

Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Dominican Republic



Birding the Caribbean on a budget
March 8-21, 2016

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Budgetbirders.com

Summary:

Overall the trip was a huge success. We were able to successfully record all of the birds endemic to Jamaica (heard only Jamaican Elaenia and Jamaican Owl), Puerto Rico, and Dominican Republic in 12 birding days. We also found a majority of our other Caribbean targets and even found a few afternoons to lay on the beach. The total trip cost (for the both of us) including our airfare to and from Richmond, Virginia was \$2,824! Below is information on resources, daily itinerary, logistics info, daily log, budget breakdown per island, tips, and list of “good” birds and where we saw them. I’m not including an entire trip list as no one cares where I saw Cattle Egrets.

Resources:

Websites:

As usual, both xeno-canto, cloudbirders, and ebird were extremely valuable resources in researching and preparing for the trip. A few trip reports that we used (to varying degrees of usefulness) are included below. Also, there is a link to our website, which has blog entries written on each country as well, though overall, for someone looking for information, this report will be more helpful than the blog (but still check out the blog!). Ebird is rapidly becoming an extremely useful tool on seeing recent sightings before leaving on a trip, but sadly, most people remain extremely vague in their checklists. All of my ebird checklists include GPS coordinates or detailed information for target birds and I encourage others visiting these areas to do the same. Even quick notes about where on a trail or a km mark can be extremely helpful for those not familiar with the area.

www.ebird.org: all checklists from the trip including numerous pictures and audio recordings can be searched for on ebird

www.xeno-canto.org: Recordings for the trip were downloaded from here, I’ve also added my recordings from the trip

www.cloudbirder.com: Access to dozens of trip reports. Below are a few I took with me.

Jamaica: Rob Gordijn, March 2014

Dominican Republic: Hans Ake Gustavsson, March 2013

Birding on a budget in the Greater Antilles: Jens Thalund, May 2010

Dominican Republic: Keith Taylor, March 2010

www.budgetbirders.com: blog posts from this trip along with my prior travels can be found here

GPS:

For those who don’t own a GPS, buy one. The Garmin Etrex 30 is extremely easy to use and I feel is essential to any independently traveling birder. Using a GPS and a set of coordinates helps to eliminate the guess work in directions and really makes it easier for others to find the same location. In this report I try to use GPS coordinates as much as possible and once again, encourage others to do the same. I’m always amazed to pick up a “bird site guide” and find detailed (though usually confusing or inaccurate directions) when all someone needs to do is write a few quick notes and provide a list of GPS way points. It is also very easy to download free open source maps online for use in both car GPSs and handhelds (such as the Garmin Etrex30). I’ve used these open source maps throughout the world and have found them extremely accurate in most circumstances and they are free!

OSM Map: http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/OSM_Map_On_Garmin/Download: Download maps from around the world for Garmin

Open Map Chest: <https://www.openmapchest.org/maps/caribbean/>: I Download a map for all of Central America including the Caribbean for my car GPS from here

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Montego Bay (MBJ) 10:30 a.m., pick up rental car and start drive to Blue Mountains. Arrive hardware gap around 1630. It was extremely foggy, rainy, and windy

Day 2: Hardware gap (0400-1030), drive to Eccelsdown Road, Eccelsdown Road (1430-1930)

Day 3: Green Castle Estate (0630-0830), Eccelsdown Road 1100-1600, drive to hotel west of Ochos Rios

Day 4: Rockland Bird Sanctuary (0530-1030), car rental due at MBJ at 1130, flight at 1530 to San Juan (SJU)

Day 5: Arrived SJU at 0400 and headed to Allied Car rental. Obtained rental car by 0500 and drove to Rio Abajo, arriving at dawn. Rio Abajo (0600-1030), drove to Laguna Cartagena (12:30-1300), Parguera (1330-1500), Guanica State Forest (1530-1900)

Day 6: Maricao State Forest (0600-1030), Cabo Rojo (1300-1600), Laguna C (1630-1900), Guanica State Forest (2000-2130)

Day 7: Humacao Reserve (0745-1100), Luquillo Campground (1300-night)

Day 8: Depart SJU at 1030 arrived Punta Cana (PUJ) at 1130, left with rental car at 1330, arrived Los Haitises at 1630 and birded till after dark, departing for overnight drive to Puerto Escondido at 2000

Day 9: Arrived Puerto Escondido at 0430 (6 hour drive and two hours of sleep along the side of the road), Dirt road to La Placa (0430-0600), Rabo de Gato (0600-1030), food in Deverge, Zapoten (1300-1900, Dirt road between La Placa and Villa Barrancoli (1900-2100)

Day 10: Dirt Road to La Placa (0430-530), Rabo de Gato (0600-930), drive to La Cienaga, Cachote (1200-1600), night in Los Patos

Day 11: Alcoa Road (0600-1900) with lunch break mid-day in Las Perdenales, drive to Villa Barrancoli

Day 12: Zapoten and areas higher (0430-1000), Agua Cate (1030-1130), lunch in Deverge, Rabo de Gato (1530-1700), road to La Placa (1830-2130)

Day 13: Depart Villa Barrancoli at 0600, arrive Punta Canta at 1230, turn in rental car, flight out at 0030

Logistics:

Car Rental:

Jamaica:

We rented an economy car through Thrifty. The car was in fairly terrible shape. Lots of break squealing, other weird noises, and a tail light out throughout the trip. Also got a flat tire at 2100 on Day 2. When I went to take the flat off, I noticed one of the bolts attaching the rim was sheared off. Total cost for rental car was \$132.31. Not sure if I'd totally recommend Thrifty, but I'm sure the vehicle condition of most economy rental companies are probably in the same shape. We were easily able to get the tire fixed for 1500 JMD. Gas averaged 110 JMD per litre.

Puerto Rico:

We rented an economy car through Allied Car rental. While waiting for our flight during a layover in Fort Lauderdale, I learned through reviews that apparently Allied Car rental is terrible. Arriving at SJU, I was a bit hesitant after reading all the bad reviews, but it was way too short of notice to change agencies. Luckily I learned that you have to call upon arrival to get the car rental shuttle to pick up you and take you to the office (and that it usually takes a while). I called as soon as we were off the plane and said we were waiting. By the time we got our

luggage and made it to the curb, we only had to wait an additional ten minutes (35 minutes in total to get there). Surprisingly, the check-in went fine and it was almost as if the employee was cognizant of all the bad reviews. Maybe they are trying to clean up their act? Only additional charges were a \$10 toll rental setup fee, and an additional \$6.95 per day for the tolls. This extra cost seems unavoidable no matter the rental agency and is necessary if you plan to take the highways as some are "toll pass only". Total cost for the rental was \$195. Gas averaged 0.52 cents per litre.

