

# Guyana - A Timeless Paradise

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 February - 2 March 2010

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Harpy Eagle

Report compiled by Ron Allicock



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## Day 0

Monday 15h February

Travel from the UK

## Day 1

Tuesday 16th February

The group departed Cara Lodge for Ogle airport. As we awaited confirmation on the time of departure for Kaieteur we had good look at the Peregrine Falcon perched on a telephone tower, this was our first sighting of the morning. We then departed for Kaieteur Falls. Our two hours visit produced good sighting of the Golden Frog, the striking colour of a male Guianan Cock-of-the Rock, and from the viewpoints the sky was covered with White-collared Swifts. As we slowly make our way back to the plane we encountered a mixed flock of canopy feeders, sightings included Blue Dacnis, Purple Honeycreeper, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Green Honeycreeper, Bananaquit and Yellow-green Grosbeak. We then enjoyed our snacks before departing for Iwokrama.

On arrival at Fair-View Airstrip we were met by Paul Waldron and Jameer our drivers who took us to the River Lodge. The group had a quick lunch before a siesta. Later in the evening Waldyke Prince our guide, gave a brief orientation of the property and the rest of the afternoon was spent birding the grounds at the Field Station. At this time sightings included, Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, Moriche Oriole, Pied Plover, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Red-capped Cardinal, White-winged Swallow, Red and Green Macaw, Channel-billed Toucan and Giant Cowbird.

## Day 2

Wednesday 17th February

Early morning was spent birding on the Essequibo River around Indian House Island, we spent two and a half hour on the river. Our first encounters were Collared Plover, Large-billed Tern, Yellow-billed Tern and Black-collared Swallow. As we continued down in two boats, a group of Squirrel Monkeys were feeding along the river edge accompanied by Road-side Hawk, Orange-winged Parrot, Mealy Parrot and Green Ibis. We also saw Black-capped Becard, White-chinned Sapphire, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, Anhinga, Cocoli Heron, and numerous Swallow-winged Puffbird.

Mid-morning was spent on the Bushmaster Trail, the list of sightings included, Helmeted Pigmy Tyrant, Screaming Piha, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, White-crested Spadebill, Dusky-throated Antshrike, and White-flanked Antwren.

The afternoon period was spent birding along the access road, seeing Lineated Woodpecker, Red-billed Toucan, Channel-billed Toucan, Green Aracari, Amazonian White-tailed Trogon, Lineated Woodcreeper, Yellow-margined Flycatcher, Waved Woodpecker, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Collared Forest Falcon, Spangled Cotinga, and Orange-winged Parrot.

For our night trip on the river, we went out in two small boats and saw, two Amazonian Tree Boa, Iguana, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Ghost Bats, Lesser and Greater Fish Eating bats, and one small black Caiman.

### Day 3

### Thursday 18th February

After an early breakfast we went to Turtle Mountain and along the way on the river we saw, Capped Heron, Dusky Parrot, Anhinga, Grey Kingbird, Red-rumped Cacique, Pied Plover, Crane Hawk, Road-side Hawk and Black Hawk Eagle. On the trail we saw, Tiny Tyrant Manakin, Black-throated Trogon, Red-billed Toucan, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Amazonian Antshrike, Swallow-tailed Kite, Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, King Vulture, and the Orange-breasted Falcon. Mammals we had included a group of Black Spider Monkeys throwing branches at us, and Red Howlers feeding on purple flowers seen from the look out point.

### Day 4

### Friday 19th February

After a normal breakfast, we departed the River Lodge heading for Atta Rainforest Lodge. The weather was not in our favour, however, we had several short stops along the way and the group saw, Black-headed Parrot, Plumbeous Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Blue-cheeked Parrot, Scarlet Macaw, Red-throated Caracara, Long-tailed Tyrant, and Lineated Woodpecker.

