

Cuba March 2011

Flew to Havana from Manchester with Air France on February 28th. Flight delayed by 3 hours at Paris otherwise uneventful. Immigration at Havana slow despite numerous desks open. Taxi to first night's lodging was 23 CUC.

March 1st. Havana

Spent day sightseeing.

Saw Northern Mockingbirds, House Sparrows, Turkey Vultures, Collared Doves, Antillean Palm Swifts, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelicans, Caspian Tern, Lesser Black-backed Gull.....Didn't have scope with us so couldn't ID other birds seen!

March 2nd. Havana – Soroa

Picked up rental car. Was supposed to be a Geely but got stuck with a stupid little Hyundai. Automatic so we had to pay an extra 5 CUC per day on top of the insurance. Not happy. Had to warm engine up a lot in the mornings! Very chuggy and not good uphill! Also, it ran on "special" and not all service stations sell that so beware! Not as many buying opportunities as in England either.

Journey to Soroa on motorway exciting! Watch out for potholes, pedestrians, hitch hikers jumping into the road, ox-carts, vendors on the road (onions, garlic etc), loose cows, horses and carts, cyclists in the fast lane, pedestrians, drivers doing u-turns, traffic crossing the motorway, buses stopping, non-coned off roadworks, accidents etc, and any form of transport going in the wrong direction! Fortunately the roads are not busy once you get out of towns! Fancy a brew and the stall's on the other side of the motorway? No probs – either cross over in your car or just park up and wander across at your leisure. Warning – if you are going to Soroa, the turn off is BEFORE the sign on the bridge! Quite a common ploy.....

Found our house in Soroa OK then went down to the Mirador for lunch. 1CUC for the car park. Ate at the restaurant there for 12.75 CUC. Saw our first Red-legged Thrush, Tri-colored Heron and Louisiana Waterthrush. Went to the orchid place round the corner. Again 1CUC for the car park and 3 each to go in plus 1 each for a camera. It was a nice walk round but disappointing on the orchid front which is why we went there. Just had a drive round the countryside after that.

Turkey Vulture (common)

Mourning Dove (common)

Snowy Egret

Cattle Egret (common)

Red-legged Thrush (common)

Loggerhead Kingbird (common)

Louisiana Waterthrush

Northern Mockingbird (common)

Loggerhead Kingbird

Smooth-billed Ani

Cuban Emerald m+f

Cuban Green Woodpecker

Cuban Blackbird

West Indian Woodpecker

Tri-coloured Heron x2
Antillean Grackle (common)
Yellow-faced Grassquit
American Kestrel

March 3rd. La Guira

We spotted a Broadwinged hawk in a tree opposite our *casa*.
On way to San Diego los Banos added the following to our list:
Snail kite x 6

Met up with Julio Cesar at the Mirador Hotel in San Diego. Lovely man. Speaks good English. Very helpful. Rang us at our *casa* to apologise for not being able to take us out while we were there but drew a couple of maps and brought them to the hotel for us. (Attached) Contact him on: personal@mirador.sandiego.co.cu

We then went straight off to the Cueva de Los Portales. It was about 32kms away using Julio's directions. N.B. the Cubans do not have road signs except on major routes if you are lucky! The last bit is down a right bad road then you suddenly arrive at a holiday camp! Park there and walk to the cave. It is very interesting. It was 1CUC each to go in plus 1 for a camera. We heard the Cuban solitaire almost straightaway! Amazing to listen to but not so easy to find! We were successful but couldn't get a photo because of where it was. We also saw a few Cave Swallows and added Palm Warbler to our list.

Next stop was La Guira. We followed the instructions given in several bird reports: up the road for about 7kms. DON'T BOTHER!!! The road is absolutely horrendous – we haven't seen a road that bad since we went up-river in The Gambia. We eventually gave up having already done 7kms. At that point I would have had to walk in front of the car removing branches etc from the road! We just wasted a good hour there.

