

Dominican Republic April 8th – 15th 2019

General Info:

The Dominican Republic is one of two states on the island of Hispaniola. This is one of the Greater Antilles and lies in the Caribbean. Among the roundabout 300 species recorded are 31 island-endemics plus another 20 Caribbean endemics (see species list). All of these can be seen in the Dominican Republic with the exception of Grey-crowned Palm-Tanager which seems to be restricted to Haiti-territory.



Broad-billed Tody at Rabo de Gato

Hazards

The Dominican Republic is rather poor, especially the people near the Haitian Border. **Thefts** and robbery are said to be increasing though we have not experienced any unpleasant situations. Nevertheless valuables should be carried hidden.

Dengue and **malaria** can occur especially in the western parts of the country. Appropriate clothes and insect repellent should be in your luggage.

Traffic rules are a suggestion rather than a rule. Drive with care.

Tap Water can cause illnesses. Always drink bottled Water.

Useful info

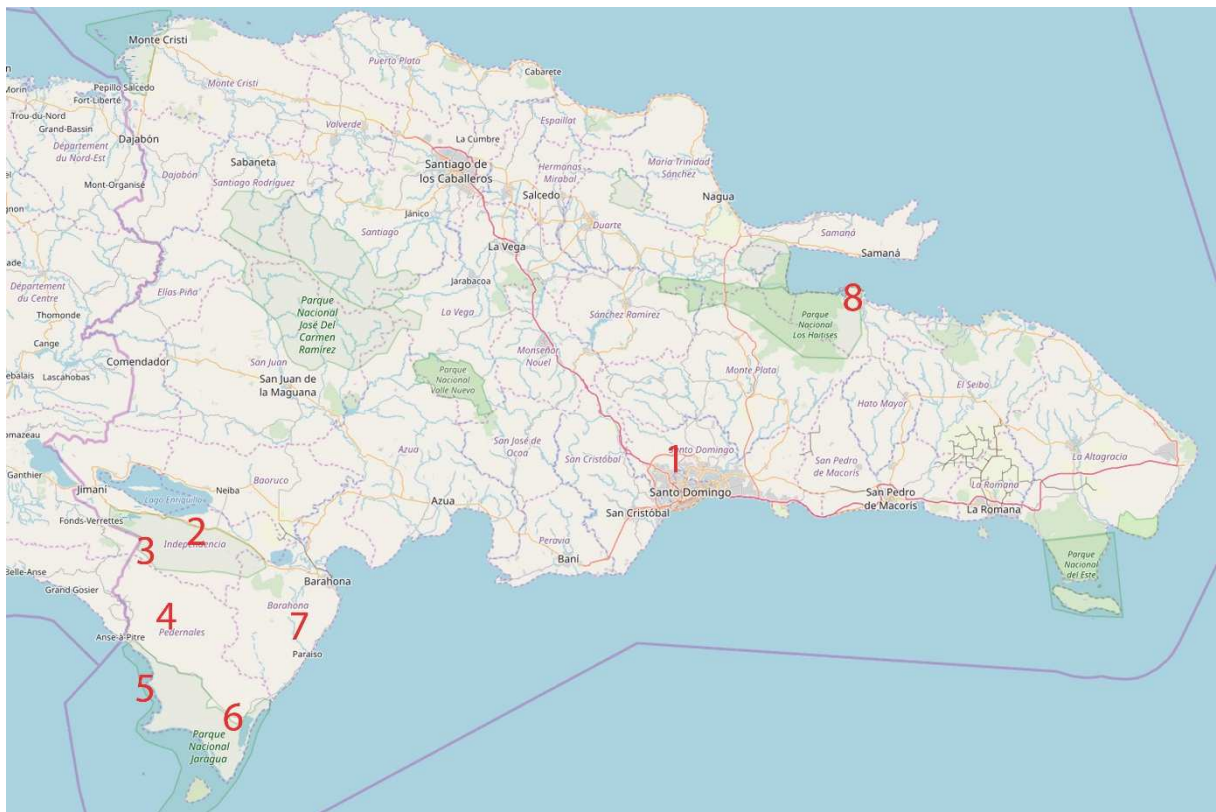
Credit cards are not widely distributed, the accommodation in Rabo de Gato, Pedernales and near Cachote had to be paid cash. Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo charged 18% extra for the use of a credit card. ATM's are rare and could be found only in the capital and Barahona. Therefore a lot of cash has to be carried with you.

Lots of **mosquitos** around, especially in the south east. Think of insect repellent.

