



JAMAICA:
Houston Audubon Society & Tropical Birding Tours

18th – 23rd January 2025

Guided by Sam Woods. All photos were taken on this tour by Sam Woods.

View all of Sam's Tour Photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/samwoodsbirding/albums/72177720323397488>



This was one of THREE **Crested Quail-Doves** seen together in the *Blue Mountains* on our first morning there.
A further three more were seen in the *Blue and John Crow Mountains* (Sam Woods)



Jamaican Tody is ALWAYS a tour highlight on this endemic rich Caribbean island (Sam Woods)

TOUR SUMMARY:

Jamaica is one of the best birding locales in the Caribbean. In spite of its small size – comparable to the US state of Connecticut – it boasts an impressive **28 endemic bird species**. In this 6-day tour we managed to see ALL of these while focusing on three key areas – around **Kingston (Hellshire Hills and Hope Botanical Gardens)**, the **Blue Mountains**, and the foot of the **John Crow Mountains** on the **Ecclesdown Road**, the latter being one of island’s most revered birding sites. Among the highlight birds were spectacular looks at **Crested Quail-Doves** in the **Blue Mountains** and some quality looks at **Jamaican Tody** and **Jamaican Spindalis**, two real “Caribbean crackers” from bird families that are endemic or near endemic to the Caribbean. While we searched for the key endemic birds, we also came upon a steady stream of wintering warblers, spending the boreal winter in Jamaica, which included **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **American Redstart** and **Northern Parula**, these the most abundant of them, but **Cape May**, **Yellow** and **Prairie Warblers** were also seen. The beauty of the steep-sided **Blue Mountains** made this a particular joy to experience and provided an often-dramatic backdrop to our stellar birding there. Whilst there we also sampled and purchased some exquisite **Blue Mountain Coffee** from a local producer that has been doing this for more than 150 years. We were also able to showcase the **very best jerk food** on the island, when we visited the birthplace of this, at **Boston Beach** on Jamaica’s northeast coast. So there were many highlights, both avian and otherwise!



This **Bahama Mockingbird** as well as a **Stolid Flycatcher** were located in the *Thornscrub* in *Hellshire Hills*. Our first **Jamaican Mangos** also featured there too (*Sam Woods*)

DAY-BY-DAY BREAKDOWN:

Day 1: 19th January 2025 – Hellshire Hills, Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds, Caymanas Forest & Hope Botanical Gardens.

Our first birding of the tour involved an hour's drive southwest from *Kingston*, into the coastal, scrub-covered hills around *Hellshire Hills*. We were here in particular to find some specialties of this *Thornscrub* habitat, like *Bahama Mockingbird* and *Stolid Flycatcher* (*photo page 5*). However, they were slow to appear and so we spent some time seeing several **Jamaican Mangos**, which represented our first of the 28 available endemics. Finally, a **Bahama Mockingbird** (*photo above*) appeared, which soon turned into a pair of them, which were very cooperative right alongside the road, particularly the one that tucked into some local berries right on front of us. Not long after that, the other main specialty appeared right beside us too and was our cue to head back to the vehicle and out from there, though not with adding a white morph **Reddish Egret** and a **Little Blue Heron**. A birding trip would not seem complete without a trip to the local sewage works, and so that is exactly what we did, finding **Glossy Ibis**, **Northern Jacana** and **Purple Gallinule**, as well as a flyby from a hunting **Merlin**.

