

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MARCH 13 - 26, 2005

**LEADERS:**

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**BIRDLIST AND TRIP REPORT**

**FOR**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**MARCH 13 – 26, 2005**

**LOS HAITISES/RIDGWAY'S HAWK PRETRIP**

**MARCH 10 – 13, 2005**

**Led by:  
Victor Emanuel  
Barry Lyon**

**Trip Report compiled May 3, 2005**

May 3, 2005

To all Dominican Republic Tour Participants:

I want to begin by apologizing for the long delay in your receiving the final birdlist and trip report for the Dominican Republic main tour and pretrip. Normally you should receive this information from two to three weeks after the tour concludes. Given my duties in the office, however, I was not able to complete this report in the timeframe that I would have otherwise liked. Still in all, the memories of our trip remain fresh indeed and I hope that as you review it, it rekindles some nice memories from an exceptional place.

Enjoy!

Simply put, I love birding the Caribbean! Leading my fourth Dominican Republic tour in the last five years, I can say unequivocally that this year's version was easily the best. Not only did we record more of the island endemics than ever before, but we were able to find some of the world's rarest and most critically threatened species.

With 31 endemic bird species, the Dominican Republic holds more than any other island in the Caribbean. Up to this year we have never recorded more than 24, but thanks to the addition of a pretrip and a visit at a more optimum time of year, we came away with 27 of the island's endemic birds! While any good trip will focus on more than just the endemic species, it is these birds that are the real draw, the reason that people will be interested in an island outpost like the D.R. Each day presented many highlights as we journeyed first to the northeast part of the country and then down finally to the southwest corner on the Haitian border.

Though there were numerous high points to our tour, the pinnacle was reached early on when we journeyed to Los Haitises National Park in search of the very rare and endangered Ridgway's Hawk. For years, and on all previous trips to the Dominican Republic, we have only dreamed of the opportunity to see this nearly mythical bird. Believed to be down to no more than 140 individuals, and wiped out every else on the island, their whereabouts were not even fully known or understood until the last two years. To be sure, seeing it was not such a simple matter of driving right up to them. Rather, our journey, and everything that it involved, was a true adventure that any birder would have dearly appreciated.

Los Haitises is a little known place. Both remote and inaccessible, it is simply not a place anybody can haphazardly visit. Beginning in the bay town of Sabana de la Mar, we undertook our expedition by boat through a forest of towering mangroves – some of the best I've ever seen. Upon emerging from the mangroves, we found ourselves on stately Samana Bay, with water so smooth that it was impossible to separate from the sky as the two seemingly merged on the distant horizon. One of the chief attractions that the D.R. has for me is that it possesses the kind of natural scenery that is as equally appealing as the birds. So as we motored along the southern shoreline of the bay, we were all transfixed by the magnificent beauty of the landscape. Great hills of ragged limestone towered up to the south, and all covered with a dramatic and beautiful tropical forest. All the while birds were just everywhere. Frigatebirds, herons and egrets and even a Brown Booby made our time in the boat magical.

Upon landing on a remote beach, and having the native fishermen for company, we undertook a lengthy two and a half hour hike (one way) through some of the most beautiful, rugged, and remote forest anywhere in North America. With visions of the hawk occupying our thoughts, it wasn't until after we had seen the pair at a nest that we could really appreciate all the other fantastic sights around us. The butterfly show was just extraordinary. It really seemed like we were there at absolutely the peak time of year for them, and many, like the Great Tiger, were among the most beautiful I have ever seen.

Our time at Los Haitises would ultimately serve as a springboard to a very successful and exciting trip. Aside from the hawks, we encountered numerous White-necked Crows, a most peculiar bird with a ruby red eye and a fascinating range of vocalizations. Antillean Piculets, generally one of the harder birds to actually spot, were seen extremely well also.

At this point I offer my gratitude to Doug Hannah for his photographic documentary and accompanying report of our pretrip experience. Following the tour Doug sent me a copy and it is currently posted on our website. It can be viewed by clicking the "news" button and looking under Tour Reports. Doug did an excellent job in his written documentary as well and his photos are testimony to the fact that we encountered one of the world's rarest and hardest to find raptors. Well done Doug!

Once the main tour started, our luck held. We could not have asked for a better opening ceremony. The hundreds of Hispaniolan Parakeets that gathered outside the hotel at night were captivating. Their loud calling and overwhelming numbers were an amazing spectacle to be sure. Our morning visit to the National Botanic Gardens was spectacular. With lots of birds and attractive natural surroundings, this is the ideal place to serve as an introduction to the birds of the island. Hispaniolan Woodpeckers, Vervain Hummingbirds and Mangrove Cuckoos were delightfully common, and merely complemented all the other species that formed our growing bird list. In the southwest corner of the country we enjoyed three days of stunningly successful birding.