A much better idea would be to follow Julio's suggestion and enter the National Park by a path to the right of the Hacienda (if you can find it!). We next went to Julio's spot by the road in San Diego and spent a pleasant hour there where we added Indigo Bunting and Cuban Grassquit to our list. We also watched an American Kestrel (red morph) feeding its young in a hole in a palm tree.

We saw a field full of Pea fowl on our way home and lots of American kestrels throughout in a variety of plumage!

March 4th. Soroa – Zapata

Up early for a visit to the Mirador waterfall before setting off. Serenaded throughout by a Cuban Solitaire but unable to see one because not in right direction! Lovely walk. No-one manning the entry but nothing to stop us going in. We made sure we paid on the way out though. It was a lovely walk and I could easily have spent the full morning round there. Lots of birds around but our only new ones were Cuban Trogons (exquisite), Black and White Warblers, American Redstart, Lizard Cuckoo (fantastic bird!).

Time to head for that motorway again.... You will know you have got to the end when you are confronted by broken-up road and a pile of rubble.....

We stayed in Playa Giron with Ricardo Abella. We would have been better staying in Playo Largo but I have to say that his food was out-of this world! Both places are only small and are about 30 minutes apart.

We went for a walk round and saw Killdeer and Ruddy Turnstone.

March 5th. Zapata

We met up with Angel at the Playa Largo hotel at 8h00. Followed him to his house on his bike then went off in our car. We spent all morning in the forest walking the area called Los Hondones. We were fascinated by the crabs! All sorts of different colours and very comical to watch. They were bigger than I had expected. Not edible. We lunched at a *casa* in Playo Largo (yummy crocodile) then collected Angel at 15h00 to go to Sopillar. We clocked up 27 new species today:

White Ibis

Zenaida Dove

La Sagra Flycatcher

Cuban Oriole

Tawny-shouldered Blackbird

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Northern Parula

Common Yellowthroat

Worm-eating Warbler

Cuban Tody (my favourite bird of the holiday)

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher

Black-throated Green Warbler

Ovenbird

Cuban Vireo

Bee Hummingbird

Cuban Peewee

Yellow-headed Warbler

Merlin (flying)

Magnolia Warbler

Cuban Bullfinch

Black Hawk

Cuban Ground Dove

Cuban Nightjar

Barn Swallow

Tree Swallow

Screech Owl

Osprey

Crested Caracara

Sunday March 6th La Turba

6h30 start and off to La Turba specifically for the Zapata Wren and Sparrow. We got the Wren after a while but not the Sparrow which seemed to have been seen off by a coachload of Americans! We stopped at the gardens by the crocodile farm (La Boca) on the way back and lunched at the same *casa* as yesterday picking Angel up later to go to the Sopillar area.

New birds for the day were:

Prairie Warbler
Common Moorhen
Zapata Wren
Green Heron
Neotropic Cormorant
Northern Waterthrush
Red-shouldered Blackbird
Pygmy Owl
Great Blue Heron
Cuban Crow
Purple Gallinule
Cuban Parrot
Anhinga
Cape May Warbler
Northern Jacana
Solitary Sandpiper
Fernandina's Flicker

Monday March 7th

We picked Angel up at 6h30 again to go back for the Zapata sparrow. This time we were successful though we had to wait quite a while for them to appear. Well worth it. We also found Black-crowned Night Heron, White-crowned Pigeon, Grey-headed Ground Quail and Yellow-billed Sapsucker but not the Stygian Owl we had been looking for. It was a long journey to Trinidad so we had to set off late morning. If you use Angel as a guide, you must get him to impersonate a lizard cuckoo!! Wonderful! He can be contacted on chino.zapata@gmail.com

He charges 50 CUCs a day.

