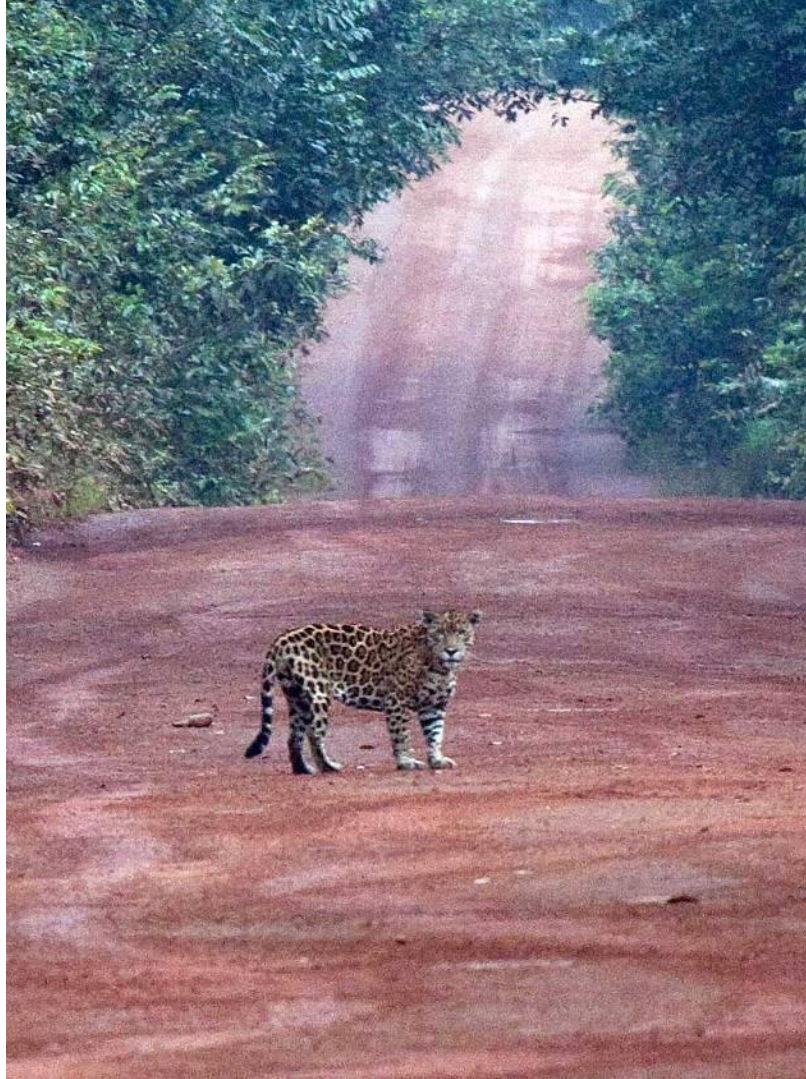


Guyana – A Timeless Paradise

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 February - 1 March 2011



Jaguar - by Michael and Wendy Hinks

Report compiled by Ron Allicock

Photo of jaguar courtesy of Michael and Wendy Hinks



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Ron Allicock (Naturetrek Leader & Ornithologist)

Participants: Michael Hinks
Wendy Hinks
Mand King
Christopher Spry
Marion Spry
Tony Sagers
Maria Koval
Roger Bennett
Chris Bennett

Day 1

Monday 14th February

The group arrived safe in Guyana after a long delay at the airport in Trinidad. However, this was in preparation for a wonderful adventure in Guyana. Everybody had a well deserved rest at the Cara Lodge Hotel in Georgetown.

Days 2/3

Tuesday 15th/Wednesday 16th February

Arrowpoint Resort

Our two days at Arrowpoint Resort resulted in a good start to our trip. After 15 minutes of boat ride entering into the Camuni Creek, our first surprise sighting was a male Three-toed Sloth feeding on young leaves and appeared to be very relaxed as we looked at him. As we continued on the creek, the sun was at her best, but could not resist stopping for a second sighting of another Two-toed Sloth, however, this one was well hidden but still a rare sighting for us - this is the first time I have ever seen two sloth's on one boat trip! On our way we visited Santa Mission, this indigenous community is well know for their handicrafts made from the shoots of the Moriche Palm locally known as (Ite Palm). We stopped for a brief tour of the village before continuing on to the resort.