Alcoa Rd. on the north side of the Bahoruco Mountains was as good as it ever was. Persistent searching turned up a lovely pair of Hispaniolan Crossbills as well as Golden Swallows, Red-legged Thrush, Scaly-naped Pigeons and a host of other species that utilized this peculiar, and endangered, pine forest habitat. The drive to this destination took us through Jaragua National Park, the largest park in the Caribbean, and home to a spectacular forest of cactus and thorn scrub.

Our trip concluded with two days of birding on the north side of this mountain range. If anything could have rivaled our experience with the Ridgway's Hawk it would have been our morning in the cloud forest. As our group huddled on the roadside in the minutes before the first light of day, we did so with great anticipation, for this morning, on this road would be our first and only chance for two of the D.R.'s most difficult birds, the LaSelle Thrush and White-fronted Quail-Dove. As it began to get light we almost immediately spotted a bird in the road. One lift of the binoculars was all it took to realize we were looking at the thrush! Watching for what must have been 20 minutes, the bird ultimately bounded to within 20 feet of us. Wow! What a shining moment. We could not relax long, however, for suddenly we were watching the quail-dove forage on the side of the road! What ensued could only be described as nearly stupefying. Over the next two

hours we would see at least 7 more quail-doves and two more thrushes. These are birds that are just not supposed to be seen like this! The whole morning was unforgettable, with the likes of Western Chat-Tanager, Hispaniolan Spindalis, and Hispaniolan Parrots putting on jaw-dropping shows. For a grand finale, we studied Hispaniolan Trogons at length, for the best views we have ever had of this bird on our tours here.

Our final morning in the field was no less impressive. Our eager and persistent group of participants made my job as a tour leader much easier, for it was Ron Huffman who discovered the Least Poorwill and Doug Hannah who found us the Flat-billed Vireo. Not to be overlooked, of course, was Lorna's dogged pursuit of the Black-whiskered Vireo, which she finally got to see, even in the spotting scope. It was quite clear that she had found her bird of the trip.

Although we never did see the Bay-breasted Cuckoo, our afternoon at Rabo de Gato produced some of the best birding of the trip. The whole area seems to be an interface for birds of the upper and lower elevations. The presence of a well-developed riparian system allows for a number of species to unexpectedly come into contact with one another. The result is that we encountered 42 species of birds, nearly twenty of which were endemics. Furthermore, it was also the area where Doug serendipitously discovered the Northern Potoo, one of the great birds of our trip.

On that final day alone we recorded several more island endemics, including Antillean Siskin and Hispaniolan Palm Crow as well as two species of quail-dove to round things out.

All over the world island ecosystems are under great pressure. Nowhere are they more obvious than here in the Dominican Republic. With the exception of the Sierra de Bahoruco, the native forests have been largely destroyed over most of the island. Several bird species have become considerably rarer and some are in serious trouble. All along our route the burning of the forests was plain to all. It is with this in mind that we can come away from an experience such as we had with greater appreciation for what we saw and the sobering understanding of the hurdles that must be overcome if the birds we saw and the ecosystems in which they live will survive.

Finally, a major component to our trip besides the birds was the people who accompanied us along the way. Kate Wallace, who helped us organize the trip, and who escorted us through the country, is a leading voice for conservation and public education in the D.R. Lance Woolaver is a Canadian graduate student on the front lines of the Ridgway's Hawk effort. Through his own understanding of the bird and its needs, Lance, who accompanied us through the pretrip, is working with local landowners to ensure that this remarkable raptor still has a place in the world.

Through their eyes and experiences we learned more about the Dominican Republic than would have been remotely possible without them.

Barry Lyon

## ITINERARY

**March 10, 2005** – Participants arrive in Santo Domingo for the Los Haitises/Ridgway's Hawk pretrip; afternoon transfer to Sabana de la Mar and our most unique hotel, the Cano Hondo; afternoon birding the grounds of the hotel followed by tour orientation and opening dinner.

**March 11** – Most of day birding in Los Haitises National Park in search of the critically endangered and little known Ridgway's Hawk. This trip included the boat ride through the mangroves and calm water of Samana Bay. Filled with outstanding scenery and large numbers of birds, this was one of the most enjoyable elements of the pretrip. Late afternoon return to Sabana de la Mar.

**March 12** – Another Ridgway's Hawk search in our final morning at Sabana de la Mar for the people who were not able to make the lengthy hike the day before. Late morning return to the hotel; post-lunch departure for Monte Plata with arrival there in the evening; post-dinner night drive through a palm oil plantation in search of Ashy-faced and Barn Owls.

