



**SUNRISE**  
  
**BIRDING**  
**CUBA**  
**TRIP REPORT**  
 March/April 2019



Photos by Frank Gallo: Bee Hummingbird, West Indian Woodpecker, Cuban Tody, Cuban Parakeet, Cuban Emerald, Group with Orlando Garrido

# Sunrise Birding LLC – CUBA BIRD SURVEY 2019

## March 24 – April 3, 2019 TRIP REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS - Endemics, rarities, and group favorites

- Bee Hummingbird (E)
- Cuban Tody (E)
- Cuban Solitaire (E)
- Cuban Trogon (E)
- Bare-legged Owl (E)
- Zapata Wren (E)
- Mangrove Cuckoo
- Cuban Blackbird (E)
- Cuban Pewee (E)
- Giant Kingbird (E)
- Cuban Oriole (E)
- Loggerhead Kingbird
- Cuban Palm Crow
- Western Spindalis
- Cuban Bullfinch (E)
- Oriente Warbler
- Purple Gallinule
- Gundlach's Hawk (E)!
- Cuban Nightjar (E)
- Red-shouldered Blackbird (E)
- Fernandina's Flicker (E)
- Zapata Sparrow (E)
- Cuban Vireo (E)
- Cuban Gnatcatcher (E)
- La Sagra's Flycatcher
- Tawny-shouldered Blackbird
- West Indian Woodpecker
- Olive-capped Warbler
- White-crowned Pigeon
- Red-legged Thrush
- Reddish Egret
- Clapper Rail (Cuban race)
- Cuban Black Hawk (E)
- Northern Jacana
- Blue-headed Quail-Dove (E)
- Cuban Grassquit (E)
- Cuban Pygmy-Owl (E)
- Grey-fronted Quail-Dove (E)
- West Indian Whistling Duck
- Cuban Amazon (Parrot)
- Cuban Parakeet (E)
- Antillean Palm Swift
- Key West Quail-Dove
- Yellow-headed warbler (E)
- Great Lizard Cuckoo
- Cuban Green Woodpecker (E)
- Greater Antillean Grackle
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- American Flamingo
- Stygian Owl
- Bobwhite
- Ruddy Quail-Dove

**Leaders:** Frank Gallo and Abel Milera  
Report & photos by Frank Gallo. Some photos by Bob White.

Total Bird Species: 164!

25 Endemics out of 25 accessible!

### SUMMARY:



Our long-awaited return trip to Cuba turned into another endemic extravaganza. We found all 25 Cuban endemic bird species among many other regional specialties. Our group karma not only pulled in all 25 endemics, but we had incredible views of all of them! It was a wonderful trip with many memorable moments, a few of which grace these pages.

As always, a trip highlight was seeing the world's smallest bird, the lovely **Bee Hummingbird**, and we saw several!

Other superb sightings from this incredible island, included seeing a family of Northern Jacanas (a trip first), getting amazing views of Cuban Tody and Cuban Trogons – real eye candy, and seeing all 4 of Cuba's Quail-Doves, Ruddy, Gray-fronted, Blue-headed, and Key West! We also had wonderful looks at the rare and elusive Gundlach's Hawk which lazily flapped overhead displaying, and we tracked down the secretive Cuban Palm Crow.

We had incredible views of a Stygian Owl, a perched Cuban Nightjar, and a pair of Bare-legged Owls peering out of a nest hole. Both Cuban Parakeets and Parrots gave us a show near Bermejas, and Zapata Wren and Zapata Sparrow couldn't have been more cooperative. I'll always remember our special roast pork dinner at Don Pepe's in Playa Larga, and cruising old Havana in vintage cars. It was a wonderful tour. Thank you. F.G.

### Day 1 (Sunday) Havana (Orlando Garrido's Home)– Hotel Moka 24 Mar

The group departed from Fort Lauderdale at 12:10 p.m. for Havana. We were met by Gary and Abel, our guide, and then went to Orlando Garrido's house for a tour of his bird collection. It's always a treat to spend time with **Orlando** and to listen to his stories. He is the embodiment of Cuban ornithology.

We left Orlando's for Hotel Moka. After checking in, we regrouped in the lobby at 6:15 p.m., to meet Otis and his son Kevin for some late afternoon birding. From the balcony, we saw a Gray Kingbird and a West Indian Woodpecker and found a tree full of Red-legged Honeycreepers and Black-whiskered Vireos as we headed for the bus.

We drove to a little side road near our dinner restaurant and saw nesting pairs of Cuban Todys, West Indian Woodpeckers, and Cuban Green Woodpeckers. A Scaly-naped Pigeon and 2 White-crowned Pigeons gave us great views as they perched in a dead snag. There were several Red-legged Honeycreepers and Black-whiskered Vireos and a calling Northern Flicker. It was an amazing site. A female Summer Tanager put in an appearance near the restaurant.

Our wonderful dinner was at a restaurant where they cook with charcoal. The meal was served family style and everything was delicious, especially the pulled pork. After dinner we drove to the site of a territorial **Cuban Nightjar** which flew in and perched right in front of us. We enjoyed incredible views in the lights. What an amazing finish to our first day.



