

# Jamaica

## Tropical Treasure Island

Fri 16th – Sat 24th March 2018



Trip photos (clockwise, from top left): Jamaican Spindalis • Displaying White-tailed Tropicbirds • Rufous-tailed Flycatcher • Jamaican Tody • Blue Mountain Vireo • Crested Quail-dove • © tour leader Mike Crewe/Limosa Holidays

**Report compiled by tour leader:  
Mike Crewe**

## Jamaica | Tropical Treasure Island

**Tour Leaders:** Mike Crewe with Dwayne Swaby & Roger Thompson

This was Limosa's first trip to Jamaica - and I couldn't have spent it with a nicer bunch! There's always an element of the unknown in first-time trips and some of the logistics will need to be tweaked based on what we learned this year. But how can we complain? We had almost wall-to-wall sunshine (with just the briefest of showers, that helped to keep the temperature down a little and the island green!), we had fantastic food and attentive accommodation and – best of all, of course – we all saw all 28 of the island's endemic birds, as well as a further 14 regional, Caribbean endemics.

From the amazing scenery of the John Crow and the Blue Mountains, through the restful trails of the Green castle Estate to the spectacle of courting White-tailed Tropicbirds, every day held something special. Everything with Jamaican in its name fell neatly into place (though that crow was a close thing!), the wonderful streamertail duo performed perfectly and we could not have asked for better views of the retiring Crested Quail-dove. And, of course, we shouldn't forget the behind-the-scenes efforts of the staff and management at the estate house, who always had food and drink laid on, even before our couple of very early starts, while our driver, Raymond and our local bird guides, Dwayne and Richard never failed to produce the goods or have us where we needed to be.

Thanks to all for making this an amazing trip to one of the Caribbean's most scenic island – here's to Red Stripe, Reggae and Jerk Chicken!

### Daily Diary

#### Day 1 – Friday, March 16th 2018

The first day of our exciting Jamaica experience saw the group winging to the Caribbean to meet up with Mike, who had been on the island since the beginning of the week to get a few logistics sorted and to sound out the local birding. A flight delay meant a later than expected arrival so today was more a matter of settling in and preparing for good things to come!

#### Day 2 – Saturday, March 17th 2018

Up with the lark – or more accurately the Jamaican Oriole! – we enjoyed our first Green Castle birding with our local guide, Dwayne. A walk around the Woodpecker Trail did indeed provide us with a pair of Jamaican Woodpeckers, as well as the colourful Jamaican Spindalis (the island's only tanager), a pair of obliging Jamaican Orioles, a mass of Bananaquits and Sad Flycatchers. Black-whiskered Vireos were singing but elusive for now, but Jamaican Vireo gave itself up quite easily. Breakfast was prolonged by much activity in a nearby bottlebrush tree, where Black-faced and Yellow-faced Grassquits, Northern Parula and Cape May Warbler were feeding.

After lunch, Dwayne introduced us to James, the local Red-billed Streamertail. We then took the waterfall trail and added Rufous-tailed Flycatcher to our ever-growing list of endemics, as well as creeping around corners to check for ground-feeding Zenaida, White-winged and Caribbean Doves. Ruddy Quail-doves insisted on flying around us but steadfastly refused to land! In the afternoon, we took a stroll down to the reservoir, notching up the wonderful Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo and a Jamaican Elaenia on the way. The reservoir held a nice mix of waterbirds, including Blue-winged Teal, Common Gallinule, Pied-billed Grebe and Northern Jacana. Many coots were present, with most being American Coots, with their maroon bumps on their heads. But careful scanning turned up at least one Caribbean Coot – once considered a separate species but now treated as a subspecies of American Coot. A Merlin gave the dragonflies a cursory glance and a perched White-crowned Pigeon was scoped. It had been a very full first day of birding and we already had 13 of the island's 28 endemic bird species on our lists.

