

Trip Report — Dominican Republic II (private) 2024

April 22-30, 2024 with Jesse Fagan



Here is our great group along the shores of Lago Enriquillo. More adventures await us! Great people. Fun group. Wonderful tour. Fantastic birds.

That pretty much summarizes our tour this year to the Dominican Republic with a private group set up by Russ and Suzi Cole. We had such a great time that we are already planning our next adventure in Peru. I can't wait!



Hispaniolan Parakeets were roosting in the old hospital (actually, the first in the New World!) in the colonial zone of Santo Domingo. Thanks to Russ Cole for the shot. This tour took us to several corners of the Dominican Republic, which is the eastern half of the island of Hispaniola shared with Haiti. We started off on the northeast coast along Samana Bay, which borders Los Haitises National Park. It is here the Critically Endangered endemic Ridgway's Hawk holds on with support from the Peregrine Fund and its captive breeding program. With help from our local guide, Juan, we were able to track down an adult that was probably near a nest based on its quiet, shy behavior. In the evening, we were successful in finding a cooperative Ashy-faced Owl, another tough endemic. We also enjoyed a boat trip through the mangroves and karst outcrops in San Lorenzo Bay where there were a good number of West Indian Whistling-Ducks and nesting Caribbean Martins.



What an amazing shot by participant Linda Rudolph of this White-necked Raven. Check out those red eyes!

The next part of the tour we spent in the far southwest corner, in the Parque Nacional Sierra de Baoruco. This is a gorgeous area of the country with montane evergreen forest including pines in the highlands and white sand with turquoise blue water along the coast. This is also the home of Larimar, a rare aqua-blue pectolite found only in this part of the world. Our first two days were spent in the highlands at the famous site of Zapoten. After a very early departure, climbing in the dark in our 4x4 vehicles, we arrived at “La Curva.” We had a smashing morning here finding La Selle Thrush, White-winged Warbler, Narrow-billed Tody, Hispaniolan Trogon, Antillean Piculet, and Western Chat-Tanager, among others. On the way down, we made a brief foray into Haiti. In the afternoon, we focused on the dry thorn forest near “La Placa”. It was in this habitat we encountered Flat-billed Vireo and the always-difficult Bay-breasted Cuckoo. More evening birding had us looking at Least Pauraque and several scorpions in the UV light.



We had incredible views of Flat-billed Vireo in the thorn forest near Puerto Escondido. Thanks to Linda Rudolph for the nice pic.

Rounding the peninsula to the south, we spent a night at Pedernales near the Haitian border so that we could easily access Aceitillar and its pine forest. Another dark departure meant chances for Hispaniolan Nightjar, which we tracked down along the roadside. A little higher up at the tiny reservoir, Hispaniolan Crossbills were around and ended up in the scope for fine views. This happened a couple of times! There were good numbers of Hispaniolan Palm-Crows and our best looks yet at Golden Swallow. They really are golden in the warm morning light. We traced our steps back to Barahona with one more night before rising early to climb up the mountain known as El Cachote in search of Eastern Chat-Tanager. This is a coffee growing area that is receiving lots of pressure to convert the humid montane forest into coffee and cacao production. We witnessed the habitat alteration firsthand, but we were more hopeful after meeting our local guide, Ramone, who is very interested in helping birders find chat-tanagers and quail-doves. Thanks to Ramone's guidance we had amazing looks at the endemic White-fronted Quail-Dove, several Ruddy Quail-Doves, and Eastern Chat-Tanager.

We came full circle returning to Santo Domingo with a night in the colonial zone. It is a historic city, the first in the New World, and we celebrated with a fun vegetarian dinner

near *Parque Colon* and plans for more trips. Top bird of the trip: Narrow-billed Tody! Thanks to everyone on this trip (Russ, Suzi, Jim, Linda, Glenn, Janet, and Linda) and I look forward to spending time with you again in the field. Also, thanks to our local guides and drivers, Bienvenido, Efrain, Rafael, Ramone, and Manny. Best of birding in 2024 and beyond.