Dominican Republic:

When it comes to renting high clearance and 4x4 vehicles in the Dominican Republic, the agencies are notorious for guaranteeing a pickup truck and then not delivering on the promise. We were warned by a friend this might happen and even though I called a few days prior to confirm, when we arrived, there was no truck available. Luckily, the employee was actually really helpful and called a few of the other companies until we acquired a truck through Nelly Car Rental. This delay set our departure back about 2 hours, but I was just happy that we got the vehicle we needed. Total cost was a bit more at \$536, and we were told we could keep the car until 1600 on our last day (instead of 1300) for no additional cost. When I went to turn the car back in they tried to charge me for the additional 3 hours and I had to sort things out through corporate. Overall the truck we got was in good condition (2014 Mazda BT-50) and was a manual. The high clearance is an absolute must for both Zapoten and Cachote (trust me, I'm not the type to say clearance is necessary when it's not) and although 4wd might not be necessary, it still is recommended (and would be essential at Cachote if it rains). We drove around 1600 km in total with diesel costing 124 pesos per gallon (with gas being almost 40 pesos more expensive, so get a diesel if possible).

Accommodation:

Jamaica:

Overall I'd recommend trying to make all prior reservations prior to arrival. I always find this difficult to do as the birding plan usually changes daily due to what targets have been found/missed. It was very difficult to find cheap places to stay that seemed reasonably safe (both for us and more so for the car parked out front).

Night 1: Honeywell National Park. Located in the Hardware Gap, this campground is a very convenient cheap place to stay. It cost us \$600 JMD for entrance and camping for two people. We ended up car camping instead of setting up our tent due to the heavy rain and wind. No need to make prior reservations.

Night 2: Hotel parking lot of Casa Maria in Port Maria. Our original plan was to car camp at Eccelsdown road, but after getting a flat at 2100 near French Cove, I did not want to head back up the road with no spare so we decided we'd bird Green Castle in the morning instead. The only problem was that I didn't know exactly where Green Castle was, though I did know it was between Annotto Bay and Port Maria. We tried finding a cheap hotel in Annotto Bay, but the cheapest place was 55 USD and the room was terrible. We decided to try Port Maria instead and although the Cara Maria Hotel was full for the night, I talked to guard into letting us car camp for 1000 JMD and I was able to use their WIFI to look up where Green Castle Estate was.

Night 3: Maamee Bay just west of Ochos Rios. The hotel was basic, but clean. Originally the lady wanted 50 USD for a non air-conditioned room, but we ended up getting it for 3000 JMD (roughly 30 USD).

Puerto Rico

Our original game plan was to camp the entire time while we were on the island. Prior research showed that camping in most of the state forests ect required reservation and could be an annoyance to deal with. We did discover that there were a few beach campgrounds that you could just show up to. Most of these beach campgrounds are in the east and therefore not good for most birders, but there's one in the west, Tres Hermanos. We planned to camp here, but upon arrival found it to just be a beach with a little food shack (no security and no facilities). Two police officers warned us that it wasn't a safe area to sleep and after setting up the tent, we finally decided against the idea since there were a lot of locals coming in and out and blasting music. We then just decided to car camp for the next two nights which turned out to work just fine.

Night 4: Fort Lauderdale airport

Night 5: parking lot car camping

Night 6: parking lot car camping

Night 7: Luquillo Campground. It was \$8 for two days parking and an additional \$10 to camp. There was only 1 other couple camping, but there was a security guard on duty at night, a bathroom, and an outdoor shower

Dominican Republic

Unlike in Puerto Rico, we were able to find places to camp every night while on the island. Luckily Kate Wallace was up for allowing us to camp at her place versus having to stay in one of the cabins. For our night in Los Patos, we just went to a nearby hotel/resort and asked to camp in the corner of their property. This worked out on the first try, but had it not, there are others along highway 44 and I'm sure most would be fine with someone setting up a tent for a night for the right price.

Night 8: Two hours sleep on the side of the road, driving through the night across the island from Los Haitises to Puerto Escondido

Night 9: Villa Barrancoli - \$10 to set up our tent on a covered concrete pad with two electrical outlets

Night 10: Camping in the lawn of a local hotel/resort in Los Patos, \$10

Night 11 & 12: Back at Villa Barrancoli

Daily Trip Log:

Day 1: We arrived at MJB at 10:30 and were leaving the airport with the rental car by 11:30. After stopping for gas (they gave us the car on ¼ tank) and exchanging money (118 JMD for 1 USD....compared to 99 JMD to 1 USD at the airport) we headed off to Hardware gap via Buff Bay. The drive took a lot longer than I originally anticipated and we didn't arrive to Hardware Gap until almost 1630 (I'd give at least 3 ½-4 hours to get there from the airport, not including any stops). The weather was fairly rainy the entire drive and as we climbed in elevation, it became very foggy. The road through the Blue Mountains starts in Buff Bay and quickly climbs up to Holywell National park. The only turn you need to make is a right in Section (straight goes to Starlight Spa). Once we arrived at the gap, we entered Holywell National Park and quickly found the rangers. We paid for 1 night of camping and then started birding along the road in the direction of Kingston. With the terrible weather conditions, we found very little and went to bed shortly after it got dark.

Day 2: We started the morning at 0400 owling from Holywell down to Section. The weather conditions were still very windy at Holywell, but heading down the mountain it was fairly calm, although still rainy/foggy. Needless to say owling was difficult and although we had a juvenile Jamaican Owl respond at two spots, we never were able to see it. Once daylight hit, we started birding along the road from Section back up towards Holywell. The entire morning was very foggy and very quiet. Luckily we were still able to find all of our main targets including a group of three Crested Quail Doves, a few Blue Mountain Vireos, and a pair of



Hardware Gap.....in the fog

Jamaican Blackbirds. By 1030 we began our decent back down the mountain towards Buff Bay and headed onward to Ecclesdown Road. We arrived at Ecclesdown road around 1430 and spent the remainder of the evening along the first few kilometers of the road. The turnoff for the road is a few km north of Long Bay at N 18 07' 18' W 076 19' 38' and then turn left at N 18 06' 56' W 076 19' 56'. After this left it's only a few km more until you start to hit good forest

and begin to be able to see down into the valley to your right (first overlook starts at N 18 06' 05' W 076 20' 19'). From the first few overlooks we located the majority of our Yellow-billed Parrots. We didn't see Black-billed until N 18 05' 29.3" W 076 20' 50.2". Overall, we really enjoyed birding this narrow, yet peaceful road. After dark we tried a few locations for Jamaican Owl, but were unable to illicit a response. We then headed to Woody's for burgers and decided we'd head back up to Ecclesdown for the night. Sadly, a few hundred meters from Woody's we got a flat tire. Hesitant to traverse the pot-hole ridden road again without a spare, we decided we'd head in the direction of Green Castle Estate instead as our two main targets remaining were Jamaican Mango and Jamaican Crow (note, don't go to Green Castle for Jamaican Crow anymore, apparently it hasn't been seen there in a while). The biggest issue with the decision to go to Green Castle is that I couldn't remember exactly where it was (nor did we have a plan for accommodation yet). Long story short, we ended up spending the night car camping in a hotel parking lot in Port Maria.