### Day 2 Hotel Moka – San Diego de los Banos (Hotel Mirador) 25 Mar



Otis joined us after breakfast for a walk around the grounds. The birding began with views of several more Red-legged Honeycreepers feeding in the tree in the parking area. Pairs of Cuban Emeralds, Cuban Green Woodpeckers, and West Indian Woodpeckers were seen near the parking area, feeding with Cuban Blackbirds and West Indian Grackles. We had nice looks at a male Shiny Cowbird, Red-legged Thrushes, and a male American Redstart. Several beautiful male **Cuban Trogons** put on a show, as did a couple of La Sagra's Flycatchers. At the road intersection, we had nice looks at a Yellow-headed Warbler. The gardens held Smooth-billed Anis, Gray and Loggerhead Kingbirds, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler.



We returned at 9:45 a.m. to pack and left at 10:15 a.m. We stopped at the pines near the lake and quickly found two Cuban Wood-Pewees, a lovely Olive-capped Warbler, and were treated to views of two Stygian Owls, the rare tropical relative of Long-eared Owl. We also had nice looks at two male Cuban Bullfinches and two male Cuban Orioles, one young, one adult. A Double-crested Cormorant was in the pond with Common Gallinules.

We continued on to a pig farm where we tried for Cuban Vireo at the roadside before entering the farm. The farm hosted perhaps 40 Cuban and 50 Yellow-faced Grassquits all feeding. What a treat! There were also 2 Cuban Pewees, a Loggerhead Kingbird, and a Palm Warbler along the road as we were leaving.

Our next stop, at the highway intersection, yielded a pair of spectacular **Fernandina's Flickers** which were defending their nest hole from a two pairs of West Indian Woodpeckers. The chase scenes were epic!

Our final stop at a fish farm on the way to Santiago de los Banos yielded an incredible 32 Snail Kites, 21 Little Blue Herons, our first Green Heron, assorted egrets, a Caspian Tern, 4 Eastern Meadowlarks, and a distant White Pelican, which is fairly uncommon.

We arrived at the Mirador Hotel at 4:30 p.m. and met to do the list at 6:30 near the dining room before dinner. It was a satisfying first full day of birding!



We met Caesar, our local guide, at 6:30 a.m. and drove through Hacienda Cortina to Los Portales. We arrived to find a **valley shrouded in fog** where ethereal palm trees faded in and out of view; it was surreal. Three Cuban Solitaires were singing near the cave entrance when we arrived. Although they were not visible, their haunting songs provided the perfect atmospheric ambiance. Eventually, we saw a solitaire perched low in a tree across from the cave entrance, and not far from a Cuban Trogon. There were quite a few Cave Swallows on nests in the caves and flying around. Other highlights included Scaly-naped Pigeons, American Redstarts and Black Whiskered Vireos.



After our success with the solitaire, we left to go in search of rare Giant Kingbirds. Our first stop was near a small pond in the valley just outside the park entrance. There, we watched a slew of Greater Antillean Palm Swifts fly around us, and were fortunate to have a beautiful male Cuban Martin land above us on a phone wire. The pond edge held a Purple Gallinule eating berries in a bush, a Killdeer, Green Herons, a Belted Kingfisher, and lots of Gray and Loggerhead Kingbirds.

At Hacienda Cortina, the first bird we saw was a **Giant Kingbird** sitting out in the open spotted by Lori. Our walk through the park provided for splendid looks at Least Grebe, Red-legged Thrushes, Black-Whiskered Vireos, Common Ground-Doves, Green Herons and an adult Purple Gallinule.



Back near Hotel Mirador, we had nice views of a pair of Cuban Pygmy Owls just before lunch.

After lunch, we drove back to the fish farm on our way to Playa Larga. The same cast of characters was there on our return trip, with the addition of a second Caspian Tern.

At a rest stop beside a reservoir, we met another tour group, shared sightings, and added a few new goodies to our list. Highlights included 21 Brown Pelicans, 24 Ruddy Ducks, 3 Lesser Scaup, 10 Blue-winged Teal, DC Cormorants, 2 N. Rough-winged Swallows, 1-2 Tricolored Herons, 8 Snowy Egret, and 3 Great Blue Herons.

We arrived in Playa Larga at 5:30 p. m., unpacked, relaxed, and met on the roof of Casa Azul at 7 p.m. for cocktails and to do the list. Our small hotels were wonderful, and the view of the Bay of Pigs from the roof, memorable. The Mojitos weren't bad, either.

**Day 4                                      Bermejas & the Zapata Peninsula                                      27 Mar**

After an early breakfast, we met our guide Frank and drove to the Bermejas quail-dove blinds. We arrived right on time, met our local guide Orlando, and went in to find that a Gray-fronted Quail-Dove had walked right into blind. It was incredible having this gorgeous and rare species bobbing around at our feet. More astonishing, was a few minutes later, an endangered Blue-headed Quail-Dove came right into the blind, as well. The third possibility, Ruddy Quail-Doves can be difficult to find, so we were lucky to have two walk out onto the trail in the back. Then, remarkably, a third Ruddy Quail-Dove walked in close to the blind and gave us unprecedented views. It's the closest look I've ever had of one. Incredible! Zenaida Doves were also stars of the feeding party along with their tiny Ovenbird buddies. Cuban Trogons and Black-Whiskered Vireos serenaded us as we watched the quail-doves feeding. After satiating ourselves on the quail-dove eye-candy, we strolled down the road to the roosting/feeding tree of 10 Cuban Parakeets, which gifted us with their splendid feeding and preening activities; they put on a nice show.