Arrangements for accommodation at Villa Barrancoli, some guiding and 4x4's were made via Kate Wallace / www.todytours.com

Itinerary

- Apr, 8th: Arrival Santo Domingo, National Botanical Garden (1), Drive to Villa Barrancoli, Birding Rabo de Gato (2), Accommodation Villa Barrancoli
- Apr, 9th: early morning visit Zapotén (3), Rabo de Gato, Accommodation Villa Barrancoli
- Apr, 10th: Rabo de Gato, Drive to Pedernales via Laguna Oviedo. Accommodation: Hostal Doña Chava (Calle 2da No, 5, Pedernales 84000)
- Apr, 11th: Alcoa Road (4), Cabo Rojo Accommodation: Hostal Doña Chava
- Apr, 12th: Cabo Rojo and Bahía de las Aguílas (5), Laguna Oviedo (boat) (6), drive to Hotel Quemaito (Juan Esteban KM 10, 81000)
- Apr, 13th: early morning visit Cachote (7), drive to Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo (8), evening owl search
- Apr, 14th: Hotel area, boat trip to Los Haitises cave,
- Apr, 15th: Hotel area, drive to airport



These sites may deliver all the endemics though it is quite difficult to spot some of these. We failed to see nightjars but found all of the other endemics during this trip.

Sites visited (numbers refer to the map)

1. National Botanical Garden

a. **Key birds** are *West Indian Whistling Duck* and *Hispaniolan Parakeet*. Otherwise quite a good number of endemics occur although these are usually seen elsewhere.



Greater Antillean Grackle

b. **Access** to the garden is via the address: Mt. Isabel de Torres, Santo Domingo 10507, there is an entrance fee of 50 Pesos. The garden opens at 8am. Usually it is possible to enter earlier and pay the entrance fee when you leave.



Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo

c. **Strategy**: The ducks favor the canal in the east of the park, the Parakeets were not seen in the park but flew around in the entrance area.

d. **Species seen**: West Indian Whistling-Duck, Least Grebe, Common Ground-Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo, Antillean Palm-Swift, Antillean Mango, Vervain Hummingbird, Common Gallinule, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Hispaniolan Parakeet, Stolid Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Black-whiskered Vireo, Caribbean Martin, Red-legged Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Black-crowned Palm-Tanager, Greater Antillean Grackle, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler, Bananaquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, House Sparrow, Village Weaver



Hispaniolan Parakeet

2. Rabo de Gato

- a. **Key birds** are *White-fronted Quail-Dove*, *Key West Quail-Dove*, *Bay-breasted Cuckoo*, *Flat-billed Vireo*, *Antillean Siskin*. Otherwise both *Todys* occur and during the seeding of a tree growing in the village area, there is large flocks of *Antillean Siskin*.
- b. **Access:** From Barahona, take the main road north toward Santo Domingo until reaching a major intersection and the road to Cabral, Duverge, and Jimani. Turn left and continue to Duverge (about 1h driving). In Duverge look for signs for a left turn to Puerto Escondido. The turn is the fifth left after the gas station in town. Follow this road southward as it leaves town and becomes dirt. Follow a small river bottom, and then steadily climb along an aqueduct through dry and dusty hills until reaching the small village of Puerto Escondido. The National Park house is on the right as you enter the village. Stop here to get a ticket for the park. Continue straight through town until reaching a T-intersection. To reach Villa Barrancolí, and Rabo de Gato, turn left at the T and go past a chain-link fence surrounding the dam buildings. You will then turn right, cross a canal, and take the next right at a sign for Rabo de Gato. Villa Barrancolí will be on your left. This offers simple accommodation and also is the best base for a Zapotén-visit.
- c. **Strategy:** The lodge itself offers good possibilities for seeing both *Todys*, though *Narrow-billed* is far outnumbered by *Broad-billed*. *Warblers* like the area, I could observe 8 species in three days. Sometimes *Bay-breasted Cuckoo* turns up. The best birding is by following the path that continues the access road. The shrubier parts have *Antillean Piculet* but the good ones are in the riparian woods that start after approx. 600m. Continuing this path you reach a junction that was very productive: *Flat-billed Vireo* was singing, *Hispaniolan Parrots* feeding and a *Bay-breasted Cuckoo* turned up. Walking back towards the lodge make your way into the woods on the left and check the area carefully. All Quail-Doves were there, we even saw *White-fronted Quail Dove* sitting only 5 meters beside a *Key West Quail-Dove*.



