

Trinidad & Tobago

Naturetrek Tour Report

11 - 24 April 2009

Report compiled by Martyn Kenefick



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Day 1

Saturday 11th April

Sometimes, despite the logistical difficulty brought about by a combination of trans-atlantic travel, more than one airline and the Easter weekend, a schedule can work like clockwork. The inter-island Liat flight from Antigua landed at Piarco airport, Trinidad ahead of schedule and within 20 minutes nine rather weary faces met me in the Arrivals Hall. The 45 minute drive via Arima and along the Blanchisseuse Rd went smoothly and by 8.45pm local time we were sipping our first rump punches at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, our base for the first eight nights of the tour. Following a light buffet of split pea soup and sandwiches, and with body clocks still working on UK time five hours ahead, the only item on the agenda was a good nights sleep.

Day 2

Sunday 12th April

Those who slept lightly expressed concern for what the morning would bring, given the severity of the over night rain showers. However, the day dawned clear and bright - indeed once the sun climbed over the eastern rim of the valley it became extremely warm, before clouding over late morning. The dawn chorus was in full voice by 5.30am and as participants began to arrive on the veranda many birds were already sampling the breakfast set out by Elsa of banana, papaya and bread. With cups of locally grown coffee in hand, we set about the business of birding in a totally new continent.

The first morning of a tour here is always about an introduction to Neotropical birding. Sure enough in the first hour we became thoroughly familiar with the "common four tanagers" (Blue-gray, Palm, White-lined and Silver-beaked); could separate Cocoa from Bare-eyed Thrush; could sex both Purple and Green Honeycreepers; sampled our first exotic Blue-crowned Motmot and a Channel-billed Toucan perched atop a distant tree taking in the sunshine. Bananaquits and Crested Oropendolas were everywhere. We enjoyed both Copper-rumped Hummingbird and White-chested Emerald; learned how to separate Great Kiskadee from Boat-billed Flycatcher and still had time for tantalisingly brief glimpses of Black-tailed Tityra, Violaceous Trogon, Violaceous Euphonia and Squirrel Cuckoo before the gong summoned us to a typical Asa Wright breakfast "whatever you want in your omelette plus home grown fruit"

Around 8.30am, we took a brief break from the birds to run through some of the administrative logistics for the week ahead here in Trinidad. Back on the veranda, Gray-fronted Doves were ambling along the pathway; Red-rumped Agoutis and Golden Tegu Lizards scrambled for crumbs which fell from the bench feeders whilst Orange-winged Parrots squawked over head. Knowing that we were to be fed again at 12.00noon, we decided to work up some form of appetite by walking the entrance track. Whilst initially quiet, we eventually managed excellent views of Turquoise Tanagers, Tropical Pewees and Golden-fronted Greenlets; Common Black-Hawks soared over head and, over a period of perhaps 20 minutes most of the group saw most of a shy and retiring Black-faced Ant-thrush quietly foraging in the leaf litter a short distance off of the path. Walking back, White-lined Sac-wing Bats flitted around overhanging bamboo clumps and our first butterflies included Cattle Heart and Jeune d'Apricot. Some saw a Cocoa Woodcreeper climbing up the trunk of a Cocoa tree whilst others explored the freshwater forest pool that looked so inviting in the humidity of hot morning.

Shortly before lunch, a soaring raptor caused a bit of concern. By a process of elimination it had to be a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk but something about the wing shape had us puzzled - still you can never identify every bird you see everyday. Much more straightforward of course were our first Black and Turkey Vultures and a delightful female Tufted Coquette feeding on the Sanchasia.

The middle of the day is always quiet in rain forest. This unassailable fact provided a fitting excuse for a brief siesta - also an excellent cure for jet lag. The mid and late afternoon session produced far and away the best birding of the day. From the veranda, unfortunately Andy T was the only person with me when a Black-whiskered Vireo spent a short while feeding in a Trema tree. This individual bird, of the race *bonairensis*, is a rare visitor the islands, especially in April and was an unexpected bonus.

Whilst Suman kept a vigil on the veranda (and was fortunate enough to find a scorpion close to the chalets) the rest of the group took a slow stroll down the main Discovery trail. All of a sudden, the sun burst out of the cloud cover and birds started to appear in all directions. Over the course of the next hour we were to find pairs of White-tailed Trogon, Great Antshrike and Blue Dacnis; several male Golden-headed Manakins (a little black furry gonk with its head dipped in egg yolk) and about a dozen of their White-bearded cousins, wing snapping at a lek. We all saw a single Golden-olive Woodpecker; most had just about satisfactory views of a skittish Yellow-olive Flycatcher but only Phil managed to actually see a Red-rumped Woodpecker which called incessantly from the canopy. A male Violaceous Trogon showed off its golden-yellow orbital ring but the light was never good for the photographers amongst us. Slowly but surely we all managed satisfactory views of several White-necked Thrushes and a Golden-crowned Warbler but after nearly four hours without food, the eagerly anticipated "afternoon tea and pastries" back on the veranda became the focus for the group