Our next stop was Soplillar Marsh, where we hoped to find Red-shouldered Blackbirds and Spotted Rail. A Sora was kind enough to walk into view across the street, 2 Limpkins preened in full view, and an adult Purple Gallinule walked right by us. White-crowned Pigeons and a young Black-crowned Night-Heron perched in palms across the marsh. However, there were no blackbirds. Just as we were about to throw in the towel, a Red-shouldered Blackbird flew out of the marsh and over Frank (who may have made a made mention of this) and landed in the cattails beside the road, right in front of the group; it sang and 4 more blackbirds popped up out of the reed, including 2 females. We had stunning views of these often elusive birds. As a bonus, a Spotted Rail called a couple of times and we saw two lovely **La Sagra's Flycatchers**.



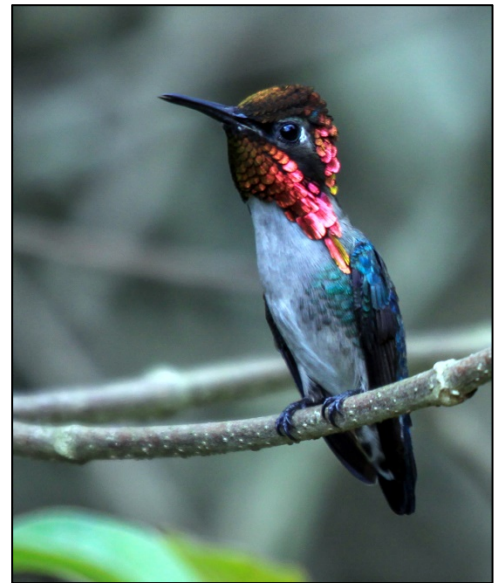
Inspired by a successful morning, we drove first to a café for a coffee followed by a stop to look for Bare-legged Owl. Seeing one of these beauties or any owl in the daytime, for that matter, is a treat, and Orlando showed us a pair! We also located a lovely Cuban Vireo and two Yellow-headed Warblers. Orlando then worked a little more magic, and took us to see Cuban Parrots which were nesting in a palm. On a nearby side-road we found our first Common Ground Dove, and watched a tiny but mighty **male Bee Hummingbird** duke it out with a male Cuban Emerald. Both were stunningly beautiful!

Lunch was at Cavata, a coastal restaurant with Cave Swallows nesting in the roof of the bar. We enjoyed a nice buffet lunch before going to Museum of the Bay of Pigs.



Sadly, it was closed for renovations, so we did some quick souvenir shopping at the little shops along the street before heading to the fish caves. At the caves, we spied another Blue-headed Quail-Dove, a few warblers, and many curly-tailed lizards. The land crab migration had begun, and we saw both live and not-so-live crabs along the road.

Our final stop was at the incredible Casa Zunzun to see their small army of Bee Hummingbirds. What a pleasure! There were at least 5 adult males, a few young males, and several females putting on displays! There were also many Cuban Emeralds perched gleaming in the sun. The hummingbirds were only a part of the joy at this amazing place. There were also oodles of Black-throated Blue Warblers and Cuban Orioles, a Cape May Warbler or two, and even a Gray Catbird. One **Black-throated Blue Warbler was drinking nectar** (Photo: Bob White)! The homeowners are lovely people and tourist income has greatly improved their lives!



We drove back to Don Pepe with enough time to relax or go for a walk. We met at 7 on the roof at Playa Azul to do the list and to cap off a wonderful day. Dinner was one of the best we had on the tour!

## Day 5 Zapata Swamp – Las Salinas 28 Mar

We arrived at La Turba at first light on our quest to see the rare and secretive Zapata Wren and Zapata Sparrow. The sawgrass was aglow as we piled from the van to greet the dawn. There were clear blue skies, no wind, and no bugs; a perfect morning. As we gathered, several Black-crowned Night-Herons, Little Blue, Great Blue, and a Tri-colored Herons flew across the dawn sky heading off to work.

Yellow-headed Warblers serenaded us as we walked down the dirt tract to the Zapata Wren site. As we neared the site, we could hear the wren calling. It flew up onto a bush and sang for 5 minutes then flew across to our side. We had memorable views of it as it sat low singing in lovely light. Just



behind us the trail a pair of **Zapata Sparrows** started calling and singing. Eventually, we saw one perched in the open right at the Zapata Wren site. It was magic!

As we were walking back to bus, we spotted a Northern Waterthrush feeding in the road. Continuing past the bus, we ran into a mixed flock that held male Northern Parula and Black-and-white Warblers, 5-6 American Redstarts, and 5-6 Yellow-headed Warblers. We had nice looks at another Northern Waterthrush, and a Louisiana Waterthrush working among the mangrove roots. There were also many Common Yellowthroats and at least 20 American Redstarts for morning. Further along, we found our target, Greater Antillean Lizard Cuckoos, which bounded through the canopy showing off their impressive tails. 2-3 Solitary Sandpipers, a couple of Belted Kingfishers, and 4 Soras were heard on our walk, and saw a Cuban Vireo

and a Yellow-throated Warbler. The surprise find was a rare Red-shouldered Blackbird that flew from cattails to a treetop and sang.

We left La Turba about 10:15 a.m. for la Boca, the Crocodile Farm. A quick roadside stop along the way netted us a family of Northern Jacanas, a rather uncommon species, and a new trip bird! At la Boca, we enjoyed great looks at male Cape May and Yellow-throated Warblers, and saw a young Purple Gallinule, but the star of the walk was a cooperative female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Our Croc Farm finale was watching a Cuban Crow building a nest in a palm near the parking lot. He/she went back and forth to another palm to rip off bits of frond to weave into the nest being constructed in the base of the palm leaves.