There was just enough time to sneak in a visit to *Caymanas Forest* on the way to *Kingston* for lunch, which led us to a trio of **Jamaican Vireos**, a wonderful **Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo**, the “golden” form of **Yellow Warbler**, and our first **Jamaican Woodpeckers**. We also had our only **Caribbean Doves** of the trip that were patrolling the short track. For lunch, we visited a restaurant to the stars, with photos of A-list people on the wall who frequent the venue, like *Usain Bolt*, Jamaica’s legendary sprint star. After lunch at the hugely popular *Sonia’s Homestyle Cooking Restaurant* (where the *Oxtail* was particularly admired), we drove to nearby **Hope Botanical Gardens**, where *Lyndon* quickly located our first **Yellow-billed Amazons** (*photo page 5*) perched up just above the parking lot, which also hosted **White-chinned Thrush** a sleeping **Northern Potoo**, and **Olive-throated Parakeets** too. Once inside the park, we ogled our first **Red-billed Streamertail**, the so-called “*Doctor Bird*” (this is the local name), and came upon an assortment of wintering warblers, like **Northern Parula**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and plentiful **American Redstarts**, which were to be prominent throughout this tour. A second roosting **Northern Potoo** (*photo below*) was not to be sniffed at either, along with our first **American Kestrel** and **Red-tailed Hawk**, and teeny, tiny **Vervain Hummingbird**, which is only very marginally smaller than the *Bee Hummingbird* of *Cuba* that has the title of World’s smallest bird. After a productive time around *Kingston*, we changed our focus towards the *Blue Mountains*, which had been looming in the background all day long. We drove a few hours up to there, checking into our mountain chalet at the end of the afternoon.



One of a brace of **Northern Potoos** seen in *Kingston* (*Sam Woods*)



Stolid Flycatcher from our first morning west of Kingston, and Yellow-billed Amazon in Kingston (Sam Woods)



Day 2: 20th January 2025 – The Blue Mountains.

The entire day was spent in the *Blue Mountains*, admiring the scenic vistas of the mountains from the dirt roads that cuts through them, observing a series of exciting endemic birds, and also sampling some of the local *coffee* that is both expensive and truly world famous, and revered for its quality taste. A first day in *the Blue Mountains* is always a joyous celebration of birds, and this one was no different. We had decided to drive out early in the hope of finding one of the island's trickiest endemic birds, the "*Mountain Witch*", or *Crested Quail-Dove*. We visited a location near *Padhouse*, where a triplet of **Crested Quail-Doves** (*photos below and title page*) were visiting a feeding area, where waste food had been sprinkled out for them. *Jack* and *Sam* chose to walk further up the steep track to see if they afforded close approach, and they did so, with all three birds perfectly OK with our close positioning...



Crested Quail-Doves were seen with ease on this tour, with this being one of a group of three watched at length in the *Blue Mountains*. Three more were seen in the *Blue Mountains* and *John Crow Mountains* (*Sam Woods*).

After a chipper breakfast at our mountain chalet, flushed with our early success with this species, we quickly picked up another scarcity, **Jamaican Blackbird** (*photo next page*), a pair of which were seen deep inside the forest carpeting the *Blue Mountains*. While it initially foraged in high bromeliads in the canopy (typical behaviour), it later abandoned the rulebook and fed low down on a trunk beside us, giving us rare, low views of this odd *icterid*...



The inconspicuous **Jamaican Blackbird** and Jamaica's national tree, **Blue Mahoe**, both from the *Blue Mountains* (*Sam Woods*)



We picked up a steady stream of endemic birds throughout the morning, including a sooty male **Jamaican Becard**, and the beefy **Rufous-tailed Flycatcher**, which is the largest of the endemic *flycatchers*, (which are all known as “*Tom Fool*”), and is named “*Big Tom Fool*”. Other endemic-fueled highlights were **Blue Mountain Vireo** and our first **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo**, which was to be seen a further three times during the tour. **Greater Antillean Elaenia** was also found, arguably the trickiest of the local flycatchers. For lunch, we visited a café in Irish Town, where the jerk chicken, curried goat and enormous deserts were a big hit. While we waited for these to arrive we could hear a waterthrush calling below the restaurant, while a **White-chinned Thrush** plundered berries from a fruiting tree, and some **Black-faced Grassquits** foraged in the seeding grasses below. A pair of **Olive-throated Parakeets** (*photo below*) announced their presence loudly on arrival, and one of them at least remained very visible from the cafe balcony.