#### Day 3 – Sunday, March 18th 2018

An early start was in order today, to get us into Jamaica's famous Blue Mountains in time for the best part of the day, when birds are most active. The roadside felt almost chilly at altitude first thing, but the sun gradually crept up and warmed us. Ring-tailed Pigeons were soon active overhead, but we were interested in canopy birding and it wasn't long before Roger's sharp ears picked out the harsh calls of Jamaican Blackbirds. This would be our hardest endemic to seek out, so we were a little fraught when the pair of birds quickly disappeared, but we soon had a second shot and all of us got a look at this declining species. Shortly, a bird creeping through the roadside ginger turned itself into a very obliging Blue Mountain Vireo, while American Redstarts, Orangequits and the local Bananaquits with their charcoal faces, seemed to be everywhere. A pair of Chestnut-bellied Cuckoos showed well but all too briefly and, further along the route, a pair of Jamaican Becards came our way.

Further on, one of the highlights of the trip came in the mist-draped forests of Hardwar Gap. Walking a quiet back road, we located a pair of wonderful Crested Quail-doves, which sat patiently for as long as we cared to look. Lunch was upon us, then we began our descent back to the north coast. We broke the journey with some roadside birding, first enjoying a small colony of Antillean Palm Swifts, then checking out the beach, where we found Royal Terns, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstones and some sinister-looking Magnificent Frigatebirds.

#### **Day 4 – Monday, March 19th 2018**

Today saw a rather unconventional start to the day as we made our way up to Vinery. The road is a rather tricky one (perhaps a category 2 climb!!) so we decanted from our bus and were ferried up in two batches in the estate pick-up. Once at the top, we had an *al fresco* breakfast, accompanied by Smooth-billed Anis, White-chinned Thrushes and Ring-tailed Pigeons, before walking an exciting trail along the woodland edge. Jamaican Vireos put on a good show and wintering North American wood-warblers were much in evidence, including some smart Black-and-white Warblers. Greater Antillean Bullfinches showed well along the way and we eventually dug out the endemic Arrowhead Warbler as it busied itself through the vegetation. Good views of Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo came our way on our return walk and Jamaican Todies put on a great show – they seem to show up anywhere that there's a bank to nest in!

The afternoon gave us a chance to reaffirm our views of the local endemics on the Green Castle Estate, as we took in the entrance road and the Davey Hill Trail. Dwayne gave us some background on the history of the estate and an investigation of the depth of the local fishtanks didn't go well for yours truly, resulting in a soggy tripod (still dripping water two days later!) and an all too close encounter with fire ants! Another wonderful evening meal rounded off the day, accompanied by the local Northern Potoo and the now familiar background rhythm of tinkling frogs.

#### **Day 5 – Tuesday, March 20th 2018**

Another early departure was required today, as we took our packed breakfasts and headed out for the John Crow Mountains. Winding along the coast road provided spectacular views of secluded Caribbean bays, some having provided former residencies for quite a few famous names from the world of film and music. Our birding took place along the famous Ecclesdown Road, a great place for Jamaica's endemic birds. We started with a stop at an established territory for the Black-billed Streamertail and we soon found our quarry. Better views would come later and we moved on a little further in a quest for the island's parrots. An almost constant supply of local specialities passed our way, but it was during breakfast that the raucous calls of parrots had us scanning the tops of the African Tulip Trees. Perseverance paid off and we all soon had Yellow-billed Amazon in the scopes. Black-billed Amazon proved a little tougher, but a pair eventually obliged and we continued to extend our list with a noisy party of Olive-throated Parakeets that also contained a lone Green-rumped Parrotlet.

Lunch was looming, but there was just the matter of that elusive Jamaican Crow! While we had heard the occasional crow call, sightings were notable by their absence... Roger had a plan up his sleeve, though and it wasn't long before a clinched this endemic. For a change today, we sat down to a Jamaican speciality – jerk chicken and jerk pork with local cassava and corn bread treats – with enough left over for Raymond's dogs!

On the drive back, we broke the journey with a couple of stops to look for wetland birds on the Swift and Spanish Rivers. Green, Little Blue and Tricoloured Herons, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Spotted Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs all obliged with good views.