**March 13** – Early morning return to the plantation for the Double-striped Thick-knee search. Late morning return to Santo Domingo with a stop at the National Aquarium to search for White-tailed Tropicbirds. Early afternoon check-in at the hotel. Late in the afternoon before dinner we ventured outside to witness the throngs of Hispaniolan Parakeets coming in to their evening roost around the hotel. Meanwhile, the final tour participant arrived in Santo Domingo today to begin the Dominican Republic main tour.

**March 14** – Most of morning spent birding at the Dr. Raphael M. Moscoso National Botanic Gardens. Late morning return to the hotel for packing up and departure for the southwest corner of the country, final destination, Barahona. Late afternoon arrival in Barahona.

**March 15** – Today was spent almost entirely on the south side of the Bahoruco Mountains. Beginning with a very birdy stop and a roadside picnic breakfast in Jaragua National Park, we then worked our way up wonderful Alcoa Rd where we would spend most of the rest of the day birding. Our main goal was finding the recently split Hispaniolan Crossbill, which ultimately took all morning. During our descent we stopped and birded a couple of roadside locations.

**March 16** – Extremely early departure for the cloud forest high up on the north side of the Sierra de Bahoruco above the potato market at Zapoten. Arriving shortly before dawn, we arranged ourselves on the road for the purpose of watching for the rarely seen and nearly mythical LaSelle Thrush and White-fronted Quail-Dove. We would eventually end up spending the rest of the morning in search of the other higher elevation species that we so dearly wanted to see.

**March 17** – Pre-dawn departure for the Baboruco Mountains for birding at the lower elevations. Starting with a predawn nightbird search, we then ate breakfast and birded in the vicinity of “Los Naranjos.” Down now to just a few of the endemic bird species we had still not seen we went down to the park boundary sign and spent considerable time in the dry forest there. We then ate lunch at Kate’s property at “Rabo de Gato,” before spending much of the rest of the afternoon searching for the stubborn Bay-breasted Cuckoo. Late afternoon trip to Lago Enriquillo (north shore) in search of the Hispaniolan Palm Crow.

**March 18** – Mid-morning departure for Santo Domingo, arriving there in time for lunch in the colonial plaza; post lunch walking tour of colonial Santo Domingo with Lynn Guitar, an expert on the history of the Spanish colonial era in the West Indies.

**March 19** – Tour concludes with departing flights home.

#### NOTES ON TAXONOMY AND ARRANGEMENT OF THIS LIST

This list is organized according to the official checklist of North American Birds as determined by the American Ornithological Union (AOU) through the most recent (45<sup>th</sup>) supplement. The primary field guide for this tour is *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies*, by Herbert Raffaele et. al., published by Princeton University Press in 1998. Since the original publication, the guide has been reprinted in a smaller paperback version in which the text has been slimmed down. Since the original publication of the book, several taxonomic changes have occurred, mostly involving splits of several species of birds that are also known to occur on other islands of the Greater Antilles. In the case of the Hispaniolan Crossbill, it was split from the nominate birds of northern North America. The result is that the island of Hispaniola now contains more endemic bird species than any other island in the Caribbean, for a total of 31. Sadly enough, it must be noted that at least two species are now considered endemic due to their extinction on other islands which they formerly inhabited, specifically Golden Swallow and White-necked Crow.

To put the success of our trip into perspective, as well as to highlight the remarkable qualities of island biogeography, we can look at our trip from a numbers standpoint, for it is the numbers that tell the tale. As is typical of island avifauna, the species diversity is not high compared to what we find on continental landmasses. Furthermore, waterbirds, in the form of migratory shorebirds, pelagic species like frigatebirds and boobies, and widespread herons and egrets often comprise a significant percentage of the total number of birds seen.

Including the pretrip, we recorded 104 species on our visit to the Dominican Republic, of which 20 were birds associated with the shore, sea or other aquatic habitats. This is nearly 20% of our species total. Of the remaining 83 species, 45 were endemic or near

endemic! Of the 31 species endemic to the D.R. we saw 26 and heard 1 other for a total of 27 recorded. We also found 14 other species that, while not island endemic, are endemic to the Caribbean region as a whole. Throw in another 4 species that are nearly endemic and one can see just how specialized and unique a region this is. This was our fourth tour to the Dominican Republic in the last five years and was our best effort yet.

