

# Caribbean Endemics of Jamaica | Species List

March 24 – 31, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With Guides Ricardo Miller and Steve Shunk and participants Jean, Holly, Larry, and Jerry

Compiled by Steve Shunk

- (HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted by guides and clients as heard only  
(GO) = Heard and/or seen by guide(s) only  
(I) = Introduced  
(#) = Number of days each species was detected  
(JE) = Jamaican Endemic, 28 total  
(JESub) = Jamaican Endemic subspecies, 13 total  
(CE) = Caribbean Endemic species, 5 total  
(CESub) = Caribbean Endemic subspecies, 8 total

**Summary:** Springtime in Jamaica treated us well, with mostly gorgeous weather and lots of endemic birds. We also enjoyed many butterflies and four endemic lizards as we birded from the desert-like Hellshire Hills to the lush, cloud-enshrouded Blue Mountains. Perhaps more important than just finding the endemic birds, all participants enjoyed good looks at most of the endemics, and most were widespread on our route, giving us ample opportunity for study.

*Note: Endemism is such an important part of island biogeography—especially in Jamaica—that I have included designations and notes for endemic subspecies.*

## BIRDS (87 species recorded, of which 1 was HO and 5 were GO):

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columbia livia* (I)—(3) Seen only in urban Kingston and Port Antonio.

**White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala*—(4) Seen several times, mostly at lower elevations.

**Ring-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas caribaea* (E)—(4) Heard almost daily and seen several times, with the best looks in the Blue Mountains.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerine* (ESub)—(5) Endemic *jamaicensis* subspecies seen several times at all elevations, including Hellshire Hills and Blue Mountains.

**Crested Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon versicolor* (E)—(2) Seen three times by all, first at the road into Starlight Chalet and then twice on one day in the mountains, with excellent looks at this gorgeous and very special bird.

**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana*—(2) Seen once on Ecclesdown Rd. and then two seen at San San.

**Caribbean Dove** *Leptotila jamaicensis* (ESub)—(3) Endemic *jamaicensis* subspecies heard several times and then seen a couple times in the lowlands, with the best looks in the scope at Bay View Resort.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*—(3) Seen and heard at all elevations, mostly observed in flight.

**Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida aurita* (CESub)—(6) Caribbean endemic *zenaida* subspecies seen and heard regularly at all elevations.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* (CESub)—(1) Two individuals of this Caribbean endemic *macroura* subspecies seen along the road in Hellshire Hills.

### **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae**

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*—(2) Seen twice, with best looks from the vehicle on Ecclesdown Road.

**Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor*—(1) HO in the San San forest, despite frustrating efforts to see one.

**Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** *Coccyzus pluvialis* (**E**)—(3) Seen in the Blue Mountains and along Ecclesdown Rd., HO in San San.

**Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo** *Coccyzus vetula* (**E**)—(5) Heard almost daily, and seen well in the Blue Mountains, at San San, and on Ecclesdown Rd.

### **POTOOS: Nyctibiidae**

**Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* (**Esub**)—(1) Drop-dead views of an adult with tiny, puffy-white fledgling at Hope Gardens; endemic *jamaicensis* subspecies.

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae**

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* (**CEsub**)—(2) Large busy flocks seen above Bay View Resort and near Rio Grande river area; Caribbean endemic *pallidifrons* subspecies.

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae**

**Jamaican Mango** *Anthracothorax mango* (**E**)—(4) Seen well by all, including Port Royal Hotel, Starlight Chalet, and Goblin Hill Resort, plus an adult seen at a nest in Hellshire Hills.

**Vervain Hummingbird** *Mellisuga minima* (**CE**)—(5) Seen and heard almost daily, with best looks at a singing male at Port Royal Hotel.

**Streamertail** *Trochilus polytmus* (**E/Esub**)—(6) Red-billed nominate subspecies seen daily at Starlight Chalet and heard everywhere in the canopy in the Blue Mountains; Black-billed *scitulus* subspecies seen well at the top of the San San road.

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—(1) One bird seen from the vehicle, GO, in the river on our last day.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—(1) One bird seen from the vehicle, GO, flying along the shore near Port Antonio.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*—(2) Outstanding looks at this island rarity; only three prior eBird records for Jamaica! We found an adult and a subadult (3<sup>rd</sup> cycle) at Port Royal and scoped the birds at close range.

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—(2) Only seen in the Kingston Port area, with best looks from Port Royal.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*—(4) First seen from Port Royal and then over the bays near Port Antonio.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—(1) Seen by GO from Port Royal on the first day.

### **TROPICBIRDS: Phaethontidae**

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*—(1) Fun experience with 10 birds viewed from a roadside cliff near Ecclesdown Rd.

### **FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*—(3) Seen any time we were near the open coast, especially at Port Royal and Port Antonio.