#### **Day 6 – Wednesday, March 21st 2018**

Today saw us breaking from the usual routine and squeezing ourselves into a couple of smaller vehicles for a short journey along the coast. With great anticipation, we took a short walk to the clifftops, passing some obliging Olive-throated Parakeets on the way. For a while, we were a little disappointed, as we stared out over an open sea, but our patience paid off and a string of black and white waifs breezed in over the water – White-tailed Tropicbirds! In all, 11 of them showed up and performed some wonderful courtship displays right in front of us. We also found a roving flock of Cave Swallows, several Magnificent Frigatebirds, then an obliging Merlin, that breezed in and perched for a while. A Yellow-faced Grassquit showed well back at the vehicles, before we headed back along the coast road to a nearby beach. After a slightly protracted arrival at the site, due to a roadblock somewhere up ahead of us, then an eventful walk through tall grass, we were soon on the beach and found a flock of Grey Plover, together with a Ruddy Turnstone. On an inlet nearby, a Great Blue Heron was new for the week, as was a couple of Killdeers and a mixed party of Semipalmated Plovers and Least Sandpipers.

We took a well-earned afternoon off to relax, take photos, track down garden birds, swim, or whatever personal fancies brought our way. After dinner, we met up again for the grand finale – the quest for Jamaican Owl. Get this one, and we would have all of the island endemics on our lists. We headed out on a variety of trails around

the estate and heard a remarkable number of Jamaican Owls – perhaps six in all, including a squeaky youngster – but they were proving difficult. However, our perseverance paid off and eventually we managed to get great views of two different Jamaican Owls!

#### Day 7 – Thursday, March 22nd 2018

Today was our last full day of birding on Jamaica, so Dwayne took us on several excursions around the estate property. Before breakfast, we took the backroad round onto the Potoo Trail. A Vervain Hummingbird in the Bougainvillea started things nicely, a Yellow-faced Grassquit graced a Frangepani and a female Shiny Cowbird perched up high. Northern Parulas and American Redstarts twitched through the canopy and both Jamaican and Black-whiskered Vireos were in good supply. A trio of Sad Flycatchers appeared to be having some sort of a contretemps, before we turned down the trail and found an oriole nest under construction by its owners.

After breakfast, we took a walk down to the reservoir, where Blue-winged Teal numbers had increased, two pairs of Black-necked Stilts had appeared and we had a nice fly-by from a Red-tailed Hawk. Back at our base, we caught sight of a Stolid Flycatcher in the Coconut Palms and pondered the yellow chest staining on the local grackles and mockingbirds. Our final walk of the day took us right down to the waterfall, which we hadn't found time to get to until now. Our main aim here was to check for doves on the shadier track sides in the afternoon when they come out to field and we managed some nice views of Caribbean Doves – though Ruddy Quail-doves remained their usual, elusive selves! A nice finale was the discovery of a Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo close to the track, that sat for as long as we wanted to watch.

#### Day 8 – Friday, March 23rd 2018

It was difficult to fit in much in the way of birdwatching today, with rooms to be emptied, bags to be packed, bills to be paid – and of course, more wonderful meals to be enjoyed! Some of the group ambled around the grounds for a final time, before it was time to board the bus with Raymond for one last time and head for Kingston. The weather stayed fair, despite some overnight rain, ensuring an easy drive through the hills. The lagoon near the airport gave our lists a last breath of life as we spotted a couple of Belted Kingfishers on roadside wires and some Laughing Gulls near the cement factory. Last knockings at the airport terminal, we were able to add the obligatory House Sparrow to the final tally!

#### Day 9 – Saturday, March 24th 2018

We arrived back in the grey reality of Gatwick!

### Annotated List of Birds Recorded

(Total species - 101)

#### **Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors***

Seen on our visits to the estate reservoir with two birds increasing to seven during the week.

#### **Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis***

Up to six on the estate reservoir, including a couple of breeding-plumaged males.

#### **Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps***

Six or so on the estate reservoir and a few at coastal wetlands with two on 20th and one on 21st.

#### **White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus***

One of the tour highlights was watching up to 11 of these birds in full courtship flight on the morning of 21st.

#### **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***

A single bird flew over at Annotto Bay on 18th.

#### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea***

Four birds of various ages in riverside vegetation on 20th.

#### **Green Heron *Butorides virescens***

One to four on four dates at various wetland sites.

#### **Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

Common and noted daily, especially around cattle herds.