The agricultural areas towards Puerto Escondido usually offer good views of *White-necked Crow*. *Hispaniolan Parrot*, *Olive-throated* and *Hispaniolan Parakeets* are also possible. Sometimes *Black-faced Grassquits* are among the numerous *Yellow-faced*.

d. **Birds seen:** Scaly-naped Pigeon, Plain Pigeon, White-fronted Quail-Dove, Key West Quail-Dove, Zenaida Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, Bay-breasted Cuckoo, Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo, Antillean Palm-Swift, Antillean Mango, Vervain Hummingbird, Hispaniolan Emerald, Common Gallinule, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Broad-billed Tody, Narrow-billed Tody, Belted Kingfisher, Antillean Piculet, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Hispaniolan Parakeet, Hispaniolan Parrot, Olivethroated Parakeet, Stolid Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Flat-billed Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, White-necked Crow, Red-legged Thrush, Barn Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, Palmchat, Antillean Euphonia, Antillean Siskin, Black-crowned Palm-Tanager, Greater Antillean Grackle, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler, Bananaquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Black-faced Grassquit, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, Village Weaver, Nutmeg Mannikin



White-fronted Quail-Dove at Rabo de Gato



Antillean Siskin at Puerto Escondido



Key West Quail-Dove at Rabo de Gato

3. Zapotén

- a. **Key birds:** nearly all endemics like *La Selle Thrush*, *Hispaniolan Crossbill*, *Hispaniolan Trogon*, *White-winged & Green-tailed Warbler*, and *Western Chat-Tanager* occur.
- b. **Access:** From Puerto Escondido continue on to Aguacate and Zapotén, turn right at the Puerto Escondido T-intersection, pass by the military guard post on the right, and then continue through the valley dominated by large avocado plantations. Pass the birding sites at La Placa and Los Naranjos. About 3 km (1.9 miles) further on, the road enters a (normally) dry riverbed full of loose stone after which the road begins to ascend more steeply. This will require high ground clearance and 4WD, though much depends on recent weather and road maintenance. Stop at the military guard post at Aguacate and tell them you are a birdwatcher (observador de aves), at which point they may request your entrance ticket. Continue on till reaching a sign with La Selle Thrush on the right hand and park the car there.

- c. **Strategy:** Seeing La Selle Thrush requires an arrival at dawn. We started at Villa Barrancoli at 4 am to be at the site at 6 am. Later in the day the chances decrease dramatically. We parked the car near the sign featuring *La Selle Thrush* and immediately heard the first bird singing. In this place you can often see them running across the track though the Thrush we saw running was *Bicknell's*. Move your way up for 2km or so to pick up *Hispaniolan Trogon* (around 10 heard), *Western Chat-Tanager* (quite a few but hard to see), *White-winged & Green-tailed Warbler* were quite numerous. Occasionally *Hispaniolan Parrot* and *Golden Swallow* flew by. When you reach the pines, listen carefully for *Hispaniolan Crossbill*. This is one of the best places for this species.



Hispaniolan Trogon prefers the Highlands at Zapotén

Heading back down with the car stop at the first military post. This is the place for *Loggerhead Kingbird* that was heard singing and flying but way up in the treetops. *Pine Warbler* was present plus another 5 or 6 *Hispaniolan Crossbills*. Continuing down, there are sites for *Antillean Euphonia* and *Northern Potoo* though I really can't deliver a precise description. Back down again check the area with the plantations for *Burrowing Owl* and *Hispaniola Oriole*. Check <http://www.caribbeanbirdingtrail.org/sites/dominican-republic/enriquillo-bahoruco-jaragua-biosphere-reserve/aguacate-and-zapoten/> for further information.

- d. **Birds seen:** Scaly-naped Pigeon, Plain Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Hispaniolan Emerald, Red-tailed Hawk, Hispaniolan Trogon, Narrow-billed Tody, Antillean Piculet, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Hispaniolan Parrot, Hispaniolan Parakeet, Greater Antillean Elaenia, Hispaniolan Pewee, Loggerhead Kingbird, Golden Swallow, Rufous-throated Solitaire, Bicknell's



Green-tailed Warbler at Zapotén



Thrush, La Selle Thrush, Red-legged Thrush, Antillean Euphonia, Hispaniolan Cross-bill, Antillean Siskin, Western Chat-Tanager, White-winged Warbler, Green-tailed Warbler, Hispaniolan Spindalis, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bananaquit, Greater Antillean Bullfinch

Antillean Euphonia was found in the lower and drier areas at Zapotén

4. Alcoa Road

a. **Key Birds:** *Hispaniolan Crossbill*, *Golden Swallow*, *Palm Crow*

b. **Access:** Alcoa Road is an old road that was built for mining reasons. It leads to an old Bauxite mine in the higher elevations of the Sierra de Bahoruco. It is located in the most southwestern part of the DR approximately 5 km before reaching Pedernales, the last town before the Haitian Border. Access is via Route 44. The visitor area is drive of 40 km or so.

c. **Strategy:** On your way towards the mountains you drive through a spot with a small ridge on the left and right of the road. Watch for **Burrowing Owl** here but there is not much interesting birds otherwise. Birding gets better after leaving the shrubbier parts. Stops can be rewarding (from entrance gate: km 19, walking trail; km 26 moist canyon). **White-crowned Pigeons** were especially numerous but quite a good number of **Plain Pigeons** plus **Scaly-naped** were around as well.

