

## Trip Report — Dominican Republic (A Private Tour for Denis Kania) 2026

April 4-12, 2026 with Cory Gregory & Marcelo Barreiros



The Broad-billed Tody is a tiny gem of a bird, found mostly in the lowlands on Hispaniola. We saw this adorable endemic many times on our recent trip. Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

Although Hispaniola is the second-largest island in the Caribbean, it has the most endemics of any of them. Much of that is thanks to the incredible diversity of habitat and elevation that Hispaniola has to offer. The eastern half of the island, the country of the Dominican Republic, is the best place to see these specialties thanks to protection of much of the forests and more sustainable land-use practices. What you end up with is a fantastic place to go birding, one where you can enjoy the warmth, the local food, and, in this case, a group of like-minded birders. Many thanks to all of you for coming along with Denis and for choosing Field Guides for your adventure!



A regional specialty that we all enjoyed on our boat trip was the West Indian Whistling-Duck. Hispaniola is one of the best places to see this species up close and personal. Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

After our arrival into Santo Domingo, our trip got underway, along with our local guide Manny and driver Jose, up to Los Haitises National Park. We enjoyed a boat trip through the mangroves which gave us great looks at West Indian Whistling-Duck, point blank Caribbean Martin, Osprey, herons, kingfishers, and others. And then, as often happens, we had some rain... a lot of it. We found out just how much rain the following morning when it was time to go find the critically endangered Ridgway's Hawk. We slogged our way through the fields but were rewarded with scope views of this special endemic, the rarest of the Buteos in the world! We also started filling out our list in earnest here adding endemics such as Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo, Broad-billed Tody, Antillean Piculet, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, White-necked Crow, and of course the strange Palmchat. We ended the day back in Santo Domingo, trying to dry out at our familiar and trusted hotel.



Although not a particularly rare species, it's always a treat to see Black-crowned Night-Herons, especially when they're this close! Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

The next day we ventured to the west. We started by birding at the Bani salt pans where we found a slew of new trip birds including Gull-billed Tern, Sandwich Tern, Least Tern, Black-necked Stilts, and a wide range of other shorebirds. Of course, the most exciting bird, for the locals at least, was an American Avocet which is a mega rarity for the island. It was fun having Manny there, getting a lifer! On our way out, we also stopped to check out the endangered and endemic Rhinoceros Iguanas. After we said goodbye to Manny, we continued westward. That afternoon we met up with our next local guide, Efrain (and then Raphael), to do some local birding around the town of Duverge. We added Antillean Siskin, Flat-billed Vireo, Hispaniolan Euphonia, Black-crowned Palm-Tanager and others. That evening, after it got dark, we even spent time with three species of nightjars: Least Pauraque, Hispaniolan Nightjar, and Antillean Nighthawk.



We never tired of having views like this. This spot was also hosting dozens of White-tailed Tropicbirds wheeling around offshore! Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

We started our birding the next day in the foothills of the Sierra de Baoruco. We spent a lot of time searching for the rare and endemic Bay-breasted Cuckoo which, finally, actually did show itself! Whew. The forest had a great variety though and we added Scaly-naped Pigeon, Key West Quail-Dove (heard), several Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoos, Hispaniolan Amazon, Olive-throated Parakeet, Loggerhead Kingbird, Green-tailed Warbler, and Greater Antillean Bullfinch. Later that morning we birded around Lake Enriquillo where we were successful in finding the endemic Hispaniolan Palm-Crow as well as a very cool Burrowing Owl pair. We checked out the shoreline of Lake Enriquillo and added some nice shorebirds and terns but rain eventually pushed us out and back towards town for lunch. After lunch and a siesta back at our apartments, we birded another roadside near Duverge, this time seeing Common Ground Dove, Zenaida Dove, Black Swift, Vervian Hummingbird, Golden Swallow, Hispaniolan Oriole, and even a day-roosting Northern Potoo!



