



P.O. Box 16545 Portal, AZ 85632  
Phone 520.558.1146/558.7781 Toll free 800.426.7781 Fax 650.471.7667  
Email [naturalistjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:naturalistjourneys@gmail.com) [info@caligo.com](mailto:info@caligo.com)

## Cuba People to People Tour February 12 – 22, 2015

Guides Gustavo Puig, Greg Smith (NJ), and Boli Sanchez (IE) with 15 participants: Dean, Sharon, Patrick, Lynn, Jeffrey, Eileen, Rich, Teresa, Nancy, Daniel, Julia, Linda, Julie Ann, Linda and Bill.

### Bird List

- Pied-billed Grebe** – Two were well seen at Cayo Guillermo.
- Brown Pelican** – Scattered, really only about a dozen were seen.
- Neotropic Cormorant** – Seen south of Cayo Coco and at the crocodile breeding site.
- Double-crested Cormorant** – The most common cormorant anywhere.
- Magnificent Frigatebird** – A few were seen on the causeway to Cayo Coco.
- American Bittern** – Not common anywhere in Cuba, but we saw one in Cayo Coco by the hotel.
- Least Bittern** – One was seen at the crocodile breeding site.
- Great Blue Heron** – Scattered everywhere.
- Great Egret** – The same as the Great Blue Heron.
- Snowy Egret** – Not very common anywhere, we saw maybe a dozen.
- Little Blue Heron** – This species seemed to frequent shaded streams and farm fields.
- Tricolored Heron** – Not a common bird at this time of year, but we saw at least a dozen.
- Reddish Egret** – We saw only one and that was at Cayo Guillermo
- Cattle Egret** – The most common egret, seen almost everywhere.
- Green Heron** – Our best look was at the Cuban Crocodile Sanctuary/Farm.
- White Ibis** – Sporadic at best, and usually in flocks.
- Glossy Ibis** – Only a couple on the way to and from Cayo Coco.
- Roseate Spoonbill** – Not seen anywhere but on the causeway to Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo.
- Turkey Vulture** – Ubiquitous everywhere.
- Greater Flamingo** – Nice-sized flocks on Cayo Guillermo.
- Muscovy Duck** – Seen on our very first day heading to Cayo Coco.
- West Indian Whistling Duck** – A number were roosting at Cayo Coco; one person saw a single individual driving to Soroa
- Blue-winged Teal** – Most all were seen on Cayo Guillermo.
- Northern Shoveler** – Mostly on Cayo Coco.
- American Wigeon** – Three were seen all in the Northeast.
- Lesser Scaup** – Seen on the reservoir used for Olympic training.
- Red-breasted Merganser** – Two were seen from the Cayo Coco causeway.

**Osprey** – Surprising how uncommon, given all the water and fish in Cuba.

**(E) Gundlach's Hawk** – Most of us watched as an adult male landed in a treetop in Soroa.

**(E) Cuban Black Hawk** – We got good looks at some along the coast.

**Broad-winged Hawk** – The few we saw early on were all adults.

**Red-tailed Hawk** – Only a couple were seen and they were inland.

**Crested Caracara** – Two different birds flew, were seen from the bus as we were transiting the island.

**American Kestrel** – The white-breasted form was common everywhere, and we saw a red form in Soroa.

**Helmeted Guineafowl** – We saw six and then two of this feral species.

**Sora** – We all got to hear this one, but nobody caught a glimpse.

**Purple Gallinule** – Great sightings of this colorful bird at the crocodile breeding site.

**Common Moorhen** – The second most common water bird on freshwater.

**American Coot** – The most common water bird on freshwater.

**Limpkin** – Five different birds feeding on the farms of Los Helechos.

**Black-bellied Plover** – Seen in a group of shorebirds at Cayo Guillermo.

**Killdeer** – Only two seen, one at Cayo Coco and one at Playa Larga.

**Black-necked Stilt** – A large flock at Cayo Guillermo mixed with the flamingos

**Greater Yellowlegs** - Seen in the mixed flock at Cayo Guillermo.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – A solo individual was seen at Cayo Guillermo.

**Willet** – A couple were seen in the mixed shorebird flock at Cayo Guillermo.

**Spotted Sandpiper** – At least two were seen along the Cayo Coco causeway.

**Ruddy Turnstone** – Three were perched along the causeway to Cayo Coco.

**Western Sandpiper** – Four were seen foraging in the mudflats at the crocodile breeding site.

**Least Sandpiper** – The common small peep on the island.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – A large flock was at Cayo Guillermo

**Laughing Gull** – Not common, but seen in very small numbers on the ocean.

**Ring-billed Gull** – One was seen from the Malecon in Havana.

**Herring Gull** – About a dozen were seen from the Malecon in Havana.

**Royal Tern** – Most were seen in the Cayo Coco area and along the causeway.

**Common Ground Dove** – Scattered throughout the countryside.

**Rock Pigeon** – Lots in most town and cities.

**Scaly-naped Pigeon** – Best looks were of a flock of about fifty feeding on palm fruit at Los Helechos.

**White-crowned Pigeon** – Most of us got very good looks at solo individuals in the trees of Soroa.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – Not as common as in the U.S., but around.

