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Mogoté de la Guira: Bay of Pigs, Cuba

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Mogoté de la Guira

Bay of Pigs, Cuba

“Cuba has 6 endemic genera and 21 endemic bird species.”

—*Lester L. Short*, *Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba*

Clouds over mogote—peaks of Jurassic stone,
chimneys of honeycombed limestone—each
with their own endemic plants and birds.

Hills full of holes, moldy with moss—Mogoté,
unscalable limestone, unreachable caves

that only vultures scan—cecropia and Cuban pine,
Fidel’s secret hideout, last stand, camouflaged.

The Cuban solitaire sings here—his voice, his eye ring
burn through leaves of telescoped trees, here on Cuba,

specialized island where clouds hide mogote,
withholding its histories as the solitaire sings.

15 January 2013

Marcyn Del Clements

MARCYN DEL CLEMENTS has contributed to *Appalachia* for many years. In 2013 she traveled to Cuba as a citizen scientist to study its plants and animals, including the smallest hummingbird in the world, the bee hummingbird.