We went out nightbirding several times on this trip and saw a fun diversity of nightbirds. One such encounter was seeing this Stygian Owl! Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

The following morning started pretty early, even by birder's standards. But, it was an important morning and a necessary slow climb up the mountain in 4x4 vehicles. What met us at the top though, at Zapoten, was a glorious, chilly morning, with the songs of the Rufous-throated Solitaires filtering down through the trees around us. A couple key targets were high on our list and it wasn't long before we started seeing them. A La Selle Thrush hopped along the road predawn, a singing Western Chat-Tanager came out for a quick look, a White-winged Warbler showed briefly, Hispaniolan Spindalis were common, and the list goes on. We added Hispaniolan Emerald, Hispaniolan Trogon, Hispaniolan Elaenia, Hispaniolan Pewee, Hispaniolan Crossbill, and, well, you can sense a trend. On our way down the mountain, we stopped briefly so that we could look into Haiti and to add a few birds to our Haiti lists. After lunch back in town, we hit the road, headed down and around toward Pedernales. We stopped at some salt lagoons en route, adding Common Gallinule, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt

Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, and White Ibis. It was a long but good day of birding, ending in Pedernales at our comfortable hotel enjoying drinks on the top veranda.



This is the rarest Buteo in the world, the Ridgway's Hawk! It took some work to get to the spot but it was worth it when we saw this bird, probably the male, sitting in the morning light! Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

We drove up the ALCOA Road predawn the next morning and enjoyed hearing Antillean Nighthawks and Hispaniolan Nightjars singing all around us. The highlight, perhaps, was a pair of Stygian Owls including a male that was wing-clapping right above us. Very very cool. Up at the top, at El Aceitillar, we enjoyed a leisurely walk and saw Hispaniolan Amazon, Hispaniolan Palm-Crow, Hispaniolan Elaenia, Hispaniolan Crossbill, several warblers, and even heard a Northern Bobwhite. Later that morning we returned to Cabo Rojo but this time enjoyed seeing 40 White-tailed Tropicbirds offshore! After a lovely lunch at a restaurant (complete with a Scaly-breasted Munia sighting), we spent the afternoon driving to our next

hotel, the Hotel El Quemaito. After a nice break, we went owling nearby and finally tracked down the mysterious Ashy-faced Owl!



Early one morning we ventured far up into the mountains, arriving predawn. As dawn broke, the hillsides became alive with bird song including the gorgeous songs of Rufous-throated Solitaires. Birding here was truly magical. Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

The final day of birding started early, as we took 4x4s up to Cachote. But, again, the reasoning was good; we had some important endemics to track down. Thankfully the weather was lovely and we had no trouble stirring up an Eastern Chat-Tanager! We also took a hike at the end of the road which eventually led us to a spot where we saw White-fronted Quail-Dove, our final DR endemic! After we thanked our host, and retreated down the path, retreated down the mountain, met up with our driver Jose once more, said goodbye to Efrain, and then drove all the way back to Santo Domingo. We finished with a lovely (and misty) dinner just around the corner of the hotel before we said our goodbyes.



The Green-tailed Warbler actually isn't even a warbler! This is a member of the palm-tanager family which is endemic to Hispaniola. We had some amazing views of this endemic! Photo by guide Cory Gregory.

### **Some of the other critters we saw on tour:**

Butterflies:

**"Antillean" Dorantes Longtail** (*Cecropterus dorantes cramptoni*) - A small skipper spotted in the mountains.

**"Caribbean" Gray Cracker** (*Hamadryas februa ferox*) - A perfectly camouflaged butterfly seen at Los Haitises.

**"Hispaniolan" Lesser False Fritillary** (*Anetia briarea briarea*) - Medium-sized fritillary seen in the mountains.

**"Caribbean" Monarch** (*Danaus plexippus megalippe*) - Note subspecies of this familiar butterfly.

**"Hispaniolan" White Peacock** (*Anartia jatrophae saturata*) - Note subspecies. Fairly common.

Herps:

**"Hispaniola" Rhinoceros Iguana** (*Cyclura cornuta cornuta*) - Endemic and endangered! Seen well though.

**Hispaniolan Ground Iguana** (*Cyclura ricordii*) - Endemic and endangered! Seen near Lago Enriquillo.

**"Hispaniolan" Red-sided Curlytail Lizard** (*Leiocephalus schreibersii schreibersii*) - This lizard was seen and photographed nicely near Lago Enriquillo (it wasn't a type of ameiva).

**Bark Anole** (*Anolis distichus*) - Common, seen perching on trees many times.

This was a fun trip and I want to thank all of you for making it that way. We enjoyed the many sights and sounds of the Dominican Republic, saw an incredible variety of endemics, witnessed all sorts of interesting insects and herps, and of course enjoyed getting to know many of the local guides whose passion for the DR wildlife is unsurpassed. I want to thank Denis for putting this together and to our Field Guides staff for making it happen. Thanks again and I hope to see you again on another Field Guides trip!

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/496912>

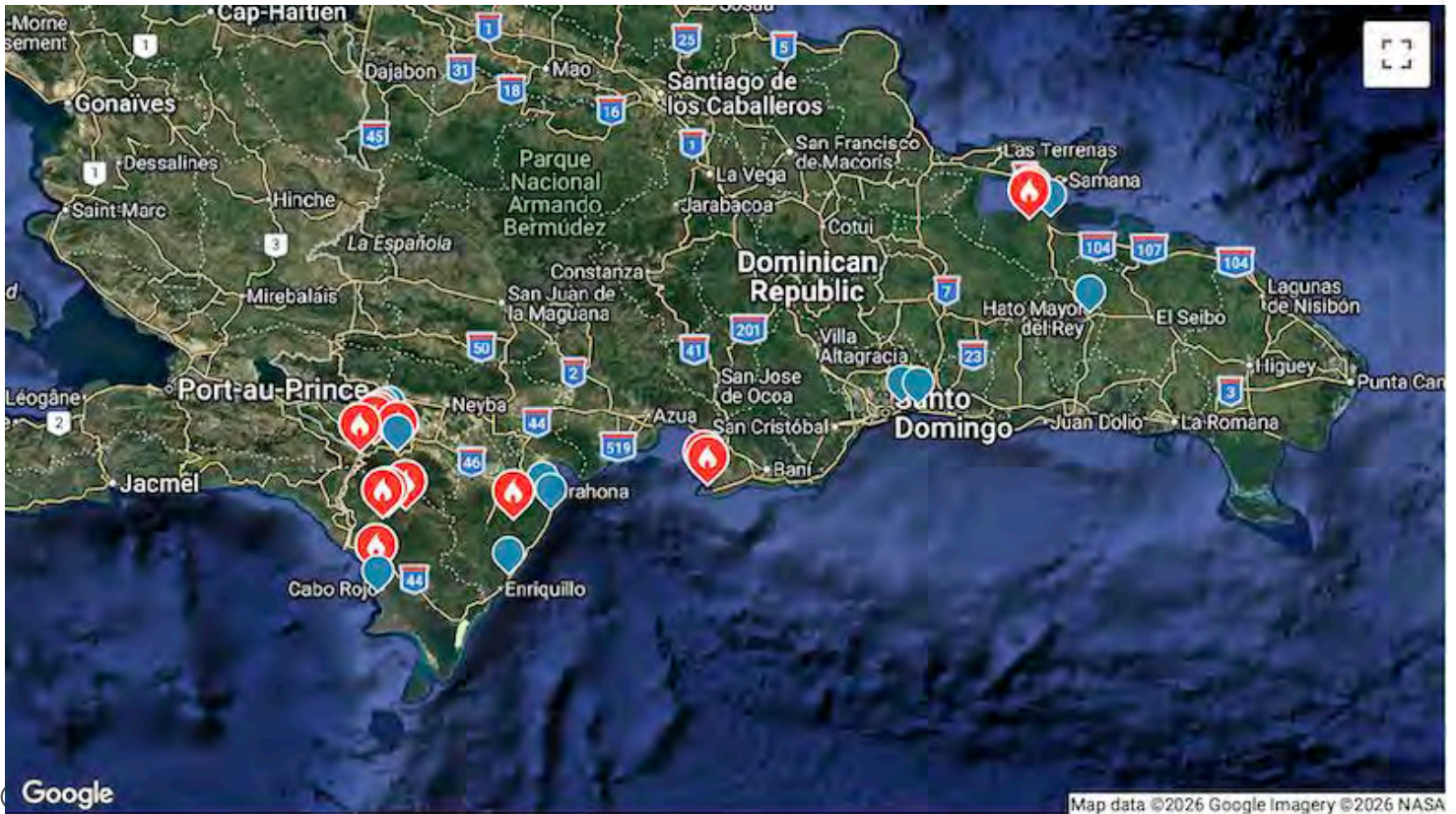
You can download a combined PDF of this page and the eBird report at this link: <https://fieldguides.com/triplists/dom26pTRIPLIST.pdf>