The list of Endemic species we recorded is as follows:

- 1) Ridgway's Hawk
- 2) White-fronted Quail-Dove – See the species account in the birdlist for more about this recently split species; the other form, now called Gray-fronted Quail-Dove occurs in declining numbers in Cuba.
- 3) Hispaniolan Parakeet
- 4) Hispaniolan Parrot
- 5) Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo
- 6) Least Poorwill
- 7) Hispaniolan Nightjar – Known as Greater Antillean Nightjar formerly, it was recently split from the populations in Cuba – Heard only
- 8) Hispaniolan Emerald
- 9) Hispaniolan Trogon
- 10) Broad-billed Tody
- 11) Narrow-billed Tody
- 12) Antillean Piculet
- 13) Hispaniolan Woodpecker
- 14) Hispaniolan Pewee
- 15) Flat-billed Vireo
- 16) Hispaniolan Palm Crow
- 17) White-necked Crow – Fossil records indicate this bird's presence on the Virgin Islands, and it was known to occur on Puerto Rico until 1963.
- 18) Golden Swallow – Formerly occurring on Jamaica, it has not been seen in at least 15 years
- 19) LaSelle Thrush
- 20) Palmchat
- 21) Green-tailed Ground-Tanager – No longer considered a warbler, but really more of a tanager, we should expect future changes regarding its placement on the AOU list.
- 22) White-winged Warbler - same
- 23) Black-crowned Palm-Tanager
- 24) Western Chat-Tanager – Split into Eastern and Western species, with the range of the eastern still being determined.
- 25) Hispaniolan Spindalis
- 26) Antillean Siskin
- 27) Hispaniolan Crossbill – Split recently from the nominate White-winged Crossbill of the far north; some authorities propose that this bird is actually more closely related to populations of Red Crossbill

in Mexico and Central America.

List of endemic birds we did not see:

- 28) Ashy-faced Owl – Despite our effort in what seemed like a fairly reliable area outside Monte Plata, we could not find this species, which our experience is telling us is the hardest of the endemics to find.
- 29) Bay-breasted Cuckoo – This species is actually reasonably common, however, unless it is vocalizing, it can seem nonexistent. Despite most of a day allocated to intensive searching, we were turned away, never able to find one. Our mounting experience with this bird indicates that its level of activity is closely tied to the rains of spring and summer.
- 30) Eastern Chat-Tanager – We have not yet looked for this species on a tour as, until very recently, we did not have any locations that were both close and accessible.
- 31) Gray-crowned Palm-Tanager – Not only is this bird a Hispaniolan endemic, it seems to be an endemic of Haiti. Until very recently it was believed to be ungettable, however, this situation may be changing

List of other endemics of the Caribbean region:

- 1) Scaly-naped Pigeon
- 2) Plain Pigeon
- 3) Key West Quail-Dove
- 4) Antillean Palm Swift
- 5) Antillean Mango
- 6) Vervain Hummingbird
- 7) Greater Antillean Elaenia
- 8) Stolid Flycatcher
- 9) Rufous-throated Solitaire
- 10) Red-legged Thrush
- 11) Greater Antillean Bullfinch
- 12) Antillean Euphonia
- 13) Greater Antillean Grackle
- 14) Greater Antillean Oriole

List of near endemics:

- 1) White-crowned Pigeon
- 2) Zenaida Dove
- 3) Black-whiskered Vireo
- 4) Caribbean Martin – This species is an endemic breeder, but winters in South America

Finally, as you read through the list, note that a great number of species appear in bold face while others are underlined, and some are both. The following explanation should add meaning to what you see.

Birds species whose Common Name appears in **bold face** print are those species that we deem to be of extra special interest.

Bird species, more specifically, whose Common Name **and** Scientific Name appear in **bold face** print are species endemic to Hispaniola. To further emphasize this point, an **(E)** has been placed next to the Common Name to signify this.

Bird species whose names are underlined are species seen **only** on the pretrip. There are 17 of these.

Happy Birding!

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

March 13 - 18, 2005

## LOS HAITISES PRETRIP

March 10 - 13, 2005

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
<b>GREBES</b> Least Grebe	<b>Podicipedidae</b> <i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	A pair seen well near a nest in the botanic gardens
<b>TROPICBIRDS</b> <u>White-tailed Tropicbird</u>	<b>Phaethontidae</b> <i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	Seen only by Doug at the National Aquarium; kind of disappointing as we knew they were nesting nearby
<b>BOOBIES</b> <u>Brown Booby</u>	<b>Sulidae</b> <i>Sula leucogaster</i>	One seen exceptionally well on an offshore rock at Los Haitises
<b>PELICANS</b> Brown Pelican	<b>Pelicanidae</b> <i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i>	
<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b> <u>Magnificent Frigatebird</u>	<b>Fregatidae</b> <i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Wonderful looks at adults & immatures; several displaying males were impressive as they sat with distended pouches on the offshore rocks of Los Haitises
<b>HERONS &amp; EGRETS</b> Great Blue Heron Great Egret <u>Little Blue Heron</u> Snowy Egret Cattle Egret Green Heron <u>Black-crowned Night-Heron</u>	<b>Ardeidae</b> <i>Ardea herodias</i> <i>Ardea alba</i> <i>Egretta caerulea</i> <i>Egretta thula</i> <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> <i>Butorides virescens</i> <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	
<b>VULTURES</b> Turkey Vulture	<b>Cathartidae</b> <i>Cathartes aura</i>	
<b>OSPREY</b> <u>Osprey</u>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Seen offshore from the boat at Los Haitises N.P.
<b>HAWKS</b>	<b>Accipitridae</b>	