We stopped a café near a prison for lunch: 2 ham buns each plus 2 sugar cane drinks for the princely sum of 16pesos (their money). If you can get hold of the peoples' money as opposed to tourist money it is well worth it. Yu can buy things a lot more cheaply and easily. Don't change money with people in the street though. We got some by buying hot-dogs in a small shop where they gave us change in their money.

When we got to Trinidad, we stopped to ask directions to our casa. The lad we asked immediately recognised the name of the person we were staying with and said he would take us there if we followed him on his bike. So off we went along a very strange route and we soon became suspicious so turned the opposite way. We thought we had lost him but he reappeared with a man in bic-taxi (rickshaw pulled by a cyclist) who introduced himself as Humberto and got into the car saying his place was full and he would take us to a different casa which had room for us. Roland soon got him out of the car and told him he didn't believe him and to hop it. I went off to ask for directions from 2 ladies and they pointed us in the right direction, just around the corner. We stopped again on the way just to make sure and there were the 2 ladies again pointing out the route (bit like the 3 boys in the Magic Flute) and by the time we got to our destination, they were already there pointing at the door. Unfortunately so were our chappies from before along with another chap and a sour-faced looking woman. Despite hand shakes and introductions, we made it to the door and rang the

bell, all-the-while watched by our 2 ladies. To our relief the “real” Humberto answered but told us he was full strange that because he had rung our previous lodgings to make sure we were still coming and not mentioned being full..... Anyway he escorted us to a casa in the next street. An old colonial style house belonging to an old man and lady. With a sigh of relief, we took our bags in and then sat in the courtyard wondering what to do next. We eventually opted for a walk hoping our “friends” wouldn’t be lurking nearby. They weren’t. We were staying in the old part of the town which is very interesting with cobbled streets etc but has unfortunately fallen prey to “tourism”. Lots of tat but contained within a small area. A mixture of housing and standards. We were charged 2 CUCs a night to have someone watch our car overnight!

During our evening meal the old lady came with a tale of someone having rung me and about the person we were supposed to be staying with. Now, my Spanish is not right good so I wasn’t sure if I had understood correctly or if this was another scam but off we went to the “real” Umberto’s again. Yes, someone had rung me at his house the night before ... the next bit is too farcical to relate but concerns a whole series of telephone calls between him, the old lady and a chap called Elisir who was to be our guide on Cayo Coco. We eventually caught up with each other and made arrangements to meet the next day in Moron. I must say that Humberto’s house is pretty special!

Tuesday March 8th Trinidad-Moron

We couldn’t wait to get away from Trinidad. Not our cup of tea at all.

It was a long drive to Moron but we stopped a few times here and there. At the Rio Higuanojo we are pretty sure we saw a juvenile Least Grebe and a Pied-billed Grebe. There was also a Great White Egret and a Belted Kingfisher. Not much further on we stopped at a way-side “café” for lunch. It was on the left. There was a covered area with different vendors selling remarkably similar food. We opted for a dish of rice and beans with veg plus a huge slice of pork and also got a dish of white cabbage and tomato salad for the princely sum of 60 pesos – £1.50. A sugar cane drink was 1peso: 2.5p! There were other vendors too selling leather goods, flan, all sorts really!

Our *casa* was fine but the area was bizarre – a strange mixture of nice houses and dilapidated buildings – though we should have been used to it by that time. Quite unnerving at times. We were alright to leave our car outside during the night but would have to put it in someone else’s garage overnight – for 2 CUCs a night of course! Elisir didn’t turn up so we went out to explore Moron. Not a lot to see except for a fancy pizza place and a fast-food café. There were some nicely-fronted modern shops – very swish looking- but the usual lack of goods inside. The station is nice and there are some really beautiful old colonial buildings. When we got back home we were told we had missed Elisir but that he was coming back which he did. By heck, that man can talk! We wanted to use Odey Martinez as our guide whilst in this area so I had tried to contact him on the e-mail address I had found but I got a reply from Zoila at the Tryp Hotel on Cayo Coco and she said she would arrange everything for us. Unfortunately she still had not done so by the time we left home so I sent a last-minute e-mail telling her where we were staying in Giron and Elisir had got in touch with them and they had got in touch with Humberto and so on and so on.....

