

Dominican Republic, March 1-16th 2013



Hispaniolan Trogon, Cachote

Hans-Åke & Karin Gustavsson
Exercisgatan 30 B
S-212 13 Malmö
Sweden
hans-ake.gustavsson@telia.com

General

The main purpose of our trip was to combine a visit to relatives, living in the Dominican Republic since many years, with some relaxed Caribbean birding away from the Scandinavian winter. The main part of our stay was spent in Higüey, about 40 km's from the main tourist areas in the east. From Higüey a number of day trips were made, mainly to the nice beaches in Bayahibe and Punta Cana.

In order to see as many of the endemic birds of Hispaniola as possible during a limited amount of time, we decided to use a guide for a three day visit to the Baboruco Mountains, close to the Haitian border, where most of these species are found. This turned out successfully and we managed to see 28 out of the 29 endemics, only missing Hispaniolan Parakeet (heard flying by though). This dip could have been repaired by visiting the Botanical Garden in Santo Domingo where this species normally is present but we prioritized otherwise. In total, we recorded 112 species, a figure that could have been boosted further if we had decided to visit some proper wetlands to get some more shorebirds.

Travel

We flew with Air Berlin from Copenhagen via Berlin-Tegel to Punta Cana. Our tickets cost 8.078 SEK (c. 940 €) each. The flights with modern aircrafts were uneventful and almost exactly on time in both directions.

Car rental, roads and traffic

We rented a Nissan Frontier pick-up (high clearance 4x4) from Holiday Autos and paid in advance from Sweden. The cost for 14 days including unlimited mileage, theft protection and collision damage, airport fee, local taxes as well as a waiver for any deductible and an interruption insurance cost 8.634 SEK (c.1.000 €). The car was provided by Alamo and even though our reservation was booked and confirmed months in advance, Alamo failed in providing the car on time and we had to wait more than 1,5 hours for it. The condition of the car was also below what you normally can expect from the large international rental companies. Still, it made its job and we drove in total 1.605 km's without any problems.

Roads are of variable standard. The highways are normally in good shape and there is normally little traffic on the toll roads, making it well worth paying the quite modest fees. Smaller roads are often quite potholed and there are a lot of speed bumps in the numerous villages that they pass making travel slow. In general we still think that the very negative descriptions of the roads, found in some reports, are a bit exaggerated. As long as you are a bit alert the road standard is generally no big problem.

Traffic in the cities is very intense with lots of motorbikes and scooters overtaking you on both sides, cars driving against the traffic direction and where the respect for red lights is almost non-existing. Road signs are not very good but people are normally very helpful if you ask for assistance. Few people however, speak anything else but Spanish.

The gravel roads in the Sierra de Baboruco are in rather bad condition and a high clearance 4x4 is essential. Especially the road from Puerto Escondido to Aguacate and further on to Zapoten was very bad (part of the road had been completely blocked by a flooding earlier this winter but was now open again).

Hotels

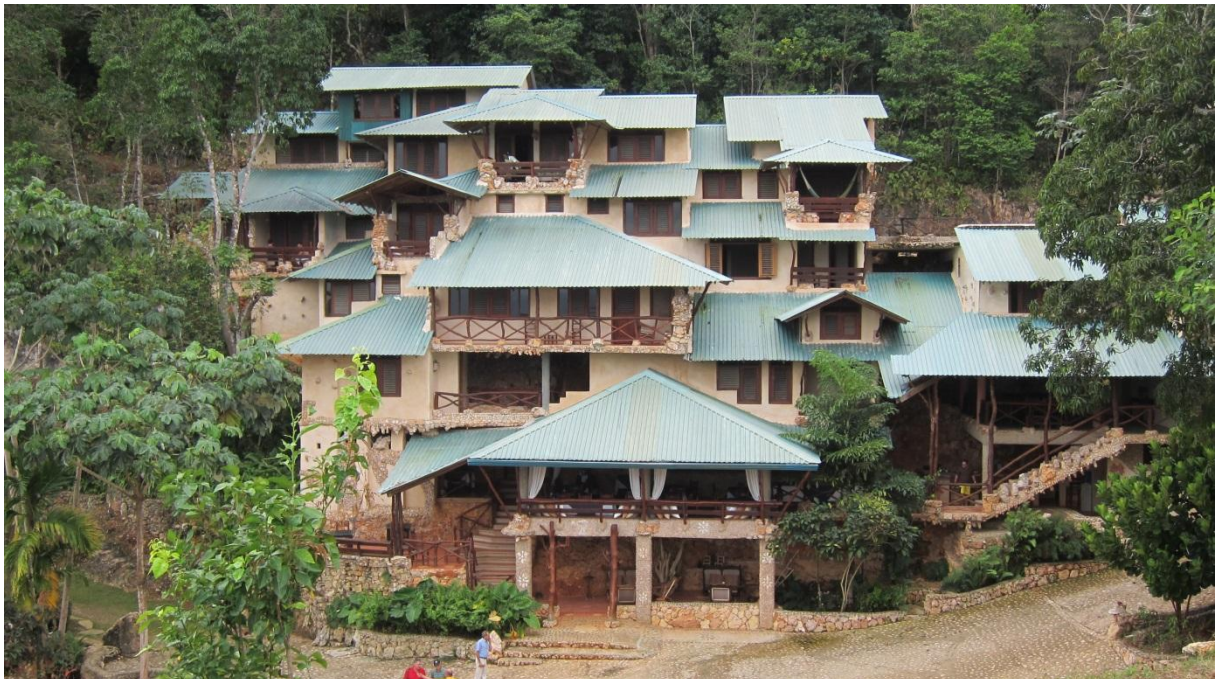
Most nights were spent with our relatives in Higüey but we also stayed in the following hotels:

Hotel Caribe, Avenida Enriquillo #27, Barahona, phone +1 809 524 4111, hotelcaribe@gmail.com

A basic but friendly place, conveniently located close to the southbound exit road of Barahona. Private, fenced in parking and good breakfast. Our room cost 35 USD/night.

Paraiso Cano Hondo Eco Lodge, Carretera Los Haitises, Sabana de la Mar, phone +1 809 248 5995, mail info@paraisocanohondo.com, web www.pariasocanohondo.com

This is an extraordinary place, built in an architectural style somewhat resembling the one of the famous architect Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona. The hotel restaurant (where a tame White-necked Crow is entertaining the customers) was very good and still nicely priced. Ridgway's Hawk which is the big attraction of this area is normally found just behind the hotel buildings but the place is worth a visit just on its own merits. A nice room with a balcony giving great views over the surrounding farmlands and the Samana Bay cost 3.150 DRP. Strongly recommended!



Paraiso Cano Hondo, Los Haitises

Birding guide

During our visit to the Sierra de Bahoruco we used Miguel Angel Landestoy as our guide. Miguel is a very skilled birder with an extremely good knowledge of the avifauna of Hispaniola as well as of wildlife and tropical ecology in general. We spent three full days in the field, the first morning on the southern slope of the Bahoruco Mountains, the following two days on various elevations of the northern slope and finished with a visit to the Lago Enriquillo. The first night was spent in Barahona, while the two following nights were spent in the rather basic campsite "Villa Barrancoli" (or Kate's camp) close to the small village of Puerto Escondido.

Miguel's fee was 270 USD per day, including a high clearance 4x4 car but excluding fuel, accommodation costs, food and personal expenses. Miguel's expert knowledge of the area and ability to find the target birds made this good value. Miguel, who speaks good English, can be contacted on e-mail mango_land@yahoo.com, phone +1 809 705 2430.



Miguel and Karin

Literature, trip reports and preparations

We used the “*Birds of the Dominican Republic and Haiti*” by Latta, Rimmer, Keith et. al. as our field guide. The text and the distribution maps are ok but the paintings are less good, in an a bit old-fashioned style. This is not a too big problem however, as good pictures of all important species can be found on the web.

Useful information about sites can be found in “*Where to watch birds – Central America & the Caribbean*” by Wheatley & Brewer and we also used a number of trip reports during our preparations of which I would like to recommend the ones by Petri Hottola, “Dominican Republic, December 2012” and one from some anonymous Canadians, “Dominican Republic Feb 2011” which both contain a lot of practical information as well as good directions how to find the different sites. In the latter report the exact mileages to the different sites in the Aguacate-Zapoten area are given. Very useful!

Check the Birding Trip Reports searchable database at <http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/links/links.jsp>

Thanks to Petri Hottola and Herve Jacob for answering a few questions about sites per mail.

Localities

Most localities mentioned in the list of species are well described in other trip reports, see below, but a few deserve some explanation:

La Mina refers to the continuation of the main track at Rabo de Gato, which eventually ends up in a dry creek in a valley at the foot of the mountains.

Laguna Limón, refers to a freshwater marsh situated on the south side of road no. 46 from Duvergé to Jimani, not to be confused with the lake with almost the same name in the northeastern part of the country.