Day 3: Today started off rough. We took the turnoff for Green Castle Estate and after driving for a 1 km or two, saw a closed gate on the left side of the road with a small Green Castle sign. Based on my GPS I thought this was the entrance. I parked the car and walked in to try and find the guard shack to have them open the gate. After a fairly long walk I came to a set of old rundown buildings, which looked like it might have been an old resort, but couldn't find any workers around. Fairly confused I hiked back out and was ready to give up when a taxi pulled up. I asked the driver who informed me there was another entrance further down the road. We got back in the car and drove further down the main road before finally seeing the real entrance to Green Castle Estate (much larger sign). We drove up the dirt road to the main office and planned on spending the morning looking for Jamaican Crow and Jamaican Mango, but quickly found out from the grounds keeper that the crow hasn't been seen there in a while and that recently they hadn't seen any Jamaican Mangos around either. Given that they also wanted 30 USD per person to walk their trails (which is absolutely insane) we decided to leave and head back to Ecclesdown road. We got our tire



Ecclesdown Road

fixed in Annotto Bay and headed onward to Ecclesdown. We arrived around 1130 with our main goal of finding Jamaican Crow. We started further along the road than we had the previous day and quickly heard our first crow. It took a few more stops along the road until we were finally able to see one though. Once again the road was very birdy and we were able to see a number of the endemics including great looks (3 meters way) of a Jamaican Blackbird (forgot to get GPS coordinates, it was at the large yellow diamond sign that says One Lane Traffic). By 1630 we were starting to get hungry so we headed back downhill and started the long drive towards Montego Bay with the goal of birding Rockland Birding Sanctuary in the morning (we still needed the Mango). Instead of driving the whole way that night, we decided to grab a hotel just west of Ochos Rios.



Entrance to Rockland Bird Sanctuary

Day 4: We woke up at 0300 and were on the road by 0330 heading towards Montego Bay and Rockland Bird Sanctuary. The goal was to arrive before light and try to find a Jamaican Owl before having to pay to see the one that has been roosting in the area. We made the wrong decision to follow the GPS and take route B15 instead of staying on A1, which was a terrible decision that cost us about 20 minutes due to the road conditions. We didn't arrive to Rockland until 0515 and it was a race against time to try and find the owl before light. We had an owl calling at N 18 25' 24.5" W 077 56' 33.4", but sadly it was already starting to get light out and it quickly stopped calling. We continued to bird the road near the Bird Sanctuary until about 0730 when I finally saw Fritz (the local grounds keeper and guide) and introduced myself. He originally wanted 20 USD per person to go look for the owl and 20 USD per person to feed and look at the hummingbirds (80 USD in total). I explained there was no way I'd be paying 80 USD, and we agreed on a total of 40 USD instead. We headed down the trail behind the garden and

finally made our way to the owl roosting spot. Sadly it was nowhere to be found (it was seen just two days prior). We checked a few other spots, but couldn't find it. We were able to see 2 Northern Potoos though (directly across from the Sweet Rock entrance road, which is about 75 meters uphill from Rockland). We then spent an enjoyable 20 minutes feeding and photographing the birds at the feeding station before heading off to the airport.



First gate: Park along the side of the road and walk in from here

Day 5: We arrived at SJU about 30 minutes late at 0400. By the time we got the rental car sorted out, it was a race against time to make it to Rio Abajo by dawn. After getting turned around a bit, we finally found the first yellow gate (N 18 19' 50.5" W 066 42' 24.0") and started walking down the paved road towards the second gate. The walk is just under a mile in length and as we arrived at the second gate (N 18 19' 55.7" W 066 43' 03.6"), Puerto Rican Parrots could be heard, but not seen. After a tense 15 minutes, Melissa finally spotted a bird perched far off in the distance. Luckily, about 20 minutes later a pair landed in the tree right above the gate and allowed for excellent views. We birded our way back to the car picking up a number of the endemics including Puerto Rican Flycatcher (near second gate), Puerto Rican Vireo, Adelaide's Warbler, Puerto Rican Bullfinch, and Puerto Rican Pewee (near stream close to first yellow gate). We birded the way out stopping numerous times, but didn't add much new to the list. From here we drove to Laguna Cartagena with hopes of finding West Indian Whistling Duck. Note: It is best to approach Laguna Cartagena from the north (PR 306). You can also approach along PR 305 from the small town of Maguayo to the east, but this road is in worse shape and not recommend for a small car (I made it, but didn't attempt it again). Also, the first spot you encounter coming from the north is a short trail to a small blind. It is a quick walk out to the blind and then you can continue walking further to view more open water. If you drive by this initial spot you'll come to another parking spot



Second gate: This is the best area to find the Puerto Rican Parrots

with another road which involves a slightly longer hike back to the "tower". Although midday typically isn't the best for these birds, we hoped to get lucky, but our plan didn't work out. No whistling ducks could be found, but other birds included Caribbean Coot and White-cheeked Pintail. Our next stop was Parguera where we quickly ate lunch and then made our way to the hardware store (N 17 58' 27.0" W 067 03' 23.8"). The Hardware store is located on the left side of the basketball court near the western edge of town. Every day at 1500-1530, they feed the blackbirds in the side alley, which isn't visible unless you walk up onto the porch of the store. Just ask one of the workers where it is at. Since it was only 1330, we decided to drive around town and look for hummingbirds. We didn't find any hummers, but came across another house that was feeding the Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds along Calle 1 (N 17 58' 35.6" W 067 02' 51.1"). We spent about 45 minutes here photographing and recording these rare

birds. We spent about 45 minutes here photographing and recording these rare

icterids. We then continued driving east until we made it to PR 334 in Guanica State Forest. We arrived around 1500 and with the gate opened, started slowing driving and birding along the road. It was quite hot out, but we still managed really nice views of Adelaide's Warbler and Pearly-eyed Thrasher. At 1630 the guard told us it was time to leave, so we made our way down to PR 333 for the evening. A few stops along this road produced both Caribbean Elaenia and Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoo. As dusk approached, Puerto Rican Nightjars started to call along the stretch of highway between km 6.8 and 8. Our original game plan was to drive back and forth with hopes of seeing one along the road side. The issue was that traffic is fairly heavy and the chances of finding a bird resting on the road before another vehicle flushed it was slim. We gave up this idea and instead decided to park the car and walk up a dirt road at N 17 57' 31.7" W 066 51' 42.7". After a few hundred meters, I heard a nightjar close enough that was worth trying to go after. Melissa waited in a clearing as I crawled through the brush and quietly made my way towards where it was singing from. I ended up seeing the bird fly by twice, before returning to get Melissa. This time I found an easier way into the area and soon we had the nightjar perched in the open for extended walk-away views. Awesome.



