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Jamaica Species List March 30 - April 6, 2012

Guide Narca Moore-Craig with local guides Ricardo Miller and Roger Thompson, and five participants: Ralph, Regina, Leslie, Jay, and Carol. For part of the trip we enjoyed the pleasure of our former Jamaican guide, John Fletcher's company too!

Compiled Narca Moore-Craig

Birds

Note, the 31 endemic Jamaican species seen are italicized

Pied-billed Grebe – two on the Rio Grande River

Magnificent Frigatebird – up to 40 wheeling above the coastline on several days

Brown Pelican – a single line of pelicans along the coast on our last day

Great Blue Heron – 3 on the Rio Grande and another near Navy Island, Port Antonio

Great Egret – several along the coast and on the Rio Grande

Snowy Egret – also along the Rio Grande River and the coast

Little Blue Heron – adults and white immatures along the Rio Grande and the coast

Tricolored Heron – two along the Rio Grande River, spotted by Carol

Cattle Egret – small groups, mostly scattered among livestock in the fields

Green Heron – several along rivers

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – one adult caught and ate a small snake at Frenchman's Cove, and then retired to the mangroves to sleep

Turkey Vulture – common and seen daily, including a striking leucistic bird at Ecclesdown Road

Red-tailed Hawk – seen most days, including a very beautiful leucistic adult in Hardwar Gap

American Kestrel – several along roadways, perched on wires

Common Gallinule – on the Rio Grande River

Caribbean Coot – scope views of this rare species at the mouth of the Rio Grande

Killdeer – 1 along the coast at Rio Grande

Black-necked Stilt – a singleton also at the Rio Grande mouth

Spotted Sandpiper – a half dozen from our rafts on the Rio Grande

Greater Yellowlegs – 1 during our raft trip

Royal Tern – a few along the coast, especially at Port Antonio

Rock Pigeon – flocks in towns

White-crowned Pigeon – a beautiful and common pigeon, seen daily
Ring-tailed Pigeon – this endemic pigeon was numerous along Ecclesdown Road and gave us great views
Zenaida Dove – a very pretty and common dove, seen daily
Common Ground-Dove – tiny doves seen daily, flashing rufous as they flew
Caribbean Dove – one flushed from the road up Mocking Bird Hill
Crested Quail-Dove – a sashaying pair gave us scope views in Hardwar Gap – what a treat!
Ruddy Quail-Dove – these elusive birds kept flushing just as we were focusing on them!
Olive-throated Parakeet – noisy pairs and groups flew over us at both our hotels and on Ecclesdown Road
Green-rumped Parrotlet – heard only, on Ecclesdown Road
Yellow-billed Parrot – Ralph and Regina found this species with John Fletcher at Hope Garden, before the official start of our trip
Black-billed Parrot – groups seen repeatedly on Ecclesdown Road, including one found by Ricardo at our lunch stop, which allowed us close scope views.
Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo – we worked for the cuckoos, but in the end had superb views of several at Ecclesdown Road
Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo – after hearing this cuckoo at Hardwar Gap, we finally saw it very well at Ecclesdown Road
Smooth-billed Ani – a small, inquisitive group investigated our picnic site at Ecclesdown Road
Jamaican Owl – heard at Hotel Mocking Bird Hill, where Narca watched a pair bowing to each other, before diving into a palm tree to roost
White-collared Swift – our best look was of a flock zooming through the mountains after we left Hardwar Gap
Jamaican Mango – only a single mango cooperated briefly, flashing its bronzy-magenta plumage
Red-billed Streamertail – this stunning beauty gave us prolonged views at Forres Park and elsewhere, including a single male among the Black-bills at Hotel Mocking Bird Hill
Black-billed Streamertail – the common (and lovely!) hummer at Hotel Mocking Bird Hill
Vervain Hummingbird – this tiny comet entertained us at Old Mine and Ecclesdown Roads
Jamaican Tody – a jewel among the endemics, the todies gave us great views on most days
Jamaican Woodpecker – we even were privileged to watch nests of this endemic woodpecker
Jamaican Elaenia – singles seen well at Old Mine and Ecclesdown Roads
Jamaican Pewee – seen more commonly than the elaenia, we enjoyed pewees on most days
Rufous-tailed Flycatcher – this big, attractive *Myiarchus* gave us great views at Old Mine and Ecclesdown Roads and in Hardwar Gap
Sad Flycatcher – we thought this small *Myiarchus* very chipper indeed, not at all sad! In addition to several at Old Mine Road, one was building a nest at Ecclesdown
Gray Kingbird – these kingbirds were just arriving for the season; we saw them well above Hotel Mocking Bird Hill and on our second walk at Ecclesdown Road
Loggerhead Kingbird – the common—and vociferous!—kingbird, seen daily
Jamaican Becard – we were lucky to see this endemic becard at two different nests on Ecclesdown Road
Jamaican Vireo – only one, but we all saw it very well at Hardwar Gap
Blue Mountain Vireo – this endemic vireo was very cooperative at Hardwar Gap and Ecclesdown Road