We enjoyed a nice lunch at Restaurant Tiki overlooking the harbor, where we watched fishermen heading back in for their lunches, and saw 60+ Cave Swallows flying under the bridge beside the restaurant.

In the afternoon, after a short break at our hotel, we drove into Las Salinas. At our first stop, a pool on the left, we discovered a goldmine: Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, a Spotted Sandpiper, our first Great White Heron seen feeding beside a Great Egret, an unusual pied **Reddish Egret**, Neotropic Cormorants resting on a log, and a rare Cuban Crocodile, Frank's first in the wild!



Our next stop produced a nice mix of shorebirds including Black-necked Stilts, a lone American Avocet (uncommon), Stilt Sandpipers and Short-



billed Dowitchers, flamingos and a Tricolored Heron. Las Salinas rocks!

At the first platform, we were greeted by a singing male "Cuban" Yellow Warbler, and a white-morph Reddish Egret, then a flock of Black-bellied Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones blasted by. There were slews of herons and egrets of all flavors, and flocks of Royal, Caspian and Gull-billed Terns, Laughing Gulls, Flamingos, and both species of pelicans, White Ibis, and Neotropic Cormorants. Patrolling overhead were Magnificent Frigatebirds and Cave Swallows. It was hard to know where to look.

By the time we reached the road's end, we'd had great views of Wood Storks, Cuban Clapper Rails (subspecies), a Least Sandpiper, and a slew of reddish egrets in all their morphs. At the end, we found western Willets and our first Cuban Black Hawk. The star of the final stop was a perched Cuban Osprey (subspecies) with its nearly all white head. What a stunning bird!

Back at **Don Pepe's**, we had another wonderful meal, even better than the night before. Can you say crispy pork?



**Day 6**

**It's off to Cayo Coco**

**29 Mar**

After a short walk around the hotel gardens, we headed for Cayo Coco making stops along the way. Lunch was at Rio Azul where we saw a few birds along the river behind the restaurant. We reached the Cayo Coco area in early afternoon. After picking up our guide Reneir near his house, we traversed the causeway to Cayo Coco. Just as we reached the Key, Frank spotted 2 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a male and female by size, in a pool beside the road, where we were able to stop and enjoy great views.

After settling in at the hotel, we met for a walk with Reneir at 5 p.m. He quickly spotted 6 **West Indian Whistling Ducks** across lagoon from the hotel, and a young Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. We then found two Northern Flickers (Cuban subspecies) just down the road. Not far from the hotel, we heard and then saw a Mangrove Cuckoo which was joined by a Great Lizard Cuckoo of the

key's race. Both teed up together in great light. What a thrill to see on our first night in the keys! Returning to the hotel, we discovered that the 6 WI Whistling Ducks had moved to the docks near the road. We had crippling views! After dinner and the list, several people stayed to enjoy the talented rock band performing in the lobby. There was quite a crowd of older rock fans, and by our experience, old rockers can rock!



**Day 7 Cayo Guillermo - Cayo Coco- Disco Caves 30 Mar**

We left early for Cayo Guillermo to try for **Bahama Mockingbird** and Thick-billed Vireo. After walking up and down the road, Frank finally heard a Bahama Mockingbird singing down in the mangroves. It was perched atop a fairly close bush where it was joined by another. Eventually, the pair flew to bare tree beside the road. We had stellar views, took photos, video, and recordings, for 5+ minutes. Amazing! There was no Thick-billed Vireo.



The remainder of the morning was spent visiting Cayo Guillermo's productive salt pans. Highlights included a Great White Heron, only our second, 34+ Stilt Sandpipers, 32 Red Knots, 200+ Short-billed Dowitchers and many other shorebirds, Blue-winged Teal, and a female American Wigeon. We enjoyed point blank looks at a perched Cuban Black Hawk, and a beautiful Anhinga, Brown Pelicans, and a Crested Caracara all flew overhead. We also saw a Roseate Spoonbill in flight as we headed back to Cayo Coco.

After lunch at the hotel and a break, we visited a number of roadside salt pans on Cayo Coco where we found an

incredible 8 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls, perhaps a regional high count for these European strays, several Ring-billed Gulls and a slew of herons, shorebirds, and terns. Our stop at a sandy stretch of beach yielded Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstones. A nearby side road produced great views of all three of our targets, Cuban Gnatcatcher, Oriente Warbler, and the key's race of Zapata Sparrow.

We next visited the waste water lagoons on Cayo Coco where we added American Coot. We then took a chance and went to the Disco Caves to try for **Key West Quail-Doves** in the late afternoon. Our gamble paid off, and we not only saw two of these beautiful doves, completing the Quail-Dove set, but also had memorable looks at several painted buntings, Yellow-faced Grassquits, a cooperative Cuban Tody, and saw some beautiful anoles and other lizards. There were Zenaida and Common Ground Doves visiting the feeders, as well as Ovenbirds. The local guide showed us around the Disco Caves where we saw two species of bats roosting there. Because we saw the Quail-Doves, we gained a free morning to try again for Thick-billed Vireo on another key.



