

Jamaica

16th – 23rd June 2015

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Introduction

After an action packed and somewhat intense trip to Ethiopia late last year, we decided on a sedate week in the Caribbean this time around.

MCP and RMA had already been to Cuba, with MCP also having visited some of the islands in the Lesser Antilles. AB had only managed to get as far as Key West in Florida whilst JPH had managed a short stop over in the Caribbean on the way to Costa Rica many years ago.

We eventually decided on Jamaica, a new destination for everyone, with trip reports indicating that the 29 endemics could be comfortably seen within a week without the need for too much travelling. Having birded extensively in North America, we were not too bothered about bumping the trip numbers up with wintering warblers so MCP set about organising a mid-June trip.

Flights were booked online with www.thomson.co.uk for around £630 whilst the cheapest car hire we could find was through www.rhinocarhire.com who supplied us with a Suzuki Grand Vitara, via Island Car Rentals www.islandcarrentals.com

Visa/Entry

We were issued with a 90 day tourist visas on arrival with the minimum of fuss. On leaving Jamaica we had to pay an exit tax of £10, which we paid in sterling at the check-in desk.

Health/Weather

We encountered rain on 2 days, slightly less than we expected. Both times involved heavy thunder showers that quickly passed. Plenty of biting mosquitoes in the forest so pack that insect repellent. Temperatures on the coast reached well over 30 °C during the day but was much more comfortable in the hills. As is typical of the tropics, birding in the forests was most productive early morning and late afternoon, meaning we regularly forfeited our hotel breakfasts!

Field Guide/Bird Calls

Whilst in Jamaica we made use of *Birds of the West Indies* (Helm Field Guide) and the excellent *Photographic Guide to the Birds of Jamaica* (Christopher Helm). We also purchased the CD, *Bird Songs in Jamaica* by George B Reynard & Robert L Sutton from Wildsounds www.wildsounds.com. This proved essential for some of the tricky species such as **Jamaican Owl** and **Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo**.

We also used a *Birdwatcher's Guide to Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico & the Caymans* (Guy Kirwan, Arturo Kirkconnell, Mike Flieg) published by Prion, ISBN 978-1-871104-12-7 which contained specific site directions to a number of places we visited although it's not as detailed as other guides in the series.

Hotels/Food

MCP made contact with Ricardo Miller rmiller@arrowheadbirding.com or www.arrowheadbirding.com who helpfully worked up an itinerary for us and after some tweaking via email, Ricardo made all our ground arrangements.

Day 1 – 16th June, Toby's Resort, Montego Bay
Day 2 – 17th June, Toby's Resort, Montego Bay
Day 3 – 18th June, Frenchman's Cove, Port Antonio
Day 4 – 19th June, Frenchman's Cove, Port Antonio
Day 5 – 20th June, Starlight Chalet & Spa, Silverhill Gap, Section
Day 6 – 21st June, Starlight Chalet & Spa, Silverhill Gap, Section
Day 7 – 22nd June, Toby's Resort, Montego Bay

Additionally, we asked Ricardo to guide us for a day towards the end of the trip, to help with any missing species. This proved a wise move, as without Ricardo's help we would probably have missed **Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo**. Ricardo also provided us with some fabulous views of **Jamaican Owl**.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 – Montego Bay

We had plenty of leg room on our Thomson Dream Liner and after a 9+ hour flight we touched down in Montego Bay with an hour or so of light left. Immigration and car hire pick up was rather uneventful apart from MCP being refused re-entry into the

terminal by an over officious security guard after he had wandered outside for a quick look around!

After MCP eventually managed to get back inside the terminal to sign the hire car paperwork, we did what most tourists do on arrival in the Caribbean, we headed off to the local Sewage Works!

As we drove along the coast a glance to the right produced **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **Laughing Gull** and some **Loggerhead Kingbirds** sat on roadside wires.