Walk-away views of Puerto Rican Nightjar!

Day 6: After a failed attempt to camp at Tres Hermanos, we made our way up to Maricao State Forest for dawn. Word of advice, do not try to approach the state forest from the west. I ended up taking a very narrow and rough road almost the whole way there before it became impassable and had to turn around and head the whole way back to the main highway. Taking PR 120 is the best way to reach the state forest. Because of my logistical mistake, we arrived to Km 16.8 about 30 minutes past first light. We parked the car at km 16.8 and then walked the road back to 16.2, birding along the way. We encountered numerous endemics along the road including multiple Puerto Rican Tanagers and Elfin-woods Warblers (km 16.3, 16.6, and just below 16.8). The most cooperative Elfin-woods Warblers were just below km 16.8 where we had three individuals. We also had a Green Mango along the very first portion of the trail at km 16.8 (walk through the gate and take the right up the hill, we had the hummer about 50 yards along the trail in a pine). By mid-morning we had finished getting all the endemics except the Puerto Rican Oriole, so we began to focus our attention to try to find it. We slowly birded our way back down PR 120 making sure to stop to look for the bird. Of interest was another Green Mango at the monument at km 14. I finally found a pair of Puerto Rican Orioles at N 18 06' 10.8" W 066 57' 30.2, which I luckily heard call while driving down PR 120 back towards the highway! Having crossed our final endemics off the list (though still needing to see the owl), we headed to Cabo Rojo, so that Melissa could enjoy some time on the beach. After a relaxing afternoon at La Playuela Beach, we drove some of the back roads of the surrounding NWR and found a very cooperative pair of Puerto Rican Flycatchers and a few more Caribbean Elaenias. It was now late afternoon so we headed back to Laguna Cartagena in hope of finally seeing the West Indian Whistling Ducks as they come in to roost. We met a local birder here who we chatted with as dusk approached. Sadly dusk came and went, with no whistling ducks seen or heard. I was very surprised to miss this bird as an ebird report had mentioned over 50 birds less than a week earlier, but for some reason they didn't show for us. From here we headed back to Guanica State Forest to try and see Puerto Rican Screech Owl (heard the first morning at Rio Abajo). We parked at the gate along PR 334 and headed up hill into the park. Along the first section of road up to the first sharp left turn we had about 6 birds calling. They were frustratingly tricky to find, but we did eventually get a good look and some decent pictures.

Day 7: Having seen all the endemics, we decided to spend the morning at Humacao Reserve to look for some of the other hummingbirds on the island. It was a very rainy morning, but despite the weather we were able to see a pair of Antillean Crested Hummingbirds along with a few other common birds, such as Caribbean Coot and Puerto Rican Tody. From here we continued east to the area around Las Cabezas de San Juan. This area is another known hotspot for hummers and it was outside the hotel Siete Mares that we finally got nice looks at a Green-throated

Carib. Satisfied with the target list and extremely sleep deprived, we headed to Luquillo Campground where I spent the afternoon napping and catching up on ebird checklists.



Main building of Ecologue

Day 8: We woke up around dawn and headed to the airport to catch our 1030 flight to Punta Cana. The Allied rental car drop off went smoothly and we soon found ourselves in the Dominican Republic. Originally I had reserved a truck with Economy Rental, but soon found out that they didn't have any trucks or other 4wd vehicles available. This seems to be a very common trend with DR rental car agencies so be prepared to deal with the nonsense when you arrive. Luckily the worker at Economy was actually very helpful and soon found another company for us to rent a truck through, Nelly Car Rental. The total price was about \$75 higher, but by this time we had already been at the airport for 2 hours and were really starting to fall behind on our timeline of getting to Los Haitises by early afternoon.

We finally left the airport at 1330 and started the 2 ½-3 hour drive to Cano Hondo. By the time we arrived it was already 1630 and I was starting to feel the pressure of finding the Ridgway's Hawk that afternoon. We paid 100 pesos each to bird the property and to walk the trails for the afternoon. After asking at the front desk about where the trail was, we headed up over a hill and down into the valley behind. I had a lot of old information as to where the hawk had been in the past, but we weren't sure where it was being seen this year. We wandered around aimlessly trying to find the correct area and became increasingly frustrated as we couldn't even find the correct gate referenced in one of the trip reports I had printed out. We went back to the main lodge and discovered there was another building further up the hill. We hurriedly headed up to this lodge and to the trail behind it. We had finally found the trail referenced in multiple reports, but still had no idea where to find the pair of hawks. We headed down into the pasture and decided to walk out to the far valley to the right, stopping and scanning along the way. After spending about 15 minutes at the far valley, I decided it was time to head back towards the main resort. As we neared the resort, I decided to walk the trail through the open area that connected the first trail we had taken and the second trail we had taken. This proved to be the right call as suddenly a Ridgway's Hawk began to call from the nearby forest edge. Soon the male Ridgway's Hawk came gliding overhead and landed in a tree with the female. We spent the next 30 minutes watching the pair and getting some nice recordings before heading back to the lodge to wait for dark. We grabbed a very overpriced and underwhelming dinner from the lodge while we waited for it to get dark. Just after dark, we packed up the truck, and headed down the road towards Sabana de la Mar. The game plan was to stop periodically and try for Ashy-faced Owl. Our first stop at 1.3 km from the lodge (N 19 03' 08.0" W 069 26' 43.8") I played the tape and quickly heard a response in the distance. I few more plays of the tape and we had an Ashy-faced Owl sitting above our heads with its first meal of the night! An awesome way to finish the first day in the Dominican Republic. With a 7-8 hour drive a head of me, we decided that one owl was enough and started the long journey towards Puerto Escondido at 2030.



This is the building behind the main dinning building, take the trail along the right side of this building.

