMES: Cardinalidae

Painted Bunting (NT)

Passerina ciris

A few people saw a female on Cayo Coco.

PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae

Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna

Cuban (Black-cowled) Oriole^

Icterus melanopsis

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

Red-shouldered Blackbird^ (H)

Agelaius assimilis

Tawny-shouldered Blackbird*

Agelaius humeralis

Cuban Blackbird^

Ptiloxena atroviolacea

Greater Antillean Grackle*

Quiscalus niger

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

House Sparrow (In)

Passer domesticus



Cuban Grassquits are declining in some areas of Cuba because of trapping for the cage bird trade.