#### **Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias***

One noted at the back of the wader beach on 21st.

#### **Great Egret *Ardea alba***

Singles noted along coastal rivers on 18th, 19th and 23rd.

#### **Tricoloured Heron *Egretta tricolor***

One on one of the coastal rivers that we crossed on 20th.

#### **Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea***

One to four noted daily, with all birds being in full adult plumage.

**Snowy Egret *Egretta thula***

Two to five on four dates along coastal wetlands and riverbeds.

**Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis***

Singles on 20th and 21st at coastal sites and about 20 around the lagoon at Kingston on 23rd.

**Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens***

Two to four seen regularly whenever we passed along the coast road.

**Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura***

Common throughout and seen daily.

**Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis***

Noted on six dates with a maximum of four on 20th.

**Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata***

Small numbers at scattered wetlands and good numbers at the estate reservoir. Plenty of opportunity to hear the calls, which are very different from our UK moorhens.

**American Coot *Fulica americana***

About a dozen on the estate reservoir, including some with chicks. The form previously known as **Caribbean Coot** "*Fulica caribaea*" is now only recognised as a mere white-shielded morph of American Coot. At least four of these birds were at the estate reservoir, as well as some showing intermediate characters.

**Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus***

Four at the estate reservoir on 22nd.

**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

About 20 at the beach we visited on 21st.

**Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus***

At least eight at the beach we visited on 21st.

**Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus***

Two at the beach we visited on 21st.

**Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa***

Up to five seen at the estate reservoir during the week.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

Small numbers along the coast, with a maximum of 12 at Annotto Bay on 18th.

**Sanderling *Calidris alba***

Small numbers along the coast, with a maximum of 15 at Annotto Bay on 18th.

**Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla***

Three at the beach we visited on 21st.

**Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius***

A total of five birds seen at suitable locations during the week.

**Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca***

Two on the Spanish River on 20th and one at the beach we visited on 21st.

**Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus***

Frequent along the coast and often seen from the bus as we drove further east. Also at Kingston on 23rd.

**Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia***

Noted in small numbers in towns and villages along the coast.

**White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala***

Common and widespread and regularly seen flying over – a few perched birds showed well, too.

**Ring-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas caribaea***

A bird of higher elevations, seen well at Ecclesdown Road, Blue Mountains and Vinery.

**Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina***

A bit tricky, as most pairs were seen from the bus on roads while we were in transit, but a few seen especially on the approach to the estate.

**Crested Quail-dove *Geotrygon versicolor***

What a gorgeous bird! Three seen very well in the Blue Mountains on 18th, then another two at Vinery the next day.

**Ruddy Quail-dove *Geotrygon montana***

One to two on all but one day, but you had to be quick to catch flight views! Some did manage a perched bird at the estate on 22nd.

**Caribbean Dove *Leptotila jamaicensis***

Heard or seen most days, with best views around the estate on 22nd. A very attractive species.

**Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura***

One seen on the main road on the approach to Green Castle on 20th.

**Zenaida Dove *Zenaida aurita***

Common and seen daily – some nice views around the estate house lawns.

**White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica***

A common species in the lowlands, around towns and in farmland areas.

**Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani***

Seen daily from 19th with small parties at a number of locations. Perhaps best seen at Vinery.

**Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor***

One heard calling near the reservoir on 17th but it remained rather distant.

**Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo *Coccyzus pluvialis***

A pair seen briefly but well on the Blue Mountain road on 18th. Heard distantly at the estate on 22nd.

**Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo *Coccyzus vetula***

Singles on three dates, the best being one that had an unfledged nestling in its beak at the estate on 22nd.

**American Barn Owl *Tyto furcata***

A nice surprise find of one in the dark as we left Green Castle on 20th, but sadly only visible from the front few rows on the bus.

**Jamaican Owl *Pseudoscops grammicus***

After some tense moments of 'heard but not seen' (including a food-begging chick) we managed great views of two of these endemic owls around the estate house – completing the set of Jamaican endemics!

**Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis***

One was a regular visitor to the estate house throughout the week, while another posed nicely on its daytime perch on the reservoir trail.

**American Black Swift *Cypseloides niger***

A rushing flock of some 50 birds was seen while we were in the Blue Mountains on 18th.