Sharp-shinned Hawk

*Accipiter Striatus*

The endemic island form; seen well twice in the Bahoruco Mtns.; a little larger than the nominate form, this species is most likely the source of erroneously reported Ridgway's Hawks from the Bahoruco Mtns.

Red-tailed Hawk  
**Ridgway's Hawk (E)**

*Buteo Jamaicensis*  
***Buteo ridgwayi***

Ever since we began operating tours to the D.R. in 1999, it has been a fantasy of ours to be able to show this bird, one of the world's rarest, to birders who traveled with us here. After a number of years of only hoping, we finally found a place to take tour participants to look for this highly endangered species. So, off we went to Los Haitises in the northeastern part of the country. All of us were ecstatic over the fact that we saw two separate pair over the course of two days. The first was probably the most rewarding as it involved a lengthy hike through heavy forest, up hill and down valleys, through some of the most beautiful landscapes in this country; a totally unforgettable experience for everybody!

#### **FALCONS**

American Kestrel  
Merlin

***Falconidae***  
*Falco sparverius*  
*Falco columbarius*

Common and seen daily  
Seen three days in all; wintering individuals

Peregrine Falcon

*Falco Peregrinus*

#### **RAILS, GALLINUELS & COOTS**

Common Moorhen

***Rallidae***  
*Gallinula chloropus*

#### **LIMPKIN**

Limpkin

***Aramidae***  
*Aramus guarauna*

Excellent looks at the Botanic Gardens

#### **THICK-KNEES**

**Double-striped Thick-Knee**

***Burhinidae***  
*Burhinus bistriatus*

Good studies of a pair at the palm plantation outside Monte Plata; In the Caribbean, this species occurs only in the D.R.

#### **PLOVERS & LAPWINGS**

Killdeer

*Charadrius vociferus*

**SANDPIPERS & ALLIES**

Solitary Sandpiper

***Scolopacidae****Tringa solitaria*

2 at the Botanic Gardens; good studies

Spotted Sandpiper*Actitis macularia***TERNs**Caspian Tern*Sterna caspia*Royal Tern*Sterna maxima***PIGEONS & DOVES**

Rock Pigeon (I)

***Columbidae****Columba livia***Scaly-naped Pigeon***Patagioenas squamosa*

Several flyovers on the Alcoa Rd.; best was the perched bird in the scope as we were heading down the mountain

**Plain Pigeon***Patagioenas inornata*

Bahoruco Mtns.; seen mainly in flight

**White-crowned Pigeon***Patagioenas leucocephala*

Seen only at Los Haitises; while largely reduced in overall numbers, we did see at least a dozen birds, including a few perched individs.

Mourning Dove

*Zenaida macroura*

White-winged Dove

*Zenaida asiatica***Zenaida Dove***Zenaida aurita*

Excellent looks at a perched individual at middle elevation in the Bahoruco Mtns.

Common Ground-Dove

*Columbina passerina***Key West Quail-Dove***Geotrygon chrysis*

On our final morning of birding, we were so lucky to have an individual fly down the center of the road directly in front of us!

**Ruddy Quail-Dove***Geotrygon montana*

This bird was seen in similar fashion by perhaps three members of the group only minutes before the Key West Quail-Dove appeared

**White-fronted Quail-Dove (E)*****Geotrygon leucometopia***

Certainly one of the most exciting birds of the trip, we enjoyed fantastic views of at least 10 individuals higher up in the cloud forest of the Bahoruco Mtns.; both the number of individuals and the quality looks we had was nearly stupefying; this species was formerly called Gray-Headed Quail-Dove, but was split recently; the Hispaniolan birds received this name; note that we referred to this bird as White-crowned Quail-Dove on the tour and this

is apparently not right

**PARROTS & PARAKEETS**  
**Hispaniolan Parakeet (E)**

***Psittacidae***  
***Aratinga chloroptera***

The several hundred around the hotel in Santo Domingo were rather astonishing, especially since we didn't see many more in other parts of the country. An introduced bird that seems to be slowly spreading; excellent looks at feeding birds in the middle elevations of the Bahoruco Mtns.