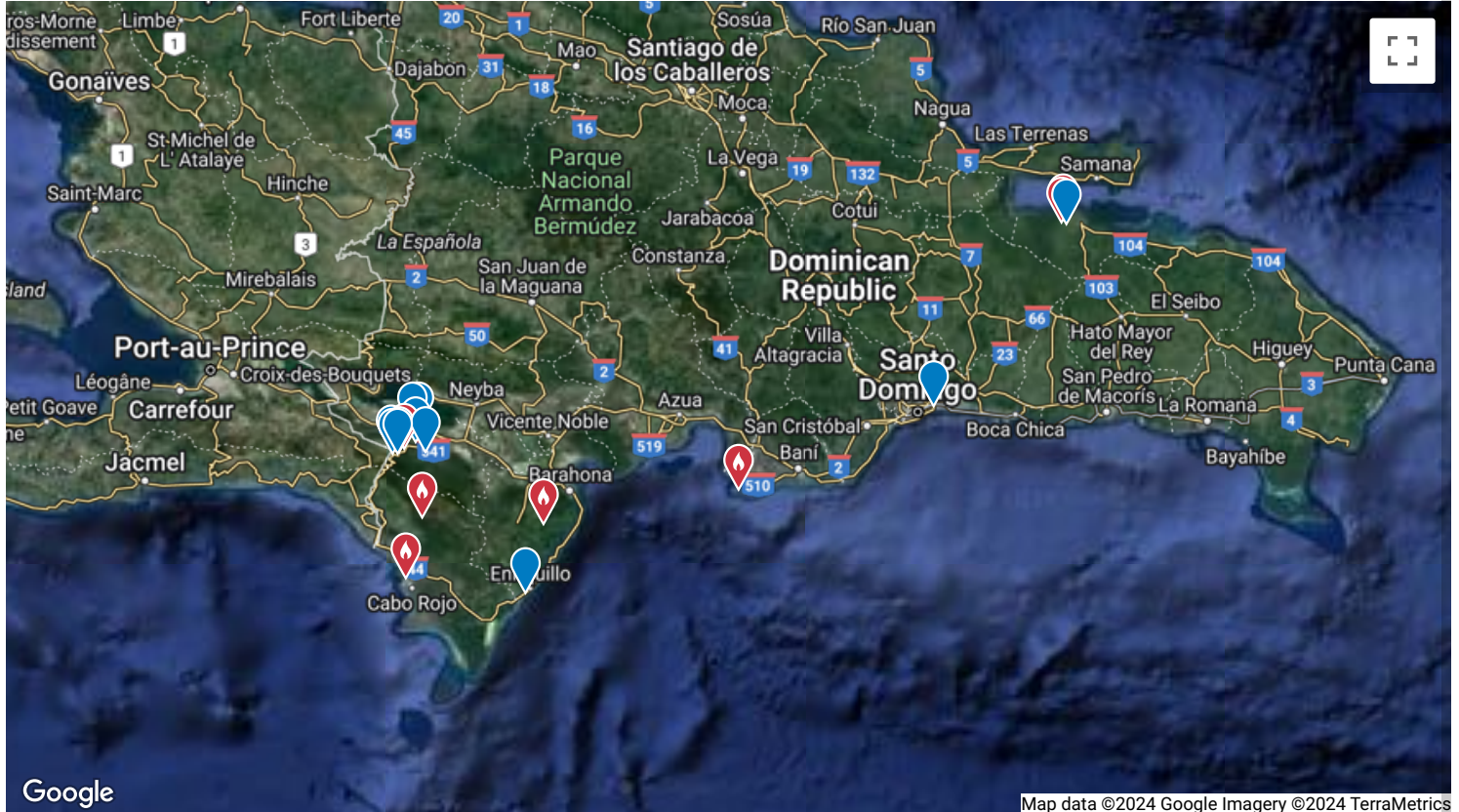
You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/265158>

Jesse Fagan (aka Motmot) from Lima, Peru

Field Guides Birding Tours -- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRIVATE, 2024 (with Jesse Fagan)



23 – 29 Apr 2024 (7 days) Link-only



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Jesse Fagan














For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip...

























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Species Observed

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- 15 **West Indian Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arborea* ▶  1
- 17 **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* ▶  2
- 6 **Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* * ▶  3
- 1 **Northern Bobwhite** *Colinus virginianus* * ▶  1
- 5 **American Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* ▶  1
- 50 **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* * ▶  1
- 51 **Scaly-naped Pigeon** *Patagioenas squamosa* ▶  5
- 2 **White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala* ▶  1
- 24 **Plain Pigeon** *Patagioenas inornata* ▶  5
- 51 **Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* * ▶  3
- 9 **Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina* ▶  3
- 4 **Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* ▶  2
- 5 **White-fronted Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon leucometopia* ▶  1
- 2 **Key West Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon chrysia* ▶  2
- 14 **White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* ▶  3
- 10 **Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida aurita* ▶  3
- 7 **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* ▶  4
- 2 **Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* ▶  1
- 4 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* ▶  2
- 4 **Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor* ▶  2
- 2 **Bay-breasted Cuckoo** *Coccyzus ruficularis* ▶  1
- 1 **Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo** *Coccyzus longirostris* ▶  1