On our second day at Arrowpoint, we departed very early on another boat excursion to see the Crimson Topaz. Our group was lucky to see four adult males in display and one female, along with other sighting including great views of the Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, Blue-chinned Sapphire, and Black-capped Donacobius. Mid morning and during the afternoon we walked the nature trails, where there were countless numbers of insects, dragonflies, butterflies, frogs. For birds, one very good encounter was a Ringed Antpiper, foraging very quietly on the forest floor and snapping its bill.

Days 4 - 6

Thursday 16th - Saturday 19th February

Karanambu Lodge

We flew by scheduled flight to Karanambu Lodge from Ogle Airport. This one and a half hour flight took us from the coast of Guyana to the Rupununi savannah with a complete change of habitat. Our welcome party greeted us and drove us to the lodge for lunch.

During our three days stay at Karanambu, we took the morning opportunities to visit the savannah to look for the Giant Anteater, luckily for our group, everybody decided to go on the first morning and we saw a Giant Anteater feeding in the savannah! Some people chose to try again the following morning but with no luck, we were very lucky to see this animal the first morning. Birding in the savannah also could not have been better. In the wetland areas we saw, six Pinnated Bitterns, Limpkin, Wattled Jacana, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Purple Gallinule, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Grassland Yellow Finch, Yellowish Pipit, Savannah Hawk, Snail Kite, Vermillion Flycatcher, American Kestrel, Bicolored Wren, Yellow Oriole and Burrowing Owl.

On our river excursions, we visited several oxbow lakes and saw three Capybara on a sand bank, well over 20 adult Black Caiman, Iguana, a family of Red Howler Monkeys, Brown Capuchin Monkeys Weeping Capuchin Monkey, Squirrel Monkeys, and as it got late in the evening we went into Buffalo Pond to witness the Giant Water Lillies opening, and after dark we made our way back to the lodge for dinner. Birds on the river and the oxbow lakes included Cocoi Heron, Sun Bittern, Boat-billed Heron, Black-collared Hawk, Black skimmer, Large and Yellow-billed Tern, Little Blue Heron, Pied Plover, Green Ibis, Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Long-winged Harrier, Lesser Kiskadee, and Rusty-margined Flycatcher. One morning we visited the Capuchin Bird Trail - on this walk we saw about six adult Capuchin birds in full display. Our group did not see wild otters, but was able to see the orphans at the lodge swimming and feeding at the river.

Days 7/8

Sunday 20th - Monday 21st February

Surama Village Eco Lodge

After an early morning rise, we had a quick breakfast and boarded our boats for a transfer to Ginep landing. After a 2 hour boat ride we were picked up and continued by road on to Surama Village. While at Surama Village we birded the surroundings and visited a swampy area and we saw the Great Potoo and Common Potoo along with, a Pompadour Cotinga, Least Nighthawk Lesser Nighthawk, Pearl Kite, Cayenne Jay, Streaked Flycatcher, Sulphury Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch, Red and Green Macaw, Yellow-crowned Amazon Parrot, Grassland Sparrow, Lesser Elaenia, Brown-throated Parakeet, Green-tailed Jacamar, Northern Caracara, Yellow-headed Caracara, and Finches Euphonia.

During our second day at Surama we went on the Burro River, again trying our luck for whatever wildlife may show up. On the river we saw, Ringed Kingfisher, Green and Rufous Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, White-shouldered Tanager, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Golden-collared Woodpecker, White-banded Swallow, Black Nunbird, Red-billed Toucan, Channel-billed Toucan, Scaled Pigeon, Black-necked Aracari, Green Aracari, Golden-headed Manakin, Yellow and Red-rumped Cacique and Roadside Hawk.

Days 9/10

Tuesday 22nd - Wednesday 23rd February

Rock View Lodge

During our transfer from Surama to Rock View Lodge, we decided to make a short diversion to go and visit the Harpy Eagle nesting sight. After about 30 minutes of searching and scanning the tree tops we saw the Eagle's chick which is about one year and one month old. After this effort we continued on to Rock-View Lodge.

While at Rock View we did birding around the environs, Panorama trail, an area called Mora Bridge, and Camudi Bash. Here we picked up a family of five Jabiru, Laughing Falcon (feeding on snake) Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Muscovy Duck, Solitary Sandpiper, Vermillion Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Eastern Meadowlark, Glittering-throated Emerald, Burnishbuff Tanager, Common Toddy Flycatcher, Painted Toddy Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, White-tailed Hawk, Spot-winged Antbird, Red-breasted Blackbird and Double-striped Thick-Knee.