Itinerary

Friday March 1st

Very early start from home at 03:50. Flew from Copenhagen at 07:00 via Berlin and arrived in Punta Cana International Airport on time at 15:20. After the usual arrival procedures we finally got our rental car and drove to Higüey where we arrived at sunset, at 19:00.

Saturday March 2nd

Early morning around the house gave the first endemics; *Palmchat* and *Hispaniolan Woodpecker* as well as a *Northern Parula* and two *Caribbean Martins* flying over. Most of the day was spent fixing practical issues as well as getting acquainted to Higüey and the Dominican way of life. No birding.

Sunday March 3rd

Spent the main part of the day on the beach at Bayahibe. A few *Magnificent Frigatebirds* as well as two *White-necked Crows* were the most interesting observations.

Monday March 4th

Left Higüey for Barahona (350 km's) where we had agreed to meet our guide Miguel in the evening. Spent most of the day in the car and managed to pass through Santo Domingo almost without getting wrong. Arrived in Barahona at 16:15 hrs, checked in at the Hotel Caribe where a *Hispaniolan Oriole* was seen in the hotel garden, and made some shopping. At 18:00 Miguel arrived and we immediately went for some night birding in the hills south of the town. The sky was overcast, and the very hot and humid conditions probably influenced the bird activity negatively. A *Least Poorwill* was heard well and finally glimpsed in flight but nothing really else. A late dinner in the nice restaurant right next to the hotel, then straight to bed.

Tuesday March 5th

Left the hotel at 05:30 and headed up on the southern slopes of Sierra de Bahoruco. Arrived to the area just below the Cachote Eco Lodge just after sunrise and almost immediately found our main

target of the morning, **Eastern Chat-Tanager**. Excellent views were obtained of a pair, even through the scope. The rest of the morning was spent in the area around the lodge, mainly birding from the road and birds found included **Hispaniolan Emerald**, **Hispaniolan Trogon**, **Narrow-billed Tody**, **Greater Caribbean Elaenia**, **Rufous-throated Solitaire**, **Hispaniolan Spindalis**, **Greater Antillean Bullfinch** and **Antillean Siskin**. Returned to Barahona where we had a quick coffee and did some shopping before we drove towards Puerto Escondido and the Villa Barrancoli Camp with a lunch break in a “Comedor”, a kind of small restaurant in a private home, in Duvergé.



Broad-billed Tody



Green-tailed Ground-Tanager

Upon arrival we started birding along the trails of Rabo de Gato and a number of good birds were found e.g. **Hispaniolan Quail-dove**, **Bay-breasted Cuckoo**, **Broad-billed Tody**, **Flat-billed Vireo**, **Stolid Flycatcher** and **Green-tailed Ground-Tanager**.

At the camp we found out that there had been a fire in a transformer close by, causing that no electrical power was available and as a consequence of this, neither any water in the showers or toilets. Dinner, which was cooked by the daughter of the old couple running the camp, therefore was eaten in the light of kerosene lamps. After this, not much more than going to bed was any real option.

Wednesday March 6th

Left the camp at 05:00 and along the road stops were made for **Least Poorwill** and **Hispaniolan Nightjar**. Of the latter, two birds were heard and one was seen flying by at close range just before dawn. The checkpoints were passed smoothly and we arrived to the Zapoten area at 07:15 where we almost immediately found two **La Selle Thrush** feeding on the road, in a manner similar to European Blackbirds.

The following hours were spent birding along the road at Zapoten which produced several high altitude specialties such as **Hispaniolan Highland-Tanager**, **Western Chat-Tanager**, **Antillean Euphonia** and **Bicknell's Thrush**.

After a late breakfast we continued up along the road into pine forest habitat at 2,000+ meters altitude. Low clouds and mist in combination with pine trees covered in Spanish Moss gave a very special atmosphere to the forest. Here we after some search found a feeding party of **Hispaniolan Crossbills**, a male and two females, before slowly starting our descent. Low clouds still reduced visibility and we were getting worried that Golden Swallow would be impossible to find. However, during our lunch stop at Zapoten, the sky suddenly cleared up and there it was overhead, a **Golden Swallow**! Within a few minutes the clouds came back and the good visibility was gone again as well as the Swallow - here we were really lucky!



La Selle Thrush, Zapoten

During the descent we found *Hispaniolan Pewee*, two different *Hispaniolan Kingbirds* and we finally got really good views of *Antillean Piculet*, which we only had heard so far.