2	Antillean Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles gundlachi</i>	▶  2
2	Least Pauraque <i>Siphonorhis brewsteri</i>	▶  2
4	Hispaniolan Nightjar <i>Anrostomus ekmani</i>	▶  2
36	Antillean Palm Swift <i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>	▶  6
6	Hispaniolan Mango <i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i>	▶  5
2	Vervain Hummingbird <i>Mellisuga minima</i>	▶  2
3	Hispaniolan Emerald <i>Riccordia swainsonii</i>	▶  1
1	Clapper Rail <i>Rallus crepitans</i>	▶  1
21	Common Gallinule <i>Gallinula galeata</i>	▶  2
1	Limpkin <i>Aramus guarauna</i>	▶  1
26	Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	▶  3
1	Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	▶  1
4	Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	▶  3
2	Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	▶  1
3	Snowy Plover <i>Anarhynchus nivosus</i>	▶  1
2	Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	▶  1
5	Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	▶  1
35	Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	▶  2
16	Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	▶  2
35	Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	▶  1
21	Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	▶  3
8	Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	▶  2
100	Laughing Gull <i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	▶  1
4	Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum</i>	▶  1

1	Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	▶ 1
1	Sandwich Tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▶ 1
35	Royal Tern <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	▶ 2
47	Magnificent Frigatebird <i>Fregata magnificens</i>	▶ 3
11	Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	▶ 2
2	Yellow-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	▶ 2
1	Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	▶ 1
11	Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	▶ 2
3	Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	▶ 3
2	Reddish Egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	▶ 2
6	Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	▶ 3
1	Green Heron <i>Butorides virescens</i>	▶ 1
26	Western Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	▶ 2
32	Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	▶ 3
45	Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	▶ 4
3	Ridgway's Hawk <i>Buteo ridgwayi</i>	▶ 2
1	Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	▶ 1
1	Ashy-faced Owl <i>Tyto glaucops</i>	▶ 1
2	Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	▶ 1
7	Hispaniolan Trogon <i>Priotelus roseigaster</i>	▶ 2
11	Broad-billed Tody <i>Todus subulatus</i>	▶ 6
11	Narrow-billed Tody <i>Todus angustirostris</i>	▶ 2
1	Belted Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	▶ 1

6	Antillean Piculet <i>Nesocittes micromegas</i>	▶ 4
43	Hispaniolan Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes striatus</i>	▶ 12
8	American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	▶ 4
18	Hispaniolan Parrot <i>Amazona ventralis</i>	▶ 6
2	Olive-throated Parakeet <i>Eupsittula nana</i> *	▶ 1
63	Hispaniolan Parakeet <i>Psittacara chloropterus</i>	▶ 3
6	Greater Antillean Elaenia <i>Elaenia fallax</i>	▶ 1
2	Hispaniolan Pewee <i>Contopus hispaniolensis</i>	▶ 1
28	Stolid Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus stolidus</i>	▶ 7
22	Gray Kingbird <i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	▶ 4
2	Loggerhead Kingbird <i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>	▶ 2
2	Flat-billed Vireo <i>Vireo nanus</i>	▶ 2
44	Black-whiskered Vireo <i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	▶ 10
3	Hispaniolan Palm-Crow <i>Corvus palmarum</i>	▶ 2
35	White-necked Crow <i>Corvus leucognaphalus</i>	▶ 5
10	Golden Swallow <i>Tachycineta euchrysea</i>	▶ 2
74	Caribbean Martin <i>Progne dominicensis</i>	▶ 4
30	Cave Swallow <i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>	▶ 1
10	Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	▶ 5
22	Rufous-throated Solitaire <i>Myadestes genibarbis</i>	▶ 2
3	La Selle Thrush <i>Turdus swalesi</i>	▶ 1
22	Red-legged Thrush <i>Turdus plumbeus</i>	▶ 4
154	Palmchat <i>Dulus dominicus</i>	▶ 6

20	Village Weaver <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i> *	▶ 1
15	Scaly-breasted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i> *	▶ 1
1	House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> *	▶ 1
6	Hispaniolan Euphonia <i>Chlorophonia musica</i>	▶ 3
4	Hispaniolan Crossbill <i>Loxia megaplaga</i>	▶ 1
8	Antillean Siskin <i>Spinus dominicensis</i>	▶ 1
7	Western Chat-Tanager <i>Calyptophilus tertius</i>	▶ 2
2	Eastern Chat-Tanager <i>Calyptophilus frugivorus</i>	▶ 1
6	Black-crowned Palm-Tanager <i>Phaenicophilus palmarum</i>	▶ 4
4	Green-tailed Warbler <i>Microligea palustris</i>	▶ 1
5	Hispaniolan Spindalis <i>Spindalis dominicensis</i>	▶ 1
4	Hispaniolan Oriole <i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	▶ 1
57	Greater Antillean Grackle <i>Quiscalus niger</i>	▶ 4
2	Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	▶ 2
2	American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	▶ 2
4	Cape May Warbler <i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	▶ 2
1	Northern Parula <i>Setophaga americana</i>	▶ 1
10	Yellow Warbler <i>Setophaga petechia</i>	▶ 3
1	Black-throated Blue Warbler <i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	▶ 1
1	Palm Warbler <i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	▶ 1
6	Pine Warbler <i>Setophaga pinus</i>	▶ 2
23	Bananaquit <i>Coereba flaveola</i>	▶ 4
6	Yellow-faced Grassquit <i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	▶ 1