Days 11-13

Thursday 24th - Saturday 26th February

Iwokrama River Lodge

After lunch at Rock View Lodge we boarded our 4x4 vehicles and headed for Iwokrama River Lodge. The journey took about three and a half hours with a few brief stops to stretch our legs. On the drive we saw, Long-tailed Potoo, Black Curassow, Green Oropendola, Bat Falcon, Blue-cheeked Amazon Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Scarlet Macaw and two Red-rumped Agoutis.

During our three days stay at Iwokrama we visited Turtle Mountain we did an early morning boating trip on the Essequibo River and walked the nature trails around the lodge. At Turtle Mountain, we had great views of a pair of Orange-breasted Falcons - this is the second time I have seen this pair and I believe they are nesting at the moment. We also saw White Hawk, Red and Green Macaw, Tiny-Tyrant Manakin, Red Howler Monkeys, Black Spider Monkeys and Brown-bearded Capuchin Monkey on the river trip. For birds we had, Black-collared Swallow, Orange-winged Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Dusky Parrot, Caica Parrot, Painted Parakeet, Golden-winged Parakeet, Red-fan Parrot, Red-and-black Grosbeak, White-winged Swallow, Brown-chested Martin, Crane Hawk, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, Osprey, Swallow-tailed Kite, Plumbeous Kite, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Scarlet Macaw, Large-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, and Red-shouldered Macaw.

During the night boat trip we saw Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Amazonian Tree Boa and one four-eyed Opossum. During our trail walks for the understory birds we had Rufous-bellied Antwren, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Screaming Piha, Green Aracari, Black-necked Aracari, White-flanked Antwren, and Dusky-throated Antshrike. We heard an Amazonian Pygmy Owl but we didn't see it. Around the environs of the lodge we had Moriche Oriole, Pied Plover, Red-capped Cardinal, Giant Cowbird, Blue-headed Parrot, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Amazon Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Emerald. Silver-beaked Tanager, Palm Tanager and Blue-gray Tanager are three on the list as everyday sightings.

Days 14/15

Sunday 27th/Monday 28th February

Atta Rainforest Lodge/Canopy Walkway

After another early start this morning, we grabbed a few slices of bread and watermelon and boarded our 4x4 vehicles again heading towards the canopy walkway. We drove to an area called 27 bridge – we decided to go for a walk down the road, with a lot of birds flying by, but at this time we were keeping an eye out for any trace of a Jaguar. As we walked slowly and quietly along the road, I saw fresh Jaguar dropping and paw prints - it was clear that the Jaguar headed in the opposite direction we were going. I decided to turn back and head toward the bridge and beyond.

We came across a fig tree that was fruiting, and picked up Green Honeycreeper, Purple Honeycreeper, Black-faced Dacnis, Yellow-backed Tanager, Guianan Puffbird and the call we were hearing was male Pink-throated Becard. After about 45 minutes on the road we were losing hope of seeing the Jaguar. Christine had her eyes on the road while everybody else was trying to locate the birds in the fruiting fig tree. Christine suddenly drew our attention and we turned to look...it was a male Jaguar! It came out about 30 metres from us and walked along the road! Everybody was very quiet, relaxed and pleased to see it. This could have only happened with hard work from the group...thank you! Well as a guide, this was a great relief for me!

We continued to Atta Lodge for a well deserved lunch before working the Canopy Walkway. Our time at the walkway was slow but sure. We were able to see Spix's and Marail Guan, Black Curassow, Black-eared Fairy, Todd's Antwren, Slender-footed Tyrannulet, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, Red-necked Woodpecker, Waved and Chestnut Woodpecker, Blue-cheeked Amazon, Mealy Amazon, Guianan Red Cotinga, Spangled Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, and the Crimson Fruitcrow.

On our drive from Atta to Fair View Airstrip, we saw a White-winged Potoo along the road, it might be nesting who knows. We headed back to Georgetown for the night.