As we arrived the staff at Atta lodge gave a brief introduction to the team and we got settled in our accommodation, had lunch and waited for the rain to stop, finally the rain eased for a few hours and started again as we went on the canopy walkway and it was very quiet, but sightings included, Red-necked Woodpecker, Black-spotted Barbet, Green Oropendola, Spangled Cotinga, and we heard White Bellbird. We then went back to the lodge and continued on to the main road, where we picked up Guianan-streaked Antwren, Cayenne Jay, Spix's Guan, Black-faced Dacnis, Grey-lined Hawk, Rusty-margined Flycatcher and Pompadour Cotinga.

### Day 5

### Saturday 20th February

An early morning visit to the walkway produced great sightings of Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Blue-cheeked Amazon, Red and Black Grosbeak, Black-throated Antshrike, and Guianan Warbling Antbird.

After breakfast, we headed for Surama Village. Along the way we stopped at the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock nesting site to see the bird, where the group had great sightings of the male and female bird.

We headed on towards Surama and had just enough time to go visit a Harpy Eagle nesting site...after a 45minuts walk we arrived at the site and saw the eagle with a Red Howler Monkey in its talons, and had great views for about 10 minutes. We then proceeded to Surama for our final stop.

The late afternoon was spent birding around the environs of the Eco lodge, and we were able to see Lesser Nighthawks, Least Night Hawk, White-tailed Nightjar, Finch's Euphonia, Savannah Hawk, and Yellow-headed Caracara.

## Day 6

## Sunday 21st February

We had an early morning hike to the Burro-Burro River for the river trip. We went in 2 boats, one group went up stream and the other went down stream, sightings included Ringed Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Green-tailed Jacamar, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Guianan-streaked Antwren, Black-chinned Antbird, Red-necked Woodpecker, Golden-collared Woodpecker, Cream-coloured Woodpecker, and for some, the Capuchin Bird.

There were no sightings of any large mammals except for Long-nosed Bats. As the group walked through the forest, we heard two Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoos responding to each other, even though we would have liked to see this particular species, time did not permit us to do so; we had to proceed as it was getting late. The afternoon was spent birding along the forest edges, at this time the Cayenne Jays were our target and we had good sightings of 6 – 7 individuals.

## Day 7

## Sunday 22nd February

After an early breakfast at 5:00 we headed towards Surama Lake, on our way we stopped by at a Great Potoo roost, the bird sat well camouflaged on a tree. Here is where the group had good opportunities to take their pictures and enjoy the bird...some commented "it looks pre-historic". We spent the afternoon on a tour of the village, at this time we had an unexpected visitor, the Summer Tanager was among other birds perch on a dead tree, and then it flew low down on the Sandpaper trees and was feeding on the fruits. This was a very exciting moment since this is the first time the bird has been recorded in Surama!! In addition we had Lesser Elaenia, Blue Dacnis, Savannah Hawk, Northern Caracara, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Scaled Pigeon, and Green-tailed Goldenthrout.

## Day 8

## Monday 23rd February

Today started at leisure. We had breakfast at the normal time of 7:30am. We then made our way to Rock-View Lodge. We had lunch at 12:30 followed by an orientation tour of the lodge, and later in the afternoon we went for a walk in the savannah to look for Double-striped Thicknee and a nesting Great-horned Owl. We were able to see the two target birds of the afternoon along with others such as Red-breasted Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Sooty-capped Hermit, Yellow Warbler, Vermillion Flycatcher, Buff-necked Ibis and Tropical Screech Owl.

**Day 9****Tuesday 24th February**

We left Rock View Lodge in the morning rather than in the afternoon, and arrived at Karanambu in time for lunch and the usual orientation and introduction to cabins etc. The afternoon was spent on the 3 mile walking trail, which is known to have the Capuchinbird lek, with some efforts of playback and good eyes, the group managed to have satisfying views of the Capuchinbird. As we continued our walk along a few oxbow lakes we saw Roseate Spoonbill, Maguari Stork, Green Ibis, Solitary Sandpiper, and numerous Black Caimans, the smallest measuring about 8 feet in length! Dinner was served buffet style with the usual Karanambu rum punch blend.