After reaching the Pine Forest, watch for a small car park to your right, there is an information sign. A few steps further is a concrete pond to your right. This was and maybe still is a good site for drinking birds. **Antillean Siskins** and **Hispaniolan Crossbills** came/come down in the hotter periods of the day and can be observed better than elsewhere. During my visit (earlier in the day), no Crossbills were present so we continued further up.

When the tarmac ends, continue on the gravel and turn right shortly afterwards. Soon you pass a gate and a sign (Hoyo de Pelempito). Park your car here and scan the area. On your right, there is a picnic area. A water tank can be used to fill the bucket. This is the new drinking site for **Hispaniolan Crossbills**. We waited for an hour or so till two birds came down silently and offered awesome views. As before, the birds come to drink only on hot days / in hot periods. Other birds of this area were **Palm Crows** and **Hispaniolan Parrots**.



Hispaniolan Crossbill at the drinking site at Hoyo de Pelempito



Golden Swallows sometimes perch near their breeding site



Hispaniolan Parrot like to roost in the pines

From the picnic area there are a few huts on the opposite side of the road. Left of these starts a very small and easily overlooked walking track that leads to a breeding site for Golden Swallow. Follow this for less than a km until you get onto an overgrown gravel road. Walk right (but mark this spot as the path is easily overlooked on your way back) for another 600m or so until there is a steep hill on your right. This is a place where **Golden Swallows** breeds in small crevices in the wall. During breeding season excellent views are guaranteed. Other birds on the path were **Northern Bobwhite, Pine & Palm Warbler, and Green-tailed Warbler**. At night, **Hispaniolan Nightjar** sometimes sits on the warm road in the lowlands but we didn't spot any.

- d. **Birds seen**: Northern Bobwhite, Scaly-naped Pigeon, White-crowned Pigeon, Plain Pigeon, Common Ground-Dove, Mourning Dove, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Hispaniolan Parrot, American Kestrel, Red-legged Thrush, Greater Antillean Elaenia, Hispaniolan Pewee, Stolid Flycatcher, Palm Crow, Golden Swallow, Hispaniolan Crossbill, Green-tailed Warbler, American Redstart, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler

5. Cabo Rojo and Bahía de las Aguílas

a. **Key birds:** *White-tailed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, waders, ducks, herons*

b. **Access:** This wetland and ocean site is reached by following the Alcoa Road to the south for a few km until you reach a post on your left. The shallow pond is visible from here.

To reach the breeding site of the Tropicbirds continue south, turn left after 200m and right again after 600m (following the sign to Eco Lodge). After 1.6 km there is a path on the right side of the road. Park the car and follow this path to the cliff.

c. **Strategy:** the pond at Cabo Rojo can be surrounded by foot (short walk) and offers different perspectives plus sometimes brief views of a second pond. Check the area carefully for Rails, **Spotted Rail** was seen here a few days before our visit. Several species of waders, **ducks** and **herons** were present, **White Ibis** flew by, **American Flamingos** were feeding and some **Warblers** were present in the surrounding bushes. Check the oceanfront for flying Brown Boobies, sometimes they can be spotted sitting on the buoys out at sea.

A visit to Bahía de las Aguílas should be in the morning, as the Tropicbirds are often out at sea and not visible in the hotter periods. On the 11th we did not see any Tropicbirds and hardly anything at around 2pm, the next morning was filled with large numbers of **Cave Swallow, Caribbean Martin** and **Barn Swallow, Brown Booby** and **Pelicans** flew by and a **Magnificent Frigatebird** turned up. At least 8 **White-tailed Tropicbirds** were showing well and sometimes close to the shore.

d. **Birds seen:** Blue-winged Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, American Flamingo, Royal Tern, Common Ground-Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Sharpshinned Hawk, Antillean Palm-Swift, Vervain Hummingbird, Common Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Killdeer, Stilt Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Brown Booby, White-tailed Tropicbird, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Green Heron, White Ibis, American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Gray Kingbird, Stolid Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Cave Swallow, Caribbean Martin, Hispaniolan Oriole, Shiny Cowbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow



Yellow Warbler breeds in the mangroves



White-cheeked Pintail



White-tailed Tropicbird at Bahía de las Aguílas

6. Laguna Oviedo

a. **Key birds:** *Terns, Flamingos, ducks*

b. **Access:** Laguna Oviedo is in the far south of the Dominican Republic. The entrance is in the north-western corner. This is signposted on Route 44.

c. **Strategy:** Birding can be done in the entrance area. Distance to the birds is often high though all the Tern species were seen flying by on a rather short distance. Nevertheless a scope is helpful here. **American Flamingos** were seen as little pink spots on the opposite shore. A path leads to the north but covers only a small part of the lagoon. We've seen **Least Sandpiper** and **Wilson's Plover** plus a few roosting **Least Terns** here.