Olive-throated Parakeet (I)

*Aratinga nana*

An escaped cage bird in with the big numbers of native parakeets outside the hotel in Santo Domingo.

(Rose-ringed Parakeet)

*Psittacula krameri*

Another escaped cage bird in with the other parakeets.

(Budgerigar)

*Melopsittacus undulatus*

**Hispaniolan Parrot (E)**

***Amazona ventralis***

Though seen in small numbers most days of the trip, this species has slipped into precipitous decline; the perched birds in the cloudforest of the Bahoruco were easily the best.

**CUCKOOS**  
**Mangrove Cuckoo**

***Cuculidae***  
***Coccyzus minor***

Seen several places, but the best looks by far were at the Botanic Gardens, where we had prolonged, close studies for all; easily the best trip ever for this species.

**Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo (E)** ***Saurothera longirostris***

Both big and bold, we had excellent views repeatedly of this species throughout the trip. Fairly common throughout.

Smooth-billed Ani

**BARN OWLS**  
Barn Owl

***Tytonidae***  
***Tyto alba***

One perched bird in the palm plantation outside Monte Plata.

**TYPICAL OWLS**  
Burrowing Owl

***Strigidae***  
***Athene cunicularia***

Several seen along the roadside on both sides of the Bahoruco Mtns., with 1 standing in the middle of the road.

**NIGHTJARS & ALLIES**  
**Least Poorwill (E)**

***Caprimulgidae***  
***Siphornis brewsteri***

Our best looks ever for this species; after great persistence,

<b>Hispaniolan Nightjar (E)</b>	<b><i>Caprimulgus ekmani</i></b>	when it looked like we had run out of time, it was Ron who spotted the bird in the dense trees just off the road; heard calling loud and clear as well Heard only to our disappointment; we had numbers of them calling loudly on the ridges around us, but alas, we ran out of time
<b>Northern Potoo</b>	<b><i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i></b>	Discovered by Doug by day at Rabo de Gato - Great find!
<b>SWIFTS</b>	<b><i>Apodidae</i></b>	
<b>White-collared Swift</b>	<b><i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i></b>	Seen well on the north slopes of the Bahoruco Mtns.; Alcoa Rd. A Greater Antillean Endemic; Seen every day of the trip; an ever-present companion to our daily activities
<b>Antillean Palm Swift</b>	<b><i>Tachornis phoenicoiba</i></b>	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>	<b><i>Trochilidae</i></b>	
<b>Antillean Mango</b>	<b><i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i></b>	Endemic to Hispaniola and Puerto Rico, this beautiful hummingbird was seen most day; however, it took a while to finally see a male
<b>Hispaniolan Emerald (E)</b>	<b><i>Chlorostilbon swainsomii</i></b>	More scarce this year, it took a while to finally get this bird for everybody; seen well in two places; the cloud forest in the Bahoruco highlands, and, most surprisingly, at Kate's property in the lowlands at Rabo de Gato above Puerto Escondido.
<b>Vervain Hummingbird</b>	<b><i>Mellisuga minima</i></b>	One of the world's smallest birds, we encountered them plentifully at the National Botanic Gardens
<b>TROGONS</b>		
<b>Hispaniolan Trogon (E)</b>	<b><i>Priotelus roseigaster</i></b>	This was our best trip yet for this species; we had numerous spectacular looks at this bird in the cloud forest of the Bahoruco Mtns.; a most unusual and striking bird
<b>TODIES</b>	<b><i>Todidae</i></b>	
<b>Broad-billed Tody (E)</b>	<b><i>Todus subulatus</i></b>	Perhaps the signature bird species of the Caribbean; Hispaniola is the only island with two types; we enjoyed this species on a daily basis as they constantly called, scolded and fluttered about the