**Day 10****Wednesday 25th February**

This morning we divided into two groups to go into the savannah. We had 5 people per group, one group went for the Giant River Otters and the other went for the Giant Anteater. The first morning was very successful. The Giant Anteater group saw the animal along with birds namely, Sharp-tailed Ibis, Maguari Stork, Jabiru, Wood Stork, Bearded Tachuri, Savannah Hawk and the Bicoloured Wren. The group on the river saw 5 Giant Otters, along with Long-winged Harrier, Sunbittern 4 individuals in full display on a sandbank, Iguana, Capped Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Great Black Hawk and numerous Black Caimans, Anhinga and Neotropic Cormorants, and Cocoi Heron.

**Day 11****Thursday 26th February**

Today we did exactly the same as the previous day, the Anteater group went for the River Otters and the River Otter group went for the Anteater. Again, very successful trips both groups saw the animals and the same variety of birds in the savannah and the river. In the evening we were out in three boats to see the Giant Water Lily opening. We went to Mobe Pond where there were numerous plants and were easily accessible. As we return from the pond we saw a Margay sitting on a tree trunk, most people had great views of the animal. As we drifted slowly towards Karanambu landing having the usual famous rum punch we watched many Black Caimans on the riverbanks along with the Band-tailed Nighthawks.

**Day 12****Friday 27th February**

This morning we were out into the savannah again mainly to see anything we might have missed during the previous mornings. However, bird life was more or less the same as before and yet another Giant Anteater showed himself. It was pure good luck for the group, usually finding anteaters is not that easy! We also had the Bearded Tachuri again, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Vermillion Flycatcher and the Green-tailed Goldenthrout. We then went back to the lodge to get ready for our flight. We flew from Karanambu to ogle airstrip, the journey continued to Arrowpoint Resort where we joined a boat at Prairie Docks for a one hour boat ride. The rest of the evening was spent around the property.

**Day 13****Saturday 28th February**

This morning we were in the boat by 6:00am ready for the Crimson Topaz adventure, as we headed up stream, our first visitor was a female Crimson Topaz, then a Silvered Antbird came out in good view with his morning song. As we continued to the area known for the Topaz we saw two adult males fly by, they were not at the lek because the area was unfortunately burnt just three days before we got there.

However, we waited for about half an hour and a group of Coati came foraging on the forest floor in search of their meal, lucky for us again - and everyone had great views of the animals - our first mammal for the day. As the morning went on, we paddled back down stream and encountered a swarm of army ants along side the creek, which was a good sign, and we had the Black-headed Antbird, Black-throated Antbird, Little Tinamou, Squirrel Cuckoo, and Buff-throated Woodcreeper.

We spent the afternoon on the nature trails around the resort but it was very quiet, however we had the Rufous-capped Anthrush, great views of this bird.

## Day 14

## Sunday 1st March

We visited Santa Mission during the morning period for a tour of the village. Edward our guide did the tour with us and we visited the craft shop where people were able to get a few souvenirs to take back home. As some were shopping, some people were birding with me, and at the village we saw, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Spotted Puffbird, Guianan Puffbird, Black-spotted Barbet, Bat Falcon and a host of Yellow-rumped Cacique.

We went back to Arrowpoint Resort in time for lunch and we spent the remainder of the afternoon on the trails around the property. We walked the trails at night as well to take pictures of insects and try our luck for the Armadillo, no luck with the armadillo but we saw a Kinkajou!

## Day 15

## Monday 2nd March

This morning most people chose to have a late morning and just did birding around the area or from their windows! We had breakfast and lunch at Arrowpoint and shortly after lunch we departed for the Marina and then to Georgetown.

## Day 16

## Tuesday 3rd March

The group departed Guyana bound for home...