-- Cory Gregory (Curlew) & Marcelo Barreiros (Cotinga)

# Field Guides Birding Tours -- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 2026 (Private Kania trip, with Cory Gregory and Marcelo Barreiros)



5 – 11 Apr 2026 (7 days) Link-only



Dominican Republic | Haiti Subregions

Cory Gregory



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

📍 135

📁 31



























📷 32


🔊 1




























[Species Observed](#)[Checklists](#)[Species with Photos](#)[Species with Audio](#)LIFERS  4  1 





































## Species Observed




































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- 25 [West Indian Whistling-Duck](#) *Dendrocygna arborea* ▶  1  1
- 45 [White-cheeked Pintail](#) *Anas bahamensis* ▶  1
- 4 [Helmeted Guineafowl](#) *Numida meleagris* \* ▶  1
- 1 [Northern Bobwhite](#) *Colinus virginianus* \* ▶  1
- 22 [Rock Pigeon](#) *Columba livia* \* ▶  5
- 24 [Scaly-naped Pigeon](#) *Patagioenas squamosa* ▶  5
- 6 [White-crowned Pigeon](#) *Patagioenas leucocephala* ▶  2
- 3 [Plain Pigeon](#) *Patagioenas inornata* ▶  2
- 11 [Eurasian Collared-Dove](#) *Streptopelia decaocto* \* ▶  4
- 7 [Common Ground Dove](#) *Columbina passerina* ▶  3
- 3 [White-fronted Quail-Dove](#) *Geotrygon leucometopia* ▶  1  2
- 2 [Key West Quail-Dove](#) *Geotrygon chrysis* ▶  1
- 4 [White-winged Dove](#) *Zenaida asiatica* ▶  3
- 2 [Zenaida Dove](#) *Zenaida aurita* ▶  1
- 31 [Mourning Dove](#) *Zenaida macroura* ▶  10
- 3 [Smooth-billed Ani](#) *Crotophaga ani* ▶  1
- 1 [Mangrove Cuckoo](#) *Coccyzus minor* ▶  1
- 6 [Bay-breasted Cuckoo](#) *Coccyzus ruficularis* ▶  1  3
- 14 [Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo](#) *Coccyzus longirostris* ▶  7
- 3 [Antillean Nighthawk](#) *Chordeiles gundlachii* ▶  2
- 4 [Least Pauraque](#) *Siphonorhis brewsteri*  ▶  1  1