During the ride, the sunroof of the car got stuck – of course in an open position – and as it started to rain we returned to the camp where we arrived quite exhausted at 15:30. Miguel decided to go to the village in order to fix the car while the rest of us took a short siesta and after that, a late afternoon walk along the trails of Rabo de Gato. A *Vervain Hummingbird* was a new acquaintance as well as a few species of North American wood-warblers.

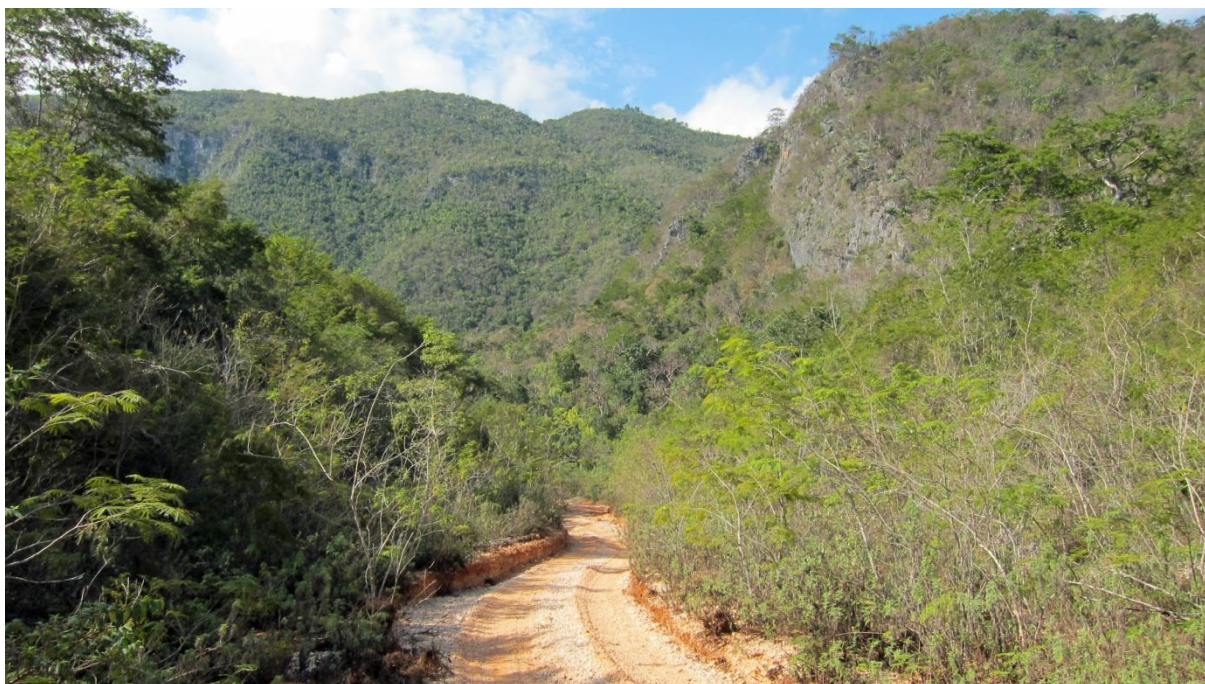
Dinner and early to bed, still without electricity or running water.

Thursday March 7th

Left the camp at 07:00 and birded mainly in La Mina, a dry creek which is the continuation of the main trail at Rabo de Gato. The sky was now clear after a rainy night and bird activity was high. New birds were *Antillean Mango*, *Key West Quail-dove* (heard only) and *Cape May Warbler*. High quality reprises included *Bay-breasted Cuckoo*, *Greater Antillean Elaenia*, here on the lower elevation limit of its distribution, *Flat-billed* and *Black-whiskered Vireos* as well as a large flock of *Antillean Siskins*.

After lunch we left for Lago Enriquillo, where we arrived during the hottest part of the day. The lake is situated below sea level, in a valley between the Bahoruco and the Neiba Mountain ranges, and has flooded during the recent years. Thereby large areas of palms have been drenched, now giving a quite a strange appearance to the place. After a few stops we managed to localize a party of *Hispaniolan Palm Crows* but the heat and the enormous numbers of mosquitos made us to leave the area asap. Instead we went to a freshwater lagoon, located south of road 46 which Miguel called Laguna Limón. Here we found a number of *Caribbean Coots*, several egrets and herons as well as a *Least Bittern* and a number of different wood-warblers.

After this we returned to Barahona, said goodbye to Miguel, who was going to Santo Domingo to pick up a tour group at the airport the following day, while we enjoyed a shower and a nice seafood dinner after three long but very rewarding days in the field.