Our plan to bird the Bogue Sewage Works on the edge of town was somewhat scuppered when we found the entrance gate locked presumably as it was late in the day. We therefore had to make do with standing near the fence and watching a precession of birds flying back and fore. We managed to see plenty of **Egrets** of 3 different species and both **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**.

A brief sighting of a tiny **Hummingbird** was presumably **Vervain** whilst overhead there were plenty of **Antillean Palm Swifts**, **Cave Swallows** and in the gloom several **Antillean Nighthawks**.

Day 2 – Montego Bay – Cockpit Country – Montego Bay

Up and away by just after 5am we headed off along the A1 and then inland towards Stewart Town and Cockpit Country. We started off birding at The Alps on the rather busy road between Jackson's Town and Albert Town.

It did not take long to get stonking views of **Jamaican Woodpecker**, which proved to be fairly common throughout the trip. Other Island endemics soon started rolling in, including **Jamaican Spindalis**, **Jamaican Euphonia**, **Sad Flycatcher** and **Rufous-tailed Flycatcher**. The endemic **Parrots**, however, proved somewhat frustrating with flight views only of **Yellow-billed Parrot**. We also managed to see **Olive-throated Parakeet** and the introduced **Green-winged Parrotlet**.

We spent the morning and early afternoon driving along the B5 and B10 stopping periodically. **Grey & Loggerhead Kingbird's** and **Turkey Vultures** abounded everywhere but highlight of the morning were the spectacular **Red-billed Streamertail** and **Jamaican Tody**, whilst other birds included **Black-whiskered Vireo**, **White-crowned Pigeon** and the noisy **Jamaican Crow**. The well known Barbeque Bottom road was blocked by fallen rocks so we headed for Windsor Caves but with the heat of the day kicking in & loads of mosquitos we elected to return to Montego Bay.

We decided to try Montego Bay Sewage Works again before the gate got locked. We encountered our first heavy thunder shower of the trip upon arrival, so settled in for a quick drive (in the dry!) around the numerous pools. Lots of **Black-necked Stilts** and various **Hérons** included **Tri-coloured** and **Little Blue Heron**. After a short period of time checking out the **Coots**, we managed to find several of our target **Caribbean Coots** with their white foreheads. A further welcome addition was a **West Indian Whistling Duck**, albeit with a damaged wing, a bird much easier seen on the west coast, and one we were not sure we would catch up with. A **Least Tern** gave good

views hovering close to the car and we managed to exit the site just as the gates were being locked for the day at 3pm.

After heading through downtown Montego Bay to purchase provisions we retired to Toby's Resort for a late afternoon siesta. Later on we met up with Ricardo for a brief chat as he was passing through town and we picked up a few tips for tomorrow. Final task of the day was to jump into the car and drive to the nearby Pork Pit Restaurant.

Day 3 – Montego Bay – Stewart Town – Frenchman's Cove

Early start number two and back up to the Cockpit Country. This time around we headed to Stewart Town, parking by the Police Station. After seeing several fly-over **Black-billed Parrots**, we followed the track into the forest for a few hours birding on foot. Additions to yesterday included **Jamaican Vireo**, **Greater Antillean Bullfinch**, **Arrowhead Warbler**, **Jamaican Pewee**, **Black-faced** and **Yellow-shouldered Grassquits**. We finally had decent views of **Olive-throated Parakeets** but the main highlight was both **Ruddy** and **Crested Quail Doves** feeding on the track. A pair of **Caribbean Doves** gave very brief views before disappearing into the forest.

Mid-morning we commenced the long drive along the north coast to Frenchman's Cove just east of Port Antonio, our base for the next 2 nights. We duly picked up a speeding ticket on the way. The offending driver has requested that he remain anonymous but let's just say he has a chequered history of many such code violations. We also failed in our attempt to find somewhere decent to stop for lunch. Therefore, after finally arriving at the somewhat tired Frenchman's Cove we headed straight down to the beach bar for a bite to eat. After dumping our gear at Villa number 17, situated on a headland overlooking the blue waters of the Caribbean, we then spent some time wandering around the grounds, finding very little for our efforts.