**White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonalis***

Four birds whizzed over the estate house on 17th and a party of 20 or so birds was noted on our Ecclesdown Road trip on 20th.

**Antillean Palm Swift *Tachornis phoenicobia***

We stopped to look at the small breeding colony at Annotto Bay on 18th, then noted them in passing again later in the week, in the same area.

**Jamaican Mango *Anthracothorax mango***

Very elusive this year, one or two birds were occasionally glimpsed around the estate house during the week.

**Red-billed Streamertail *Trochilus polytmus***

Always a celebrity! You can never see too many of these birds, and we managed to see good numbers. Most obliging, of course, was James at the front gate!

**Black-billed Streamertail *Trochilus scitulus***

With a little patience, we enjoyed great views of a male of this very range-restricted species.

**Vervain Hummingbird *Mellisuga minima***

One or two noted regularly around the Green Castle Estate and occasional birds elsewhere.

**Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon***

Two on wires beside the road just a couple of miles from Kingston Airport on 23rd.

**Jamaican Tody *Todus todus***

Some wonderful views of this species daily, with pairs often seen close to their nest sites in muddy banks.

**Jamaican Woodpecker *Melanerpes radiolatus***

An attractive and wonderfully common species, seen and heard daily.

**American Kestrel *Falco sparverius***

Commonly seen along roadsides and a pair at the estate also showed well on and off.

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

Nice views, if a little against the light, of one just before our tropicbird extravaganza on 21st. One was also seen briefly at the reservoir on 17th.

**Black-billed Amazon *Amazona agilis***

These gave us grief for a while, but eventually we had good scope views of a feeding pair amongst a larger group of Yellow-billed Amazons at Ecclesdown Road on 20th.

**Yellow-billed Amazon *Amazona collaria***

Nice views of a raucous gathering of at least 10 birds at Ecclesdown Road on 20th.

**Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus***

An introduced species, we found one hanging out with parakeets along Ecclesdown Road on 20th.

**Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana***

Widespread in small numbers but not seen well until we found them feeding in the African Tulip Trees on Ecclesdown Road on 20th.

**Jamaican Elaenia *Myiopagis cotta***

An elusive species on Jamaica, so we were pleased to get good views of one on the reservoir trail on 17th.

**Jamaican Pewee *Contopus pallidus***

Rather local, but good views were had in the Blue Mountains and on Ecclesdown Road.

**Loggerhead Kingbird *Tyrannus caudifasciatus***

Widespread and common and seen daily. A noisy and boisterous species!

**Sad Flycatcher *Myiarchus barbirostris***

Widespread in woodland throughout and always entertaining to watch as they busy themselves after insects.

**Rufous-tailed Flycatcher *Myiarchus validus***

One to three on five dates. A rather dusky-looking, large-tailed flycatcher.

**Stolid Flycatcher *Myiarchus stolidus***

A large, chunky flycatcher, with singles seen at the estate on 17th and 22nd.

**Jamaican Becard *Pachyramphus niger***

One or two in higher forests at Ecclesdown Road, Blue Mountains and Vinery.

**Jamaican Vireo *Vireo modestus***

Common, widespread and always noisy! Often skulking but some were seen very well.

**Blue Mountain Vireo *Vireo osburni***

A plain but endearing species, seen very well in the Blue Mountains on 18th.

**Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus***

Widespread in wooded areas and a common background song at Green Castle. Several seen well after a bit of a search.

**Jamaican Crow *Corvus jamaicensis***

Almost our nemesis! We eventually had a fly-by after hearing crows calling around Ecclesdown Road on 20th.

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

One seen with the Cave Swallow flock before breakfast on 21st.

**Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva***

A busy flock was around the coastal cliffs on the morning of 21st.

**Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos***

A widespread and common species around human habitation and seen particularly well at the estate house.

**Rufous-throated Solitaire *Myadestes genibarbis***

Commonly heard at altitude and some nice views were eventually achieved in the Blue Mountains and Vinery.

**White-eyed Thrush *Turdus jamaicensis***

Shy and retiring, small numbers were eventually seen in the Blue Mountains and on Ecclesdown Road.