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*—(3) Best seen around Kingston Harbor from Port Royal but also near Port Antonio.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae**

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*—(3) First seen from Port Royal as a flyby, and then skulking in fields near Port Antonio.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—(1) Seen as a flyby from Port Royal on the first day.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*—(3) Seen from Port Royal and in sheltered coves and rivers near Port Antonio.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—(5) Scattered in disturbed habitat throughout, mostly at low elevations.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*—(2) Fly-bys at Port Royal and one bird flushed from a shoreline near Port Antonio.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*—(1) One bird seen by GO flushing from a cove near Port Antonio.

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—(6) Seen daily throughout, with highest numbers in Hellshire Hills.

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* (**CEsub**)—(4) Individuals seen in a few locations, some fairly close to the ground; nominate *jamaicensis* subspecies named for type location in Jamaica.

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Jamaican Owl** *Asio grammicus* (**E**)—(3) Young bird first heard at night from Starlight Chalet but not seen; then we had great looks at a bird that circled us at Bay View Resort.

### **TODIES: Todidae**

**Jamaican Tody** *Todus todus* (**E**)—(4) Several seen at various elevations; best looks were of a pair at Starlight Chalet that appeared to be checking out a possible nest site just above the driveway.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*—(1) One bird seen by two of us from the vehicle in the river canyon descending from the Blue Mountains.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*—(X) Xylem wells seen in a cecropia tree in the Blue Mountains.

**Jamaican Woodpecker** *Melanerpes radiolatus* (**E**)—(6) Seen and heard throughout, with an active nest found in the San San forest.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* (**CEsub**)—(3) Actively nesting pair seen well at Hope Gardens, then also seen on the grounds at Bay View Resort.

### **PARROTS: Psittacidae**

**Black-billed Parrot** *Amazona agilis* (**E**)—(2) First seen well in Hope Gardens mated to a purported hybrid individual (Yellow-billed x Black-billed); then distantly seen in flight on Ecclesdown Rd.

**Yellow-billed Parrot** *Amazona collaria* (**E**)—(2) Pair seen allopreening in Hope Gardens; then distantly seen in flight on Ecclesdown Rd.

**Green-rumped Parrotlet** *Forpus passerinus* (**I**)—(2)

**Olive-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana* (**Esub**)—(4)

### **BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae**

**Jamaican Becard** *Pachyramphus niger* (**E**)—(2) Seen on two days in the Blue Mountains, including a pair together.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Jamaican Elaenia** *Myiopagis cotta* (E)—(1) Seen well but only once, in the Blue Mountains.

**Jamaican Pewee** *Contopus pallidus* (E)—(4) Seen several times in the Blue Mountains and along Ecclesdown Rd. and San San forest.

**Sad Flycatcher** *Myiarchus barbirostris* (E)—(5) Seen almost daily, with two birds feeding from the porch railing in the fog at Starlight Chalet.

**Rufous-tailed Flycatcher** *Myiarchus validus* (E)—(5) Great looks at Starlight Chalet (also on the porch railing), and at all elevations.

**Stolid Flycatcher** *Myiarchus stolidus* (CE)—(1) One bird seen well at Hellshire Hills.

**Gray Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis*—(3) A few birds scattered around the lowlands, having just recently arrived from wintering grounds.

**Loggerhead Kingbird** *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* (CE/Esub)—(6) Seen daily in all habitats and elevations.

#### VIREOS: Vireonidae

**Blue Mountain Vireo** *Vireo osburni* (E)—(3) Tough one to find; HO once and then seen once in the mountains, then better looks at Ecclesdown Rd.

**Jamaican Vireo** *Vireo modestus* (E)—(6) First glimpse in Hope Gardens then seen well in the Blue Mountains. Heard daily thereafter, but we were jaded and chasing other species so didn't track them down!

**Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus* (CEsub)—(5) This subspecies is not a permanent resident and returns to the island only to breed. They had arrived recently and we heard them frequently from the mountains to the lower elevations. Only seen on one day in the Blue Mountains.

#### CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

**Jamaican Crow** *Corvus jamaicensis* (E)—(2) This was our last endemic to find and we finally got good—though distant—looks along Ecclesdown Rd. We then had much closer looks on the drive back to Kingston on the last day, when we made a bathroom stop at Castleton Botanical Gardens.

#### SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—(1) One bird seen in Port Antonio.

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva* (Esub)—(2) Seen flying—once with White-collared Swifts—over Bay View Resort.

#### MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

**Bahama Mockingbird** *Mimus gundlachi* (CE/Esub)—(1) A couple of birds seen at close range in the Hellshire Hills.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* (CEsub)—(4) First seen in Hope Gardens and then generally at lower elevations on the latter half of the trip.