With only a couple of hours of daylight left we decided to jump in the car and drive the tracks in the area around nearby San San Police Station. This proved a wise move, and we obtained some great views of **Caribbean Dove**, making up for the earlier poor views. We also had smart views of a male **Black-billed Streamertail** and **Jamaican Oriole**. Final stop of the day, was the excellent Woody's Low Bridge Burgers for reputedly the best Burgers in Jamaica.

Day 4 – Frenchman's Cove – Ecclesdown Road – Frenchman's Cove

After getting a little lost this morning and asking directions from numerous locals we eventually made our way onto Ecclesdown Road. At times the birding was somewhat slow, but eventually we found a gap in the roadside foliage and spent some time looking down into the valley below where most of the activity appeared to be. We finally obtained good views of **Black-billed Parrots** perched up and nailed the World's second smallest bird **Vervain Hummingbird**. We also had our first decent views of **Jamaican Mango** and the endemic **Orangequit**. Whilst further down the road at the cluster of houses that made up Ecclesdown we finally managed to scope the endemic **Ring-tailed Pigeon**.

Disappointingly, we were still missing both species of endemic **Cuckoos**. They were to become priority targets during the next few days.

By mid-morning it was clear that the bird activity had died off, so we returned to Frenchman's Cove for a mini siesta, followed by a late lunch and swim.

We spent late afternoon and early evening in the gardens of the nearby Mockingbird Hill Hotel, apparently a good site for **Jamaican Owl**. No new birds during this session, but we did get further good views of **Jamaican Woodpecker**, **Jamaican Euphonia**, **Caribbean Dove**, **Jamaican Mango**, **Vervain Hummingbird** and **White-collared Swift**.

A session after dark using playback at Mockingbird Hill for **Jamaican Owl** proved unsuccessful, with no hint of a response. So it was back to Woody's for another night of burgers.

Not the sort of birders to give up on an endemic **Owl** we tried again at several spots on the way back to our Villa and hit gold, when a bird called back from behind the reception buildings at Frenchman's Cove. MCP & AB quickly returned to the Villa to retrieve a torch and upon return we quickly managed to spot light a **Jamaican Owl** sat high above our heads.

Day 5 – Frenchman's Cove – Ecclesdown Road – Blue Mountains

We arrived at Ecclesdown Road this morning at first light, and managed to get yet another **Crested Quail Dove** walking along in front of the car for several minutes. So much for tricky endemic!

First new endemic of the day was **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo**. There were at least 2 birds calling from the road just past the hamlet of Ecclesdown, although we only managed to see one of them. Back at yesterday's busy forest clearing we again saw **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Parrots**, along with the second new endemic of the morning, **White-eyed Thrush**. It was now time to return to our accommodation where we succeeded in actually sitting down for our first proper breakfast of the trip.

Following breakfast, we drove up into the Blue Mountains and our base for the next two nights, the Starlight Chalet and Health Spa at Silverhill Gap, via a twisty mountain road. We arrived in time for lunch and after eating we spent some time photographing the birds at the feeders on the veranda. Another **Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo** performed in the garden and once the heat had died off we headed back out along the road to Hardwar Gap for some roadside birding.

We had good views of several singing **Rufous-throated Solitaires** and somewhat brief views of the endemic **Blue Mountain Vireo**. Our run of success continued with another **Crested Quail Dove** as we birded the track at Woodside Drive. A few conspicuous nests hanging down from nearby trees turned out to belong to **Jamaican Becard**, another endemic for our trip list.

Returning to Starlight Chalet for the evening, we now had just 4 endemic birds to see and in the morning we would meet up with Ricardo for the guided part of our trip.