A pair of **Olive-throated Parakeets** were viewable from our lunchtime café in *Irish Town in the Blue Mountains* (Sam Woods)

The afternoon was somewhat quieter, though Lyndon had a trick up his sleeve, when we visited a “Solitaire Tree”, which held the **Rufous-throated Solitaire** (*photo next page*) as promised, and what views we had too!!! This bird is both beautiful and a beautiful songster...



Photo Page Before: This **Rufous-throated Solitaire** thrilled us with views like this in the *Blue Mountains* (*Sam Woods*)

Other afternoon highlights included a confiding **White-chinned Thrush** (*photo below*), and our first **Jamaican Elaenia** to complete the set of all possible five flycatchers on the island, of which four of them are endemic to Jamaica. We took a few hours off before an early dinner back at the chalet, where a very cooperative **Red-billed Streamertail** (*photo page 11*), guarded the lodge feeder and afforded good photo opps. After a delicious dinner, rounded off with run and raisin ice cream, we set out in search of the *Jamaican Owl*, although were frustrated in only hearing it during our failed quest, so decided to try again the following night once we were on the north coast in *San San*.



“Hopping Dick”, **White-chinned Thrush**, was a daily feature on this tour, recorded at almost all of the sites visited (*Sam Woods*)

PHOTO NEXT PAGE: Jamaica’s “Doctorbird” (**Red-billed Streamertail**) is also the national bird. This male frequented the garden of our mountain chalet in *the Blue Mountains* (*Sam Woods*)



Day 3: 21st January 2025 – The Blue Mountains to San San.

We adopted the same routine as the day before, with a 06:30am start for those who wished to have a *pre-breakfast* walk about, (with *Blue Mountain coffee* and local *fruits* available before that), followed by an 08:00am cooked breakfast at our chalet for all. This gave those who wished for more to rest, time to take advantage of this. Before we breakfasted, we had found **Sad Flycatcher**, **Jamaican Pewee** and **Jamaican Tody** in a rain-drenched garden, in addition to the usual accompaniment of **American Redstarts**, the most abundant of the wintering warblers in Jamaica. Singles of **Greater Antillean Bullfinch** and **Prairie Warbler** there though were rather belated tour firsts. A **Ring-tailed Pigeon** (*photo below*) was also perched in the treetops and visible from the chalet garden. Meanwhile a male **Red-billed Streamertail** darted to and from the lodge feeder, making sure no one else got a look in. Other than those, our pre-breakfast birding was rather quiet. Further *Blue Mountains* birding did not yield any of the targets we were looking for but did produce more views of **Blue Mountain Vireo** and **Jamaican Spindalis** to bring a closer to our birding time in the *Blue Mountains*. As we headed out from there we stopped off at a local *Blue Mountain Coffee* producer that has been doing that for 150 years and purchased as much of it as we could! As we drove on towards the North Coast of Jamaica, we paused for lunch at a new café along the road out of the mountains, where the burgers in particular were highly rated by the group.



This **Ring-tailed Pigeon** was seen in the grounds of our mountain chalet in the *Blue Mountains* (Sam Woods)

In the afternoon we reached the north coast and stopped for some short birding at the *Spanish River Bridge*, where **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Common Gallinule**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Killdeer**, **Royal Tern**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, and **Magnificent Frigatebird** were all seen in quick succession. Another brief stop, this time at the *Errol Flynn Marina*, brought us better looks at some **Jamaican Mangos** visiting the pink blossoms adorning the entrance road, along with **Vervain Hummingbird**, **American Kestrel**, **Red-tailed Hawk** and numerous **White-crowned Pigeons**. *Port Antonio Bay* held the odd **Great Blue Heron** too. After that, we checked into our *San San* hotel around 4:30pm, then rested up before an early dinner and some post-dinner *owling*. Our initial attempts at seeing a calling **Jamaican Owl** (*photo below*) were thwarted when the bird flew over us but would not alight in a convenient position for us, and so we drove to another spot, with the remaining stalwarts (some decided to retire after the first tries), and were handsomely rewarded, when this ginger owl rested on an open branch for a considerable amount of time, affording excellent 'scope views and photos during that time, which was a super end to the day...