**Day 8 Cayo Paredo Grande – Sancti 31 Mar**

We took box breakfasts and left at 6:45 a.m. for the lighthouse on Cayo Paredon Grande. There were many DC Cormorants, Royal Terns, and Laughing Gulls along causeway-bridge on the way. We arrived an hour later and were met by a squadron of 30+ Magnificent Frigatebirds patrolling the skies above the lighthouse. Sadly, this important vireo site is slotted for new hotels, and we had to walk through a newly bulldozed area to reach the good vireo habitat. On a dirt track running through dry shrub, we found a singing male Thick-billed Vireo which sat in the open and sang its heart out. I

hope that enough of the habitat will be preserved for this rare subspecies to hang on. Back near the van, a White-winged Dove and a Cuban Black Hawk flew in and perched in the open.

Next, we drove to a big salt pan in search of the rare White-cheeked Pintail. There was a nice array of ducks, including 162+ Blue-winged Teal, 8 American Wigeon, and Northern Shovelers, as well as Stilt Sandpipers, and at least 9 Reddish Egrets, one of which was fishing. A Wood Stork, Cuban Gnatcatcher, and a Yellow-throated Warbler were all surprise finds. This bird-rich area also held a pair of Cuban Yellow Warblers, 2 Cuban Blackhawks, many White Ibises and egrets, and at least 500 distant American Flamingos. On our drive back to the hotel we spotted a Peregrine Falcon and Cuban Martins, and the whistling ducks were still in the lagoon.

After our rewarding morning, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch, packed, and left for Sancti Spiritus. As we were readying to leave we spotted an amazing **blue-headed lizard!** Our first stop, after dropping Reneir at his house, was at el Paridiso Fish Farms, where we saw a few distant Glossy Ibis, and had great views of a couple of Eastern Meadowlarks in the grasses. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen feeding at eye-level in small trees beside the road and there were many migrating Barn and Cave Swallows over the impoundments. A beautiful male Cuban Martin and couple of young Snail Kites were seen working the ponds above a few Brown Pelican, egrets, and herons.



We made a stop for coffee in a small town, and arrived at Rancho Hatuey in Siritus Sanctus around 6 p.m. We met for cocktails and the list before having dinner at the hotel.

We met at 7 a.m. for early a.m. walk around grounds. Our first bird was a Yellow-throated Warbler perched on the corner of a building! At the fence line near the pastures, we heard 3 Northern Bobwhites, a trip first, while watching biplanes and other small planes leaving from Sancti Spiritus



at dawn. Our Bob White was thrilled, as were we all. Other birds seen included several **Cape May Warblers** (Photo: Bob White), a beautiful male Prairie Warbler, White-winged and Common Ground Doves, and a Great Lizard Cuckoo (named Bob).

After breakfast, we departed to Trinidad on our quest to find a Cuban Palm Crow. Near a river, 3 crows flew by chasing a Crested Caracara. We were able to pull off. Hopeful, we jumped out of the van and were greeted by the dulcet sounds of both Cuban and Palm Crows, calling. After some diligent searching, we eventually saw several Palm Crows in flight and one perched on a palm. A walk to the bridge over the river, yielded nice views of 3 Cuban Todys, a Cuban Woodpecker, Cave Swallows, and a Northern Waterthrush.

We arrived in Trinidad by late morning, enjoyed a tour of this historic city and then headed to a lovely family-run restaurant outside of town for lunch.

We arrived at Villa Quajimico by mid-afternoon, took a break in the heat of the day, and then regrouped at 5 p.m. for a walk along the entrance road, which is often very birdy. We were rewarded with views of pairs of Cuban Pewees, Loggerhead Kingbirds, and La Sagra's Flycatchers, and had great looks at 4 Cuban Todys and 2 Yellow-headed Warblers, all low in the shrubs. Gray Kingbirds and Whiskered Vireos were conspicuous, and the mangroves held Common Gallinules, and an Anhinga. We had dinner at the hotel restaurant after having cocktails and doing the list.

## Day 10 Guajimico – Botanical Gardens – Cienfeuegos – Havana 2 Apr

Elizabeth and DeWitt were my companions on the optional early a.m. walk along the entrance road. In addition to the regulars seen the previous day, today's highlights included 2 Cuban Crows, great looks at male Northern Parulas, female Black-throated Blue and Cape May Warblers, and Yellow-



headed Warblers and a Cuban Vireo feeding low in roadside bush. We wrapped up the morning watching a Cuban Trogon perched above my bungalow beside a Cuban Green Woodpecker.

The Harvard Botanical Gardens was where we'd spend the morning with Nina, our guide. Nina took us on a lovely walk through the gardens, where we enjoyed close looks at Smooth-billed Anis and Cuban Pewees, and heard a Cuban Pygmy Owl. The highlight of the morning was wonderful views of **Gundlach's Hawk!** Cuba rare cousin of the

Cooper's Hawk. On our walk, we also sampled exotic fruits from several countries, and enjoyed a delightful coffee and fresh mango juice at the cafeteria.

Lunch was at restaurant Balcon del Carib near Cienfuegos. Afterwards, we toured the Cienfuegos plaza where Eurasian Collared Doves abound. We arrived at Hostel las Moletas in Havana in mid-afternoon.

We walked to dinner at a nearby restaurant which had a lovely atmosphere, food, and dessert.