**White-winged Dove** – Scattered with no rhyme or reason as to distribution.

**Zenaida Dove** – Good looks at one pair on Cayo Coco.

**Mourning Dove** – Everywhere, the most common dove.

**Ruddy Quail Dove** – A few folks got to see this bird while we were looking for the Cuban Screech Owl.

**(E) Cuban Parakeet** – A flock shown to us by Orlando at Los Bermijas

**Cuban Parrot** – Best looks at this stunning parrot were @ Los Helechos

**Mangrove Cuckoo** – One perched in a Cayo Coco treetop at & sat there for as long as we watched

**Great Lizard Cuckoo** – We had one individual posing at Playa Larga

**Smooth-billed Ani** – Everyday near transitions zones of trees and pasture

**(E) Cuban Screech Owl** – A single individual was seen at its daytime roost in Los Bermijas.

**(E) Cuban Pygmy Owl** – Five different owls on the prow were seen at Playa Larga.

**Stygian Owl** – A few folks heard this owl calling a Soroa.

**Antillean Palm-Swift** – Our first lunch stop on our first day had dozens.

**Cuban Emerald** – The common hummingbird in Cuba.  
**(E) Bee Hummingbird** – A lone female was seen at Los Brumeles.  
**(E) Cuban Trogon** – Lots of good looks everywhere, especially Los Helechos.  
**(E) Cuban Tody** – Best looks at this gaudy tody were on the road to the Wild Boar Cave.  
**Belted Kingfisher** – Not uncommon around freshwater.  
**West Indian Woodpecker** – Great looks at various locations.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – Seen well at Los Helechos and other locations.  
**(E) Cuban Green Woodpecker** – Great look at a pair nesting in a termite nest.  
**Northern Flicker** – We saw only one this year, compared to twenty last year.  
**Cuban Pewee** – Lots of close views at this pewee feeding low in the vegetation.  
**La Sagra's Flycatcher** – Not too many, but three in Los Bermijas gave us our best looks.  
**Loggerhead Kingbird** – Common and rowdy.  
**(E) Cuban Vireo** – Hard to view at the beginning, but gradually got easier.  
**Cuban Crow** – Only one was seen at Playa Larga.  
**Cuban Martin** – All of us got great looks at the martins flying and perched at Cayo Coco.  
**Tree Swallow** – Small flocks were very infrequent.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – Usually in mixed flocks of migrant warblers.  
**(E) Cuban Gnatcatcher** – Out along the road at Cayo Coco.  
**Eastern Bluebird** – Three were seen at the Montesino tobacco farm.  
**(E) Cuban Solitaire** – Seen well at the limestone cave boat ride location.  
**Red-legged Thrush** – Common and absolutely drop-dead gorgeous.  
**Gray Catbird** – Common and absolutely secretive.  
**Northern Mockingbird** – Even more common than the thrush and always singing.  
**Northern Parula** – One of the more common warblers we saw.  
**Yellow Warbler** – Not as numerous as we would have expected.  
**Cape May Warbler** – Not too many, but enough for all to get good looks.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – One of the very common warblers, and good looking, too.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – Only two on the trip, definitely not common.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler** – Again, only two seen on the trip.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler** – Best look was during our first lunch, but they were fairly common.  
**Prairie Warbler** – Seen daily in various habitats.  
**Palm Warbler** – Common usually seen in small feeding flocks, often.  
**Blackpoll Warbler** – Only two were seen and both were early in the trip.  
**Black-and-White Warbler** – There was always one when we found a warbler flock.  
**American Redstart** – Scattered throughout the country and different habitats.  
**Ovenbird** – Good looks at various locations with lots of understory.  
**Northern Waterthrush** – Not very many of this common warbler.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush** – Lots of good looks at this more common waterthrush.  
**Common Yellowthroat** – We always seemed to find one (or heard one) anytime around water.  
**(E) Yellow-headed Warbler** – We saw a few of these, best look was at Los Bermijas.  
**(E) Oriente Warbler** – On our very first day at Cayo Coco.  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** – Best look was the day we visited the Soroa Orchid Gardens.  
**Stripe-headed Tanager** – Very good looks on Cayo Coco.  
**Cuban Bullfinch** – Seen regularly on most roadsides.  
**Yellow-faced Grassquit** – Fairly common along roadside grasses.  
**(E) Cuban (Zapata) Sparrow** – Very good and very long looks at Cayo Coco.  
**Indigo Bunting** – Definitely not common, but all were coming into bright blues at Soroa.

**(E) Red-shouldered Blackbird** – We had a flock of twelve displaying on the grounds of Playa Larga.  
**Tawny Shouldered Blackbird** – Small numbers scattered around the Western side of the country.  
**Eastern Meadowlark** – Small flocks in grassland habitat or along fences.  
**Greater Antillean Grackle** – Everywhere!  
**(E) Cuban Blackbird** – One of our first endemics, lunch on our first day.  
**(E) Cuban Oriole** – More common on this trip as opposed to last year's.  
**House Sparrow** – Fortunately not common.

TOTAL = 125, Endemics = 18