La Mina

Friday March 8th

The day started with a morning visit to the Quemaito Beach, situated c.10 km's south of Barahona. Not much happened during the first hour but then suddenly a **Black-capped Petrel** appeared and passed to the north at a range of c. 800 meters. Unfortunately the morning light made that few plumage details were seen well but identification was still straight forward. This follows other recent observations and should be checked further, as the petrels might be frequenting this area regularly. Evening light would give the best viewing conditions.

After a late breakfast we left Barahona and drove back east. This time we took a wrong turn and came off the highway just before Santa Domingo and instead entered the city along the shoreline. After some confusion and spending some time in the afternoon traffic jam we finally got back on the right track again. After a long drive, in total 420 km's, we finally arrived at the Paraiso Cano Hondo Eco Lodge, situated just along the border of the Los Haitises National Park. After check-in and a nice dinner, Karin returned to our room while I spent three hours of night birding along the road between the lodge and Sabana de la Mar. This produced two or three **Ashy-faced Owls**, one heard and two, probably different birds seen in the car headlights along the road. Also, two **Barn Owls**, apparently breeding close to the River, were seen so you have to be a bit careful as both species occur in this area.

Saturday March 9th

After a rainy night I got out at 07:15 and walked the trail down to the valley just behind the lodge. Good bird activity with several pairs of **Hispaniolan Amazons** flying by as well as a **Plain Pigeon**, a number of **Vervain Hummingbirds**, **Antillean Mangos** and **White-necked Crows**. A **Blue Grosbeak** that suddenly landed in a tree in front of me was a nice surprise as it is a quite rare bird in Hispaniola. Raptors were scarce on the other hand as the clouds persisted. A number of **Turkey Vultures** were sitting and waiting for thermals but nothing really happened. After a number of hours, time was slowly running out when I suddenly heard a strange call, which I could not identify, from some trees in the valley below. The bird called again and I decided to go for a look, still without a clue of its identity. Finally down in the valley I started to check the trees when the call was heard again, now from the tree right above me, and there it was, a **Ridgway's Hawk**. I took some pictures and when a second bird arrived I left the area in order not to disturb them, probably breeding close by.



Ridgway's Hawk, Los Haitises

In the meantime, my cousin and her husband had arrived from Higüey and after a nice lunch at the lodge we decided to make a boat trip in the creeks and the adjacent lagoon. This was very nice, producing a number of new birds such as **Little Blue Heron**, **Black-crowned Night-heron** and **Belted Kingfisher**. During the trip we visited a number of different caves with paintings made by the Taino Indians, living on Hispaniola when Christopher Columbus landed on the beaches of the New World in 1492, very interesting.

After buying fresh shrimps in Sabana de la Mar, we drove back to Higüey where we arrived at 19:30.

Sunday March 10th

After a slow start of the day we made a non-birding visit to the small coastal village Boca de Yuma and from there continued to the beach at Bayahibe. Two **Brown Boobies** and a roadside **Mangrove Cuckoo** were additions to the trip list. Had a very nice lobster lunch in Bayahibe and returned to Higüey in the late afternoon.

Monday March 11th

Non-birding day spent on the beach at Punta Cana.

Tuesday March 12th

Sickness day for Karin while I visited the Sendero Padre Nuestro trail in the Este National Park, close to Bayahibe. New birds were **White-crowned Pigeon** and surprisingly enough a **Pearly-eyed Thrasher** which was seen on a number of occasions close to the Cueva Lechusa along the trail. After spending a few hours trying to get repeated views of the Thrasher I returned towards Higüey, stopping at some wetlands along the road c.10 km south of the city. Here a good variety of waterbirds were seen, among others eight species of herons, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **White-cheeked Pintail** as well as **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Solitary** and **Least Sandpipers** and a **Merlin**.



Black-crowned Palm-Tanager, Este NP

Wednesday March 13th

Karin more or less back on her feet again and we spent most of the day relaxing on the beach at Bayahibe. A ***Prairie Warbler*** and a party of ***Caribbean Martins*** were the ornithological highlights. After dropping Karin in Higüey, I returned to the wetlands south of the city where mainly the same birds as yesterday were found.

Thursday March 14th

Non birding day mainly spent on the beach and shopping.

Friday March 15th

Left Higüey at 13:00 and after a quite slow procedure at the airport we departed on time at 17:05.

Saturday March 16th

After change of flights in Berlin we arrived to Copenhagen at 10:10 and returned to our home in Malmö at 12:00.