A few notes on finding the hawk at Cano Hondo. The Ecologue is located at N 19 03' 27.3" W 069 27' 17.2". We were charged 100 pesos per person to enter and walk the trails. The trail directly behind the main lodge and the trail behind the highest lodge building are easily connected through an open area (which happens to be where the hawks currently are). The easiest way to reach this area is to walk behind the main lodge building (dining room) and take the trail to the right of the building behind it (see picture) Once you get to the top, the trail crosses a small open area and then descends briefly. There's a barbed wire fence to your right with a pole gate. Go through this gate and the area the hawks were hanging out in (and nesting?) is directly in front of you at N 19 03' 24.1" W 069 27' 24.0". If you continue walking past this open area, you come out in another large open area and connect to the trail that goes behind the upper lodge building.



Walk across this small open area and as you head back downhill the fence will be to your right



This is the pole gate along the barbed wire fence, the open area in the middle of the picture is where we saw the pair of hawks

Day 9:



This is the sign you'll see once you drive through Puerto Escondido. Left takes you to Rabo de Gato, right Zapoten

Driving through the night was fairly uneventful and we arrived in Puerto Escondido around 0400. I would have liked to go directly up to Zapoten that morning, but since we hadn't had the opportunity to buy entrance tickets yet, we decided to start with the Rabo de Gato trail. After a quick search for nightjars along the road to La Placa, we headed to Rabo de Gato to start the morning. When you enter Puerto Escondido, drive through the small town and at the T you'll see a sign, Rabo de Gato to the left, Zapoten to the right. The drive to Rabo de Gato is well marked. Take the left and you'll soon see another sign for RdG pointing to turn right. You'll cross a large canal and then a small canal and then take another right. Soon you'll see Villa Barrancoli on your left and just afterwards a large parking area on your right. Park here and then the RdG trail is actually just the continuation of

the dirt road (parking: N 18 18' 57.6" W 071 34' 40.2"). As you start walking you'll see a small shrine on your left and then you'll climb a small hill before heading downhill and through the forest. The first section is dry forest and I had multiple Flat-billed Vireos along this section. The best area for White-fronted Quail Dove was further along the trail when you see a RdG sign on your left. Just after this the hillside to your left is fairly steep with large boulders. It was in this area that I saw a White-fronted Quail-Dove every time I walked by (no matter the time of day) and saw up to three in the area. I never did see Key West Quail-Dove, but they are in the area. Just past the quail-dove spot at N 18 18' 38.6" W 071 34' 55.9" is where I had a Bay-breasted Cuckoo on two occasions. Other birds along RdG trail included Antillean Euphonia, Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo, Antillean Piculet, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Stolid Flycatcher, Hispaniolan Emerald, and Hispaniolan Parrot. We finished birding along the trail around 1030 and stopped by Villa Barrancoli to chat with Kate Wallace about spending the night there in our tent. She said she hasn't had anyone camp there since the cabins were built (everyone has chosen to stay in the cabins instead), but she was open to the idea and we agreed on a price of \$10 a night to set up our tent on a concrete pad underneath a large pavilion. From here we stopped at the ranger station in Puerto Escondido to buy our park tickets and then headed into Deverge for lunch. After a quick lunch and buying some basic supplies (fruit, water, ect) we headed back to Puerto Escondido and onward to Zapoten. The drive from Puerto Escondido to the checkpoint at Zapoten takes between 1 1/2 hours depending on how fast you navigate the steep and rocky road. A high clearance vehicle is a



La Selle Thrush is regularly seen in the grass next to the road at dawn

heard a few Western Chat-Tanagers and were able to get reasonable views of one. We stayed in the area until 1800, and although we could hear almost half a dozen thrushes, we only managed a brief glimpse of two flying across the road. Staying until dusk might have provided better looks, but since I had slept 2 hours in the last 40 hours, we decided to head back down a bit early and go to bed. Note: Out of curiosity, I asked the rangers if we could camp at Zapoten and they were open to the idea. Had we known this we would have just camped there that night, but since our tent was already set up down the hill, we headed back down the mountain.

Day 10: The original game plan was to head back up to Zapoten early in the morning, but since we had seen everything of interest the day before, I made the decision to stay at lower elevations and avoid the chances of getting a flat tire before our afternoon attempt at Cachote. Instead, we awoke at 0430 and headed off along the road towards La Placa once again looking for nightjars. The night prior I had discovered a trail leading up the hillside that looked very promising for Least Pauraque. This is where I started my morning quest and quickly found myself close to two singing individuals. Frustratingly, the area is fairly thick, and although the birds were within 20-30 meters, I was never able to get a glimpse because it started to become light and the birds stopped calling. From here we headed back to RdG to try again for Key West Quail-Dove which we had dipped on the day prior. Another walk along the trail produced almost the same species list as the prior day and once again we dipped on the quail-dove. It was around 0930 when we departed Puerto Escondido and headed towards La Cienaga and the road to Cachote.

Cachote Directions:



Parked at the entrance to Cachote

must. Notable places along the road include La Placa (km11), Agua Cate (~km20, N 18 19' 47.8" W 071 42' 00.9"), and then Zapoten (km26, N 18 18' 44.5" W 071 42' 27.2"). "La Selle Thrush" corner is located about 800 meters further up the road from Zapoten and is clearly marked with a sign. We parked the car at the Zapoten Checkpoint at around 1400 and started walking up the road, slowly birding along the way. From the checkpoint to "thrush corner" we picked up almost all of our targets including Green-tailed Warbler, White-winged Warbler, Greater Antillean Elaenia (surprisingly common), Antillean Piculet, and Hispaniolan Spindalis. From "thrush corner" we continued walking up the road and within the next 1 km we began to hear La Selle Thrush start to sing around 1600. We also

The steep road to Cachote starts in the small town of La Cienaga about 15 km south of Barahona. The turn to the right is just before a green, white, and blue gas station at N 18 04' 07.5" W 071 06' 29.5". Past reports have stated that the first 500 meters are by far the worst section of the road. Well, as of 15 days ago, this section is now paved and has become the easiest part of the road (though still very steep!). The bad news is that the rest of the road is still in rough shape and overall is slightly worse than the road to Zapoten. Once again a high clearance vehicle is necessary and 4wd might not be essential, but is highly recommended to be used in certain sections as well.

