

# Cuba People-to-People | Species List

March 14 – 25, 2018 | Compiled by Woody Wheeler



**Cuban Guide Gustavo Puig; Naturalist Journeys Host Guide Woody Wheeler**  
**Participants: Bill, Denise, Jim, Kit, Linda, Lori, Marsh, Mary Kay and Renata**

## Bird List

(E) Endemic, found only in Cuba

(NE) Near-endemic, found in Cuba and one or two other islands

(RE) Regional endemic, found in Caribbean

### **Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, Swans (7)**

(RE) **West Indian Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arborea* – Several in mangrove swamp at Cayo Coco

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* – Two in ponds at Mayajigua resort

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* – Six in Cayo Coco salt flats spotted by Marsh

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* – A few in Cayo Coco salt marsh

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana* – Seen at Cayo Coco salt marsh

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* – Just one female in Mayajigua resort ponds

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* – A few in salt marsh at Cayo Coco

### **Phasianidae: Pheasant, Guineafowl (1)**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* – Good looks and loud calls at Los Caneyes hotel in Santa Clara; seen again on several farm tours.

### **Phoenicopteridae: Flamingos (1)**

**American Flamingo** *Phoenicopeterus ruber* – Two in ponds at Mayajigua resort

### **Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* – A few soaring over the ocean at Cayo Coco and at Playa Larga/Bay of Pigs

### **Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (2)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – The more common of the two species; seen at Cayo Coco and on four other days over the sea and fresh water ponds

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* – Just a few mixed in with Neotropic Cormorants at Cayo Coco

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### **Pelecanidae: Pelicans (2)**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* – A few seen at Cayo Coco and Playa Larga

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* – Seen on six days at fresh & saltwater locations

### **Ardeidae: Herons, Bitterns, & Allies (9)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* – Seen at Cayo Coco and Playa Larga

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* – A few at Cayo Coco

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* – A few on rice fields and inland ponds

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* – Nesting at Mayajigua and a few more at salt and fresh water ponds

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* – Frequently seen at ponds and salt flats

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* – Just a few at Cayo Coco

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – Seen daily in farm areas; many nesting with young at Mayajigua

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* – Individuals seen on calm ponds and salt marshes on four days

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* – One perched in a tree in Los Helechos

### **Threskiornithidae: Ibises, Spoonbills (2)**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* – A few individuals at Cayo Coco and Playa Larga

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* – Several small flocks at Cayo Coco

### **Cathartidae: New World Vultures (1)**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* – A daily sighting in all environments, including Havana

### **Pandionidae: Ospreys (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* – Seen twice: first at Mayajigua perched in a Royal Palm, then in a salt marsh at Cayo Coco

### **Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, Eagles, & Allies (3)**

**(E) Cuban Black Hawk** *Buteogallus gundlachii* – Nesting pair with chick/eyas at Cayo Coco

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* – One soaring above Los Helechos seen by Lori, Bill and Woody

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* – Seen on three different days perching and soaring at Los Helechos and at Las Terrazas.

### **Family Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, & Coots (3)**

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyryla martinica* – Beautiful looks at roadside rest area pond and at Las Terrazas

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula chloropus* – A few seen in ponds at Cayo Coco and Las Terrazas

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* – First seen at Cayo Coco, then in a pond at Las Terrazas

### **Recurvirostridae: Stilts, Avocets (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* – Multiples of this elegant stilt in Cayo Coco salt marshes

### **Charadriidae: Plovers (3)**

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**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* – Perhaps a half-dozen at Cayo Coco tidal flats

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* – Multiples at Cayo Coco tidal flats

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous* – A few individuals seen at the Crocodile Farm Lagoon and at Pig Farm

### Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Phalaropes, & Allies (4)

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* – Half-a-dozen at Cayo Coco tidal flats

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* – Many at Cayo Coco tidal flats

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* – Seen with Lesser Yellowlegs at Cayo Coco

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* – Many seen on tidal flats at Cayo Coco

### Laridae: Gulls, Terns, & Skimmers (4)

**Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* – Common at Cayo Coco, including while swimming in Caribbean

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* – Just a few at Cayo Coco

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* – Several at Cayo Coco

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maxima* – Fairly common at Cayo Coco

### Columbidae: Pigeons, Doves (10)

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* – Seen in all towns and cities

**(RE) Scaly-naped Pigeon** *Patagioenas squamosa* – A few at Los Helechos, Soroa and Las Terrazas

**(RE) White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala* – Seen best at Orchid Garden, also at Cayo Coco

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* – Common in Trinidad and Havana

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina* – Seen at Los Caneyes hotel grounds & at other locations with feeders.