**Day 11**

**Havana Extension – Old Havana Tour**

**3 Apr**



We met Abel in the lobby at 8:45 a.m. for a **tour of old Havana**. We walked from our hostel to the old city where we visited all four plazas. We stopped for coffee at Escorial, and had lunch at a terrific new restaurant called Mas Havana, which served some interesting appetizers, including a fried plantain with guacamole, a lovely bruschetta, and croquettes that were cheesy and delicious. To wrap up our tour, we took rides in two robin's-egg blue vintage autos! What fun we had...

Dinner was street-side at Chicon 162 on a lovely night. Their mushroom empanadas were memorable, and we toasted our wonderful tour with a nice flan and Cuban coffee.

**Day 12**

**Depart for Home**

**4 Apr**

Time to fly the friendly skies....

Thank you again for a lovely tour! FG



# CUBA BIRD SURVEY SPECIES LIST

## STATUS CODES

**E = Endemic Species**

**Es** = Endemic Subspecies; **Ec** = Endemic Caribbean Species

**R** = Resident Species; **nbR** = Non-breeding; **H** = Heard Only

**AM** = Austral Migrant; **M** = Migrant; **\*** = New for trip list

**Sunrise Birding Cuba Bird Survey Tour: 24 March to 3/4 April 2019**

**Leaders: Frank Gallo and Abel Milera Total Species Recorded: 164! E=25+**

	SPECIES Birds	Scientific Name	Status	# of Days Seen	Max per Day	Notes
1	<b>West Indian Whistling Duck</b>	<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>	<b>Ec</b>	3	13	Near hotel
2	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	M	3	162	Cayo Coco area
3	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	nbR	2	14	Cayo Coco area
4	American Wigeon	<i>Anas american</i>	M	2	8	Cayo Coco area
5	Lesser Scaup	<i>Athya affinis</i>	M	1	3	Reservoir stop
6	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	M	1	2	Cayo Coco
7	<b>Northern Bobwhite*</b>	<i>Colinus virginians</i>	R	1	2H	A trip first. Heard at Rancho Hatuey
8	<b>American Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	R	3	500	Lovely...
9	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	R	1	1	Hacienda Cortina
10	Rock Pigeon (Dove)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	R	9	C	
11	Scaly-naped Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas squamosa</i>	R	3	8	Las Terrazas in treetop
12	White-crowned Pigeon	<i>Columba leucocephala</i>	R	3	10	Las Terrazas in treetop
13	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R	6	12	
14	Common Ground-dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	R	9	10+	Fairly common
15	<b>Blue-headed Quail-Dove</b>	<i>Starnoenas cyanocephala</i>	<b>E</b>	1	2	Bermejas in the blind & Fish Restaurant
16	<b>Ruddy Quail-Dove</b>	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	R	1	3	Great looks at this tough species to see!

17	<b>Gray-fronted Quail-Dove</b>	<i>Geotrygon caniceps</i>	<b>E</b>	1	3	In the blind, too!
18	<b>Key West Quail-dove</b>	<i>Geotrygon chrysia</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	2	Great looks Disco Cave
19	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	R	7	5+	
20	Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	R	4	10	Bermejas
21	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	R	11	C	
22	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	R	4	12	Small flocks; Bot Gard
23	<b>Mangrove Cuckoo</b>	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	1	Cayo Coco by hotel!!
24	<b>Great Lizard-cuckoo</b>	<i>Saurothera merlini</i>	<b>Ec</b>	8	3	<b>Two E. subspecies!!</b>
25	<b>Cuban Nightjar</b>	<i>Anstrostromus cubanensis</i>	<b>E</b>	1	1	Great first-night night-bird
26	<b>Antillean Palm-swift</b>	<i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>	<b>Ec</b>	9	20	<b>Endemic Subspecies</b>
27	<b>Bee Hummingbird</b>	<i>Mellisuga helenae</i>	<b>E</b>	1	9	
28	<b>Cuban Emerald</b>	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>	<b>Ec</b>	8	15	<b>Endemic Subspecies</b>
29	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	R	3	5	Great views at Las Salinas! Endemic Subspecies
30	Spotted Rail	<i>Pardirallus maculatus</i>	R	1	H	Bermejas Marsh
31	Sora	<i>Porzana Carolina</i>	R	1	2	
32	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	R	8	14	
33	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	R	2	3	
34	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	R	3	2	In scrub Los Portales!
35	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	R	2	2	Great views! Bermejas
36	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	R	5	68	
37	<b><u>American Avocet*</u></b>	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	M	1	1	Las Salinas with Stilts, rare
38	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	M	3	53	
39	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	R	5	6	
40	<b><u>Northern Jacana*</u></b>	<i>Jacana spinose</i>	R	1	4	Adult with 3 young
41	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	M	2	32	
42	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	M	1	32	Cayo Guillermo
43	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	M	2	28	
44	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	M	2	40+	



45	<u>Least Sandpiper*</u>	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	M	2	8	Coyo Paredon Grande
46	<u>Western Sandpiper*</u>	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	M	1	2	Cayo Guillermo
47	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	M	3	200+	
48	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos acularia</i>	M	2	8	
49	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	M	1	3	
50	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	M	5	105	
51	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	R/M	2	4	Western race; Las Salinas
52	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	M	2	5	
53	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	R	5	90+	
54	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	M	1	5	
55	(American) Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	M	1	1	Leader only? Cayo Coco
56	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	M	2	8	Perhaps a record #!!
57	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	M	1	32+	Las Salinas w/the crowd
58	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	R/M	5	90+	Las Salinas w/the crowd
59	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maxima</i>	R	5	150	Las Salinas w/the crowd
60	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	R	2	4	Playa Larga
61	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria Americana</i>	R	2	3	Nesting at Las Salinas
62	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	R	3	40+	
63	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	R	2	1	Cayo Guillermo
64	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	R	3	70+	Cayo Coco area
65	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	R	9	48	
66	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	M	3	67	Las Salinas!!
67	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	R	9	34	
68	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	R	5	15	
69	<i>Great White Heron</i>	<i>Ardea herodias occidentalis</i>	R	3	1	