Day 6- Blue Mountains

This morning we headed down past Section and climbed the road to Hardwar Gap. Stopping at a prime site for **Jamaican Blackbird**, we played the call and a short while later we had seen a pair of this tricky endemic.

Everybody also managed to get good views of **Blue Mountain Vireo** and an **Elaenia** in the trees above us turned out to be **Greater Antillean Elaenia**, another bird that can be tricky to locate. Shortly afterwards we met up with Ricardo who had driven up from Kingston. He quickly used his sharp ear to knock off another of our missing endemics, **Jamaican Elaenia** which effectively left us with just **Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo** to see.

We spent most of the rest of the day generally birding the area between Starlight Chalet and Woodside Drive, stopping at areas that looked promising for **Lizard Cuckoo**. Whilst we failed to see our target bird, we did obtain better views of some of the birds we had already seen earlier in the trip. These included further sightings of **Jamaican** and **Greater Antillean Eleanias, Jamaican Becard, Black-faced & Yellow-shouldered Grassquits, Crested & Ruddy Quail Doves**, and the tiny **Vervain Hummingbird**. On the way back to Starlight Chalet, we stopped for fantastic views of a roadside **Jamaican Owl** at a site Ricardo had located previously.

Day 7 – Blue Mountains – Hellshire Hills – Montego Bay

Today we headed out of the hills and down towards the capital Kingston. We stopped a few times on the way down to try yet again for **Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo** but with no success. After some easy driving on relatively traffic free roads, we had fun following Ricardo through early morning rush hour traffic in Kingston, getting cut up on a number of occasions!

Our primary destination this morning was the Two Sisters area of the Hellshire Hills for **Bahama Mockingbird** and **Stolid Flycatcher**. Both of which duly obliged in the searing heat along with our first **Yellow (Golden) Warblers** of the trip. Ricardo said that he had a final ace up his sleeve for **Lizard Cuckoo** and we headed off to Caymanas near Spanish Town, a site he was familiar with from previous survey work.

However, it was a different **Cuckoo** we would see next when a **Mangrove Cuckoo** jumped into view. A little further along the road we finally heard a **Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo**. Frustratingly, although the bird came down close to the road we were just unable to see it. After rain interrupted play, it was time for Ricardo to head back to Kingston and we bade our farewells, grateful for his efforts over the last day or so.

The general consensus was that we should stay in the area and continue to work the road as we knew our final endemic was somewhere nearby. We tried up the road and heard another more distance bird but could not tempt it in. Returning to the original spot after another heavy rain storm, we could get no response this time around.

On the point of giving up we tried one last time at another spot where we thought we had heard a bird earlier. It was with a massive amount of relief that finally, a calling

Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo burst out of cover and landed in a bush right in front of us, giving superb views.

It was a “high five” all round with all the Jamaican endemics finally in the bag. The final target for the day, on the drive back to the north coast was **Grasshopper Sparrow**, at a site given to us by Ricardo not too far from Ocho Rios. Although it was quite breezy, it only took us a short time to find a singing bird, rounding off nicely a very successful day!!!

Day 8 – Montego Bay

Our final day in Jamaica and we headed up to Rocklands Bird Feeding Station. Having used up most of our cash, we were not in a position to pay US\$20 each to enter the Garden and another US\$20 each to walk the trails. Instead, we negotiated a price with Fritz the resident guide to take us to a roosting **Northern Potoo** and it was money well spent as we had superb views. Fritz also showed us a roosting **Jamaican Owl**.



Our trip finished as it had started with another trip to Montego Bay Sewage Works. Most of the birds were similar to our first visit, although we did add **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Northern Jacana**, our final new trip birds.