Jamaican Owl was more difficult than usual on this tour, where we could not find it at a regular day roost in *Kingston*, and then missed it on our first attempts in the *Blue Mountains* and *San San*, before this bird gave us our just rewards near our hotel close to *Port Antonio* (*Sam Woods*)



Tropicbird Country: We saw up to seven **White-tailed Tropicbirds** at one time from this scenic spot in northern Jamaica quaintly named *Happy Grove* (*Sam Woods*)

Day 4: 22nd January 2025 – **Happy Grove, the Ecclesdown Road & Sherwood Forest.**

An early start (06:00am departure from the hotel), saw us heading southeast out of *San San*, to *Happy Grove* on the east coast of Jamaica. From our wonderful perch on the clifftops, we observed our main target bird there, the graceful **White-tailed Tropicbird**, with up to 7 birds in view at once as they patrolled the bay with considerable grace. They are an elegant seabird that seems so at home on the wing, and flies so fast, they would appear and disappear at will, and seemingly instantly. After watching these pelagic birds close to shore for a while (they are only a seasonal presence there), we decided to push on to another major birding locale in Jamaica, the legendary *Ecclesdown Road*, at the foot of the *John Crow Mountains*. As we drove on to the *Ecclesdown Road*, several pigeons inadvertently flushed from the road, one of which was the only **Ruddy Quail-Dove** of the tour, which *Pomera* at least saw before it vanished into thin air! At our first major stop along the road we picked up another tiny **Vervain Hummingbird** standing sentry alongside the road, while a mixed flock of parrots regularly voiced their presence nearby. We managed to get good 'scope looks at both **Black and Yellow-billed Amazons** in a mixed group, the latter being a new species for the group, which was one of our principal targets for the site.

Moving along the road we managed to locate another target species, **Yellow-shouldered Grassquit**, and while the male was very responsive coming in a half dozen times, it frustrated some of the group as it rarely stayed put in one place for long. In the same area a large flowering *African Tulip Tree* played host to a male **Black-billed Streamertail**, which was 'scoped several times too. Not far from there, we also had another sighting of **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** of the tour, one of two that day and four for the tour. We also got our sole sighting of a **Worm-eating Warbler** foraging among dead leaves, as is their want. Upgrades on earlier views of **Arrowhead Warbler** (to *Donna's* relief), **Jamaican Oriole** ("Auntie Katie") and a stunning male **Jamaican Spindalis** were all very much appreciated there too, as was further perched views of yet another **Crested Quail-Dove**, which were proving easy on this tour! More **Ring-tailed Pigeons** were also encountered, and a considerable amount of time was spent following the sounds of **Jamaican Crows**, only for us to leave largely empty-handed, with only one or two people managing the briefest of flight views. After a morning of joy and frustration all rolled into one, we all enjoyed a big hit during lunchtime, with our traditional visit to our favoured jerk center in *Boston Beach*, the birthplace of Jerk. It was served with delicious *festival* and *sweet potato*, and *Red Stripe beer* was available too for the ultimate Jamaican lunchtime meal!



Jamaican Tody was seen on several occasions, including in the garden of our mountain chalet in the *Blue Mountains (Sam Woods)*

After lunch, we did some final birding near *Sherwood Forest*, before we retired early to the hotel, arriving back at 4:30pm. Our time in *Sherwood Forest* was not in vain, notably with some longer looks at **Yellow-shouldered Grassquit** yielding much better views for many than earlier in the day. We also saw a low perched **Olive-throated Parakeet**, which constantly betrayed its presence with its hoarse calls, and our fourth and final **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** was also seen there too, as was another **Jamaican Tody** (*photo page 15*) and further **Rufous-tailed and Sad Flycatchers** to bring our birding for the day to a satisfactory close. After arrival back at our hotel, **Jamaican Mango** and **Black-billed Streamertails** darted in to the lodge feeders on occasion during the late afternoon.

Day 5: 23rd January 2025 – San San to Kingston via Castleton Botanical Gardens.