List of species

1. **American Wigeon** *Anas americana*
2 Laguna Limón 7.3
2. **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*
1 in roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12-13.3.
3. **Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus*
1 heard Rabo de Gato 5.3.

4. **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*
1-2 in roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 10.3 and 12-13.3.
5. **Black-capped Petrel** *Pterodroma hasitata*
1 flying north at Playa Quemaito, south of Barahona 8.3.
6. **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster leucogaster*
2 Boca de Yuma 10.3, 2 Punta Cana 11.3, 1 Bayahibe 13.3, 1 Bayahibe 14.3.
7. **Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*
Rather common along the coast. Totally 57 birds recorded 3-14.3.
8. **Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*
Rather common along the coast. Totally 51 birds recorded 3-14.3.
9. **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*
1 Laguna Limón 7.3.
10. **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*
1-2 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 3.3 and 9-12.3.
11. **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
A colony of c.80 breeding birds Los Haitises NP 9.3. Another 11 birds recorded in various locations 4-14.3.
12. **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*
1 Lago Enriquillo 7.3, up to 5 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12-13.3, 1 Bayahibe 14.3.
13. **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*
8 Los Haitises 9.3, 1-2 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 10.3 and 12-13.3.
14. **Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*
1 Laguna Limón 7.3, 1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
15. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
Common in open habitat, daily figures of 10-150 birds.
16. **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*
1 Puerto Escondido 5.3, 4 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12.3 and 13.3.
17. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
3 Los Haitises 9.3, 1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12.3.
18. **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*
Common in the eastern parts with daily figures of 5-60 birds 3-4.3 and 8-15.3. Not recorded in the west.
19. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
1 Barahona 4.3, 2 Lago Enriquillo 7.3, 2 Los Haitises 9.3, 1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
20. **Ridgway's Hawk** *Buteo ridgwayi* (CR)
2 Los Haitises, close to the Paraiso Cano Hondo Lodge 9.3.
21. **Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*
2 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 1 Los Haitises 9.3.
22. **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*
Common, totally 48 birds recorded 1-15.3.



23. **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*
1 south of Higüey 12.3.
24. **Common Gallinule (Moorhen)** *Gallinula galeata cerceris*
1 Rabo de Gato 5.3 and 7.3, 3-4 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12-13.3, 1 Bayahibe 14.3.
25. **American Coot** *Fulica americana*
1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
26. **Caribbean Coot** *Fulica caribaea* (NT)
8 adults + 2 chicks Laguna Limón 7.3.
27. **Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna elucus*
2 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 6.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 7.3.
28. **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus ternominatus*
1 along the road to Puerto Escondido-La Placa 6.3, 8 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12-13.3.
29. **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*
4 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12.3, 2 in the same place 13.3.
30. **Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*
1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
31. **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*
1 Los Haitises 9.3, 1 Punta Cana 11.3, 2 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
32. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
4 Bayahibe 4.3, 26 Bayahibe 13.3, 10 Bayahibe 14.3.
33. **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*
Up to 10 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12-13.3.
34. **Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*
2 Lago Enriquillo 7.3, 2 Bayahibe 14.3.

35. Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Rather common along the coast, totally 75 birds recorded 3-14.3.



36. Feral Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common

37. Scaly-naped Pigeon *Patagioenas squamosa*

Heard calling at Cachote 5.3 and at Zapoten 6.3.

38. White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala* (NT)

1 along the Sendero Padre Nuestro, Este NP 12.3.

39. Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata* (NT)

2 along the road Barahona-Duverg  5.3, 3 Puerto Escondido 5.3, 1 Los Haitises 9.3.

40. Zenaida Dove *Zenaida aurita*

1 Cachote 5.3, 1 along the road Puerto Escondido-Aguacate 6.3.

41. Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Common. Totally 81 birds recorded 1-15.3.

42. Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina*

Rather common, totally 23 birds recorded 4-14.3.

43. Key West Quail-Dove *Geotrygon chrysie*

2 different birds calling at Rabo de Gato 7.3.

44. Hispaniolan Quail-Dove *Geotrygon (caniceps) leucometopius* (VU)

1 immature bird Rabo de Gato, between the old picnic tables and the stream 5.3.

45. [Olive-throated Parakeet *Aratinga nana*]

2 La Mina 7.3.

46. Hispaniolan Amazon *Amazona ventralis* (VU)

2 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 3 Zapoten 6.3, 4 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 8 Los Haitises 9.3.

47. Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

1 Bayahibe 10.3.

48. **Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo** *Coccyzus longirostris*
Rather common. Totally 23 birds recorded 5-15.3.
49. **Bay-breasted Cuckoo** *Coccyzus ruficularis*
1 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 2 La Mina 7.3.
50. **Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*
Common. Totally 46 birds recorded 4-14.3.
51. **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*
2 along the road between Sabana de la Mar and Paraiso Cano Hondo, Los Haitises 8.3, 1 found dead on the road close to Bayahibe 12.3.
52. **Ashy-faced Owl** *Tyto glaucops*
2 seen and 1 heard along the road between Sabana de la Mar and Paraiso Cano Hondo, Los Haitises 8.3
53. **Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia*
2 along the road to Aguacate, before dawn, 6.3.
54. **Least Poorwill** *Siphonorhis brewsteri* (NT)
1 seen and heard a few km's southwest of Barahona 4.3, 1 heard along the road to Aguacate 6.3, 1 seen and heard + 1 heard Rabo de Gato 6.3.
55. **Hispaniolan Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ekmani*
1 heard and seen + 1 heard before dawn in the pine forest just below the "Potato market" along the road to Zapoten 6.3.
56. **Antillean Palm-Swift** *Tachornis phoenicobia*
Common. Between 3-20 birds recorded daily.
57. **Antillean Mango** *Anthracothorax dominicus*
3 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 1 Los Haitises 9.3, 1 Este NP 12.3.
58. **Hispaniolan Emerald** *Chlorostilbon swainsonii*
4 Cachote 5.3, 2 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 2 Zapoten 6.3, 5 Rabo de Gato 7.3.



59. **Vervain Hummingbird** *Mellisuga minima vielloti*
1 Rabo de Gato 6.3, 4 La Mina 7.3, 3 Los Haitises 9.3.
60. **Hispaniolan Trogon** *Temnotrogon roseigaster* (NT)
1 seen and at least 3 heard Cachote 5.3.
61. **Broad-billed Tody** *Todus subulatus*
5 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 2 Rabo de Gato 6.3, 4 La Mina 7.3, 2 Rabo de Gato 7.3.
62. **Narrow-billed Tody** *Todus angustirostris*
4 Cachote 5.3, 1 Zapoten 6.3.
63. **Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon*
3 Los Haitises 9.3.
64. **Antillean Piculet** *Nesocittes micromegas*
1 heard Rabo de Gato 5.3, 2 heard Zapoten 6.3, 1 seen and heard c.1 km below Aguacate 6.3.
65. **Hispaniolan Woodpecker** *Melanerpes striatus*
Common. Daily figures of 1-15 birds.
66. **Greater Antillean Elaenia** *Elaenia fallax*
2 Cachote 5.3, 1 La Mina 7.3.
67. **Hispaniolan Pewee** *Contopus hispaniolensis*
1 just below the "Potato Market", close to Zapoten 6.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 6-7.3.



68. **Stolid Flycatcher** *Myiarchus stolidus*
1 La Mina 5.3, 3 La Mina 7.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 4 Sendero Padre Nuestro, Este NP 12.3.
69. **Gray Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis*
Common. Totally 66 birds recorded 1-15.3.
70. **Hispaniolan (Loggerhead) Kingbird** *Tyrannus (caudifasciatus) gabbii*
2 just below the Aguacate checkpoint 6.3.