We subsequently returned to Toby’s Resort for lunch, before packing our bags and heading to Sangster International Airport for our return flight. Not even a 3 hour delay to our flight home could dampen our spirits after such a great trip

Systematic List

West Indian Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arborea*

A single bird at Montego Bay Sewage Works 17/6 & 23/6.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

140 + Montego Bay Sewage 17/6 and 198 on 23/6.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

Seen at Montego Bay Sewage Works, with a maximum count of 18 on 23/6.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Regular sightings along the north coast, indeed it was one of the first species we saw from the car after leaving the Airport. Strangest sighting though was of a bird high up in the Blue Mountains on 20/6.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Seen at Montego Bay Sewage Works and also several times along the north coast.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Singles at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 16 & 17/6.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Daily maximum of 10 birds.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Maximum count of 35 at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 23/6.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Highest daily count was 10 on 17/6.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*

5 birds at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6 and another on 23/6.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Common, daily maximum of 75 on 22/6.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Singles at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6 and another at Frenchman's Cove on 19/6.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen on 3 dates, maximum count of 4 on 17/6.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

Seen on 7 dates, maximum count of 6 on 17/6.

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

4 at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6 and 1 on 23/6.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Seen on 4 dates, maximum of 7 on 23/6.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
Common throughout trip.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*
11 birds seen in total with a daily maximum of 4 on 19/6.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula chloropus*
Plenty of birds seen at Montego Bay Sewage Works.

American Coot *Fulica americana*
10 at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6 and 6 on 23/6.

Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*
4 birds at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6 during a late afternoon thunder storm and 3 there on 23/6.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*
Large numbers at Montego Bay Sewage Works, with 200+ on 17/6 and similar numbers on 23/6.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
2 birds at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6, and 3 on 23/6.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*
Seen on 4 dates, maximum count of 10 on 17/6.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*
A single bird at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 23/6.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinola violacea*
2 birds at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 23/6.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*
Seen on several dates, with the highest count of 20 birds at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*
Great views of 2 birds on both visits to Montego Bay Sewage Works & one or two others over the sea at Montego Bay.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*
Seen on 5 dates, all sightings along the north coast.

Rock (Feral) Pigeon *Columba livia*
Seen during the trip.

White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala*

Seen daily, highest count 30+ on 19/6.

Ring-tailed Pigeon (Endemic) *Patagioenas caribaea*

Easily seen in the Blue Mountains with a maximum count of 40 on 20/6.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina jamaicensis*

Seen daily, maximum count 30 on 17/6.

Crested Quail-Dove (Endemic) *Geotrygon versicolor*

Supposedly a tricky endemic, but we could just not stop seeing them with 10 birds in total. Seen at Stewart Town, Ecclesdown Road and in several places at Hardwar Gap including Woodside Drive.

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*

2 at Stewart Town on 18/6, 1 at Ecclesdown Road on 19/6, and 3 birds in the Blue Mountains at Hardwar Gap.

Caribbean Dove *Leptotila jamaicensis jamaicensis*

2 birds seen poorly at Stewart Town on 18/6, were followed by much better views of 3 birds near San San Police Station later the same day. Other sightings were single birds at Mockingbird Hill Hotel on 19/6 and Rocklands Feeding Station on 23/6.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Common. Seen daily with a maximum of 12 on 22/6.

Zenaida Dove *Zenaida aurita*

Common.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Seen only at Montego Bay Sewage Works with singles on 16/6 & 17/6 and 3 birds on 23/6.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

A single bird near Caymanas on 22/6.

Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo (Endemic) *Coccyzus pluvialis*

A few birds heard calling but only seen at Ecclesdown Road and Starlight Chalet, both sightings on 20/6.

Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo (Endemic) *Coccyzus vetula*

During the latter part of the trip this turned into our nemesis bird, as the only missing Jamaica endemic. It took us nearly a day and a half of targeted searching with Ricardo until we finally had superb views of a bird near Caymanas on 22/6.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Regular sightings with a daily maximum of 10 on 17/6.