Anyway, he said he would guide for us for 39CUCs a day and that would include lunch, a drink and a snack.

Wednesday March 9th Cayo Coco

Elisir was prompt to arrive at 6h30. It was about 18h30 when we got back so we definitely got value for money even though we had to fork for lunch etc ourselves. Our first stop was by a field where we picked up Eastern Meadowlark. We then stopped at several ponds and the Milky Lagoon (Laguna de la Leche) on our way to the Causeway. Unfortunately much of the ponds was filled with water hyacinth so it was hard to see much though there were plenty of warblers and woodpeckers in the trees, including a Northern Flicker! At the lagoon we saw Laughing Gulls, Cuban Martin, Spotted Sandpiper, Palm Swift and Sandwich tern for the first time. There was also a large flock of Tawny-shouldered and Cuban Blackbirds.

To get onto the Causeway to Cayo Coco there is a toll of 2CUC per vehicle plus you need to show your passport. It is 25kms long. We stopped after a short distance and turned off for a walk where we saw:

Osprey (flying)
White-cheeked Pintail (Bahama Duck)
Black-necked Stilt
Willet x 2
Brown Pelicans
Double crested Cormorant
Ruddy Turnstone
Red-breasted Merganser
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Royal Tern
Lesser Yellowlegs
Western Sandpiper
Magnificent Frigatebird
Glossy Ibis (flying)
Crested Caracara (flying)
Belted Kingfisher (flying)
Eleven of these were new to us.

Further up the Causeway we stopped for:

Great White Egret
Great Blue Heron
Reddish Egret (20+)
Tri-colored Heron x 4
Little Blue Heron x 3
Snowy Egret

We then carried on along the road to the lighthouse: Faro Parandos, built in 1859, birding along the way. You have to cross a very exciting bridge! We added the following to our list: Yellow Warbler, Black Hawk, Thick-billed Vireo, Cuban Gnatcatcher, Oriente Warbler.

We had to stop at the Cubanacan offices so that Elisir could hand in his paperwork for the trip and there were some Black-cowled oriole on the aloe near the car park. We were able to change some money and fill up with petrol at the Rotunda, which was good as we were short on both. Lunch was at the Playa Prohibida. Lovely spot. Nice

food but not cheap. It cost 35 CUCs for the 3 of us including drinks and we were able to sit watching the pelicans diving for fish while we ate. Very pleasant. Our next stop was to be the Wild Boar Cave, Cueva del Jabali. I was really looking forward to this but when we got there, we found it was nothing but a disco cum nightclub and was in full swing! We still explored the forest area but found nothing new apart from Stripe headed Tanagers. There were loads of Oriente Warblers too! Time to split from the music and head for the reservoir near the dump where we found:

Northern Shoveler

American Wigeon

Spotted Sandpiper x 10

American Coot

Magnificent Frigatebird

Killdeer

Blue-winged Teal

Lesser Yellowlegs

Zenaida Dove

Time for home. By the time we got there, we had done over 200kms. Maybe staying in Moron wasn't the best idea.....

Thursday, March 10th Cayo Coco

6h00 start

Lots of mist over the fields.

A good start with 2 Clapper Rail on the Causeway. Stopped to watch them. Not at all fussed! Also saw a White-crowned Pigeon.

Our first stop was a lagoon Elisir said he hadn't visited for 10 years. We tried various ways of getting to it – the paths were a little overgrown and we had to climb over dead trees and mangrove to get to a decent viewing spot but boy! Was it worth it for there was a flock of 40+ American Avocet!! Initially I thought there were much less but when they were disturbed and flew up briefly it was apparent that there were at least 40! Fabulous! Our photos are not brilliant because they were quite a long way away, there was already a heat haze and we do not have highly sophisticated equipment. There were also 8 Blue-winged teal there and a reddish egret then 2 Roseate spoonbill flew in. Fabulous colours! Suddenly I didn't mind getting nibbled and scratched in the mangroves etc,

On our walk back through the forest we encountered a few mixed flocks of Yellow throated Vireo, La Sagra's Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warblers, Cuban vireos etc.