71. **Flat-billed Vireo** *Vireo nanus*
1 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 7.3.
72. **Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus*
4 Cachote 5.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 3 Los Haitises 9.3, 4 Este NP 12.3, 1 Bayahibe 13.3.
73. **Hispaniolan Palm Crow** *Corvus palmarum* (NT)
c.10 Lago Enriquillo 7.3.
74. **White-necked Crow** *Corvus leucognaphalus* (VU)
2 Bayahibe 3.3, 3 Los Haitises 8.3, 4 Los Haitises 9.3, 1 Bayahibe 13.3 and 14.3.
75. **Caribbean Martin** *Progne dominicensis*
2 Higüey 2.3, 7 Bayahibe 13.3, 1 Higüey 14.3.
76. **Golden Swallow** *Tachycineta euchrysea sclateri* (VU)
1 Zapoten 6.3.
77. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
c.10 along road 44, close to Jaquimeyes 4.3.
78. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
c.30 Higüey-Bayahibe 12.3, c.15 at wetlands along 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
79. **Rufous-throated Solitaire** *Myadestes genibarbis montanus*
1 seen + 4 heard Cachote 5.3, 1 seen + 7 heard Zapoten 6.3.
80. **Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli*
1 Zapoten 6.3.
81. **La Selle Thrush** *Turdus swalesi swalesi* (EN)
2 Zapoten 6.3.
82. **Red-legged Thrush** *Turdus plumbeus ardosiaceus*
2 seen + 3 heard Cachote 5.3, 2 Zapoten 6.3, 2 La Mina 7.3, 1 Sendero Padre Nuestro, Este NP 12.3.
83. **Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*
Common. Totally 49 birds recorded 1-15.3.
84. **Pearly-eyed Thrasher** *Margarops fuscatus*
1 Sendero Padre Nuestro, Este NP 12.3. A big surprise! The bird was seen well on 3-4 occasions close to the Cueva Lechusa (signposted along the trail) and seemed territorial in the area. According to "Birds of the Dominican Republic and Haiti" by Latta, Rimmer et. al. the first "main land" record in Hispaniola was made at Guaraguao (only a few km away) in 1984. Since then a small population was found in the Punta Cana area in 1999 but otherwise the species is confined to the satellite islands Isla Beata and Isla Alto Velo. This record may indicate an ongoing colonization of mainland Hispaniola?
85. **Palmchat** *Dulus dominicus*
Common. Totally 54 birds recorded 2-15.3.
86. **Northern Parula** *Parula americana*
1 Higüey 2.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 6.3, 2 Laguna de Limon 7.3.



87. Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina*
3 La Mina 7.3.

88. Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*
1 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 4 Zapoten 6.3, 2 La Mina 7.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 7.3.

89. Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus chrysoleuca*
6 Zapoten 6.3.

90. Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor*
1 Laguna Limón 7.3, 1 Bayahibe 13.3.



91. **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum*
1 Zapoten 6.3, 1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 12-13.3.
92. **Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*
1 Zapoten 6.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 6.3 and 7.3.
93. **American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*
1 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 3 Zapoten 6.3, 2 La Mina 7.3, 1 Bayahibe 13.3.
94. **Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*
1 Villa Barrancoli 5.3, 1 Zapoten 6.3.
95. **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichus*
2 Laguna Limón 7.3, 1 at roadside wetlands 10 km south of Higüey 13.3.
96. **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*
Rather common. Totally 21 birds recorded 2-14.3.
97. **Green-tailed Ground-Tanager** *Microlophaga palustris*
1 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 5 Zapoten 6.3, 3 Rabo de Gato 7.3.
98. **Hispaniolan Highland-Tanager** *Xenoligea montana* (VU)
2 Zapoten 6.3.
99. **Black-crowned Palm-Tanager** *Phaenicophilus palmarum*
5 Cachote 5.3, 5 Zapoten 6.3, 5 La Mina 7.3, 3 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 2 Sendero Padre Nuestro, Este NP 12.3, 2 Bayahibe 13.3.
100. **Western Chat-Tanager** *Calyptophilus tertius* (VU)
2 Zapoten 6.3.
101. **Eastern Chat-Tanager** *Calyptophilus frugivorus*
2 Cachote 5.3. Superb observations of a very obliging pair.
102. **Hispaniolan Spindalis** *Spindalis dominicensis*
3 Cachote 5.3, 8 Zapoten 6.3.
103. **Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivacea*
3 Sendero Padre Nuestro, Este NP 12.3.
104. **Greater Antillean Bullfinch** *Loxia violacea*
1 Cachote 5.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 5.3, 2 Zapoten 6.3, 1 La Mina 7.3, 1 Rabo de Gato 7.3.
105. **Blue Grosbeak** *Guiraca caerulea*
1 Los Haitises 9.3.
106. **Greater Antillean Grackle** *Quiscalus niger*
Rather common. Totally 70 birds recorded 2-11.3.
107. **Hispaniolan Oriole** *Icterus dominicensis*
1 Barahona 4.3, 4 Rabo de Gato 7.3, 2 Los Haitises 9.3.
108. **Antillean Euphonia** *Euphonia musica*
1 male Zapoten 6.3, 1 heard La Mina 7.3.
109. **Hispaniolan Crossbill** *Loxia (leucoptera) megaplaga*
1 male and 2 female-colored birds in the pine forest at 2,050 m elevation above Zapoten 6.3.
110. **Antillean Siskin** *Spinus dominicensis*
2 Cachote 5.3, 4 Zapoten 6.3, c.20 Rabo de Gato 7.3.



111. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common. Recorded during 11 out of 15 days 1-15.3.

112. [Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*]

1 Puerto Escondido 5.3, c.80 Los Haitises 9.3.