**(E) Blue-headed Quail-Dove** *Starnoenas cyanocephala* – A covey of these gorgeous birds pair seen at Cueva de Los Peces

**(RE) Key West Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon chrysis* – Covey of half-a-dozen at Cueva del Jabali, Cayo Coco

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* – Seen on three days in hotel grounds and gardens

**(RE) Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida aurita* – A covey seen on hotel grounds at Cayo Coco

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* – Seen on five days in towns, cities at farms & on wires

### Cuculidae: Cuckoos, Anis (2)

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* – Seen on four days, often in small groups.

**(NE) Great Lizard-Cuckoo** *Coccyzus merlini* – Best seen high in tree canopy at Playa Larga

### Strigidae: Typical Owls (3)

**(E) Bare-legged Owl** *Margarobyas lawrencii* – Two seen at Refugio de Fauna Bermejas

**(E) Cuban Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium siju* – Seen best at morning walk near Playa Larga

**Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* – Three roosting in pines at Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra del Rosario, Las Terrazas

### Apodidae: Swifts (1)

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(RE) **Antillean Palm-Swift** *Tachornis phoenicobia* – Seen first at Los Caneyes hotel grounds, then abundant in skies during the rest of trip

### **Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (2)**

(E) **Bee Hummingbird** *Mellisuga helenae* – Smallest bird in the world; first seen in Bermejas; then several more at a private home with feeders in Zapata

(NE) **Cuban Emerald** *Chlorostilbon ricordii* – Seen often at Los Helechos, Bermejas, Soroa and Las Terrazas

### **Trogonidae: Trogons (1)**

(E) **Cuban Trogon** *Priotelus temnurus* – From day four on, this gorgeous national bird was almost a daily sighting and its call a part of our Cuban sound track. In Viñales National Park, we saw five together!

### **Todidae: Todies (1)**

(E) **Cuban Tody** *Todus multicolor* – This small beautifully-colored bird with its staccato call perched very close to us at Cayo Coco, and was seen and heard again on five other occasions.

### **Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* – Seen twice at Cayo Coco and heard at Las Terrazas.

### **Picidae: Woodpeckers (4)**

(NE) **West Indian Woodpecker** *Melanerpes superciliaris* – This distinctively beautiful woodpecker was seen on six days of our journey.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* – Seen by a few in our group on two different days in Cayo Coco and Los Helechos.

(E) **Cuban Green Woodpecker** *Xiphidiopicus percussus* – An absolutely stunning woodpecker seen first at Playa Larga, and then again on consecutive days in Soroa and at Las Terrazas.

(E) **Fernandina's Flicker** *Colaptes fernandinae* – We spent some time at their nesting colony where we observed them peering out of their nest holes in palm snags, occasionally making forays to obtain food.

### **Falconidae: Caracaras, Falcons (3)**

**Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway* – Seen often in open areas – especially around Cayo Coco

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* – Seen almost daily including at Colon Cemetery in Havana

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* – One soared over downtown Havana

### **Psittacidae: Parakeets, Macaws, & Parrots (2)**

(NE) **Cuban Parrot** *Amazona leucocephala* – Heard & seen flying in Bermejas & at Playa Larga

(E) **Cuban Parakeet** *Psittacara euops* – A flock foraged on fruiting shrubs at Refugio de Fauna Bermejas

### **Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (4)**

(NE) **Cuban Pewee** *Contopus caribaeus* – Good looks the first morning, then seen & heard often

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**(NE) La Sagra's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus sagrae* – Seen first Cayo Coco, then again at four other locations  
**Gray Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* – Several flew overhead and perched near our hotel in Soroa. We then saw more over the next two days

**(RE) Loggerhead Kingbird** *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* – Vocal and conspicuous; first seen well at Los Helechos, then seen almost daily for the rest of the trip

### Vireonidae: Vireos (2)

**(E) Cuban Vireo** (*Vireo gundlachii*) – Seen and heard first at Cayo Coco, then on two other days

**Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus* – Heard frequently with a few glimpses until we finally had a great look at one at the Orchid Garden in Soroa.