Black-whiskered Vireo – our first was spotted by Carol at Hotel Mocking Bird Hill; others were along Ecclesdown Road

Jamaican Crow – a Jabbering Crow, indeed! This endemic showed well at Ecclesdown Road

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – a few in the evening, swooping past Mocking Bird Hill

Cave Swallow – companions to the rough-wings at Mocking Bird Hill

Barn Swallow – a few at Rio Grande near the coast

Rufous-throated Solitaire – heard only, its strange and lovely voice rang over Hardwar Gap

White-eyed Thrush – our guide Roger knew a good location for this endemic thrush near Old Mine Road, where Ralph first spotted it; we also saw it well at Hardwar Gap and Ecclesdown Rd

White-chinned Thrush – the common—and beautiful—endemic thrush, seen daily

Northern Mockingbird – a few on most days

Ovenbird – a single bird at Ecclesdown Road

Worm-eating Warbler – a quick look at this fun warbler on Ecclesdown Road

Black-and-white Warbler – good looks, every day

Common Yellowthroat – a couple along Ecclesdown Road, heard more than seen

Arrowhead Warbler – quite a fun endemic warbler, first spotted by Jay; we saw them at Old Mine Road, Hardwar Gap and Ecclesdown Road

American Redstart – a common warbler, seen daily

Cape May Warbler – one in the garden trees at Hotel Mocking Bird Hill

Northern Parula – several at Old Mine Road and Ecclesdown Road

Black-throated Blue Warbler – this lovely warbler was quite common and seen daily

Palm Warbler – only one, seen at Ecclesdown Road

Prairie Warbler – a common wintering warbler, seen nearly every day

Bananaquit – each day we watched quite a few Bananaquits at leisure, as they probed flowers

Jamaican Spindalis – what a beauty! we enjoyed this endemic every day

Yellow-faced Grassquit – one seen on our evening walk above Hotel Mocking Bird Hill

Black-faced Grassquit – excellent views at Forres Park, Old Mine Road, and below Hardwar Gap

Yellow-shouldered Grassquit – a very pretty finch, seen best at Old Mine Road; also at Hardwar Gap

Greater Antillean Bullfinch – this striking finch cooperated very nicely at Hardwar Gap and Ecclesdown Road

Orangequit – a commonly-encountered endemic, the males in good light were gorgeous!

Jamaican Blackbird – Regina and Roger saw this rare endemic in Hardwar Gap; all of us were later elated to find one bathing in a huge bromeliad at Ecclesdown Road

Greater Antillean Grackle – a common grackle along the coast, with up to 40 seen in a day

Jamaican Oriole – John Fletcher helped us find our first orioles at Forres Park; later we encountered them at Hardwar Gap, Ecclesdown Road, and even along the Rio Grande

Jamaican Euphonia – seen daily in small numbers, including at a nest

Butterflies & Moths

False Androgeus Swallowtail, *Papilio thersites* – several of this impressive swallowtail at Old Mine Road, Ecclesdown Road, and along the Rio Grande

Julia Heliconian, *Dryas iulia* – also at Old Mine and Ecclesdown Roads and along the Rio Grande

Zebra Heliconian, *Heliconius charithonia* –ditto!

Jamaican Mestra, *Mestra d. dorcas* – only one, at our point of embarking for the raft trip on the Rio Grande

Dirce Beauty, *Colobura dirce* – only one, on the banks of the Rio Grande

Malachite, *Siproeta stelenes* – seen best and photographed at Ecclesdown Road

Jamaican Calisto, *Calisto zangis* – fairly common endemic satyr, especially along the Old Mine Road

Long-tailed Skipper, *Urbanus proteus* – one along Old Mine Road

Black Witch, *Ascalapha odorata* – one at Hotel Mocking Bird Hill, then later seen by everyone at Ecclesdown Road when we flushed one from beneath a shady bank; Leslie was especially thrilled to see this species, which had captured her attention before our trip!

Swallowtail Moth, *Sematura aegisthus* – one flew into Hotel Mocking Bird Hill at dinner, allowing us to admire and photograph it

Mammals

Small Indian Mongoose – an introduced troublemaker, we saw mongooses twice, at Ecclesdown Road and en route to rafting the Rio Grande