<b>Narrow-billed Tody (E)</b>	<b><i>Todus angustirostris</i></b>	forest; a welcome sight throughout our trip Occurring mostly at higher elevations, we did not see this species as commonly as the other; nevertheless, we did have great studies in the cloud forest of the Bahorucos; surprising was the individual in the lowlands at Rabo de Gato.
<b>WOODPECKERS &amp; ALLIES</b>	<b><i>Picidae</i></b>	
<b>Antillean Piculet (E)</b>	<b><i>Nesocittes micromegas</i></b>	Most years this bird is never easy to find. Usually a shy and only marginally responsive, it usually takes several attempts to locate it. This was our best tour ever for this species also, with good encounters in Los Haitises on two separate occasions and others up Alcoa Rd.; still more heard calling in other locales Both delightfully common and boldly marked, this impressive species is one of the most widespread of Hispaniola's endemic birds.
<b>Hispaniolan Woodpecker (E)</b>	<b><i>Melanerpes striatus</i></b>	
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<b><i>Tyrannidae</i></b>	
<b>Greater Antillean Elaenia</b>	<b><i>Elaenia fallax</i></b>	Excellent studies in the cloud forests of the Bahoruco Mtns. Seen well on the pretrip both days at Los Haitises National Park; on the main trip we had the bird well higher up in the cloud forest in the Bahoruco Mountains; also seen well at middle elevations, i.e. Los Naranjos and Rabo de Gato
<b>Hispaniolan Pewee (E)</b>	<b><i>Contopus hispaniolensis</i></b>	
<b>Stolid Flycatcher</b>	<b><i>Myiarchus stolidus</i></b>	Common and seen most days with the best sightings occurring on the pretrip at the hotel near Los Haitises National Park; and on the main tour at Jaragua National Park
Gray Kingbird	<b><i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i></b>	
<b>VIREOS</b>	<b><i>Vireonidae</i></b>	
<b><u>Yellow-throated Vireo</u></b>	<b><i>Vireo flavifrons</i></b>	An extremely rare bird in the D.R. Seen by perhaps 2 or 3 only deep in the forest at Los Haitises
<b>Black-whiskered Vireo</b>	<b><i>Vireo altiloquus</i></b>	Very common in Los Haitises; more in the Botanic Garden; and

<b>Flat-billed Vireo (E)</b>	<b><i>Vireo nanus</i></b>	still more in the Bahoruco Mtns.; Lorna's favorite bird of the trip! Probably one of the more difficult of the endemic birds to track down, we had little trouble this year; during breakfast the final morning, Doug located an intermittently calling individual along the road at "Los Naranjos"
<b>CROWS</b> <b>Hispaniolan Palm Crow (E)</b>		Our final Hispaniolan endemic, we enjoyed wonderful studies along the shore of Lago Enriquillo; approximately 30 birds
<b>White-necked Crow (E)</b>	<b><i>Corvus leucognaphalus</i></b>	Usually the area around Puerto Escondido is the only reliable place for this declining species; however, the interior of Los Haitises National Park in the northeast part of the country is full of them and they were easy this year; the best looks, of course, were of the "pet" bird at our hotel
<b>MARTINS &amp; SWALLOWS</b> <b>Caribbean Martin</b>		Seen briefly on the pretrip, it wasn't until we visited the charco up Alcoa Rd. that we saw this Caribbean endemic; males and females
<b>Golden Swallow (E)</b>	<b><i>Tachycineta euchyrsea</i></b>	This bird historically was not an endemic bird of Hispaniola; also occurring on Jamaica it has not been seen there in 20 years; this bird is almost certainly extinct there; we had numerous quality looks at this species in the highlands of the Bahoruco Mtns on both slopes
<b>THRUSHES &amp; ALLIES</b> <b>Rufous-throated Solitaire</b>		Seen well by all in the cloud forest of the Bahoruco highlands; a beautiful bird with an equally beautiful song
<b>Red-legged Thrush</b>	<b><i>Turdus plumbeus</i></b>	Best tour ever for this glamorous species; excellent looks at a singing bird up Alcoa Rd.
<b>La Selle Thrush (E)</b>	<b><i>Turdus swalesi</i></b>	One of the tour's most exciting birds; this is a very shy and

rarely seen species that requires great effort to get; after years of missing it, we finally had an opportunity to enjoy at length this wonderful and rare bird; to do so required a 2:30 a.m. departure from the hotel and then a long, drive up a rocky mountain road. Was it worth it? You bet!

### **MOCKINGBIRDS**

Northern Mockingbird

*Mimus polyglottos*

### **PALMCHAT**

**Palmchat (E)**

***Dulidae***

***Dulus dominicus***

The most common of the island endemics, we had this species both far and wide in about every habitat imaginable; seen also at their communal nesting sites or "apartments"

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

Northern Parula

*Parula americana*

Magnolia Warbler

*Dendroica magnolia*

Cape May Warbler

*Dendroica tigrina*

Black-throated Blue Warbler

*Dendroica caerulescens*

Black-throated Green Warbler

*Dendroica virens*

Yellow-rumped Warbler

*Dendroica coronata*

Pine Warbler

*Dendroica pinus*

Prairie Warbler

*Dendroica discolor*

Palm Warbler

*Dendroica palmarum*

Black-and-white Warbler

*Mniotilta varia*

American Redstart

*Setophaga ruticilla*

Ovenbird

*Seiurus aurocapillus*

Northern Waterthrush

*Seiurus noveboracensis*

Louisiana Waterthrush

*Seiurus motacilla*

Common Yellowthroat

*Geothlypis trichas*

Endemic subspecies

### **BANANAQUIT**

**Bananaquit**

***Coerebidae***

***Coereba flaveola***

From a numbers standpoint, this bird is probably the most common bird on the island; many seen daily