It is possible to do a boat trip (approx. 3 hours, 2500 Pesos plus small entrance fee). We've made reservations one day ahead which is probably necessary. This allowed us to receive fantastic views of the abundant birdlife in the more distant parts: Four species of Duck, a large heron-selection, lots of waders were a welcome variety to the exhausting forest-birding. There were lots of good photo-opportunities on the boat-trip as well.

d. **Birds seen:** American Wigeon, White-cheeked Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, American Flamingo, Antillean Palm-Swift, Common Gallinule, American (Caribbean) Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Stilt Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Least Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Royal Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, Tricolored Heron, Green Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Belted Kingfisher, Gray Kingbird, Black-whiskered Vireo, Yellow Warbler



American Flamingos were common



Reddish Egret (white morph)



White Ibis

7. Cachote

- a. **Key birds:** A visit to Cachote offers the only realistic chance of finding the endemic *Eastern Chat-Tanager*. *Bicknell's Thrush* and a good number of endemics occur but were seen much better at previously visited sites.
- b. **Access:** From Barahona drive south on the main road for 15 km until you reach the coastal town of La Ciénaga. Shortly before a gas station turn right (signposted Sierra de Bahoruco or so). From here travel up the mountain on an unmarked and rough dirt road for approximately one hour. A 4WD vehicle is required here.

- c. **Strategy:** Birding is quite difficult due to the very dense vegetation. Knowing the voice of the Eastern Chat-Tanager usually is essential for spotting one. Recordings can be downloaded on Xeno-canto.org.

Birding is usually done from the road uphill. Early morning visits are advisable, at least "our" Chat-Tanagers were singing at dawn only. During several stops we heard them twice but could see only one of them. The best site seems to be at the lower entrance to the center. A few yards back down the road there is a very narrow unmarked trail that leads into the forest below the corner. This is a good place to look for *Bicknell's Thrush*. We also saw *Eastern-Chat Tanager* there. Lots of *Rufous-throated Solitaires* were singing in the area, on *White-fronted Quail-Dove* was calling here distantly. Apart from these observations, activity remained rather low, maybe due to windy and rainy conditions.



Narrow-billed Todys are numerous at Cachote



White-crowned Pigeon

- d. **Birds seen:** White-crowned Pigeon, White-fronted Quail-Dove, Zenaida Dove, Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo, Hispaniolan Emerald, Narrow-billed Tody, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Black-whiskered Vireo, Rufous-throated Solitaire, Red-legged Thrush, Eastern Chat-Tanager, Hispaniolan Spindalis, Bananaquit

8. Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo and Los Haitises National Park

a. **Key birds:** *Ridgway's Hawk*, *Ashy-faced Owl*, *Pearly-eyed Thrasher*, *Ruddy Quail-Dove*, *White-necked Crow*

b. **Access:** The hotel lies in the north east of the DR, a bit west of the small town Sabana de la mar. Address is Los Haitises, Sabana de la Mar 25000, google maps also features Careterra Caño Hondo. The drive from Santo Domingo colonial Zone is about 3h. Staying in this place is a good idea due to its ideal location and exceptional beauty. BUT it's rather expensive. There are not many (or even any?) alternatives for overnight stays.

c. **Strategy:** Many possibilities to be birding around the hotel, the ones we took are featured.

- From the hotel, continue the connection road along the agricultural area. **Smooth-billed Anis**, **Yellow-faced Grassquit**, **Nutmeg Mannikin** and **Village Weavers** can be seen along with a **heron/egret**-selection. After 500m turn left onto the small path, walk slightly uphill and walk through the gate. You then enter a small "valley" (big name for a tiny spot) with coconut and cocoa trees. The inside of the cocoa tree areas to the right and left is a favored spot of **Ruddy Quail-Dove**. Continuing you walk slightly uphill again and enter the next "valley". Remember this place as this is the hunting area for **Ashy-faced Owl** at dusk. You can continue through the valley till reaching the forest, again well for Ruddy Quail-Dove. We did not see anything exciting there (apart from **Greater Antillean Bullfinch**), maybe due to the visit during the hot afternoon hours with bird activities being generally low then.

- Another good track starts behind the block of the hotel that you approach when you walk the road within the hotel complex. Take this path until you reach a gate after only approx. 300m. Here you can start searching for **Ridgway's Hawk** (we had it a bit further). Don't enter the gate but walk left and cross the small stream. A late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was here, **Antillean Piculet** in the vicinity. The path splits. Take the right one and pass the gate onto the meadow. From here you can scan the area for **Ridgway's Hawk** again. Along the stream was 2 **Limpkins**. If you see no Hawk continue walking over the meadow, pass a row of trees and walk through the next meadow. Behind this is a hill to your left that has a few small paths. This was the area where we saw the Hawk.