70	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	R	7	35	
71	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	R	8	32	
72	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	R	8	52	
73	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	R	4	55	
74	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	R	3	10	Including unusual pied birds at Las Salinas
75	(Western) Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R	9	100+	
76	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	R	7	10	
77	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	R	2	5	
78	Yel.-crowned Nigh-Heron	<i>Nyctinassa violacean</i>	R	1	1	Across from hotel CC
79	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	R	6	40+	
80	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	R	2	1	
81	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	R	1	1	Cayo Guillermo flyby
82	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	R	11	75+	
83	(Western) Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	R/M	8	3	1 Cuban Race at Las Salinas at end of rd!!!
84	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	R	3	32	Fish Farms...
85	<b>Gundlach's Hawk</b>	<i>Accipiter gundlachi</i>	<b>E</b>	1	2	Incredible views!!!!
86	<b>Cuban Black Hawk</b>	<i>Buteogallus gundlachii</i>	<b>E</b>	5	7	Cayo Guillermo roadside
87	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	R	3	1	Cuban subspecies
88	<b>Bare-legged Owl</b>	<i>Margarobyas lawrenci</i>	<b>E</b>	1	2	Bermejas... Wow!
89	<b>Cuban Pygmy-owl</b>	<i>Glaucidium siju</i>	<b>E</b>	1	2	SD de los Banjos park!
90	<b>Stygian Owl</b>	<i>Asio stygius</i>	R	1	2	Another Wow! Las Terrazas
91	<b>Cuban Trogon</b>	<i>Priotelus temnurus</i>	<b>E</b>	7	15	Moka & Gaujimico
92	<b>Cuban Tody</b>	<i>Todus multicolor</i>	<b>E</b>	8	9	Best views imaginable!
93	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	M	7	5	
94	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphrapicus varisu</i>	M	1	1	A female at Croc Farm
95	<b>Cuban Green Woodpecker</b>	<i>Xiphidiopicus percussus</i>	<b>E</b>	6	7	Nice looks on 1 <sup>st</sup> night
96	<b>West Indian Woodpecker</b>	<i>Melanerpes superciliaris</i>	<b>Ec</b>	11	14	E subspecies; Chase scene! Las Terrazas

97	<b>Northern Flicker</b>	<i>Colaptes auratus chrysocaulosus</i>	R			<b>E subspecies</b> ; may be elevated to full species
98	<b>Fernandina's Flicker</b>	<i>Colaptes fernandinae</i>	<b>E</b>	2	2	Defending nest in Palm
99	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheiway</i>	R	4	5	
100	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	R/M	7	4	Mostly Cuban Race
101	Merlin	<i>Falco columbbarius</i>	M	2	2	Cayo Guillermo
102	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	R/M	1	1	Cayo Coco near hotel
103	<b>Cuban Parrot</b>	<i>Amazona leucocephala</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	2	Cuban subspecies, nest
104	<b>Cuban Parakeet</b>	<i>Aratinga euops</i>	<b>E</b>	1	10	Feeding in tree, Bermejas
105	<b>Cuban Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus caribaeus</i>	<b>Ec</b>	7	9	Nice looks around Moka
106	<b>La Sagra's Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus sagrae</i>	<b>Ec</b>	8	4	Nice looks Bermejas
107	<b>Gray Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	<b>AM</b>	11	30	They were back...
108	<b>Loggerhead Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>	<b>Ec</b>	10	19	Common
109	<b>Giant Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus cubensis</i>	<b>(E/Ec)</b>	1	1	Score!! Hacienda Cortina Once occurred on other islands.
110	White-eyed Vireo*	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	M	1	1	Another new one! Zap
111	<b>Thick-billed Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	1	A tough rarity! Cuban subspecies.
112	<b>Cuban Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo gundlachii</i>	<b>E</b>	7	3	
113	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	M	1	2	Las Terrazas
114	Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	AM	9	15	Common breeder
115	<b>Cuban Palm Crow</b>	<i>Corvus minutus</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	3-4	Some Authorities consider it a full species
116	<b>Cuban Crow</b>	<i>Corvus nasicus</i>	<b>Ec</b>	3	12	Trinidad area
117	N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	M	1	2	Over the reservoir
118	<b>Cuban Martin</b>	<i>Progne dominicensis cryptoleuca</i>	<b>(E)</b>	7	20+	<b>E nesting species</b> common in Havana

