

Sunrise Birding LLC

www.sunrisebirding.com

JAMAICA TRIP REPORT Dec 4-10, 2022

Highlights and Group Favorites

- Crested Quail-Dove!
- Jamaican Tody!
- Red-billed Streamertail!
- White-tailed Tropic Birds
- Jamaican Blackbird (Incredible views!) Orangequit!
- Jamaican Spindalis
- Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo
- Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo
- Common Potoo!
- Great food & a Wonderful Group!!
- Rainforest Birding in the Rain

- Rufous-throated Solitaire (amazing views!)
- The Evening with a Jamaican Owl!
- Jamaican Oriole
- Caribbean Dove
- Bahama Mockingbird
- Purple Gallinule
- Vervain Hummingbird
- Brown Booby
- Least Bittern & the morning at Portmore
- Section & Dennis's Blue Mountain Coffee!
- Hope Gardens & the Parrot extravaganza!! Yellow-throated Warbler

Leaders: Ricardo Miller and Frank Gallo

Report & Photos: by Frank Gallo

Jamaican Tody: by Frank Mantlik

Driver: Andrew Hall **Total Bird Species: 107**



Day 1: Dec 4th. Those who arrived on Saturday the third birded around the grounds with Frank in the morning. Highlights included a pair of Jamaican Woodpeckers at the back of the property, and at least one male Red-billed Streamertail near the akee tree.

Once others arrived after lunch, we all walked the grounds and

up the street which yielded nice looks at twenty-four species, including our

first Vervain Hummingbird, a male, perched on a wire beside a vacant lot and both Black-faced and Yellowfaced Grassquits. The lot itself held Jamaican Parakeets, a variety of warblers, including Cape May

and Prairie, White-crowned Pigeon, White-winged and Zenaida Doves, Smoothbilled Anis, Antillean Palm Swifts, and many other species. We enjoyed drinks and a welcome dinner on the 4-Season's veranda before retiring for the night.



Day 2: Dec 5th. We had a busy first day. After breakfast, we headed to Old Shrimp Factory Road in Hellshire, a hot dry area with cactus and acacia scrub. After a gas station supply stop, we drove part way down the Shrimp Factory Road, before disembarking to look for birds along it.



Our first find, was one of our targets, the dazzling endemic Jamaican Mango seen guarding the flowers of a prickly pear cactus in very nice light. The purplish bronze sheen on its head and neck was breathtaking. We next spied a female Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, seen briefly along the roadside, and heard several Bahama Mockingbirds but were unable to see them. Cave Swallows and Greater Antillean Palm Swifts feeding in the area were a joy to observe.

A small pond yielded Black-necked Stilts, a Little Blue Heron, Blue-winged Teal,





By 10 a.m. it was getting hot, so we headed back to the bus. Just before reaching it, Frank caught a glimpse of our third target, a Stolid Flycatcher. Two started calling back and forth, then flew in and perched near the road giving everyone wonderful looks. We'll call it a win!

A brief stop at the always-birdy Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds on our way to Hope Garden produced our targeted Northern Jacanas, but the Purple Gallinule Frank spotted disappeared into the reeds before most folks saw it. There was a nice array of species seen here including five Scaly-breasted Munia's.

Lunch was at the ever-reliable Sonia's in Kingston, followed by an incredible afternoon at Hope Botanical Gardens. The enigmatic and lovely, White-chinned Thrush was the first find of the afternoon followed quickly by incredible views of a roosting **Northern Potoo** that Ricardo found the previous week. What a treat!



A walk through the gardens produced a variety of Northern warblers including



Palm, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-andwhite Warbler, and a single male Black-throated Blue Warbler.





the afternoon was finding a flock of more than twenty

Yellow-billed Parrots > feeding in the palms in a clearing,
which included a, Black-billed Parrot, it's less common

cousin, accompanied by a probable v Yellow-billed x Black-billed hybrid. We soaked in the spectacle, took lots of photographs, and enjoyed watching ^Jamaican Parakeets flying around and landing in the treetops.

After a quick rest stop, we headed to our lovely hotel, the Starlight Chalet in the



majestic Blue Mountains. The journey turned into a bit of an adventure as it was raining in the mountains, unusual at this time of year, and we were delayed by oncoming traffic. Andrew preformed his usual amazing driving job, and although we arrived later than expected, we'd called ahead, and dinner was waiting for us. Starlight serves wonderful local cuisine and diner was quite delicious.

