

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*April 24, 2010 to May 1, 2010*

Guided by  
**Jesse Fagan**

Field Guides returned to the Dominican Republic for the first time since 2002. We revamped the itinerary a bit and added an excellent local guide in Kate Wallace. We really enjoyed having her along and she was a big help to our operation. Thanks again!

The birding was equally good and we managed to encounter all the endemics in some way, shape, or form. Our heard only species included Hispaniolan Nightjar and White-fronted Quail-Dove; both are tough to see (quail-doves anywhere!), but we were close on both accounts. We did technically see the Least Poorwill (Paraque), but it was mainly eye shine and certainly better heard. However, we studied and observed well an impressive 26 Hispaniolan endemics. Some of the highlights included Ashy-faced Owl (our group's top vote getter), either Tody species (who doesn't like a Tody?!), Ridgway's Hawk at a nest (one of the rarest raptors in the world), Bay-breasted Cuckoo (on two different occasions), and the difficult to see (mainly b/c of the drive!) La Selle Thrush. The thrush is big, like a heavy set American Robin, but patterned darker; it is a sharp looking bird.

Thanks again to my group. We sure had a good time. We laughed a lot, mainly at your leader break dancing during a group photo, and our final evening dinner was quite memorable. We dined on the old plaza in historic Santo Domingo, just down from the first street, university, hospital, and cathedral in the New World. Bird On. Jesse.

*List total: 117 bird taxa*

*If marked to left of list, \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,  
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

*Triplist file: dom10\_JF*

**Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)**

WEST INDIAN WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arborea*)

*We found a pair with 6 ducklings along the small stream at the botanical gardens in Santo Domingo.*

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

*Three at the Oviedo lake.*

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*)

*At least 4 were at Lake Oviedo.*

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*)

*A huge concentration of at least 500 birds was seen at Lake Oviedo. Impressive stuff; the most I have seen anywhere in the Caribbean.*

**Odontophoridae (New World Quail)**

I NORTHERN BOBWHITE (*Colinus virginianus*)

*We heard a few during our trip in the highlands of the Sierra de Bahoruco. A few others saw one in flight after it flushed under their feet.*

**Podicipedidae (Grebes)**

LEAST GREBE (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)

*Several were seen during the trip including one on a nest at the botanical gardens in SD.*

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

*One on Lake Oviedo.*

**Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)**

AMERICAN FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

*We scoped several close birds at Lake Oviedo and had about 50 birds in total.*

**Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)**

BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster*)

*A couple offshore while making the drive north from Lake Oviedo.*

**Pelecanidae (Pelicans)**

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

**Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)**

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*)

**Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)**

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*)

REDDISH EGRET (*Egretta rufescens*)

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

*Every day of the tour.*

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

**Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)**

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

*A flyby of 20 birds while on our drive to Aceitillar.*

**Cathartidae (New World Vultures)**

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

*Not seen generally in the west, but we had a number (around 10) on our drive to the Ridgway's Hawk site.*

**Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)**

E RIDGWAY'S HAWK (*Buteo ridgwayi*)

*Excellent looks at a female with two hatchlings in a nest. Ninety percent of the nests are in old Palmchat nests, which prefer, not surprisingly, to nest in palms. This species is globally endangered and only found at Los Haitises NP in the DR.*

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)  
*Singles on most days.*

**Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)**

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)  
*Fairly common, seen every day.*

**Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)**

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)  
CARIBBEAN COOT (*Fulica caribaea*)  
*A few distant individuals were seen at Lake Olviedo.*

**Aramidae (Limpkin)**

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*)  
*Odd that this species was heard at El Aguacate, but they like to feed at higher elevations on the terrestrial snails.*

**Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)**

SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)  
*One along the sandy shoreline of Lake Olviedo.*

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

**Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)**

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

**Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)**

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)  
SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*)  
*A couple of birds sitting on debris in the stream at the botanical gardens.*

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)  
*Gary spotted this species at Lake Olviedo.*

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)  
*A few along the shore at Lake Olviedo.*

**Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)**

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

LEAST TERN (*Sternula antillarum*)

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)  
*A good find at Lake Olviedo.*

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)  
*An even better find by Gary (nice spotting!) at Lake Olviedo.*

ROYAL TERN (*Thalasseus maximus*)

**Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)**

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

SCALY-NAPED PIGEON (*Patagioenas squamosa*)  
*The common large pigeon in the highlands of the Bahoruco NP.*