Day 16

Tuesday 1st March

Georgetown City Tour

At 9:00 am the group did a Georgetown city tour before heading for the airport to join their departing flight for home. The city tour ended at the Georgetown Botanical Gardens and were able to pick up a few more species; Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Festive Parrot, Toco Toucan, Peregrine Falcon, Black-crowned Night Heron, Ruddy Ground Dove and Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Birds

- 1 Great Tinamou
- 2 Neotropic Cormorant
- 3 Anhinga
- 4 Capped Heron
- 5 Cocoi Heron
- 6 Great Egret
- 7 Little Blue Heron
- 8 Snowy Egret
- 9 Cattle Egret
- 10 Striated Heron
- 11 Boat-billed Heron
- 12 Rufescent Tiger-Heron
- 13 Pinnated Bittern
- 14 Wood Stork
- 15 Jabiru
- 16 Buff-necked Ibis
- 17 Green Ibis
- 18 White-faced Whistling-Duck
- 19 Muscovy Duck
- 20 Black Vulture
- 21 Turkey Vulture
- 22 Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture
- 23 Greater Yellow-headed Vulture
- 24 King Vulture
- 25 Osprey
- 26 Grey-headed Kite
- 27 Snail Kite
- 28 Plumbeous Kite
- 29 Long-winged Harrier
- 30 Tiny Hawk
- 31 Crane Hawk
- 32 White Hawk
- 33 Great Black Hawk
- 34 Savannah Hawk
- 35 Black-collared Hawk
- 36 Gray Hawk
- 37 Roadside Hawk
- 38 White-tailed Hawk
- 39 Harpy Eagle
- 40 Black Hawk-Eagle
- 41 Black Caracara
- 42 Northern Caracara/Crested Caracara
- 43 Yellow-headed Caracara
- 44 Red-throated Caracara
- 45 Laughing Falcon
- 46 American Kestrel
- 47 Aplomado Falcon
- 48 Bat Falcon
- 49 Orange-breasted Falcon
- 50 Peregrine Falcon
- 51 Marail Guan
- 52 Spix's Guan
- 53 Blue-throated Piping-Guan
- 54 Black Curassow
- 55 Crested Bobwhite
- 56 Limpkin
- 57 Sunbittern
- 58 Wattled Jacana
- 59 Double-striped Thick-Knee
- 60 Pied Plover/Lapwing
- 61 Southern Lapwing
- 62 Collared Plover
- 63 South American Snipe
- 64 Solitary Sandpiper
- 65 Spotted Sandpiper
- 66 Yellow-billed Tern
- 67 Large-billed Tern
- 68 Black Skimmer
- 69 Scaled Pigeon
- 70 Pale-vented Pigeon
- 71 Plumbeous Pigeon
- 72 Ruddy Pigeon
- 73 Eared Dove
- 74 Common Ground-Dove
- 75 Plain-breasted Ground-Dove
- 76 Ruddy Ground-Dove
- 77 Blue Ground-Dove
- 78 White-tipped Dove
- 79 Gray-fronted Dove
- 80 Blue and yellow Macaw
- 81 Scarlet Macaw
- 82 Red and green Macaw
- 83 Red-bellied Macaw
- 84 Red-shouldered Macaw
- 85 Brown-throated Parakeet
- 86 Painted Parakeet
- 87 Golden-winged Parakeet
- 88 Caica Parrot
- 89 Blue-headed Parrot
- 90 Dusky Parrot