Jamaican Owl (Endemic) *Pseudoscops grammicus*

One spotlighted at Frenchman's Cove on 19/6 and even better views of a bird close to the road on 21/6 at Hardwar Gap in the Blue Mountains. Finally, a roosting bird at Rocklands Feeding Station on 23/6.

Antillean Nighthawk *Chordeiles gundlachii*

10 birds hawking over Montego Bay Sewage Works on 16/6. A single on 18/6 & 5 at Montego Bay on 22/6.

Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis jamaicensis*

Fabulous views of a roosting bird at Rocklands Feeding Station on 23/6. One of the highlights of the trip.

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger niger*

Seen on 5 dates, maximum of 15 on 22/6.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris pallidifrons*

Seen on 4 dates, maximum of 12 on 19/6.

Antillean Palm-Swift *Tachornis phoenicobia*

Common around Montego Bay and the north coast with highest count of 50 on 22/6.

Jamaican Mango (Endemic) *Anthracothorax mango*

Great views of 2 birds visiting the feeders during our stay at Starlight Chalet. Also a single bird in Cockpit Country on 18/6, 2 birds at Ecclesdown Road on 19/6 and another 2 birds seen in the Hellshire Hills on 22/6.

Vervain Hummingbird *Mellisuga minima minima*

Reportedly the World's smallest bird after Bee Hummingbird. First seen at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 16/6, we saw further birds at Ecclesdown Road on 19/6 and at Hardwar a Gap on 20/6 & 21/6.

Red-billed Streamertail (Endemic) *Tochilus polytmus*

Large numbers of this Hummingbird visiting the feeders at Starlight Chalet, with over 40 birds seen on 20/6. The spectacular males were a real joy to watch!

Black-billed Streamertail (Endemic) *Tochilus scitulus*

Restricted to the north east corner of Jamaica, we predictably saw small numbers of birds in the Ecclesdown Road area, with a maximum of 4 on 19/6.

Jamaican Tody (Endemic) *Todus todus*

We had some close range views of this fabulous bird, including birds we found visiting nest holes at Stewart Town and Hardwar Gap. A total of 16 birds seen.

Jamaican Woodpecker (Endemic) *Melanerpes radiolatus*

Common, daily maximum of 12 on 20/6.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius sparverioides*

Regular sightings.

Black-billed Parrot (Endemic) *Amazona agilis*

Only seen in Cockpit Country and Ecclesdown Road, maximum of 6 on 19/6.

Yellow-billed Parrot (Endemic) *Amazona collaria*

The more numerous of the 2 Parrots. Seen in Cockpit Country and Ecclesdown Road, maximum of 26 on 19/6.

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus*

Several small flyover groups of this introduced species seen. Maximum of 10 on 22/6.

Olive-throated (Jamaican) Parakeet (Endemic) *Aratinga nana nana*

Considered by some to be a full endemic (*Eupsittula nana*), our best views were at Stewart Town. Seen on 5 dates, with a daily maximum of 15 birds.

Jamaican Elaenia (Endemic) *Myiopagis cotta*

2 birds at Hardwar Gap on 21/6.

Greater Antillean Elaenia *Elaenia fallax fallax*

3 birds at Hardwar Gap, Blue Mountains on 21/6.

Jamaican Pewee (Endemic) *Contopus pallidus*

A total of ten seen in Cockpit Country and the Blue Mountains.

Sad Flycatcher (Endemic) *Myiarchus barbirostris*

Seen on 6 dates, maximum of 6 on 21/6.

Rufous-tailed Flycatcher (Endemic) *Myiarchus validus*

The largest of the flycatchers, small numbers seen in Cockpit Country, Ecclesdown Road and at Hardwar Gap in the Blue Mountains.

Stolid Flycatcher *Myiarchus stolidus stolidus*

Seen only in the Hellshire Hills with 7 on 22/6.

Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis*

Common.

Loggerhead Kingbird *Tyrannus caudifasciatus jamaicensis*

Common.