Cachote: Set your odometer to 0.0 as you make the right turn off of highway 44 (N 18 04' 07.5" W 071 06' 29.5") and onto the start of the road. Most "turns" are just keeping straight, but I've added the direction as well in case there's any question as to which way is straight

Km 6.6 (N 18 03' 21.5" W 071 08' 32.2"): keep straight (left)

Km 9.2 (N 18 03' 15.3" W 071 09' 43.1"): Keep right at Y

Km 11.2: Radio Antenna will be on your left, keep right on main road

Km 11.7 (N 18 03' 56.7" W 071 10' 40.7"): Keep straight (right) at Y. There is a sign that says Cachote approx 5 km

Km 14.5 (N 18 05' 07.3" W 071 11' 17.7"): Keep straight (left) at green house

Km 15.2 (N 18 05' 21.5" W 071 11' 32.4"): Keep right at Y, there's a sign that says Bienvenidos a Cachote

Km 16.3 (N 18 05' 51.9" W 071 11' 19.1"): Entrance to Cachote

We arrived at the entrance to Cachote at around 1400 (total driving time was skewed as I got our truck stuck, driver's error, not due to road conditions, which set us back about 30 min). Luckily the weather was foggy which kept bird activity fairly high even though it was the middle of the afternoon. We parked at the entrance to the ecolodge and set off down the road to look for the Eastern Chat-Tanager. It only took about 15 minutes before a pair responded to the tape and we soon had great looks as they came within a few meters of us (N 18 05' 47.3" W 071 11' 21.5"). From here we continued birding the area for the next two hours seeing one other Eastern Chat-Tanager along a trail just up the road from the entrance as well as Hispaniolan Parakeet, Hispaniolan Trogon, Hispaniolan Spindalis, Rufous-throated Solitaires, and Narrow-billed Todies. We departed Cachote at around 1600 and uneventfully made it back down to highway 44 by 1730. From here we started heading west along highway 44 and began looking for a place to spend the night. Upon entering Los Patos, I noticed a sign for a hotel/resort and decided to check out the location as a possible camping site. Luckily, we were able to talk the owner into letting us camp on his property for the night and after negotiating a price of \$10, we headed in to Los Patos to eat dinner.

Day 11:



The "famous" Alcoa Road

We were off to a bit of a slow start this morning and didn't have the tent packed up until almost 0445. The original game plan was to search for Ashy-faced and Stygians Owls along Alcoa road before dawn, but upon entering the location into the GPS, I realized it was much further than originally anticipated. This was a bit disappointing as most reports I read stated they had stayed at a hotel just outside of Barahona while birding Alcoa Road. This meant they had a drive of almost two hours to get there! In hindsight we should have stayed in Perdenales, which is only about 10 minutes beyond Alcoa Road. There are numerous hotels/hostels in the town. Anyways, having botched the travel time, by the time we arrived to Alcoa Road, it was already starting to get light. We took the right turn just after the bridge (N 17 58' 49.3" W 071 39' 13.7") and took this small dirt road until it connected with Alcoa Road. From here it was a quick drive up the mountain until the beginning of the mixed forest. Our two main targets of the day were Hispaniolan Palm Crow and Hispaniolan Crossbill. We started birding along the road and climbing in elevation until the mixed forest turned into pine forest. From here we continued past La Charca and by 0730 we had a group of 8 Hispaniolan Palm Crows feeding noisily along the road at N 18 07' 14.4" W 071 34' 21.6". Further up the road from here where you encounter the first gate was another group of crows. With one target easily crossed of the list, our attention was turned towards the crossbills. We spent the entirety of the day (except a mid-day drive down to Perdenales for lunch) between the gated area and the beginning of the mixed forest looking for the crossbills. The pines groves became very quiet by mid-morning with the majority of activity being in the section of mixed forest lower down the mountain. This area included Antillean Euphonia, Antillean Piculet, Antillean Siskin, Hispaniolan Pewee, Hispaniolan Parrot, and Hispaniolan Parakeet. The areas of pine forest further along the road were dominated by Pine Warblers and the occasional Stolid Flycatcher (mostly just heard) as well as the occasional flyby of Golden Swallow. We also spent a good bit of time around the mostly dry concrete pond called La Charca. Apparently this pond isn't that great anymore and we had very little in the area, the only highlight being a Sharp-shinned Hawk soaring overhead. It wasn't until late in the evening around 1800, when I finally found 2 Hispaniolan Crossbills in with a large group of about 20 Antillean Siskins along the

mixed forest part of the road. We got brief looks, but they quickly disappeared and were never refound. Our original game plan was to stay around until dark to try for owls, but a local was fairly adamant that the area was dangerous and that we shouldn't stay until dark. Since we had already seen Ashy-faced Owl, we decided to head down the mountain before dark and drive back to Villa Barrancoli for the night.



Zapoten Checkpoint, although we didn't camp here, the rangers said it would be alright...definitely worth checking out!

Day 12: We departed Villa Barrancoli at 0430 and headed up the mountain to Zapoten. Due to some recent reports, we figured it might be easier to find the crossbill here versus another day along Alcoa Road. It only took an hour to reach Zapoten (I drove pretty fast) and we waited around at "thrush corner" until dawn to see the La Selle Thrush. Just as it became light enough to see, a thrush popped out on the road and started to feed in the roadside grass. After a few minutes it disappeared back into the brush and as we headed further up the road, we saw an additional 3 La Selle Thrushes feeding along the road side. I spent the majority of the morning driving and stopping along the road looking for crossbills. Although good pine forest starts less than 1 km past "thrush corner" the hillsides are steep. Although I spent

the most of the morning in this area, I discovered at around 0900 that the road flattens through nice pine forest at about 2000 meters and 3-4 km past "thrush corner". At about 0930 this is the area I finally found a few Hispaniolan Crossbills. After seeing our main target we headed back down the road, past Zapoten, and stopped at Agua Cate. Within the past few days a pair of Hispaniolan Loggerhead Kingbirds had been seen in the trees around the barracks at Agua Cate, but sadly our stop at the location only produced a single Grey Kingbird. It was still a very worthwhile stop with numerous cooperative Antillean Piculets and two Hispaniolan Pewees. From here we headed down to Deverge for lunch before returning to Villa Barrancoli for the afternoon. As dusk approached, we headed back to the cattle trail I had found near La Placa with hopes of finally getting good looks at Least Pauraque. We headed up the hillside during the last half hour of sunlight and sat quietly waiting for dark. Eventually we began to hear the songs of Hispaniolan Nightjars, but no Least Pauraques were calling. I played the tape a few times and finally got a response (calls only) of a single bird further up the hillside. We headed in its direction and finally were able to see the bird fly over a few times and saw it perched twice for about 10 seconds. By the time we headed back down to the trail at around 2130 a few more Least Pauraque had started to sing along the hillside.

Directions:

The trail begins at N 18 21' 06.3" W 071 37' 41.5". It is an old cattle trail that is on the right side of the road (heading towards La Placa) and heads up hill. The trail probably won't be apparent from the roadside and it is highly recommended to scout the spot during the day instead of trying to find it for the first time in the dark. We walked up hill to N 18 21' 08.5" W 071 37' 42.7" and waited until dark. From here we eventually heard multiple birds and were able to see two well (both perched near tops of trees).