Ashy-faced Owl



Ridgway's Hawk. Females are banded green, males red.

- The hotel complex itself was interesting, especially during early morning hours. Close to the reception near the main pool was a fruiting tree that was flooded with birds in the early mornings. **Broad-billed Todys**, **Antillean Piculet** and **Pearly-eyed Thrasher** plus a selection of more common species gave excellent views but quickly left when tourist activities went up. **White-necked Crows** frequent the area and can be quite tame.
- A visit to the caves of the national park by boat can be very rewarding although no exciting endemics are to be expected. But perfect views of Frigatebirds, lots of Herons, Royal Tern, West Indian Whistling-Duck and Village Weaver colonies while enjoying the beautiful landscape were really a pleasant experience. The boats start only about a km north of the hotel area, ask at the reception for details.



West Indian Whistling-Ducks were quite numerous during the boat trip to the caves of the park.

- d. **Birds seen:** West Indian Whistling-Duck, Helmeted Guineafowl, Ruddy Quail-Dove, White-crowned Pigeon, Zenaida Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo, Ashy-faced Owl, Antillean Palm-Swift, Antillean Mango, Limpkin, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Royal Tern, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ridgway's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Broad-billed Tody, Antillean Piculet, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Hispaniolan Pewee, Gray Kingbird, Black-whiskered Vireo, White-necked Crow, Pearly-eyed Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Palmchat, Cave Swallow, Black-crowned Palm-Tanager, Greater Antillean Grackle, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Bananaquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, Village Weaver, Scaly-breasted Munia

The species (Hispaniola endemics are **fat and underlined**, Carribean endemics are **fat**.)

1	West Indian Whistling-Duck	Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens and Los Haitises National Park are rather reliable spots.
2	Blue-winged Teal	Small numbers in the wetland sites (Laguna Oviedo and Cabo Rojo)
3	American Wigeon	Seen only Laguna Oviedo
4	White-cheeked Pintail	Small numbers in the wetland sites
5	Ring-billed Duck	One late drake on Laguna Oviedo
6	Helmeted Guineafowl	Semi-wild birds around Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo
7	Northern Bobwhite	Prefer the upland pine forests. The only occasion when we saw these was on our way to the Golden Swallow breeding site at Alcoa Road.
8	American Flamingo	A few at Cabo Roja, common at Laguna Oviedo
9	Least Grebe	Seen only in the botanical garden in Santo Domingo
10	Feral Pigeon	Common in cities
11	Scaly-naped Pigeon	Prefers the higher regions. Therefore few sightings at Rabo de Gato, Zapotén and Alcoa Road.
12	White-crowned Pigeon	Notably common at Alcoa Road. Singles in Los Haitises
13	Plain Pigeon	Preferring Highland sites(Rabo de Gato, Zapotén, Alcoa Road) but also seen Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo
14	Common Ground-Dove	Common in more open areas - urban or suburban
15	Ruddy Quail-Dove	Seen only near Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo, occurs elsewhere, especially Rabo de Gato together with the other Quail-Dove species
16	<u>White-fronted Quail-Dove</u>	Superb views at Rabo de Gato, heard Cachote
17	Key West Quail-Dove	Seen Rabo de Gato only which is the best spot for this species
18	White-winged Dove	Rather common in more open areas
19	Zenaida Dove	Probably quite common, but not really seeked. Seen Rabo de Gato, Cachote and Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo but not in large numbers
20	Mourning Dove	common
21	Smooth-billed Ani	Common in open areas. Also Botanical Garden.
22	<u>Bay-breasted Cuckoo</u>	Rabo de Gato seems is the only place we found this rare one and probably the best place for it.
23	<u>Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo</u>	Very common
24	Antillean Palm-Swift	common
25	Antillean Mango	Common, prefers lower elevations
26	<u>Vervain Hummingbird</u>	Common
27	<u>Hispaniolan Emerald</u>	Common. Prefers higher elevations
28	Common Gallinule	Seen in all wetland sites including the small water body at Rabo de Gato
29	American Coot	Seen only Laguna Oviedo. Large frontal shield indicated Caribbean Coot that had just recently been lumped with American.
30	Limpkin	2 birds near Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo along the stream
31	Black-necked Stilt	Quite numerous at Cabo Rojo, probably common in other wetland sites but not seen elsewhere
32	Black-bellied Plover	One bird Laguna Oviedo
33	Wilson's Plover	Two birds Laguna Oviedo
34	Semipalmated Plover	Few birds Laguna Oviedo
35	Killdeer	Common in wetlands
36	Stilt Sandpiper	Around 20 in Cabo Rojo and Laguna Oviedo
37	Least Sandpiper	Small numbers in Cabo Rojo and Laguna Oviedo
38	Short-billed Dowitcher	One bird Cabo Rojo, around 15 Laguna Oviedo
39	Spotted Sandpiper	Seen Botanical Garden Santo Domingo and on the boat trip to Los Haitises caves
40	Solitary Sandpiper	One bird in the Botanical Garden Santo Domingo was the only sighting