Day 3: Dec 6th. We started the day at 6 a.m. with a traditional Jamaican



breakfast. akee, calalu, and banana, along with eggs, accompanied by some incredible Blue Mountain coffee. We Left

at 7 a.m. and spent the morning birding along the road from Silver Hill Gap to Section, in the Blue Mountain/ John Crow Mountain National Park. Jamaican Orioles and a few Red-billed Streamertails we're visiting the feeders on the veranda before we left to the enjoyment of all.

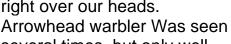




Despite the challenges of birding in intermittent rain and fog, it was a good morning. Highlights included our first Ring-tailed Pigeons. 22 in one tree. The green iridescence on their necks was beautiful in the

soft light. Our first Orangequits were

seen feeding in pink flowers by the old Quonset hut, where a Rufous-throated Solitaire was calling from the hillside but refused to show itself. And our first of the colorful Jamaican Tody hopped around in canopy of a low tree. A second one was seen well



once, climbing up-and-down vines beside the road.

Several people missed it.

right over our heads. several times, but only well We had lunch back at





After lunch we birded the Chalet gardens, and had nice views of Jamaican Orioles, Jamaican Woodpecker, Red-

billed Streamertails, and our first Jamaican Pewee that perched by the entrance.

The rest of the afternoon was spent birding the road from Section to Hardwar Gap.



Although intermittent rain continued, it slowed considerably, and we had an incredible afternoon. A Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo appeared close to the road giving us wonderful views, followed by a Jamaican Elania that flew in and showed off above us. We enjoyed nice views of several Jamaican Tody's and finally saw several male Jamaican Spinalis. But the afternoon's highlight, and the last bird of the day, was a Jamaican Blackbird that sat for 10-15 minutes in the open ten feet from the road! This is not always an easy bird to find, and we had impressive views!

We enjoyed another wonderful dinner at Starlight Chalet.

Day 4: Dec 7th.

Today we left for Port Antonio via Buff Bay after breakfast and a lovely sunrise.



Before leaving, we had close views of a pair of



endemic Rufous-tailed Flycatchers and Jamaican Orioles in the gardens. In section, we walked up

the hill so Andrew could navigate the famous "road hump". On the hilltop, was a male Kestrel (white-bellied), two Palm Warblers and a Greater Antillean Grackle. Our first stop, one of Ricardo's favorites for Crested Quail Dove, paid off! One was stood in the open on a horizontal branch by the road for everyone to appreciate, which was a huge blessing as they can be secretive.

We continued to bird along the road to the Wellinford Coffee Co., but the rain picked up, so we left for Port Antonio. After a rest stop in Buff Bay, we went and checked into the Bayview Eco Resort Hotel. After lunch we birded the grounds and Gina found a rare Philadelphia Vireo, only Ricardo's second for the island, in a flock of



warblers and many other species, including Sad Flycatcher, Jamaican Euphonia,

and Greater Antillean Bullfinch!

Late afternoon, we spent a couple of hours birding along Police Station Road in San San. A beautiful **Caribbean Dove** dropped in as we arrived, and we followed it as it walked up the road. It was joined by Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrushes, more Caribbean Doves, and Common Ground Doves. We



watched two Lizard Cuckoos cavorting through the canopy as we walked to a house with beautiful gardens an aviary filled with buggies. The power cut beyond it produced close views of a female Black-billed Streamertail, Rufous-tailed Flycatchers, and a Jamaican Euphonia that perched above us. White-eyed Thrush was heard but not seen.



After doing the list, we had dinner at **Bayview Eco Resort**, then tried for Jamaican Owl from Rubina's and my adjacent balconies. We heard two distant ones but didn't see them.

Day 5: Dec 8th.

After an early breakfast we drove to **Hector's River** in hopes of seeing White-

tailed Tropicbirds just returning to begin their courtship for the year. Standing on the bluffs beside a school overlooking a beautiful cliff-lined bay, Frank spotted two distant stark white tropicbirds flying together high in the dark clouds. Eventually 8-12 appeared and came close enough for good scope views, as they circled in pairs lit-up by the sun against the moody sky. Later, Frank picked out a distant dark bird that turned out to be young **Brown Booby**, one of only a few

Ricardo has seen from the mainland. 20 minutes later, it flew into the bay right in front of the group where it spent an extended period diving in the surf off the bluffs! We also enjoyed watching a melanistic Kestrel cavorting with





several other kestrels around the school!