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## Species Lists

### Birds (H = heard only)

Little Tinamou	Striped Cuckoo	Common Tody-Flycatcher
Undulated Tinamou	Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo (H)	Painted Tody-Flycatcher
Red-legged Tinamou (H)	Tropical Screech-Owl	Spotted Tody-Flycatcher
Muscovy Duck	Great-horned Owl	Yellow-margined Flycatcher
Little Chachalaca	Great Potoo	Gray-crowned Flycatcher
Marail Guan	Short-tailed Nighthawk	Yellow-breasted Flycatcher
Spix's Guan	Least Nighthawk	White-crested Spadebill
Blue-throated Piping-Guan	Lesser Nighthawk	Vermilion Flycatcher
Crestless Curassow	Band-tailed Nighthawk	Pied Water-Tyrant
Black Curassow	Nacunda Nighthawk	White-headed Marsh-Tyrant
Crested Bobwhite	Pauraque Nightjar	Long-tailed Tyrant
Neotropic Cormorant	Rufous Nightjar	Piratic Flycatcher
Anhinga	White-tailed Nightjar	Rusty-margined Flycatcher
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	Ladder-tailed Nightjar	Great Kiskadee
Boat-billed Heron	White-collared Swift	Lesser Kiskadee
Pinnated Pittern	Band-rumped Swift	Yellow-throated Flycatcher
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Gray-rumped Swift	Streaked Flycatcher
Striated Heron	Short-tailed Swift	Boat-billed Flycatcher
Cattle Egret	Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	Sulphury Flycatcher
Cocoi Heron	Rufous-breasted Hermit	Tropical Kingbird
Great Egret	Reddish Hermit	Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Capped Heron	Sooty-capped Hermit	Gray Kingbird
Snowy Egret	Eastern-long-tailed Hermit	Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Little Blue Heron	Gray-breasted Sabrewing	Short-crested Flycatcher
Sharp-tailed Ibis	White-necked Jacobin	Brown-crested Flycatcher
Green Ibis	Black-throated Mango	Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock
Buff-necked Ibis	Crimson Topaz	Spangled Cotinga
Roseate Spoonbill	Blue-chinned Sapphire	Screaming Piha
Jabiru	Blue-tailed Emerald	Pompadour Cotinga
Wood Stork	Fork-tailed Woodnymph	Purple-throated Fruitcrow
Turkey Vulture	Rufous-throated Sapphire	Capuchinbird
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	White-chinned Sapphire	Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	White-tailed Goldenthrout	White-bearded Manakin
Black Vulture	Green-tailed Goldenthrout	Blue-backed Manakin
King Vulture	White-chested Emerald	White-crowned Manakin
Osprey	Glittering-throated Emerald	Golden-headed Manakin
Swallow-tailed Kite	Black-eared Fairy	Black-tailed Tityra
Double-toothed Kite	Long-billed Starthroat	Dusky Purpletuft
Plumbeous Kite	Amazonian White-tailed Trogon	White-winged Becard
Long-winged Harrier	Amazonian Violaceous Trogon	Black-capped Becard
Crane Hawk	Black-throated Trogon	Red-eyed Vireo
Black-faced Hawk	Ringed Kingfisher	Lemon-crowned Greenlet
Great Black Hawk	Amazon Kingfisher	Ashy-headed Greenlet
Savannah Hawk	Green Kingfisher	Cayenne Jay
Black-collared Hawk	Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	White-winged Swallow
Roadside Hawk	Green-tailed Jacamar	Brown-chested Martin
Grey-lined Hawk	Paradise Jacamar	Gray-breasted Martin
White-tailed Hawk	Great Jacamar	White-banded Swallow
Zone-tailed Hawk	Guianan Puffbird	Black-collared Swallow
Harpy Eagle	Pied Puffbird	Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle	Spotted Puffbird	Barn Swallow