7	<b>Hispaniolan Nightjar</b> <i>Antrostomus ekmani</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Northern Potoo</b> <i>Nyctibius jamaicensis</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Black Swift</b> <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	▶  1  2
87	<b>Antillean Palm Swift</b> <i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>	▶  4  11
8	<b>Hispaniolan Mango</b> <i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i>	▶  4
4	<b>Vervain Hummingbird</b> <i>Mellisuga minima</i>	▶  3
3	<b>Hispaniolan Emerald</b> <i>Riccordia swainsonii</i>	▶  1  1
15	<b>Common Gallinule</b> <i>Gallinula galeata</i>	▶  2
3	<b>Limpkin</b> <i>Aramus guarauna</i>	▶  2
34	<b>Black-necked Stilt</b> <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	▶  4
1	<b>American Avocet</b> <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	▶  1  1
4	<b>Black-bellied Plover</b> <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	▶  1
7	<b>Killdeer</b> <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	▶  4
27	<b>Semipalmated Plover</b> <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	▶  4
1	<b>Wilson's Plover</b> <i>Anarhynchus wilsonia</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b> <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	▶  2
8	<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> <i>Actitis macularius</i>	▶  3
8	<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	▶  5
5	<b>Willet</b> <i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b> <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	▶  3
1	<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b> <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	▶  1
68	<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	▶  3
35	<b>Least Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	▶  5
5	<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	▶  2

3	<b>Laughing Gull</b> <i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	▶  1
25	<b>Least Tern</b> <i>Sternula antillarum</i>	▶  1
24	<b>Gull-billed Tern</b> <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	▶  2
2	<b>Caspian Tern</b> <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	▶  1
3	<b>Common Tern</b> <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	▶  1
30	<b>Sandwich Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▶  1
39	<b>Royal Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	▶  3
61	<b>American Flamingo</b> <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	▶  2
52	<b>White-tailed Tropicbird</b> <i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	▶  3  2
13	<b>Magnificent Frigatebird</b> <i>Fregata magnificens</i>	▶  3
1	<b>White Ibis</b> <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Least Bittern</b> <i>Botaurus exilis</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	▶  1  1
15	<b>Little Blue Heron</b> <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	▶  1  5
11	<b>Tricolored Heron</b> <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	▶  5
3	<b>Reddish Egret</b> <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	▶  2
5	<b>Snowy Egret</b> <i>Egretta thula</i>	▶  3
4	<b>Green Heron</b> <i>Butorides virescens</i>	▶  3
16	<b>Western Cattle-Egret</b> <i>Ardea ibis</i>	▶  5
8	<b>Great Egret</b> <i>Ardea alba</i>	▶  1  4
2	<b>Great Blue Heron</b> <i>Ardea herodias</i>	▶  2
72	<b>Brown Pelican</b> <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	▶  5
48	<b>Turkey Vulture</b> <i>Cathartes aura</i>	▶  8

5	<b>Osprey</b> <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	▶  3
1	<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b> <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	▶  1
1	<b>Ridgway's Hawk</b> <i>Buteo ridgwayi</i>	▶  2  1
2	<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b> <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Ashy-faced Owl</b> <i>Tyto glaucops</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Burrowing Owl</b> <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	▶  1
2	<b>Stygian Owl</b> <i>Asio stygius</i>	▶  3  1
5	<b>Hispaniolan Trogon</b> <i>Priotelus roseigaster</i>	▶  1  2
21	<b>Broad-billed Tody</b> <i>Todus subulatus</i>	▶  1  9
7	<b>Narrow-billed Tody</b> <i>Todus angustirostris</i>	▶  2  3
2	<b>Belted Kingfisher</b> <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	▶  1
8	<b>Antillean Piculet</b> <i>Nesocittes micromegas</i>	▶  5
45	<b>Hispaniolan Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes striatus</i>	▶  1  18
7	<b>American Kestrel</b> <i>Falco sparverius</i>	▶  7
17	<b>Hispaniolan Amazon</b> <i>Amazona ventralis</i> 	▶  1  5
8	<b>Olive-throated Parakeet</b> <i>Eupsittula nana</i> *	▶  1  2
67	<b>Hispaniolan Parakeet</b> <i>Psittacara chloropterus</i> 	▶  1  3
5	<b>Hispaniolan Elaenia</b> <i>Elaenia cherriei</i>	▶  1  2
5	<b>Hispaniolan Pewee</b> <i>Contopus hispaniolensis</i>	▶  3
17	<b>Stolid Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiarchus stolidus</i>	▶  2  9
29	<b>Gray Kingbird</b> <i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	▶  14
2	<b>Loggerhead Kingbird</b> <i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Flat-billed Vireo</b> <i>Vireo nanus</i>	▶  1