After our exciting early morning with the Tropicbirds and Booby, it was on to the famous Eccelsdown Road. We arrived to find a Flame tree full of Black-billed Streamertails, and Jamaican Mangos and

had great looks at a male Jamaican Euphonia. Our walk along the road produced our only Blue Mountain Vireo, followed immediately by a Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo that gave us nice views as it circled around us in the canopy.



Lunch was at a local favorite, **Boston Jerk Spot**. Their jerked chicken and sausages are incredible. **Alex and Susan** made friends with a **cute little girl** that happily accepted Alex's origami creation!

After lunch, we were

back in San San on old Fern Hill /Goblin Hill Resort Road, the back way to Goblin Hill, looking to find two targets, **Rufous-throated Solitaire**, and White-eyed Thrush. We'd heard both previously but had yet to see them.



Alex, once again, heard the solitaire, which to everyone's delight perched low on a hillside tree before eventually making its way to the roadside where it perched on a vine in the open!

What an incredible bird.

The road was fairly birdy, and we ran into several mixed species flocks. Just before we reached Goblin Hill Resort, two cooperative White-eyed Thrushes popped up and perched together beneath a phoneline beside some palm fruits. Score! Happily, we walked down past Goblin Hill where Andrew picked us up with the bus.

Back at Bayview, we took a quick try for **Jamaican Owl**near the hotel office. Within a few minutes, we were gazing
at one perched close beside the road! They are an impressive looking owl! What a great way to finish a great day.



Day 6: Dec 9th.

Our 6 a.m. walk turned into 7 a.m. walk as it was pouring at 6 o'clock. We added great looks at Sad Flycatchers, more than 50 Green-rumped Parrotlets, and nice views of Scaly-breasted Munias, perched in a large tree. We also finally saw well the tiny white chin of a White-chinned Thrush. There were many White-crowned Pigeons, a few

Ring-tailed Pigeons, and White-winged Doves perched around the property.



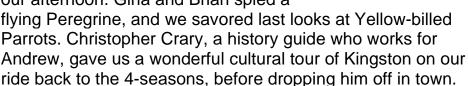
After our morning walk, we packed up and headed for Castleton Gardens to try for our last two endemics, Jamaican Becard and Jamaican Crow. The gardens rewarded us with wonderful views of 7-8 crows almost immediately. On our walk through the gardens, we found a giant orb weaver spider, but sadly, no becard.

Lunch was at Pepper Thyme Jerk in Kingston, a delightful outdoor venue. After lunch we headed to

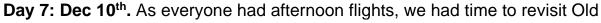
Hope Botanical Gardens in search of a last few goodies. **Thick-billed Kingbirds** were ubiquitous, and the Potoo was on his favorite tree. Several new warblers were added to our list, including Yellow-rumped, and a striking Yellow-



throated, the last bird of the day. Close views of a female Shiny Cowbird, Chestnut Munias in the pines, and families of Groove-billed Anis feeding in the grass rounded out our afternoon. Gina and Brian spied a



After unloading, we said goodbye to our amazing driver, **Andrew Hall**, before enjoying a nice farewell dinner at the 4-seasons Hotel. We toasted our adventure, and everyone shared five memorable things about the trip. It was a lovely finish to a wonderful fun-filled tour full of laughter and lots of good birds.





Shrimp Factory Road in Hellshire for another go at Bahama Mockingbird. We left early and arrived by 8 a.m., after a quick stop at Philip Linton's (our new driver) house for a second machete. Our detour netted us a Eurasian Collared Dove, a relatively new species to Jamaica.

Upon our arrival, Ricardo and Frank cut back the acacia with the machetes to get the bus through. The group saw three Stolid Flycatchers before leaving the van. We found our first **Bahama Mockingbird** within minutes of starting our walk. It was joined by another that perched in the open. Everyone had crushing views. On our walk back to

bus, we saw two more Stolid Flycatchers.

Offshore, we watched Royal Terns, Laughing
Gulls, and Brown Pelican in a feeding frenzy.



With our quick success at Fish Hatchery Road, we were able to revisit the Greater

Portmore Sewage Ponds for another try at **Purple Gallinule**. Not only did we get amazing views

of several Purple Gallinules, but we had killer views of four **Least Bitterns**, new for Ricardo at this location, **Northern Jacana**, our fist Barn Swallow for a tour, Yellow-crowned Bishop, more Chestnut Munia, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Black-crowned Night Herons, and a few **crocodiles!**

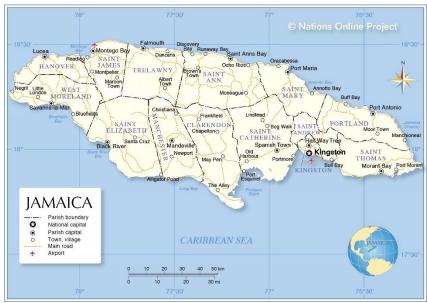




It was then back to 4-seasons to bid everyone goodbye and safe travels. What an adventure!