41	Greater Yellowlegs	Only seen Laguna Oviedo
42	Lesser Yellowlegs	Cabo Rojo and Laguna Oviedo
43	Laughing Gull	Laguna Oviedo but also flying at several ocean fronts while changing places.
44	Least Tern	Quite a good number at Laguna Oviedo was the only observation
45	Gull-billed Tern	A small flock at Laguna Oviedo during a short stop while moving south to Pedernales. Not seen during the boat trip across the lagoon.
46	Common Tern	Seen Laguna Oviedo only
47	Royal Tern	Quite common at oceanfronts, seen inland as well
48	Sandwich Tern	Seen Laguna Oviedo only
49	White-tailed Tropicbird	Seen Bahía de las Aguilas only. Good views in the morning.
50	Magnificent Frigatebird	Common around Santo Domingo. Seen other sites (Bahía de las Aguilas, Laguna Oviedo...)
51	Brown Booby	The only observations were in Cabo Rojo and Bahía de las Aguilas
52	Brown Pelican	All wetland sites close to the ocean
53	Great Blue Heron	Two birds at Laguna Oviedo were the only sightings
54	Great Egret	All larger wetlands
55	Snowy Egret	Seen all larger wetlands except Cabo Rojo
56	Little Blue Heron	Common in wetlands
57	Tricolored Heron	Common in wetlands
58	Reddish Egret	Only two birds at Laguna Oviedo
59	Cattle Egret	common
60	Green Heron	Singles seen at various occasions at larger and smaller wet places
61	Black-crowned Night-Heron	The only sighting was on the boat trip to Los Haítises caves on one of the breeding-colony-rocks
62	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Just one sighting on a cliff at the Hotel Quemaito
63	White Ibis	Seen Cabo Rojo and Laguna Oviedo
64	Glossy Ibis	Only one bird at Laguna Oviedo
65	Roseate Spoonbill	Around 10 birds at Laguna Oviedo
66	Turkey Vulture	Occasional sightings in the west, common in the east
67	Osprey	Two sightings in Los Haítises National Park
68	Sharp-shinned Hawk	One bird hunting near Bahía de las Aguilas and another sighting between Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo and the boat rental
69	<u>Ridgway's Hawk</u>	2 birds at Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo. Obviously the best spot for this species
70	Red-tailed Hawk	Seen only at Zapotén: two different birds at two different spots on perched beside the road on our way down again.
71	<u>Ashy-faced Owl</u>	Close to Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo, see site 8 for details
72	Burrowing Owl	Seen only on our way up and down from/to Zapotén. Favors the plantation areas. Occurs Alcoa road, but not seen there.
73	<u>Hispaniolan Trogon</u>	Known from highland sites (Alcoa Road, Cachote), but seen only at Zapotén, where quite common but sometimes hard to spot.
74	<u>Broad-billed Tody</u>	Seen mainly around Rabo de Gato, where common. Also Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo near the main pool.
75	<u>Narrow-billed Tody</u>	Prefers higher elevations than former species. Common Zapotén, singles seen Rabo de Gato. Also quite common Cachote.
76	Belted Kingfisher	Small numbers in several sites with water (Rabo de Gato, Laguna Oviedo, Cabo Rojo, Los Haítises)
77	<u>Antillean Piculet</u>	Heard in several sites (Rabo de Gato, Zapotén, and Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo). Prefers the drier shrubby areas. Notoriously hard to spot. At Caño Hondo nice views in a seeding tree in front of the main pool. A pair came there in the mornings to feed and gave nice views.