Today when we went to the Cubanaca office, there were Bananquits, Grackles and Emerald Hummingbirds in the aloe. They were beautiful to watch, glistening in the sunlight. Such wonderful colours.

Next stop was the horse place near the reservoir and dump – we managed to get excellent views of the White-winged Dove this time. There was nothing new on the reservoir and we carried on along the track to a small, but very deep lagoon surrounded by forest. Unfortunately there was nothing on it but we did get Key west Quail Dove and Zapata Sparrow (Cayo Coco morph) on the way back. White-eyed Vireo too! It was very, very difficult to see as it flitted about and didn't seem to want to land anywhere for more than a few seconds. We had to follow it for quite a way!

We were to go back to the cave next but stopped at another coastal lagoon first for Western, Semi-palmated and Least Sandpiper. All was quiet at the cave until Eliser got going with his tapes! We managed to get the female Red-legged Honeycreeper but not the male. I'm sure we would have got both without his interference.

Our next stop was Cayo Guillermo. We stopped at the end of the bridge for Laughing Gulls, Sandwich Tern, Ring-billed Gull, Black-backed Gull. A Crested Caracara flew over. We then spent at least an hour looking for a Bahama Mockingbird. In the end, Eliser spotted one but we didn't. Time for lunch in a noisy café by the sea. Not wonderful and again we had to pay.

Our next stop was a couple of lagoons near one of the hotels. My mingoos at last! Were they worth the wait? Absolutely! There may not have been many of them but the colours were splendid! One was almost red, it was so deeply coloured. Also present in large numbers were Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Black-necked Stilts and American Coots. Further along were some Great Blue Herons, Great White and Snowy egrets, a Cuban crow, lots of Short-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers together and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Excellent.

Our last stop of the day was by the bridge again. The tide was going out so there were quite a lot of birds about but we were looking into the sun and it was getting late. We were able to see White Ibis, Semi-palmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Tri-colored Herons, Royal Tern, Herring Gull x1, Wilson's Plover, herons and egrets And a Crested Caracara on the road on the way home! Only 215 kms today.

Friday, March 11th Moron-Havana

The long drive back to Havana. We didn't do any birding but we did stop off to look at the Estacion Ecologica Amarillos which is reached by leaving the motorway at KM164 and driving towards a rice plantation in the San Francisco area. It looked very interesting and obviously had lots of potential but we were there at the wrong time of day and didn't have time to spare. I would say it is worth an early morning visit.

Saturday, March 12th. Havana and Home ☺

We set off early to take our hire car back then we would have plenty of time for visiting Havana again. Alas, when we got there it was closed, despite the sign saying it would be open from 8h30 onwards ... What to do? We hung on and eventually a lady turned up lightly remonstrating with us for being too early! We obviously wanted to make sure we got the horrid little car back before 10h15, no way did we want to have to pay for an extra day but no! the 10h15 on the sheet was an APPOINTMENT not a DEADLINE!!! Anyway, despite all our complaints and a very small petrol tank, the car got us from A-B. And that's what counts.

By the way. If you are going round Havana, we can recommend the hop-on, hop-off buses for value but remember they only run every half-hour and in order to know where the bus stops are you have to do the full tour!! Everyone says the Coppelia's ice-cream place is outstanding. It isn't. Don't waste your time. We bought better on the street.