JAMAICA SPECIES LIST

STATUS CODES

E = Endemic Species; **Es** = Endemic Subspecies; **Ec** = Endemic Caribbean Species R = Resident Species; nbR = Nonbreeding; AM = Austral Migrant; M = Migrant * NEc - Near Endemic Caribbean Species; * = New to the tour species list

Sunrise Birding LLC – Jamaica Tour 4-10 December 2022

Leaders: Ricardo Miller & Frank Gallo; Driver: Andrew Hall

Total Bird Species: <u>107</u>

	SPECIES	Scientific Name	Status	# days recorded	max per day
1	Blue Winged Teal	Spalula discors	nbR	2	44
2	White-tailed Tropicbird	Phaethon lepturus	R	1	10+
3	Least Bittern*	xobrychus exilis	R	1	4
4	Great Blue Heron*	Ardea herodias	R	1	1
5	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	R	4	34
6	Great Egret	Ardea alba	R	4	4
7	Tricolored Heron	Egreta tricolor	R	1	1
8	Little Blue Heron	Egreta cearulea	R	2	5
9	Reddish Egret*	Egretta rufescens	R	1	1 (white)
10	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	R	3	6
11	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	R	1	2
12	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	R	2	15
13	Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	R	3	12
14	Magnificent Frigatebird	Fregata magnificens	R	7	13
15	Brown Booby*	Sula leucogaster	R	1	1
16	Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	R	7	148
17	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	R/nbR	2	1

18	Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	R	5	5
19	Purple Gallinule	Porphyrio martinica	R	2	5
20	Common Gallinule	Gallinula chloropus	R	2	25
21	Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus	R	2	61
22	Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	М	2	2
23	Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	R/M	2	2
24	Northern Jacana	Jacana spinosa	R	2	8
25	Least Sandpiper	Calidris minutilla	М	2	2
26	Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	nbR	2	20
27	Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	М	1	4
28	Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca	М	2	3
29	Laughing Gull	Larus atricilla	R/nbR	2	15
30	Royal Tern	Sterna maxima NAME	R/nbR	4	6
31	Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	I	3	12
32	White-crowned Pigeon	Patagioenas leucocephala	Ec*	9	21
33	Ring-tailed Pigeon	Patagioenas caribaea	E	8	28
34	Eurasian Collard-Dove*	Streptopelia decaocto	I	1	1
35	Common Ground-Dove	Columbina passerina	Es	6	4
36	Crested Quail-Dove	Geotrygon versicolor	E	1	1
37	Caribbean Dove	Leptotila jamaicensis	Es	3	3
38	Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	R	2	3
39	Zenaida Dove	Zenaida aurita	R	7	17
40	White-winged Dove	Zenaida asiatica	R	5	13
41	Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani	R	6	26
42	Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo	Hyetornis pluvialis	E	2	1h/1seen
43	Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo	Saurothera vetula	E	3	2
44	Jamaican Owl	Pseudoscops grammicus	E	2	1h/1seen
45	Northern Potoo	Nyctibius jamaicensis	R	2	1
46	White-collared Swift	Streptoprocne zonaris	R	1	2(heard)

47	Antillean Palm-Swift	Tachornis phoenicobia	Ec	4	8+	
48	Jamaican Mango	Anthracothorax mango	E	4	7	
49	Red-billed Streamertail	Trochilus polytmus	E	5	16	
50	Black-billed Streamertail	Trochilus scitulus	E	2	9	
51	Vervain Hummingbird	Mellisuga minima	Es	4	1	
52	Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	nbR	2	1	
53	Jamaican Tody	Todus todus	E	3	7	
54	Jamaican Woodpecker	Melanerpes radiolatus	E	5	6	
55	American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	R	4	8	
		•		1	1	
56 57	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	nbR			
57	Black-billed Parrot	Amazona agilis	E	2	4	
58	Yellow-billed Parrot	Amazona collaria	E	4	35	
58a	Yellow-billed X Black-billed Parrot	Amazona collaria x agilis		1	2	
59	Green-rumped Parorotlet	Forpus passererinus	I	2	50	
60	Jamaican Parakeet	Eupsittula nana	E(s)	6	12	
61	Jamaican Elaenia	Myiopagis cotta	E	1	1	
62	Jamaican Pewee	Contopus pallidus	E	2	3	
63	Sad Flycatcher	Myiarchus barbirostris	E	3	2	
64	Rufous-tailed Flycatcher	Myiarchus validus	E	2	7	
65	Stolid Flycatcher	Myarchius stolidus	Es	2	5	
66	Loggerhead Kingbird	Tyrannus caudifasciatus	Es	7	8	
67	(Jamaican Becard)	Pachyramphus niger	E	1	?	
68	Jamaican Vireo	Vireo modestus	E	2	4	
69	Blue Mountain Vireo	Vireo osburni	E	1	1	
70	Philadelphia Vireo** (Rare)	Vireo altiloquus	M	1	1	
71	Jamaican Crow	Corvus jamaicensis	Е	1	7	
72	Barn Swallow*	Hirundo rustica	M	1	1	
73	Cave Swallow	Petrochelidon fulva	R	2	14	
74	Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	R	5	10	