78	<u>Hispaniolan Woodpecker</u>	Very common
79	American Kestrel	common
80	<u>Hispaniolan Parrot</u>	Several sightings with up to 16 birds at Rabo de Gato. Also Zapotén and Alcoa Road.
81	Olive-throated Parakeet	Small numbers flying around at Rabo de Gato.
82	<u>Hispaniolan Parakeet</u>	Quite common in colonial zone Santo Domingo. Good chances at the botanical garden. Small numbers also Zapotén and Rabo de Gato.
83	Greater Antillean Elaenia	Seen only on two occasions: Zapotén and Alcoa Road. Prefers highland sites.
84	<u>Hispaniolan Pewee</u>	Quite common
85	Stolid Flycatcher	common
86	Gray Kingbird	common
87	Loggerhead Kingbird	Seen Zapotén only. Under revision for gaining species status and thus possible endemic. See description of site 3 for details.
88	<u>Flat-billed Vireo</u>	Quite local in dry brush and scrublands. Quite reliable in Rabo de Gato.
89	Black-whiskered Vireo	Very common.
90	<u>Palm Crow</u>	Only two observations: common at the picnic area of Alcoa road. Another site is at Lake Enriquillo: Heading back from Rabo de Gato, we turned west when reaching the main road at Duvergé. After 8km or so the road is quite close to the lake. This area is frequented by quite a good number of this species.
91	<u>White-necked Crow</u>	Local but commonly seen Rabo de Gato and Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo.
92	Caribbean Martin	Probably not uncommon but we've seen this species only in Santo Domingo and one bird at Bahía de las Aguílas.
93	Golden Swallow	Probably endemic as the Jamaican race might be extinct. Birds seen distantly at Zapotén. Fantastic views (breeding site) at Alcoa Road.
94	Cave Swallow	Colonies at Bahía de las Aguílas and Los Haítises
95	Barn Swallow	Few observations of migrants mainly near the coast
96	Rufous-throated Solitaire	Another highland species. Hardly seen but frequently heard Zapotén and Cachote.
97	Bicknell's Thrush	Lucky observations at Zapotén and Cachote.
98	<u>La Selle Thrush</u>	Zapotén is THE place to see this species. Several heard around the sign where we parked the car but only one male seen. Visits at dawn seem to be a must for this bird.
99	Red-legged Thrush	Not uncommon in many habitats
100	Pearly-eyed Thrasher	The range of this species used to be restricted to the far east. Obviously expanding recently. One bird at Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo.
101	Northern Mockingbird	Common
102	<u>Palmchat</u>	Very common
103	Antillean Euphonia	Somewhat local and easily overlooked in dense woodlands. A few where seen near the stream at Rabo de Gato. The best observations was along the connection road to Zapotén.
104	<u>Hispaniolan Crossbill</u>	Restricted to the highland pine forests. Zapotén offers good chances. The best observations were at the drinking site on Alcoa Road though patience may be required here.
105	<u>Antillean Siskin</u>	The only observations were at Zapotén with 2 birds and Rabo de Gato. Here, large flocks came to feed in the drier parts of the forest near Puerto Escondido. Obviously a seedling tree species offered lots of food.
106	<u>Western Chat-Tanager</u>	Difficult skulker. Several heard and two seen at Zapotén.
107	<u>Eastern Chat-Tanager</u>	The only realistic chance is at Cachote. Even more difficult to see than the latter species. Knowing the voice and very early morning visits are essential.

108	<u>Black-crowned Palm-Tanager</u>	Quite common
109	<u>White-winged Warbler</u>	Highland species that was seen only at Zapotén.
110	<u>Green-tailed Warbler</u>	Quite common at Zapotén, fewer on Alcoa Road.
111	<u>Hispaniolan Spindalis</u>	A bit local but not uncommon in a wider range of habitats. Several birds at Zapotén and Cachote.
112	<u>Hispaniolan Oriole</u>	Seen Cabo Rojo, Plantations near Rabo de Gato and on two occasions while travelling.
113	Shiny Cowbird	Only one observation at Cabo Rojo.
114	Greater Antillean Grackle	Quite common in urban areas.
115	Ovenbird	Somewhat numerous in Rabo de Gato, especially near Puerto Escondido. Not seen elsewhere.
116	Louisiana Waterthrush	One late bird at Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo
117	Northern Waterthrush	Single birds in Cabo Rojo and Los Haítises
118	Black-and-white Warbler	Two birds at Rabo de Gato, one at Zapotén and one more Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo.
119	Common Yellowthroat	One bird Cabo Rojo.
120	American Redstart	Six observations at 5 different sites
121	Cape May Warbler	Fairly common
122	Northern Parula	Another fairly common warbler
123	Magnolia Warbler	Only one observation at Villa Barrancoli (Rabo de Gato)
124	Yellow Warbler	Quite common in coastal mangroves.
125	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Fairly common.
126	Palm Warbler	Only on Alcoa Road on the track to the Golden Swallow breeding site. Several birds here.
127	Pine Warbler	Same site as latter species. Additionally Zapotén.
128	Prairie Warbler	Several observations.
129	Bananaquit	common
130	Yellow-faced Grassquit	Common near agricultural areas.
131	Black-faced Grassquit	Only one bird together with Yellow-faced Grassquits at Puerto Escondido (Rabo de Gato)
132	Greater Antillean Bullfinch	Most observations Rabo de Gato and Zapotén. Also Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo.
133	Hous Sparrow	common
134	Village Weaver	Several observations (Santo Domingo Botanical Garden, Puerto Escondido). Breeding colonies in Los Haitises National Park on the boat trip to the caves.
135	Scaly-breasted Munia	Common agricultural areas.