Day 13: Today was a travel day, departing Villa Barrancoli at around 0600 and driving directly to Punta Cana. It took 3 ½ - 4 hours to make it to Santa Domingo, 1 hour to make it through Santo Domingo, and another 3 hours to make it to Punta Cana. We didn't take the best way though Santa Domingo so the trip could be done slightly quicker (though it was a Sunday so traffic was light, expect long delays through the city if it's a work day). Also of note, Road 3 is a large highway and can be taken directly from Punta Cana the whole way through Santo Domingo. Our GPS didn't realize this and wanted us to take Road 4 instead which is much slower.

Budget Breakdown:

Jamaica:

Rental Car: \$142
Lodging: \$39
Gas: \$55
Food: \$59
Other: \$53
Total: \$350

Puerto Rico:

Rental Car: \$195
Lodging: \$19
Gas: \$52
Food: \$146
Total: \$413

Dominican Republic:

Rental Car: \$510
Lodging: \$40
Gas: \$134
Food: \$112
Other: \$48
Total: \$844

Airfare: \$1177

Total Trip: \$2824

Lessons Learned/Tips:

Below are a few random tips and suggestions that I would have changed if I could do the trip over again.

Jamaica:

- It takes a lot longer to drive from Montego Bay to Hardware Gap than expected. I'd definitely fly to Kingston if possible.
- You can get everything on Ecclesdown Road, although including Hardware Gap helps increase the chances of a few birds. I'd stay away from Green Castle completely. Even though we only had 2 ½ days we wasted a ton of time and flying out of Montego didn't allow us to have time for Hellshire Hills.
- Have a good list of accommodations before leaving. Holywell works great for Hardware Gap, but outside of that, Jamaica is terribly expensive and we really had trouble finding a cheap place to stay

Puerto Rico:

- Remember to factor in that all rental car companies are going to charge extra for tolls every day
- Camping is way more difficult in the west than we expected, Tres Hermanos is NOT a campground. It's an unsecure beach. Not saying you can't camp there, but you're taking a risk

Dominican Republic:

- Be prepared for your rental car company to not have a 4wd high clearance vehicle available even if they confirm it a few days prior. Factor in extra time to address the issue once you arrive (maybe make reservations with two companies?)
- You need to purchase your ticket to go up to Zapoten in Puerto Escondido, so don't plan to arrive late at night and go up at 0430 the next morning. You'll have to plan your schedule to buy the tickets at least the day prior
- Camping at Zapoten does seem to be possible and would make a nice place to spend the night and avoid the long drive in the dark in the early morning
- Stay in Pedernales for Alcoa Road. There are plenty of hotels and hostels. Still perplexed why multiple trip reports stayed just outside of Barahona.
- "La Charca" at Alcoa isn't what it used to be. Apparently there's a leaky water tank that attracts birds (i.e. crossbill) further up the road. You have to take Alcoa road to the end, go through the gate and continue until the next gate. We didn't check it out as we didn't know about this spot until afterwards.

Jamaica

Species	Location	Notes
Ring-tailed Pigeon	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	A few seen in the fog at Hardware Gap, very common Ecclesdown Road
Crested Quail-Dove	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	Three birds seen just after dawn below Hardware Gap at N 18 05' 15.3" W 076 42' 06.5", single bird seen early afternoon Ecclesdown Road
Ruddy Quail-Dove	Ecclesdown Road	5-6 birds seen along road each day
Caribbean Dove	Rockland Bird Sanctuary	single bird seen at feeders
Zenaida Dove		
Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo	Ecclesdown Road	a few birds heard/seen both days
Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo	Ecclesdown Road	4 heard, 1 seen. Only heard when responding to playback, no birds naturally heard calling
Jamaican Owl	Hardware Gap, Rockland Bird Sanctuary	2 juveniles heard before dawn at N 10 05' 11.5" W 076 42' 22.0" and N 18 05' 09.9" W 076 42' 21.9" below Hardware Gap and 1 adult heard along rd to Rockland N 18 25' 24.5" W 077 56' 33.4"
Northern Potoo	Rockland Bird Sanctuary	Two birds seen roosting directly across road from "Sweet Rock" entrance road, about 75 meters uphill from Rockland Bird Sanctuary
Jamaican Mango	Rockland Bird Sanctuary	Only bird seen was at Rockland and it didn't show up until tourists began to feed the hummingbirds
Vervain Hummingbird	Ecclesdown Road	
Streamertail	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road, Rockland	Common
Jamaican Tody	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road, Rockland	A few heard at Hardware in the fog, a few seen at Ecclesdown Road and Rockland
Jamaican Woodpecker		Common
Black-billed Parrot	Ecclesdown Road	Not nearly as common at YB, pair at N 18 05' 29.3" W 076 20' 50.2"
Yellow-billed Parrot	Ecclesdown Road	Over 50 seen both days
Olive-throated Parakeet	Ecclesdown Road, Rockland	Flyby at Ecclesdown Road, seen perched at Rockland
Jamaican Elaenia	Ecclesdown Road	Frustrating heard twice, but never seen
Jamaican Pewee	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	
Sad Flycatcher	Ecclesdown Road	Seemed to be more common at the beginning, N 18 06' 05.3" W 076 20' 19.6"
Rufous-tailed Flycatcher	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road, Rockland	Singles seen at Hardware and Ecclesdown, multiple at Rockland
Loggerhead Kingbird		Common
Jamaican Becard	Ecclesdown Road, Rockland	Fairly common both locations
Jamaican Vireo	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	Fairly common both locations
Blue Mountain Vireo	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	3 at Hardware Gap, 1 Ecclesdown, listen for song
Jamaican Crow	Ecclesdown Road	Multiple birds from N 18 04' 38.7" W 076 20' 49.9" onward
Rufous-throated Solitaire	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	Commonly heard
White-eyed Thrush	Hardware Gap	
White-chinned Thrush		Common
Arrowhead Warbler	Hardware Gap	surprisingly only seen once
Orangequit		Common
Greater Antillean Bullfinch	Ecclesdown Road	
Yellow-shouldered Grassquit	Hardware Gap, Rockland Bird Sanctuary	Only seen once at both spots
Jamaican Spindalis		Fairly common
Jamaican Blackbird	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	A pair at N 18 05' 10.2" W 076 42' 19.1" at Hardware Gap, 1 bird seen at Ecclesdown Road near large yellow diamond road sign indicating one lane
Greater Antillean Grackle		Common
Jamaican Oriole	Ecclesdown Road, Rockland Bird Sanctuary	Fairly Common
Jamaican Euphonia	Hardware Gap, Ecclesdown Road	only seen a few times