Eliser and Odey

Here are Elisir's details:

Elisir Socarras Torres

Mob. (53) 5360048

E-mail: commercial@viajes.cco.tur.cu

His English is good and he is excellent at forest birds both spotting them and identifying them by sound. He is much less good on gulls and waders. He went all out to find every bird we had not already seen and that could be found within the Jardines del Rey. He did not stint on his time and would have birded til nightfall given the chance. Unfortunately he talks a lot. And I mean, a lot. He also misuses tapes. If you can put up with that or can stop him using his tapes, he's great!

Odey Martinez.

Calle Novena#28, entre 12 y Final , Moron

Tel. (53) 5352627287

I tried to contact him on pbaga@enet.cu but you know what happened!

Books

We used the Helm Guide "Birds of Cuba" by H.Garrido and Arturo Kitkconnell. It is badly set out and the illustrations are poor. Fortunately we had down-loaded a lot of photos onto my I-pod and they proved to be very useful. Elisir had the West Indies bird book and whilst not perfect, the illustrations were better and the book is better laid out.

We also took with us the new book in the Prion Birdwatchers' Guide Series: "Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico and the Caymanns". We didn't use it a lot but had it in case we ended up without guides!

Doing things differently

Ideally, go for three weeks!

Learn more Spanish!

Personally, I would have liked to have seen more of the west, going on as far as Vinales. Partly as a tourist and partly as a birder. I would also have liked to visit Los Terrazos near Soroa. I wouldn't bother going up the road to the pines at San Diego de Los Banos.

I would not stay at Trinidad, We stopped there only to break the journey. I would stay at Playa Ancon and visit the Laguna La Chorrera where you can apparently see a good selection of waders and warblers, Cuban Gnatcatcher and Cuban Vireo. I would also like to have visited the Topes de Collantes

I would make the effort to visit the Estacion on the way to Zapata.

I would stay in Playa Largo rather than Playa Giron even though it means sacrificing fabulous food. ☺ I would spend 3 days or possibly 4 there rather than 2 and make sure we got to see the Stygian owls at night!

I would not stay in Moron to visit the Jardines del Rey. We wasted too much time travelling and it was a lot of driving for Roland.

Given extra time, I would visit Camaguey etc.

BIRD LIST

1. Least Grebe *

Juvenile seen at Rio Higuanojo

2. Pied-billed Grebe *

One at Rio Higuanojo

3. Brown Pelican

Seen at Havana, in roadside lakes and round Jardines del Rey

4. Double-crested Cormorant *

Seen round Jardines del Rey

5. Neotropic Cormorant *

Common on wetland sites

6. Anhinga

One at La Boca and one on the Rio Higuanojo

7. Magnificent Frigatebird

Singles seen at Havana, Playa Largo, Jardines del Rey

8. Great Blue Heron *

Seen at most wetland sites

9. Great White Egret

Seen at Rio Higuanojo, La Boca and Jardines del Rey

10. Snowy Egret

Common in small numbers at wetland sites

11. Tricolored Heron *

Common in small numbers at wetland sites

12. Little Blue Heron *

Common at wetland sites

13. Reddish Egret *

Only seen on Jardines del Rey

14. Cattle Egret

Common. Seen daily

15. Green heron

Common in small numbers at wetland sites

16. Black-crowned Night Heron

Several seen near La Turba

17. Yellow-crowned Night Heron*

One seen on Cayo Guillermo

18. White Ibis *

Small group at Playa Largo and a few at Cayo Guillermo

19. Glossy Ibis

Two seen flying near La Laguna de la Leche

20. Roseate Spoonbill *

Two seen on Cayo Coco

21. Greater Flamingo

About 50 in lagoon on Cayo Guillermo. Disappointed not to have seen more.