This was largely a travel day as we drove from the north coast to the south coast, for international flights out of *Kingston* from early afternoon. However, we left early enough to give us time to stop at *Castleton Botanical Gardens*, which was right along our route to *Kingston*. Our main quarry there was **Jamaican Crow**, and its reliability as a site for it was quickly proven where we stared up at a pair of vociferous individuals that were quick to let us know they were there just moments after arrival. A check of the *Wag Water River* that snakes through the gardens, revealed the presence of a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, which was watched belting out its distinctive song from atop a large boulder within the river itself. With that, we returned to *Kingston*, check a spot in *Kingston Harbour* on the way to the airport, which brought us new birds in the form of **Sandwich Terns**, **Laughing Gulls**, **Black-bellied Plovers**, **Ruddy Turnstones**, and singles of **Sanderling** and **Semipalmated Plover**. More **Royal Terns**, **Brown Pelicans** and **Magnificent Frigatebirds** also featured there, as did a lone **Great-tailed Grackle** as we pulled into the airport at the end of the tour.

It had been a very enjoyable tour, sampling a good section of the Jamaican avifauna, including all 28 endemic bird species, as well as other Caribbean specialties like Vervain Hummingbird, Rufous-throated Solitaire and Stolid Flycatcher, while also finding time to enjoy some excellent jerk cuisine at the very birthplace of this in Boston Beach on Jamaica's northeast coast, and Blue Mountain Coffee from a local producer that has been making Blue Mountain Coffee for more than 150 years.



CHECKLIST:

The taxonomy of the bird list follows **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W.** *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. *This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in **October 2024**.*

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

Jamaican Endemics are indicated in **RED**.

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl: Anatidae

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*: A couple of flight views at Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds near Kingston.

Grebes: Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus Podiceps*: 2 were seen at the Spanish River Bridge.

Tropicbirds: Phaethontidae

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*: At least 7 were seen from the cliffs at Happy Grove.

Pigeons and Doves: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Recorded on at least 4 days of the tour (e.g. Kingston).

White-crowned Pigeon ("Bald Pate") *Patagioenas leucocephala*: Recorded on 4 days (e.g. Errol Flynn Marina).

Ring-tailed Pigeon ("Ring-tail") *Patagioenas caribaea*: Our best views came in the Blue Mountains.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine*: A few were seen in flight at Hellshire Hills, southwest of Kingston.

Crested Quail-Dove ("Mountain Witch") *Geotrygon versicolor*: Seen on 4 separate occasions, twice in the Blue Mountains and twice on the Ecclesdown Road.

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*: One was flushed off the road at Ecclesdown, which Sam and Pomera saw.

Caribbean Dove *Leptotila jamaicensis*: A pair were seen walking a trail near Caymanas.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*: Recorded on at least 4 days of the tour.

Zenaida Dove ("Pea Dove") *Zenaida aurita*: A common and abundant dove that was seen each day.

Cuckoos: Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani ("Savannah Blackbird") *Crotophaga ani*: A few were seen around Kingston (e.g. Hope Gardens).

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor* (H): Heard at Caymanas Forest.

Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo ("Old Man Bird") *Coccyzus pluvialis*: Seen on 4 separate occasions (Blue Mountains, Ecclesdown Road and Sherwood Forest).

Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo ("Old Woman Bird") *Coccyzus vetula*: Excellent looks at Caymanas Forest on our first morning.

Potoos: Nyctibiidae

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis*: 2 roosting birds were seen in Hope Gardens.

Swifts: Apodidae

Antillean Palm Swift *Tachornis phoenicobia*: A few were seen flying above Errol Flynn Marina.

Hummingbirds: Trochilidae

Jamaican Mango *Anthracothorax mango*: Some good looks at Hellshire Hills; others in the garden of our San San hotel.

Vervain Hummingbird *Mellisuga minima*: Seen in Hope Gardens, the Blue Mountains and in the John Crow Mountains too.

Red-billed Streamertail ("Doctor Bird") *Trochilus polytmus*: A regular male gave us some good looks in our mountain chalet in the Blue Mountains. Also seen in Hope Gardens.