### Corvidae: Crows (1)

**(NE) Cuban Crow** *Corvus nasicus* – Seen first at Cayo Coco, then heard and seen especially well at Playa Larga. They sound nothing like American Crows

### Hirundinidae: Swallows (2)

**(RE) Cuban Martin** *Progne cryptoleuca* – Seen flycatching over downtown Havana

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* – Spotted by Lori flying above fish ponds outside of Soroa

### Polioptilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

**(E) Cuban Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila lembeyei* – We worked hard in Cayo Coco to find them; only Renata and Marsh actually did

### Turdidae: Thrushes (2)

**(E) Cuban Solitaire** *Myadestes elisabeth* – Nice view of one singing from a picturesque perch overhanging a karst formation at Viñales National Park

**(RE) Red-legged Thrush** *Turdus plumbeus* – Our best looks of this attractive thrush were on the first morning. It was then seen daily for the rest of the trip

### Mimidae: Mockingbirds, Thrashers (2)

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* – A Neotropical bird, seen on first day and three times after that

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* – Seen daily at all locations

### Parulidae: Wood Warblers (15)

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* – Just one seen on our morning walk at Playa Larga

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla* – One found in the Bee Hummingbird garden in Zapata

**Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* – One in shrubs filled with warblers at Viñales National Park

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrine* – With Western Spindalis at Las Terrazas – a great pairing!

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* – Seen at Cayo Coco and in the Soroa area

**American Redstart** *Septophaga ruticilla* – Seen almost daily alone or with mixed flocks

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina* – Just one seen at Cayo Coco

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**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* – Found at Cayo Coco

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* – A single found in warbler shrub at Viñales National Park

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens* – Seen on our first morning & often thereafter

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum* – The most common warbler seen everywhere in Cuba

**(NE) Olive-capped Warbler** *Setophaga ptyophila* – A few seen well in pine grove near Viñales

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* – With mixed flocks at Cayo Coco and Las Terrazas

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica* – In “warbler shrub” at Viñales National Park

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* – At Cayo Coco, in Bermejas and in Las Terrazas

### **Thraupidae: Tanagers, Honeycreepers (4)**

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* – Seen once at Las Terrazas

**(E) Cuban Grassquit** *Tiaris canora* – At least 20 seen well at the Las Terrazas Pig Farm

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* – Also seen at the Pig Farm, the garden behind Il Divino restaurant & at Cayo Coco

**(NE) Cuban Bullfinch** *Melopyrrha nigra* – First found at Cayo Coco, then in Viñales National Park in mixed flock at “warbler shrub.”

### **Passerellidae: New World Buntings, Sparrows (1)**

**(E) Cuban (Zapata) Sparrow** *Torreornis inexpectata* – Close looks in good lighting at three at Cayo Coco

### **Spindalidae: Spindalises (1)**

**(RE) Western Spindalis** *Spindalis zena* – This shockingly beautiful former tanager seen in great lighting at Las Terrazas next to a Tennessee Warbler

### **Teretistridae: Cuban Warbler (2)**

**(E) Yellow-headed Warbler** *Teretistris fernandinae* – First seen well at Viñales National Park, then seen fantastically well in shrubs opposite pine grove outside of Viñales cemetery

**(E) Oriente Warbler** *Teretistris fornsi* – Had a nice look at several at Cayo Coco

### **Cardinalidae: Grosbeaks, Buntings (1)**

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* – One seen by several in our group at Viñales National Park

### **Icteridae: Blackbirds (6)**

**(E) Cuban Oriole** *Icterus melanopsis* – the first of these brilliant birds seen at Los Helechos, then again at Playa Larga, Soroa and Las Terrazas

**(NE) Tawny-shouldered Blackbird** *Agelaius humeralis* – Seen at Los Helechos and Las Terrazas

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* – Seen at Pig Farm

**(E) Cuban Blackbird** *Ptiloxena atroviolacea* – Seen first morning and every day thereafter

**(RE) Greater Antillean Grackle** *Quiscalus niger* – Seen daily at all locations

### **Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* – Seen at gas stations, towns and cities daily



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## Other Species

Common Brown Anole *Anolis sagrei* – Seen at Los Helechos

Cuban Green Anole *Anolis porcatius* – At the organic farm in Viñales area

Northern Curly-tailed Lizard *Leiocephalus carinatus* – Seen often, including on rooftops, in Trinidad

Confusing Sister Butterfly *Adelpha iphicleola* – Found in orchid garden, Soroa

Mexican Fritillary *Euptoieta hegesia* – Several on milkweed plant on Cayo Coco

Giant Katydid *Stilpnochlora coultoniana* – Literally climbing the walls of our Soroa hotel

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* – Seen in Havana's metropolitan park and in farm fields near Soroa