22. White-cheeked Pintail (Bahama Duck) *

Off the Causeway

23. Blue-winged Teal *

Cayo Guillermo (25+) and Cayo Coco (8)

24. American Wigeon

Cayo Coco

25. Northern Shoveler

Seen on Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo

26. Red-breasted Merganser

Seen in small numbers from the Causeway between the mainland and Cayo Coco

27. Osprey

Seen at most wetlands

28. Black Hawk *

Seen singly in Soroa, Los Hondones, Playa Largo, Caya Coco

29. Broad-winged Hawk *

One seen at Soroa

30. Snail kite *

Six seen on way to Soroa

31. Crested Caracara *

Seen in the Zapata, Playa Giron and Jardines del Rey areas

32. American Kestrel *

Widespread and common whether pale or rufous morph!

33. Merlin (flying) *

Los Hondones

34. Clapper Rail *

Two birds seen very well on the Causeway

35. Purple Gallinule

Seen several times in the Zapata area

36. Common Moorhen

Small numbers in all wetlands

37. American Coot *

Small numbers seen at wetlands but larger numbers on Cayo Guillermo (50+)

38. Northern Jacana *

One seen on pool in Sopillar area

39. Black-bellied (Grey) Plover *

Small numbers Cayo Guillermo

40. Wilson's Plover *

Small numbers on Cayo Guillermo

41. Semi-palmated Plover *

Small numbers on Cayo Guillermo

42. American Avocet *

Approximately 40 seen on Cayo Coco

43. Killdeer *

Seen (and heard!) at all wetlands

44. Black-necked Stilt *

Seen in large numbers on Jardines del Rey

45. Greater Yellowlegs

Seen on Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo in single numbers

46. Lesser Yellowlegs

Singles seen on Jardines del Rey

47. Western Willet *

Two seen off the Causeway

48. Spotted sandpiper

Seen on Cayo Coco, Laguna de la Leche

49. Solitary Sandpiper

One seen on a pool in the Sopillar area

50. Ruddy Turnstone

Small numbers at Playa Giron and off the Causeway

51. Semi-palmated Sandpiper *

Small numbers on pool near Cueva de

52. Western Sandpiper *

Small numbers on Cayo Coco

53. Least Sandpiper

10+ Cayo Coco. Small numbers on pool

54. Stilt Sandpiper *

Many (at least 30) were seen with Short-billed Dowitchers on Cayo Guillermo

55. Short-billed Dowitcher *

At least 30 seen on Cayo Guillermo

56. Laughing Gull

Common around coast. Also Laguna de la Leche

57. Ring-billed Gull *

Seen at Cayo Guillermo

58. Herring Gull

Seen at Cayo Guillermo

59. Lesser Black-backed Gull

Seen at Cayo Guillermo, off Causeway and in Havana

60. Caspian Tern

Seen at Havana, La Laguna de la Leche,

61. Royal Tern

Seen at Cayo Coco Cayo Guillermo

62. Sandwich Tern

Seen at Cayo Guillermo, Laguna de la Leche

63. Rock Dove

Seen in Havana, Trinidad and Moron.

64. White-crowned Pigeon. *

Seen twice. Once in the Zapata area and once on the Causeway.