Black-billed Streamertail *Trochilus scitulus*: A male on the Ecclesdown Road and a female at our San San hotel.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots: Rallidae

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*: A small group near Caymanas and another at the Spanish River Bridge.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*: 1 was seen at Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds.

Plovers and Lapwings: Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: 3 birds were seen in Kingston Harbour.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*: 1 was with the Black-bellied Plovers in Kingston Harbour.

Jacanas: Jacanidae

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*: 1 was sighted at Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds.

Sandpipers and Allies: Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: 3 sightings (Greater Portmore, Spanish River, and Kingston).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: 4 birds were seen in Kingston Harbour.

Sanderling *Callidris alba*: 1 singleton was seen foraging on the edge of Kingston Harbour.

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers: Laridae

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*: More than 30 were seen in Kingston Harbour.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*: Around a dozen birds were seen in Kingston.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*: Seen at Spanish River, port Antonio Bay and in Kingston Harbour.

Frigatebirds: Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*: Recorded on 3 days (e.g. Kingston, Port Antonio).

Pelicans: Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican ("Old Joe") *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Seen around Hellshire Hills and in Kingston.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns: Ardeidae

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* (H): Heard at Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*: 2 at the Spanish River Bridge, with others at the Errol Flynn Marina.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: Seen on at least 2 occasions (e.g. Hellshire, Spanish River).

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: 2 sightings (Greater Portmore & Spanish River).

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*: 1 was seen at the Spanish River Bridge.

Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*: Regularly recorded in lowland areas throughout.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Three sightings (e.g. Spanish River Bridge).

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*: A white morph was seen at Hellshire Hills.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea Herodias*: A few were seen near Port Antonio.

Ibises and Spoonbills: Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 2 birds were seen at Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds.

New World Vultures: Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture ("John Crow") *Cathartes aura*: One of Jamaica's most abundant birds, seen in good numbers every day.

Osprey: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: 1 was seen at Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds and another was seen in the Blue Mountains.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites: Accipitridae

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*: Recorded on 4 out of 5 days.

Barn-Owls: Tytonidae

American Barn Owl *Tyto* (H): Heard near our San San hotel while searching for Jamaican Owl.

Owls: Strigidae

Jamaican Owl ("Brown Owl") *Asio grammicus*: Tougher on this trip than usual. We missed a roosting birds at Hope Gardens, then could not locate a calling bird in the Blue Mountains. After flight views only of one pair near our San San hotel, we tried another spot in San San, and were rewarded with superb looks during our second night of trying.

Todies: Todidae

Jamaican Tody ("Robin Redbreast") *Todus todus*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour (e.g. Blue Mountains, Sherwood Forest).

Kingfishers: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*: Three singles were seen (Hellshire, Spanish River & Kingston).

Woodpeckers: Picidae

Jamaican Woodpecker *Melanerpes radiolatus*: Recorded on at least 4 days of the tour.

Falcons and Caracaras: Falconidae

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: 3 sightings (Kingston, Errol Flynn Marina and Castleton Botanical Gardens).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*: 1 flew over Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds.

New World and African Parrots: Psittacidae

Black-billed Amazon *Amazona agilis*: 1 in Hope Gardens and 20 or so on the Ecclesdown Road.

Yellow-billed Amazon *Amazona collaria*: 30 or so in Hope Gardens and similar numbers on the Ecclesdown Road.

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*: Some good looks at Hope Gardens, Sherwood Forest and over lunch in Irish Town.

Tityras and Allies: Tityridae

Jamaican Becard *Pachyramphus niger*: Seen on 3 days in the Blue Mountains.

Tyrant Flycatchers: Tyrannidae

Jamaican Elaenia ("Sarah Bird") *Myiopagis cotta*: Just the one seen in the Blue Mountains.

Greater Antillean Elaenia *Elaenia fallax*: A pair was located in the Blue Mountains.