75	Bahama Mockingbird	Mimus gundlachii	Es	2	3	
76	Rufous-throated Solitaire	Myadestes genibarbis	Es	2	1h/ 1s	
77	White-eyed Thrush	Turdus jamaicensis	Е	1	2	
78	White-chinned Thrush	Turdus aurantius	E	5	18	
79	Yellow-crowned Bishop	Eupleches afer	1	1	20	
80	Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	I	2	5	
81	Chestnut Munia	Lonchura atricapilla	l	2	12	
82	Jamaican Euphonia	Euphonia jamaica	E	4	7	
83	Jamaican Spindalis	Spindalis nigricephala	E	4	14	
84	Jamaican Oriole	Icterus leucophteryx	Es	4	5	
85	Jamaican Blackbird	Nesopsar nigerrimus	E	1	1	
86	Shiny Cowbird	Molothrus bonariensis	I	3	2	
87	Great-tailed Grackle	Quiscalus mexicanus	I	1	4	
88	Greater Antillean Grackle	Quiscalus niger	Es	5	9	
89	Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	nbR	1	3	
90	Louisiana Waterthrush	Parkesia motacilla		2	4	
91	Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	nbR	3	5	
92	Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	nbR	2	1	
93	Arrowhead Warbler	Setophaga pharetra	E	2	6	
94	American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	nbR	6	7	
95	Cape May Warbler	Setophaga tigrina	nbR	3	5	
96	Northern Parula	Parula americana	nbR	5	4	
97	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Setophaga caerulescens	nbR	5	6	
98	Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum	nbR	4	10	
99	Yellow-rumped Warbler*	Setophaga coronata	M	1	3	
100	Yellow-throated Warbler*	Setophaga dominica	M	1	1	
101	Prairie Warbler	Setophaga discolor	nbR/M	4	4	
102	Bananaquit	Coereba flaveola	Es	5	14	
103	Yellow-faced Grassquit	Tiaris olivaceus	R	2	2	

104	Orangequit	Euneornis campestris	E	5	35
105	Greater Antillean Bullfinch	Loxigilla violacea	Es	2	2
106	Yel-shouldered Grassquit	Loxipasser anoxanthus	E	4	2
107	Black-faced Grassquit	Tiaris bicolor	R	4	14

OTHER ANIMALS	Scientific Name	# days recorded	max per day	NOTES
Small Indian Mongoose	Herpestes auropunctatus	3	1	Common
Fruit Bats	Sp?	2	24	Bay View
Brown Anole sps.	Anolis sps.	2	2	Pepper Thyme on roof
Opal-bellied Anole	Anolis opalinus	1	1	Bay View
Tropical House Gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus?	2	2	1 st /Starlight Chalet
American Crocodile	Crocodylus acutus	2	3	Old Portmore Sewage Pond
INSECTS				
White Peacock Butterfly	Anartia jatrophae	2	2	Hellshire
Julia Heliconian	Dryas iulia delila	3	10	Common/ 1 st Hellshire
Zebra Heliconian/Longwing	Heliconius charitonius	1	1	Port Antonio Fern Hill Rd
Orb Weaver Spider	Nephala sp.	1	2	Pair/ Castleton Gardens
Cloudless Sulphur	Phoebis sennae	2	4	Kingston
Sulphur sp.	Eurima daira	2	2	Kingston
Lignum-vitae Butterfly	Krigonia lyside	100	2	Hellshire
Jamaican Polydamas Swallowtail	Battus Polydamas	1	1	Hope Garden
Dirce Butterfly	Colobura dirce ?	1	1	Goblin Hill