65. Collared Dove

Seen in Havana, Zapata, Cayo Coco, Moron

66. White-winged Dove *

Seen once on Cayo Coco

67. Mourning Dove

Common

68. Common Ground Dove *

Common

69. Zenaida Dove *

Common

70. Key-West Quail Dove *

Seen once on Cayo Coco

71. Grey-headed Quail Dove *

Seen once with Angel

72. Cuban Parrot *

La Boca and surrounding country-side

73. Great Lizard Cuckoo *

Seen in all forested areas

74. Smooth-billed Ani

Common in open areas

75. Cuban Screech (Bare-legged) owl *

Several seen with Angel

76. Cuban Pygmy Owl *

Several seen with Angel

77. Greater Antillean (Cuban) Nightjar *

One seen in the area

78. Antillean Palm Swift *

Seen at Havana and Laguna de la Leche

79. Cuban Emerald *

Seen all areas

80. Bee Hummingbird *

Los Hondones

81. Cuban Trogon *

Seen in all mixed and pine forest areas

82. Cuban Tody *

Soroa, Los Handones

83. Belted Kingfisher *

Seen at Rio Higuanojo and off the Causeway

84. West Indian Woodpecker *

Seen at all sites

85. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *

Seen with Angel

86. Cuban Green Woodpecker *

Seen at all forested sites

87. Northern Flicker *

Seen once near Moron

88. Fernandina's Flicker *

Seen once with Angel

89. Cuban Pewee *

Los Hondones

90. La Sagra's Flycatcher *

Quite common

91. Loggerhead Kingbird *

Common

92. Cuban Martin *

A handful seen the Laguna de la Leche (Milky Lagoon)

93. Barn Swallow

Seen in the Zapata area and at Limones

94. Cave Swallow *

Seen in small numbers at Cueva de los Portales

95. Cuban Crow *

Several at La Boca and one on Cayo Guillermo

96. Zapata Wren *

One seen at La Turba

97. Cuban Gnatcatcher *

One seen on Cayo

98. Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *

Los Handones, Cayo Paredon Grande

99. Cuban Solitaire *

Heard at the Mirador (Soroa). Heard and seen at Cueva de los Portales

100. Red-legged Thrush *

Common

Grey Catbird

Heard but not seen in Zapata area and near Moron

101. Northern Mockingbird *

Common

102. Bahama Mockingbird *

One seen on Cayo Guillermo

103. White-eyed Vireo *

Cayo Coco

104. Thick-billed Vireo *

One seen at Cayo Paredon Grande

105. Yellow-throated Vireo *

Cayo Coco

106. Cuban Vireo *

Los Hondones, Cayo Coco

107. Northern Parula *

Los Hondones, Cayo Coco

108. Yellow Warbler

Cayo Coco

109. Magnolia Warbler *

Los Hondones

110. Cape May Warbler *

La Boca

111. Black-throated Blue Warbler *

Los Hondones

112. Black-throated Green Warbler *

Los Handones

113. Yellow-throated Warbler *

Cayo Coco

114. Prairie Warbler *

La Turba

115. Palm Warbler *

Common

116. Grey-headed Warbler *

Cayo Coco

117. Black-and-white Warbler *

Seen in all forested areas

118. American Redstart *

Seen in all forested areas

119. Worm-eating Warbler *

Los Hondones

120. Ovenbird *

Los Hondones, Cayo Coco

121. Louisiana Waterthrush *

Seen at Mirador (Soroa)

122. Northern Waterthrush *

La Turba, La Boca

123. Common Yellowthroat *

Los Hondones

124. Yellow-headed Warbler *

Los Hondones

125. Oriente Warbler *

Seen on Cayo Coco, Cayo Parente Grande

126. Bananaquit

Two seen on Cayo Coco

127. Red-legged Honeycreeper *

Only one female seen near the Cueva de Jabali

128. Stripe-headed Tanager *

Cayo Coco

129. Cuban Bullfinch *

Los Hondones, Cayo Coco

130. Zapata Sparrow *

Two seen at La Turba and two on Cayo Coco

131. Indigo Bunting *

Soroa, San Diego de Los Banos

132. Cuban Grassquit *

San Diego de los Banos

133. Yellow-faced Grassquit *

Soroa, San Diego de los Banos, Cayo Coco, La Turba

134. Cuban Red-shouldered Blackbird *

Four seen at La Turba

135. Tawny-shouldered Blackbird *

Los Hondones, La Boca, Laguna de la Leche

136. Eastern Meadowlark *

One seen near Moron

137. Cuban Blackbird *

Common

138. Greater Antillean Grackle *

Common

139. Black-cowled Oriole *

Seen on Cayo Coco

140. Cuban Oriole *

Los Hondones

141. House Sparrow

Common round houses

142? Field of pea-fowl!

Total number of species seen: 141/2

Total lifers: 105

Total endemics: 20