Jamaican Becard (Endemic) *Pachyramphus niger*

A single female visiting a nest at Woodside Drive, Hardwar Gap, in the Blue Mountains.

Jamaican Vireo (Endemic) *Vireo modestus*

First seen at Stewart Town on 18/6. Subsequently seen on another 4 dates, including at Ecclesdown Road and in the Blue Mountains.

Blue Mountain Vireo (Endemic) *Vireo osburni*

Seen only in the vicinity of Hardwar Gap, with 1 on 19/6, 3 on 20/6 and one on 21/6.

Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus altiloquus*

Seen on 7 dates, maximum of 10 on 21/6.

Jamaican Crow (Endemic) *Corvus jamaicensis*

12 of these noisy Crows in the Cockpit Country on 17/6 and another 2 the following day. Also 2 birds at Rocklands Feeding Station on 23/6.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A single bird at Montego Bay Sewage Works on 17/6.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva poeciloma*

Seen on 6 dates with a daily maximum of 100+ on 19/6.

Rufous-throated Solitaire *Myadestes genibarbis solitarius*

Great views of this striking bird at Hardwar Gap in the Blue Mountains with 7 seen in total.

White-eyed Thrush (Endemic) *Turdus jamaicensis*

First seen at Ecclesdown Road on 20/6, there after lots of good views in the Blue Mountains with a maximum of 12 on 21/6.

White-chinned Thrush (Endemic) *Turdus aurantius*

Common with a daily maximum count of 20 on 21/6.

Bahama Mockingbird *Mimus gundlachii hillii*

7 birds in the Hellshire Hills on 22/6.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos orpheus*

Common.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

10 birds in Montego Bay on 22/6.

Arrowhead Warbler (Endemic) *Setophaga pharetra*

First seen at Stewart Town on 18/6, with a subsequent daily maximum of 6 on 21/6, with regular sightings at Hardwar Gap in the Blue Mountains.

Yellow (Golden) Warbler *Setophaga petechia eoa*

3 birds in the Hellshire Hills on 22/6.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola flaveola*

Common.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

A single bird in Montego Bay on 22/6 when walking from our hotel to a nearby restaurant.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivacea*

Small numbers seen at Stewart Town, Ecclesdown Road and Hardwar Gap.

Black-faced Grassquit *Tiaris bicolor marchii*

A single bird at Stewart Town on 18/6 was followed by further sightings at Hardwar Gap.

Orangequit (Endemic) *Euneornis campestris*

Regular sightings in the Blue Mountains.

Yellow-shouldered Grassquit (Endemic) *Loxipasser anoxanthus*

Only six seen, at Stewart Town, Ecclesdown Road and in the Blue Mountains.

Greater Antillean Bullfinch *Loxigilla violacea ruficollis*

First seen at Stewart Town on 18/6. Daily maximum count of 10 birds on 18/6.

Jamaican Spindalis (Endemic) *Spindalis nigricephala*

Regular sightings at Stewart Town, Ecclesdown Road and Hardwar Gap of this striking endemic.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum savannarum*

A single singing bird near Hopewell, not too far south of Ocho Rios on 22/6.

Jamaican Blackbird (Endemic) *Nesopsar nigerrimus*

2 birds at Hardwar Gap 21/6.

Greater Antillean Grackle *Quiscalus niger crassirostris*

Common.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

A single bird on 18/6 and another at Rocklands Feeding Station on 23/6.

Jamaican Oriole (Endemic) *Icterus leucopteryx leucopteryx*

A total of 35 birds seen, with great views of birds coming to feeders at Starlight Chalet in the Blue Mountains.

Jamaican Euphonia (Endemic) *Euphonia jamaica*

Common in forest habitat. Seen at Stewart Town, Ecclesdown Road and in the Blue Mountains.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

Just the one of this introduced species, in Cockpit Country on 17/6.

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Alex Bevan, Cardiff, September 2015

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