Black Hawk-Eagle	Collared Puffbird	Southern House Wren
Black Caracara	Black Nunbird	Bicolored Wren
Red-throated Caracara	Swallow-winged Puffbird	Coraya Wren
Northern Caracara	Black-spotted Barbet	Buff-breasted Wren
Yellow-headed Caracara	Toco Toucan	Tropical Gnatcatcher
Laughing Falcon	Red-billed Toucan	Black-capped Donacobius
Collared Forest-Falcon	Channel-billed Toucan	Pale-breasted Thrush
American Kestrel	Guianan Toucanet	Tropical Mockingbird
Peregrine Falcon	Green Aracari	Yellowish Pipit
Bat Falcon	Black-necked Aracari	Black-faced Tanager
Orange-breasted Falcon	Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	Hooded Tanager
Limpkin	Golden-collared Woodpecker	White-shouldered Tanager
Grey-winged Trumpeter	Waved Woodpecker	Silver-beaked Tanager
Grey-necked Woodrail	Chestnut Woodpecker	Palm Tanager
Yellow-breasted Crake	Cream-colored Woodpecker	Blue-gray Tanager
Purple Gallinule	Ringed Woodpecker	Turquoise Tanager
Sunbittern	Lineated Woodpecker	Spotted Tanager
Pied Plover	Red-necked Woodpecker	Burnish-buff Tanager
Collared Plover	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	Black-faced Dacnis
Southern Lapwing	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	Blue Dacnis
Double-striped Thick-knee	Plain Xenops	Purple Honeycreeper
Greater Yellowlegs	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	Red-legged Honeycreeper
Solitary Sandpiper	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Green Honeycreeper
Spotted Sandpiper	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	Summer Tanager
Wattled Jacana	Striped Woodcreeper	Bnanaquit
Yellow-billed Tern	Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper	Grassland Sparrow
Large-billed Tern	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	Grassland Yellow-Finch
Common Ground-Dove	Lineated Woodcreeper	Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	Black-throated Antshrike	Blue-black Grassquit
Scaled Pigeon	Black-crested Antshrike	Gray Seedeater
Pale-vented Pigeon	Barred Antshrike	Plumbeous Seedeater
Plumbeous Pigeon	Mouse-colored Antshrike	Winged-barred Seedeater
Ruddy Pigeon	Eastern Slaty-Antshrike	Ruddy-breasted Seedeater
Eared Dove	Amazonian Antshrike	Chestnut-bellied Seedeater
White-tipped Dove	Dusky-throated Antshrike	Suestnut-bellied Seedfinch
Grey-fronted Dove	Guianan-streaked Antwren	Red-capped Cardinal
Blue-and-yellow Macaw	Rufous-bellied Antwren	Red-and-black Grosbeak
Scarlet Macaw	White-flanked Antwren	Buff-throated Saltator
Red-and-green Macaw	Gray Antwren	Grayish Saltator
Red-bellied Macaw	White-fringed Antwren	Yellow Warbler
Red-shouldered Macaw	White-browed Antbird	Blackpoll Warbler
Brown-throated Parakeet	Guianan Warbling Antbird	Masked Yellowthroat
Painted Parakeet	Black-chinned Antbird	Green Oropendola
Green-rumped Parrotlet	Silvered Antbird	Crested Oropendola
Golden-winged Parakeet	Black-headed Antbird	Yellow-rumped Cacique
Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	Black-throated Antbird	Red-rumped Cacique
Black-headed Parrot	White-plumed Antbird	Yellow Oriole
Caica Parrot	Rufous-capped Antthrush	Moriche Oriole
Blue-headed Parrot	Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	Yellow-hooded Blackbird
Dusky Parrot	Forest Eleania	Giant Cowbird
Blue-cheeked Parrot	Yellow-bellied Eleania	Shiny Cowbird
Festive Parrot	Plain-crested Eleania	Carib Grackle
Yellow-crowned Parrot	Lesser Eleania	Red-breasted Blackbird
Orange-winged Parrot	Bearded Tachuri	Eastern Meadowlark
Mealy Parrot	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	Finch's Euphonia



Red-fan Parrot  
Squirrel Cuckoo  
Black-bellied Cuckoo  
Greater Ani  
Smooth-billed Ani

Pale-tipped Tyrannulet (Inezia)  
Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant  
Helmited Pygmy-Tyrant  
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher

Violaceous Euphonia  
Golden-sided Euphonia  
White-vented Euphonia  
Orange-backed Troupial

**Total: 331 Species recorded**

## Other taxa

Giant Anteater  
Couti  
Black Caiman  
Maray  
Spectacle Caiman  
Kinkajou

Tyra  
Guianan White-faced Saki Monkey  
Iguana  
Brown Capuchin  
Arapaima  
Labaria Snake

Squirrel Monkey  
Brown-bearded Saki  
Giant River Otters  
Red-rumped Agouti  
Three-toed Sloth