**White-chinned Thrush *Turdus aurantius***

Common and seen daily, especially along shady roads and tracksides. More often on the ground than the previous species, which makes it much easier to locate.

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

A male feeding a fledged chick at Kingston Airport on 23rd was just soooooo exciting!!

**Jamaican Euphonia *Euphonia jamaica***

A few heard-onlys before we saw them well on our morning at Vinery on 19th.

**Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia***

Small numbers on most days in wooded areas, creeping up and down tree trunks.

**Arrowhead Warbler *Setophaga pharetra***

Always a tricky one, we had good views of this species at Vinery on 19th.

**American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla***

By far the commonest wintering wood-warbler, with some great views of this hyperactive little gem daily.

**Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina***

The estate's bottlebrush tree proved popular with these, and gave us our best views of two on 17th. Another single was seen on 18th.

**Northern Parula *Setophaga americana***

The second most common wood-warbler, with birds seen well on a daily basis.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens***

Two seen in the Blue Mountains on 18th and a nice male at Vinery on 19th.

**Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor***

Small numbers around with one to two birds seen on five dates.

**Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens***

Nice views of a female at Hardwar Gap on 18th, just before lunch.

**Jamaican Oriole *Icterus leucopteryx***

Common and widespread. Often the first bird to start singing at the estate on most mornings and some nice views throughout the week.

**Jamaican Blackbird *Nesopsar nigerrimus***

The scarcest of the endemics, this species proved very obliging for us, as we found a couple of feeding pairs in the Blue Mountains on 18th, then one in full song flight above the trees at Ecclesdown Road on 20th.

**Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis***

Somewhat elusive, with singletons noted on three dates, perched in high tree tops.

**Greater Antillean Grackle *Quiscalus niger***

Widespread and very common around the estate and along the coast road.

**Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola***

Amazingly common throughout our stay. The local race has a charcoal grey throat and face.

**Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus***

A little tricky, but we managed odd birds here and there in grassy places, with the best being a male at the estate house on 22nd.

**Black-faced Grassquit *Tiaris bicolor***

One to four on three dates, with some nice views of birds in the famous bottlebrush tree!

**Yellow-shouldered Grassquit *Loxipasser anoxanthus***

A little elusive, but we spent time getting good views of one at Green Castle on 18th, then logged one or two more that were heard in forest clearings on the estate.

**Greater Antillean Bullfinch *Loxigilla violacea***

Some nice views of these birds on several days, both around the estate and in the higher, forested areas that we visited.

**Orangequit *Euneornis campestris***

Very common in a wide range of wooded habitats but often elusive. Best seen in the higher forests, where adult males appeared to be more common than in lower altitude habitats.

**Jamaican Spindalis *Spindalis nigricephala***

The only tanager on the island, we saw several pairs of this really smart species in the forested areas.

**Mammals****Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus***

This introduced species was seen daily, which suggests that it is worryingly common on the island – not good news for the endangered mammals and ground-nesting birds. Early books record it as Javan Mongoose, but the two species have now been split and Jamaican animals are from the Indian population.

**Reptiles**

Jamaican Turquoise Anole *Anolis grahami*

Jamaican Opal-bellied Anole *Anolis opalinus*

Jamaican Grey Anole *Anolis lineatopus*

Jamaican Croaking Gecko *Aristelliger praesignis*

**Amphibians**

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina*

Lesser Antillean Whistling Frog *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* (Introduced)

**Butterflies**

Gold Rim Swallowtail *Battus polydamas*

Thersites Swallowtail *Papilio thersites*

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae*

Little Yellow *Eurema lisa*

Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius*

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanilla*

Zebra Heliconian *Heliconius charitonius*

Julia *Dryas iulia*

Jamaican Mestra *Mestra dorcas*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*

Orion *Historis odius*

Jamaican Satyr *Calisto zangis*

**Moths**

The following big and scary hawkmoths were seen:

Carolina Sphinx (Tobacco Hornworm) *Manduca sexta* (On John's arm!)

Some of the group photographed a *Eumorpha* sphinx species, but without a photograph myself, I am uncertain of the identification. From what I remember of it, it seems likely to be either *E. intermedia* or *E. satellitia*