### **TANAGERS & ALLIES**

**Green-tailed Ground-Tanager (E) *Microligea palustris***

Formerly called Green-tailed Warbler, and then referred to as Green-tailed Ground-Warbler, this bird was traditionally placed with the New World Warbler group. Recent genetic work indicates that this species is actually

<b>White-winged Warbler (E)</b>	<i>Xenoligea montana</i>	more closely related to the tanagers; seen most commonly in the higher elevations of the Bahoruco Mtns., but others seen at all elevations Also a traditional member of the New World Warbler group, this species is apparently more closely related to the tanagers as well. Several good studies in the cloud forests of the Bahoruco Mountains.
<b>Black-crowned Palm-Tanager (E)</b>	<b><i>Phaenicophilus palmarum</i></b>	Fairly common and seen most days; many excellent studies of brightly marked birds
<b>Western Chat-Tanager (E)</b>	<b><i>Calyptophilus tertius</i></b>	Another of the D.R.'s more difficult to find species; although large, this bird is of a skulking and reclusive nature, and its periods of vocalizing are highly unpredictable, so it was especially gratifying to get after much searching and when it appeared we had run out of time
<b>Hispaniolan Spindalis (E)</b>	<b><i>Spindalis dominicensis</i></b>	Several in the highlands, with showy males well-studied in the scope
<b>GRASSQUITS &amp; BULLFINCHES <i>Emberizidae</i></b>		
<b>Yellow-faced Grassquit</b>	<i>Tiaris Olivacea</i>	Fairly common and seen well most days
<b>Greater Antillean Bullfinch</b>	<i>Loxigilla violacea</i>	Seen best at Jaragua National Park; other seen elsewhere
<b>BLACKBIRDS &amp; ORIOLES <i>Icteridae</i></b>		
<b>Greater Antillean Grackle</b>	<i>Quiscalus niger</i>	Seen on both the pretrip and the main tour, but definitely best the final afternoon at Rabo de Gato, where we had a calling male in the scope
<b>Greater Antillean Oriole</b>	<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	Repeated good looks at bright males and odd immatures around the hotel grounds on the pretrip; another couple seen outside the hotel in Barahona on the main trip
<b>EUPHONIAS &amp; SISKINS <i>Fringillidae</i></b>		
<b>Antillean Euphonia</b>	<i>Euphonia musica</i>	Seen in two places, but clearly best in the cloud forest of the Bahoruco Mtns.; several bright males perched atop sunlit trees;

**Antillean Siskin (E)**

***Carduelis dominicensis***

another at Rabo de Gato  
When it appeared, yet again,  
that we were out of time with a  
species; persistence and luck  
would descend upon us and  
deliver us to the land of satisfaction  
where those birders who say "I  
got it" go. A brightly marked male  
at middle elevations in the  
Bahoruco Mountains was seen  
well and studied by all in the  
scope. Simply put - How  
fortunate can you be?

**Hispaniolan Crossbill (E)**

***Loxia megaplaga***

The most recently split Hispaniolan  
endemic, we had excellent looks  
at a pair high up at the end of  
Alcoa Rd.; This species was a  
no-show at the traditional spot this  
year, but thanks to a helpful park  
guard, we went to a new place  
and eventually had wonderful  
studies of a pair coming into a  
water drip - Once again - how  
lucky can you be?

**TOTAL = 104**

## BUTTERFLY LIST

### Common Name

Lesser False Fritillary  
False Fritillary  
Large Tiger  
Monarch  
Silver King  
Many-banded Daggerwing  
Orion  
Malachite  
Haitian Admiral  
Haitian Cracker  
White Peacock  
Redrim  
Julia  
Zebra  
Mountain Swallowtail  
Polydamas Swallowtail  
Androgeus Swallowtail  
Cloudless Sulphur  
Large Orange Sulphur

### Scientific Name

Anetia briarea  
Anetia pantherata  
Lycorea cleobaea  
Danaus plexippus  
Archeoprepona demophon  
Marpesia chiron  
Historius odius  
Siproeta stelenes  
Adelpha gelania  
Hamadryas amphichloe  
Anartia jatrophae  
Biblis hyperia  
Dryas iulia  
Heliconius vanillae  
Battus zetides  
Battus polydamas  
Heraclides androgeus  
Phoebis sennae  
Phoebis agarithe