PLAIN PIGEON (*Patagioenas inornata*)  
*Not well known from the eastern part of the island, but we found one near the Ridgway's Hawk nest. One of Raven's targets!*

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*)

ZENAIDA DOVE (*Zenaida aurita*)

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*)

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*)

KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon chrysis*)  
*Seen very well along the Rabo de Gato trail. It was even in the scope for a minute or two. A lovely bird.*

- E\* WHITE-FRONTED QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon leucometopia*)  
*A heard only, but we got close a couple of times.*

**Psittacidae (Parrots)**

- E HISPANIOLAN PARAKEET (*Aratinga chloroptera*)  
*The common psittacid on the island. Seen well over several days.*
- OLIVE-THROATED PARAKEET (AZTEC) (*Aratinga nana astec*)  
*An odd history this species has on the island. Only recently discovered for DR, but now seems regular in several places including Rabo de Gato trail. Most likely a recent introduction to the island (fide Kate).*
- E HISPANIOLAN PARROT (*Amazona ventralis*)  
*Good looks of perched birds above El Aguacate and a couple more flyovers during the trip.*

**Cuculidae (Cuckoos)**

- MANGROVE CUCKOO (*Coccyzus minor*)
- E BAY-BREASTED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus ruficularis*)  
*Wow. A tough bird to seen, yet we managed to find it at two different spots. The second sighting was much more satisfying. Nice work, Mark, who spotted it sneaking in behind us.*
- E HISPANIOLAN LIZARD-CUCKOO (*Coccyzus longirostris*)  
*Is there anything better than a loud "lizard-cuckoo" ??? Love the name; though I don't like its return to Coccyzus. Fairly common on the island.*

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

**Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)**

- E ASHY-FACED OWL (*Tyto glaucops*)  
*Bird of the trip. Great looks and what a fun, odd encounter with it. Yep, there it is, sitting on its favorite palm tree! Like clock-work.*

**Strigidae (Owls)**

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*)

**Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)**

- ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles gundlachii*)  
*Nailed this one from the hotel rooftop. Right on time!*
- E LEAST PAURAUQUE (*Siphonorhis brewsteri*)  
*Well, not great, but heard well and most saw the eyeshine. It was a tough look, granted, and you had to be looking at just the right angle.*
- E\* GREATER ANTILLEAN NIGHTJAR (HISPANIOLAN) (*Caprimulgus cubanensis ekmani*)  
*A heard only, despite our attempts to draw one out. They weren't moving.*

**Apodidae (Swifts)**

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)  
ANTILLEAN PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis phoenicobia*)

**Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)**

- ANTILLEAN MANGO (*Anthracothorax dominicus*)
- E HISPANIOLAN EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon swainsonii*)  
*Nicely studied in the highlands above El Aguacate where it was seen a few times.*
- VERVAIN HUMMINGBIRD (*Mellisuga minima*)  
*Just a tiny little thing, but it commands a towering perch atop the unfurled spikey palm frond.*

**Trogonidae (Trogons)**

- E HISPANIOLAN TROGON (*Priotelus roseigaster*)  
*Our first good look was at Aceitillar (where Kate hadn't seen it for years), but it was pretty common elsewhere in the Bahoruco.*

**Todidae (Todies)**

- E BROAD-BILLED TODY (*Todus subulatus*)  
*The common tody in the lowlands and at mid-elevations. They are really like little Christmas ornaments!*
- E NARROW-BILLED TODY (*Todus angustirostris*)  
*Replaces the previous at higher elevations. The calls of the two species are quite different.*

**Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)**

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megasceryle alcyon*)

**Picidae (Woodpeckers)**

- E ANTILLEAN PICULET (*Nesocittes micromegas*)  
*Can be very difficult to see, so we were happy to find one at Aceitillar on our first full day of birding.*
- E HISPANIOLAN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes striatus*)  
*Common everywhere.*

**Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)**

GREATER ANTILLEAN ELAENIA (*Elaenia fallax*)  
*We saw at least five above El Aguacate, but this was the only spot.*

- E HISPANIOLAN PEWEE (*Contopus hispaniolensis*)  
STOLID FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus stolidus*)  
*Fairly common at most birding sites, but usually only in pairs or solitary.*
- GRAY KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)  
LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus gabbii*)  
*One along Rabo de Gato was a good find.*