Jamaican Pewee ("Willie Pee") *Contopus pallidus*: 3-4 were seen in the Blue Mountains.

Sad Flycatcher ("Little Tom Fool") *Myiarchus barbirostris*: Recorded on 3 days in the Blue Mountains, including in the garden of our chalet.

Rufous-tailed Flycatcher ("Big Tom Fool") *Myiarchus validus*: Recorded on 2 dates in the Blue Mountains and again in Sherwood Forest.

Stolid Flycatcher *Myiarchus stolidus*: 2 were seen in the *Thornscrub* at Hellshire Hills.

Loggerhead Kingbird *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*: Recorded in small numbers every day.

Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis: Vireonidae

Blue Mountain Vireo *Vireo osburni*: Seen twice in the Blue Mountains.

Jamaican Vireo *Vireo modestus*: Some good looks at Caymanas Forest on our first morning.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies: Corvidae

Jamaican Crow ("Jabbering Crow") *Corvus jamaicensis*: After only a poor flight view near Port Antonio, we got good looks at a pair of them in Castleton Botanical Gardens on the way back to Kingston.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers: Mimidae

Bahama Mockingbird *Mimus gundlachi*: A pair were seen well at Hellshire Hills.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*: Common and conspicuous in lowland areas throughout.

Thrushes and Allies: Turdidae

Rufous-throated Solitaire *Myadestes genibarbis*: Thanks to Lyndon, we had incredible views of one in the "Solitaire Tree" in the Blue Mountains.

White-eyed Thrush ("Glass Eye") *Turdus jamaicensis*: 1 or 2 sightings only in the Blue Mountains.

White-chinned Thrush ("Hopping Dick") *Turdus aurantius*: Delightfully common, recorded every day in small numbers.

Waxbills & Allies: Estrildidae

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulate*: A small group were seen in Hope Gardens.

Finches, Euphonias, and Allies: Fringillidae

Jamaican Euphonia *Euphonia jamaica*: Seen on at least 3 days.

Spindalises: Spindalidae

Jamaican Spindalis *Spindalis nigricephala*: Recorded in the Blue Mountains and on the Ecclesdown Road, where we had our best looks.

Troupials and Allies: Icteridae

Jamaican Oriole ("Auntie Katie") *Icterus leucopteryx*: Recorded on at least 3 days.

Jamaican Blackbird ("Wild Pine Sargeant") *Nesopsar nigerrimus*: 3 birds were seen on our first morning in the Blue Mountains.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*: A few were seen around Kingston, including beside the airport.

Greater Antillean Grackle ("Kling Kling") *Quiscalus niger*: Recorded on at least 4 days of the tour.

New World Warblers: Parulidae

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*: Seen twice (e.g., Blue Mountains, Sherwood Forest).

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*: Wonderful looks at a singing bird on a riverside boulder at Castleton.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*: 3 singles in the Blue Mountains.

Arrowhead Warbler *Setophaga pharetra*: 2 sightings in the Blue Mountains and another at Ecclesdown Road.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: Good numbers were seen each day.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrine*: Just two were seen in Hope Gardens.

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*: One of the most conspicuous warblers, seen on all 5 days.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*: 1 was seen at Caymanas Forest.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*: Recorded on at least 4 different days.

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*: Only a few were seen in the Blue Mountains.

Tanagers and Allies: Thraupidae

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Recorded on at least 3 days in the Blue Mountains and John Crow Mountains.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*: A couple were seen at Starlight Chalet.

Orangequit *Euneornis campestris*: Recorded on at least 3 days (Blue Mountains & Ecclesdown).

Greater Antillean Bullfinch *Melopyrrha violacea*: Just a couple were seen (Blue Mountains & Sherwood Forest).

Yellow-shouldered Grassquit *Loxipasser anoxanthus*: A male at Ecclesdown Road and a female type at Sherwood Forest.

Black-faced Grassquit *Melanospiza bicolor*: A small group were seen over lunch in Irish Town in the Blue Mountains.

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Nearctic Cloud Forest in the *Blue Mountains* (Sam Woods)