38	<b>Black-whiskered Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	▶  9
5	<b>Hispaniolan Palm-Crow</b>	<i>Corvus palmarum</i>	▶  1  2
16	<b>White-necked Crow</b>	<i>Corvus leucognaphalus</i>	▶  7
18	<b>Golden Swallow</b>	<i>Tachycineta euchrysea</i>	▶  3  6
33	<b>Caribbean Martin</b>	<i>Progne dominicensis</i>	▶  4  5
35	<b>Cave Swallow</b>	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>	▶  2
4	<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	▶  4
10	<b>Rufous-throated Solitaire</b>	<i>Myadestes genibarbis</i>	▶  1  1
26	<b>Eastern Red-legged Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus ardosiaceus</i>	▶  9
2	<b>La Selle Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus swalesi</i> 	▶  1  1
57	<b>Palmchat</b>	<i>Dulus dominicus</i>	▶  10
16	<b>Village Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i> *	▶  2
2	<b>Scaly-breasted Munia</b>	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> *	▶  1
30	<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i> *	▶  5
10	<b>Hispaniolan Euphonia</b>	<i>Chlorophonia musica</i> 	▶  1  5
8	<b>Hispaniolan Crossbill</b>	<i>Loxia megaplaga</i>	▶  2
1	<b>Antillean Siskin</b>	<i>Spinus dominicensis</i>	▶  1  1
2	<b>Western Chat-Tanager</b>	<i>Calyptophilus tertius</i>	▶  1  1
2	<b>Eastern Chat-Tanager</b>	<i>Calyptophilus frugivorus</i>	▶  1  1
20	<b>Black-crowned Palm-Tanager</b>	<i>Phaenicophilus palmarum</i>	▶  6
1	<b>White-winged Warbler</b>	<i>Xenoligea montana</i>	▶  1
4	<b>Green-tailed Warbler</b>	<i>Microligea palustris</i>	▶  2  3
6	<b>Hispaniolan Spindalis</b>	<i>Spindalis dominicensis</i>	▶  2

- 3 **Hispaniolan Oriole** *Icterus dominicensis* ▶  2
- 4 **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* ▶  2
- 15 **Greater Antillean Grackle** *Quiscalus niger* ▶  7
- 2 **Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla* ▶  2
- 3 **Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* ▶  3
- 5 **Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* ▶  5
- 1 **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* ▶  1
- 5 **American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* ▶  4
- 7 **Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina* ▶  4
- 5 **Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* ▶  5
- 2 **Mangrove Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* ▶  2
- 5 **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens* ▶  3
- 2 **Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum* ▶  2
- 13 **Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus* ▶  3
- 1 **Prairie Warbler** *Setophaga discolor* ▶  1
- 1 **Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* ▶  1
- 1 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* ▶  1
- 17 **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* ▶  8
- 1 **Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* ▶  1
- 6 **Greater Antillean Bullfinch** *Melopyrrha violacea* ▶  2
- 2 **Black-faced Grassquit** *Melanospiza bicolor* ▶  1
- EXOTIC: ESCAPEE**
- 3 **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* \* ▶  1