#### THRUSHES: Turdidae

**Rufous-throated Solitaire** *Myadestes genibarbis* (CE/Esub)—(2) Delightful haunting song heard in multiple locations during our first full day in the Blue Mountains; finally seen well the next day, with the clouds rolling in—very dramatic.

**White-eyed Thrush** *Turdus jamaicensis* (E)—(3) A couple of groups seen in the Blue Mountains and then later in the trip at San San.

**White-chinned Thrush** *Turdus aurantius* (E)—(6) Very common throughout, flushing from the road almost everywhere we went; easily seen in lawns and gardens.

#### FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

**Jamaican Euphonia** *Euphonia jamaica* (E)—(6) These elusive little guys gave us a run for our money; they were ever-present— frequently heard calling from the canopy—but we worked hard to get decent looks.

#### SPINDALISES: Spindalidae

**Jamaican Spindalis** *Spindalis nigricephala* (E)—(5) Handsome endemic seen almost daily, including good looks at Starlight Chalet and scattered throughout the Blue Mountains and lowlands.

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES: Icteridae**

**Jamaican Oriole** *Icterus leucopteryx* (E)—(5) Seen almost daily and heard frequently; came to hummer feeders at Starlight Chalet.

**Jamaican Blackbird** *Nesopsar nigerrimus* (E)—(3) Seen only in the Blue Mountains, but we had great looks at close range at least twice as birds foraged among the mosses and bromeliads near the road.

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*—(2) First GO at Bay View Resort, then seen well on our last full day in the same location.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—(1) Only seen in Kingston at Hope Gardens.

**Greater Antillean Grackle** *Quiscalus niger* (CE/Esub)—(4) Seen daily in the latter half of the trip in lower elevation forests; also a regular at Bay View Resort.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*—(1) One bird seen by few in the forest at San San.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla*—(1) Migrant seen in the Blue Mountains hopping around the leaky faucet at the Dennis Coffee Shop.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—(3) Seen once in the Blue Mountains and then twice at lower elevations later in the trip.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—(1) GO in the Blue Mountains.

**Arrowhead Warbler** *Setophaga pharetra* (E)—(4) Handsome endemic seen well in the Blue Mountains and over the road at San San forest.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—(6) Most common warbler, seen at all elevations and habitats.

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*—(2) First seen from the parking lot at Port Royal hotel, then again at Bay View Resort.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*—(4) Common, mostly at lower elevations.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—(1) One bird seen well from the parking lot at Port Royal hotel.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*—(5) Commonly encountered in varied habitats.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*—(1) GO on Ecclesdown Road (while walking to move the vehicle!).

**Prairie Warbler** *Setophaga discolor*—(3) Daily in the mountains, including at Starlight Chalet property.

#### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae**

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* (Esub)—(6) Nominate subspecies seen and heard throughout, mostly in the canopy.

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* (CEsub)—(2) Nominate subspecies seen at Starlight Chalet.

**Orangequit** *Euneornis campestris* (E)—(5) Fairly common, with an active nest found at Fern Hill Road.

**Greater Antillean Bullfinch** *Melopyrrha violacea* (CE/Esub)—(5) Jamaican endemic *ruficollis* subspecies seen almost daily, more common at lower elevations.

**Yellow-shouldered Grassquit** *Loxipasser anoxanthus* (E)—(3) Seen well in the Blue Mountains forests, including at Starlight Chalet.

**Black-faced Grassquit** *Melanospiza bicolor* (CEsub)—(4) Caribbean endemic *marchii* subspecies seen in the mountains, including at Starlight Chalet.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5 species recorded):**

**Graham's (Jamaican Turquoise) Anole** *Anolis grahami* (E)—Seen once at Bay View Resort area.

**Stripefoot (Jamaican Gray) Anole** *Anolis lineatopus* (E)—Seen several times in the Bay View resort area.

**Jamaican Giant Anole** *Anolis garmani* (E)—Seen once in the Blue Mountains.

**Blue Mountain Anole** *Anolis reconditus* (E)—Seen once in the Blue Mountains.

**Asian House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* (I)—Seen several times in the Bay View Resort dining room.

**Other Notable Critters Observed:**

**Small Indian Mongoose** *Urva auropunctata* (**1**)—Seen almost daily, usually by whomever was in the front seat of the vehicle, as the animal ran across the road. Seen a couple times when we were outside the vehicle.

**Julia heliconian** *Dryas iulia*—Seen on several days, especially in the lowlands.

**Zebra heliconian** *Heliconius charithonia*—Seen on several days.

**Cassius blue** *Leptotes cassius*—Seen on a couple of days in the lowlands.

**Malachite** *Siproeta stelenes*—Seen once in the lowlands.

**Jamaican Polydamas swallowtail** *Battus polydamas jamaicensis*—Seen once in the lowlands.