Puerto Rico

Species	Location	Notes
Caribbean Coot	Laguna Cartegena	a few seen
Scaly-naped Pigeon	Maricao SF	Fairly common
Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo	Guanica SF	A few birds seen/heard both PR 334 and PR 333
Puerto Rican Screech-Owl	Rio Abajo, Guanica SF	A few heard just before dawn at Rio Abajo, multiple along PR 334 Guanica SF
Puerto Rican Nightjar	Guanica SF	A few heard along PR 333 between km 6.8- km 8, single bird seen well along dirt road that starts at N 17 57' 31.7" W 066 51' 42.7"
Antillean Mango	Cabo Rojo	seen along end of dirt road before La Playuela beach
Green Mango	Maricao SF	Seen at km 16.8 and km 14
Green-throated Carib	Cabezas de San Juan	Seen across the street at flowers in front of Siete Mares Hotel
Puerto Rican Emerald	Maricao SF	Seen at km 16.8
Antillean Crested Hummingbird	Humacao Reserve	Pair seen in parking lot
Puerto Rican Tody		Common (especially Guanica)
Puerto Rican Woodpecker		Common
Puerto Rican Parrot	Rio Abajo	8 birds seen at second gate. First gate is at N 18 19' 50.5" W 066 42' 24.0", you have to walk 0.95 miles to second gate, N 18 19' 55.7" W 066 43' 03.6"
Caribbean Elaenia	Guanica SF, Cabo Rojo	A few birds at both locations, calling even in the heat of the day at Cabo Rojo
Lesser Antillean Pewee	Rio Abajo, Maricao SF	only 1 bird at each location
Puerto Rican Flycatcher	Rio Abajo, Cabo Rojo	1 bird at Rio Abajo, numerous at Cabo Rojo, N 17 58' 16.6" W 067 10' 31.3"
Puerto Rican Vireo	Rio Abajo, Maricao SF	Fairly common
Red-legged Thrush		Common
Pearly-eyed Thrasher	Guanica SF, Cabo Rojo	a few at each location
Elfin-woods Warbler	Maricao SF	birds seen at 16.3, 16.6, and just below 16.8
Adelaide's Warbler		Fairly common, especially at Guanica SF
Puerto Rican Bullfinch		Common
Puerto Rican Tanager	Maricao SF	Fairly common
Puerto Rican Spindalis		Fairly common
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird	La Parguera	Birds are fed daily at the hardware shop at N 17 58' 27.0" W 067 03' 23.8" at 1500, birds also being fed at house along Calle 1 at N 17 58' 35.6" W 067 02' 51.1" seen around 1300
Puerto Rican Oriole	Maricao SF	Surprisingly very hard to get, only seen heading downhill from state forest at N 18 06' 10.8" W 066 57' 30.2"
Venezuelan Troupial	Cabo Rojo	Fairly common
Antillean Euphonia	Maricao SF	only 1 bird seen

Dominican Republic

Species	Location	Notes
Ridgway's Hawk	Los Haitises	See report for directions, pair seen at N 19 03' 24.1" W 069 27' 24.0"
Plain Pigeon	Puerto Escondido, Alcoa Road	Fairly common, mostly flyovers
White-fronted Quail-Dove	Rabo de Gato	up to 3 seen, all along rocky hillside just before N 18 18' 38.6" W 071 34' 55.9"
Bay-breasted Cuckoo	Rabo de Gato	single bird seen well after playback at N 18 18' 38.6" W 071 34' 55.9"
Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo		Common
Ashy-faced Owl	Los Haitises	Seen at 1.3 km heading back towards Sabana del Mar from Cano Hondo at N 19 03' 08.0" W 069 26' 43.8"
Least Pauraque	road before La Placa	Common by voice, good trail starts at N 18 21' 06.3" W 071 37' 41.5"
Greater Antillean Nightjar	La Placa area	Common by voice
Antillean Palm-Swift		Common
Hispaniolan Emerald	Rabo de Gato, Zapoten	Common
Hispaniolan Trogon		Common
Broad-billed Tody		Common
Narrow-billed Tody		Common, though mostly higher elevations (Zapoten, Alcoa, ect)
Antillean Piculet		Fairly commonly heard at most locations, best views at Agua Cate
Hispaniolan Woodpecker		Common
Hispaniolan Parrot	Puerto Escondido, Alcoa Road	a few seen in farmland near Puerto Escondido, multiple groups along Alcoa Road
Hispaniolan Parakeet	Rabo de Gato, Alcoa Road	flyovers both locations
Greater Antillean Elaenia	Zapoten	fairly common
Hispaniolan Pewee	Rabo de Gato, Agua Cate, Zapoten	best views at Agua Cate and pine forest above Zapoten (2000m)
Stolid Flycatcher	Rabo de Gato, Agua Cate, Alcoa	Fairly common, common along upper sections of Alcoa Road (mostly heard though)
Flat-billed Vireo	Rabo de Gato	3 birds seen along first section of trail through dry habitat
Hispaniolan Palm Crow	Alcoa Road	upper portion of road at N 18 07' 14.4" W 071 34' 21.6" and another group near gate area
White-necked Crow	Los Haitises, Rabo de Gato	
Caribbean Martin	Alcoa Road	single flyover though it was quite vocal
Golden Swallow	Zapoten, Alcoa Road	flybys of singles or small groups on multiple occasions
La Selle Thrush	Zapoten	Seen at "thrush corner" and along 500 meter road section above it
Palmchat		Common
White-winged Warbler	Zapoten	N 18 18' 38.2" W 071 42' 34.7"
Green-tailed Warbler	Zapoten, Alcoa Road	3 birds seen at Zapoten, 1 in mixed forest section of Alcoa
Black-crowned Palm-Tanager		seen in small numbers at most locations
Western Chat-Tanager	Zapoten, Alcoa Road	multiple birds heard/seen at Zapoten, 1 heard along mixed forest section of Alcoa
Eastern Chat-Tanager	Cachote	See report for directions
Hispaniolan Spindalis		Fairly common
Hispaniolan Oriole	Puerto Escondido	seen in farmland near town, N 18 18' 59.8" W 071 33' 13.1"
Hispaniolan Crossbill	Alcoa Road, Zapoten	Took all day to briefly see at Alcoa Road, seen well above Zapoten near 2000m, N 18 17' 46.3" W 071 42' 03.2"
Antillean Siskin	Alcoa Road, Zapoten	a few flocks seen at each location