119	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	M	1	1	Flyby
120	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	M	2	30	Fish Farm
121	Cave Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>	R	7	50+	Summer resident
122	<b>Zapata Wren</b>	<b><i>Ferminia cerverai</i></b>	<b>E</b>	1	1	Incredible views of singing male, La Turba
123	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	M	2	2h	Heard only
124	<b>Cuban Gnatcatcher</b>	<b><i>Polioptila lembeyei</i></b>	<b>E</b>	2	2	Roadside CC & CG
125	<b>Cuban Solitaire</b>	<b><i>Myadestes elisabeth</i></b>	<b>E</b>	1	3	Ethereal Singers in Fog
126	<b>Red-legged Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus plumbeus</i>	<b>Ec</b>	10	15	I never tire of these birds
127	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	M	6	3	
128	<b>Bahama Mockingbird</b>	<i>Mimus gundlackii</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	3	Another tough one! Amazing looks.
129	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	R	10	15	
130	<b>Zapata / Cuban Sparrow</b>	<b><i>Torreornis inexpectata</i></b>	<b>E</b>	2	2	2 Subspecies
131	<b>Western Spindalis</b>	<i>Spindalis zena</i>	<b>Ec</b>	2	4	Las Terrazas area
132	<b>Yellow-headed Warbler</b>	<b><i>Teretistris fernandinae</i></b>	<b>E</b>	5	12	Lovely birds
133	<b>Oriente Warbler</b>	<b><i>Teretistris fornsi</i></b>	<b>E</b>	2	5	A fan favorite
134	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	R	3	4	Cuban Subspecies
135	<b>Cuban Oriole</b>	<b><i>Icterus melanopsis</i></b>	<b>E</b>	10	10	Big Show - Casa ZunZun
136	<b>Red-shouldered Blackbird</b>	<b><i>Agelaius assimilis</i></b>	<b>E</b>	2	5	Lucky to see twice!
137	<b>Tawny-shouldered Blackbird</b>	<i>Agelaius humeralis</i>	<b>Ec</b>	9	30	Common
138	<b>Cuban Blackbird</b>	<b><i>Dives atrovioacea</i></b>	<b>E</b>	9	24	Common everywhere
139	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	R	1	2	Las Terrazas on walk
140	<b>Greater Antillean Grackle</b>	<i>Quiscalus niger</i>	<b>Ec</b>	11	50+	Everywhere!
141	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	M	2	10	Common CC
142	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	M	1	2	La Turba Mangroves
143	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	M	5	3	La Turba Mangroves
144	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	M	1	2	La Turba
145	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	M	5	11	

146	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	M	7	5	Fairly common
147	Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	M	5	7	Nice looks at a few
148	Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	M	2	2	
149	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	M	2	2	
150	(Mangrove) Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia gundlachi</i>	R/M	3	5	(Cuban race) singing male at Las Salinas
151	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	M	6	10	Casa ZunZun party
152	Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	M	8	21	Westerns...
153	<b>Olive-capped Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga pityophila</i>	<b>Ec</b>	1	2	Pines Las Terrazas
154	Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>	M	3	2	
155	Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>	M	2	1	
156	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	M	1	1	Las Terrazas
157	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	M	1	1	Female, first night
158	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	M	1	3-4	Disco Caves CC
159	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	R	4	16	West end of Island
160	(Bananaquit)	<i>Coereba flavewola</i>	R?	1	2h	Heard Leader only??
161	<b>Cuban Grassquit</b>	<i>Tiaris canora</i>	<b>E</b>	1	30+	
162	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	R	8	40+	
163	<b>Cuban Bullfinch</b>	<i>Melopyrrha nigra</i>	<b>E</b>	4	2	First at Las Terrazas
164	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	R	10	12	In towns
<b>SPECIES</b>		<b>Scientific Name</b>		<b># of Days Seen</b>	<b>Max per Day</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b>						
1	Anole Sp	<i>Anolis sp.</i>			2	Cayo Coco Area (CC)
2	Blue-headed Anole	<i>Anolis allisoni</i>		2-3	2	CC & Cienfuegos plaza
3	Cuban Brown Anole	<i>Anolis sagrei</i>		1	2	Disco Caves+ on statue
4	Cuban Green Anole	<i>Anolis porcatas</i>		2-3	1	Cayo Coco (CC)/Fish Rest.
5	Cubitas (Coast) Anole	<i>Anolis jubar</i>		1	3	Disco Caves on Tree by feeders
6	Cuban Iguana	<i>Cyclura nubila</i>				Las Salinas

7	Cuban Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i>		1	1	Las Salinas; rare
8	Striped Curly-tailed Lizard	<i>Leiocephalus stictigaster</i>		1	2	CC on sandy beach
9	Northern Curly-tailed Lizard	<i>Leiocephalus carinatus</i>		3	3-7	Playa Large & CC areas
10	Cuban Whiptail Lizard	<i>Pholidoscelis auberi</i>		1-2	1-2	CC
<b>SPECIES</b> <b>Insects &amp; Crustaceans</b>		<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b># of Days Seen</b>	<b>Max per Day</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Land Crab	<i>Gecarcinus ruricola</i>				Especially near Playa Larga
2	Flambeau (Butterfly)	<i>Dryas iulia</i>		2	3+	CC on first night walk
3	Gulf Fritillary (Butterfly)	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>		3	8+	CC on first night+
4	Zebra Heliconia (Butterfly)	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>		2	5	
5	Halloween Pennant	<i>Celithemis eponina</i>		1-2	5	Dragonfly CC
<b>SPECIES</b> <b>Other</b>		<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b># of Days Seen</b>	<b>Max per Day</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Bat Sp			1	2	Disco Cave
2	Mexican Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>		1	12	Los Portales
3	Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bat?	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>		1	5	Disco Caves (long ears)
4	Cuban (Desmarest's) Hutia	<i>Capromys pilorides</i>		1	2	Casa ZunZun in cage