**Vireonidae (Vireos)**

- E FLAT-BILLED VIREO (*Vireo nanus*)  
*This odd vireo (once thought to be an Empidonax flycatcher) was seen well as we descended El Aguacate. We picked a spot that looked good and it whisper sang its way in to us.*
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO (*Vireo altiloquus*)

**Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)**

- E PALM CROW (*Corvus palmarum*)  
*A nice group of 5 or so birds along the Aceitillar Rd. A tough bird to find.*
- E WHITE-NECKED CROW (*Corvus leucognaphalus*)  
*At least two were around the Rabo de Gato trail on the both days we birded it.*

**Hirundinidae (Swallows)**

CARIBBEAN MARTIN (*Progne dominicensis*)  
GOLDEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta euchrysea*)  
*Very nice looks and studies at Aceitillar and again above El Aguacate.*

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)  
CAVE SWALLOW (CARIBBEAN) (*Petrochelidon fulva fulva*)  
*We made a quick stop on our way to the Ridgway's site. This subspecies is endemic to the Caribbean and not surprisingly it's the nominate race!*

**Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)**

- RUFIOUS-THROATED SOLITAIRE (RUFIOUS-THROATED) (*Myadestes genibarbis montanus*)  
*A splendid bird with a song that carries. Seen well, certainly heard even better, above El Aguacate.*
- E LA SELLE THRUSH (*Turdus swalesi*)  
*A target for us above El Aguacate. We got up early to see this bird when it is most active and vocal. We had several nice studies.*
- RED-LEGGED THRUSH (EASTERN) (*Turdus plumbeus ardosiaceus*)

**Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)**

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

**Dulidae (Palmchat)**

- E PALMCHAT (*Dulus dominicus*)  
*In a monotypic family, this species is common on the island. It likes to live in colonies within large stick nests that it normally builds in palm trees.*

**Parulidae (New World Warblers)**

- NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*)
- \* YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

- CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica tigrina*)
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*)  
*Just females were seen including several above El Aguacate. This late in the spring season most of the males are setting up territories.*
- PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus chrysoleuca*)  
*A number were seen and heard at Aceitillar.*
- PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*)  
*A "Western" Palm Warbler was seen along the road at Aceitillar.*
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*)
- AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
- OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)
- \* NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)
- E GREEN-TAILED WARBLER (*Microligea palustris*)  
*We saw our first at Aceitillar, but better looks were had above El Aguacate. More common than the next species in the Bahoruco.*
- E WHITE-WINGED WARBLER (*Xenoligea montana*)  
*We had 4 or so birds, generally solitary, above El Aguacate. Both *Microligea* (previous species) and *Xenoligea* are monotypic genera, but they are not closely related.*
- Coerebidae (Bananaquit)**
- BANANAQUIT (CARIBBEAN) (*Coereba flaveola bananivora*)
- Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)**
- E BLACK-CROWNED PALM-TANAGER (*Phaenicophilus palmarum*)  
*A fairly common species on the island. We first caught up with it at Aceitillar.*
- E WESTERN CHAT-TANAGER (*Calyptophilus tertius*)  
*Only at El Aguacate where we had at least 15 different territories. Each bird seems to sing its own variation of song.*
- E EASTERN CHAT-TANAGER (*Calyptophilus frugivorus*)  
*La Cachote was the place for this rare species, but we had to work at it. Awesome.*
- E HISPANIOLAN SPINDALIS (*Spindalis dominicensis*)
- Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies)**
- YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris olivaceus*)  
*Barbara was happy to catch up with this species to round out her island list.*
- BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris bicolor*)
- GREATER ANTILLEAN BULLFINCH (*Loxigilla violacea*)
- Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)**
- GREATER ANTILLEAN GRACKLE (*Quiscalus niger*)
- GREATER ANTILLEAN ORIOLE (*Icterus dominicensis*)
- Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)**
- ANTILLEAN EUPHONIA (*Euphonia musica*)  
*Nice looks along the Rabo de Gato trail. They were pretty low too.*
- E HISPANIOLAN CROSSBILL (*Loxia megaplaga*)  
*An exciting moment when we finally came across this species in the final hour of birding at Aceitillar. Nice work team.*
- E ANTILLEAN SISKIN (*Spinus dominicensis*)  
*Another good one that we saw well above El Aguacate. At least 4 birds (incl. a couple of singing males) were in the flock.*
- Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)**
- I HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)