91	Blue-cheeked Parrot	138	Guianan Puffbird
92	Yellow-crowned Parrot	139	Pied Puffbird
93	Orange-winged Parrot	140	Spotted Puffbird
94	Mealy Parrot	141	Black Nunbird
95	Festive Parrot	142	Swallow-winged Puffbird
96	Red-fan Parrot	143	Black-spotted Barbet
97	Squirrel Cuckoo	144	Green Aracari
98	Greater Ani	145	Black-necked Aracari
99	Smooth-billed Ani	146	Channel-billed Toucan
100	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	147	Red-billed Toucan
101	Burrowing Owl	148	Golden-collared Woodpecker
102	Great Potoo	149	Chestnut Woodpecker
103	Common Potoo	150	Cream-coloured Woodpecker
104	Long-tailed Potoo	151	Lineated Woodpecker
105	White-winged Potoo	152	Crimson-crested Woodpecker
106	Band-tailed Nighthawk	153	Red-necked Woodpecker
107	Least Nighthawk	154	Pale-legged Hornero
108	Lesser Nighthawk	155	Yellow-chinned Spinetail
109	Pauraque Nightjar	156	Point-tailed Palmcreeper
110	White-tailed Nightjar	157	Plain brown Woodcreeper
111	Ladder-tailed Nightjar	158	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
112	White-collared Swift	159	Buff-throated Woodcreeper
113	Band-rumped Swift	160	Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper
114	Short-tailed Swift	161	Straight-billed Woodcreeper
115	Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	162	Black-crested Antshrike
116	Eastern Long-tailed Hermit	163	Northern Slaty-Antshrike
117	Reddish Hermit	164	Amazonian Antshrike
118	Grey-breasted Sabrewing	165	Dusky-throated Antshrike
119	Crimson Topaz	166	Cinereous Antshrike
120	Rubby-topaz Hummingbird	167	Rufous-bellied Antwren
121	Blue-chinned Sapphire	168	White-flanked Antwren
122	Blue-tailed Emerald	169	Todd's Antwren
123	Fork-tailed Woodnymph	170	White-fringed Antwren
124	White-tailed Goldenthrroat	171	Dusky Antbird
125	Green-tailed Goldenthrroat	172	White-browed Antbird
126	Glittering-throated Emerald	173	Guianan Warbling Antbird
127	Black-eared Fairy	174	Black-chinned Antbird
128	Long-billed Starthroat	175	Spot-winged Antbird
129	Amazonian White-tailed trogon	176	White-bellied Antbird
130	Amazonian Violaceous Torgon	177	Ferruginous-backed Antbird
131	Ringed Kingfisher	178	Screaming Piha
132	Amazon Kingfisher	179	Spangled Cotinga
133	Green and rufous Kingfisher	180	Pompadour Cotinga
134	Green Kingfisher	181	Crimson Fruitcrow
135	American Pygmy Kingfisher	182	Capuchinbird
136	Green-tailed Jacamar	183	Guianan Cock-of-the Rock
137	Paradise Jacamar	184	Blue-backed Manakin

185	White-headed Manakin	231	Long-billed Gnatwren
186	Golden-headed Manakin	232	Tropical Gnatcatcher
187	Tiny Tyrant-Manakin	233	Cayenne Jay
188	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	234	Red-eyed Vireo
189	Mouse-colored Tyrannulet	235	Yellow Warbler
190	Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	236	Masked Yellowthroat
191	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	237	Bananaquit
192	Slender-footed Tyrannulet	238	Yellow-backed Tanager
193	Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant	239	Hooded Tanager
194	Painted Tody-Flycatcher	240	Flame-crested Tanager
195	Common Tody-Flycatcher	241	White-shouldered Tanager
196	Ringed Antpipit	242	White-lined Tanager
197	Grey-crowned Flycatcher	243	Silver-beaked Tanager
198	Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	244	Blue-gray Tanager
199	Whiskered Flycatcher	245	Palm Tanager
200	Vermillion Flycatcher	246	Finch's Euphonia
201	Pied Water-Tyrant	247	White-lored Euphonia/Golden-bellied Euphonia
202	White-headed Marsh Tyrant	248	Turquoise Tanager
203	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	249	Spotted Tanager
204	Short-crested Flycatcher	250	Bay-headed Tanager
205	Brown-crested Flycatcher	251	Burnished-buff Tanager
206	Lesser Kiskadee	252	Black-faced Dacnis
207	Great Kiskadee	253	Blue Dacnis
208	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	254	Green Honeycreeper
209	Yellow-throated Flycatcher	255	Purple Honeycreeper
210	Streaked Flycatcher	256	Red-legged Honeycreeper
211	Sulphury Flycatcher	257	Blue-black Grassquit
212	Piratic Flycatcher	258	Gray Seedeater
213	Tripical Kingbird	259	Ruddy-breasted Seedeater
214	Gray Kingbird	260	Yellow-bellied Seedeater
215	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	261	Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch
216	White-winged Becard	262	Red-capped Cardinal
217	Black-tailed Tityra	263	Grassland Sparrow
218	Brown-chested Martin	264	Grayish Saltator
219	Gray-breasted Martin	265	Red and Black Grossbeak
220	White-winged Swallow	266	Red-breasted Blackbird
221	White-banded Swallow	267	Yellow-hooded Blackbird
222	Black-collared Swallow	268	Shiny Cowbird
223	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	269	Giant Cowbird
224	Barn Swallow	270	Moriche Oriole
225	Black-capped Donacobius	271	Yellow Oriole
226	Bicolored Wren	272	Yellow-rumped Cacique
227	Buff-breasted Wren	273	Red-rumped Cacique
228	Southern House Wren	274	Crested Oropendola
229	Tropical Mockingbird	275	Green Oropendola
230	Pale-breasted Thrush		