By now, the late afternoon sunlight showed off the berry laden Trema trees to their full potential. Small parties of Bay-headed and Turquoise Tanagers together with a pair of Violaceous Euphonias were regular feeders, as was an obliging Ochre-bellied Flycatcher; (probably) the same Channel-billed Toucan sat out in the open once more down the valley just as the sun receded behind the western rim of the valley....an excellent introductory day to forest birding in Trinidad. Whilst we only found a total of 57 species between us, the vast majority were seen well by all. Our dinner was an excellent stewed chicken, however most of the attention was drawn to the hatchway through to the kitchen where two round objects were eventually identified as beetroots - what Heather's initial diagnosis was should remain within the confidence of the group

Day 3

Monday 13th April

Easter Monday delivered another clear, cloudless sky with the dawn chorus performers including Cocoa Thrush, House Wren, Palm Tanager, a Motmot and a distant Bright-rumped Attila. All pre-breakfast birding was done from the veranda. Most of yesterdays' performers were on show including the male Black-tailed Tityra perched out in the open and the male Tufted Coquette feeding on the Lantana. There was just one new species for the group - a very obliging perched Streaked Flycatcher beside the bamboo clumps. Doulahrie (the kitchen supervisor) indulged me with my favourite Asa Wright breakfast this morning - spiced pumpkin with sada roti - with or without an omelette of course.

Shortly before our scheduled departure, Andy T found himself in the right place at the right time once more as we picked out a low flying small flock of Lilac-tailed Parrotlets. However the others all got their own back as an extremely confiding perched Double-toothed Kite sat up for all to see. No sooner had we left the Centre car park, then we stopped - a calling Black-faced Ant-thrush allowed much better views than yesterday; we found a very busy pair of White-flanked Antwrens and the flycatcher perched right in the top of the distant Immortelle tree was a Forest Elaenia (and you'll have to take my word for it)!

Having left the estate, we turned north and began to climb the Blanchisseuse Rd, the only one which bisects the Northern range and climbs to a giddy height of 2,200ft. A brief stop beside some fruiting Wild Tobacco trees produced a couple of Streaked Xenops, our first Tropical Parula and an obliging Rufous-breasted Wren. However, being Easter and understanding that this road eventually leads to the north coast Caribbean beaches, we decided to continue on before walking a forest track known as Las Lapas. However this would not prevent our un-scheduled stop to appreciate a couple of very approachable Collared Trogons, one of which was actually sitting on the road as we drove up.

Las Lapas lived up to its reputation of delivering excellent forest birds - however we were really made to work for some of them. Most of the group managed to keep track of a calling male White-bellied Antbird scurrying around the leaf litter; both Red-rumped and Chestnut Woodpeckers were seen in varying degrees of satisfaction; there were more Collared Trogons beside the path than I have ever personally seen in one spot before; an extremely vain Green Hermit repeatedly posed in front of Dave's wing mirror; two young Hepatic Tanagers fed right over the path and after much perseverance, we enjoyed excellent views of a pair of Swallow Tanagers.

By now it was late morning and becoming exceedingly overcast; and more than one tummy was rumbling. Again being Easter Monday, our choice of dining venue was limited - we chose a bus shelter! - a sound idea as a heavy rain shower passed through. No ordinary bush shelter was this however, as the tree opposite was leaping with Speckled Tanagers.

Continuing down the road beyond Paria junction and towards the village of Brasso Seco, we made several impromptu stops where birding looked promising. At one we called in a Long-billed Gnat-Wren and watched a Northern Waterthrush bobbling along the roadside verge, tail pumping as ever. At the other site we eventually enticed a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl right out into the open and there it sat for all to admire through my telescope

Our final scheduled stop was several hundred metres lower, and half way to the coast at the village of Morne le Croix.

Here we tasted our first "open country" birding so species like Gray-breasted Martin, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Giant Cowbird, Carib Grackle and Blue-black Grassquit were new for us. Much more impressive however were the views of half a dozen Blue-headed Parrots, a perched Plumbeous Kite and a breeding colony of Yellow-rumped Caciques. After a break for juice and cake, we retraced our steps to the Centre, stopping for our first Scaled Pigeon en route.

Obviously the habitat dictated today that not everyone saw everything - indeed only one or two caught up with Rufous-breasted Hermit, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Slaty-capped and Yellow-breasted Flycatchers or Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift. Nevertheless we found between us an impressive total of 86 species in mainly glorious weather and all would admit to a most enjoyable day.

Day 4

Tuesday 14th April

Another clear dawn heralded an extremely hot and sunny day - sun screen worked over time today. There was also a complete change of scenery as we were to spend most of the day in open country - no looking high up in trees today. However, most of the pre-breakfast attention was allocated to an exquisite female Copper-rumped Hummingbird sat on a nest made almost totally of lichen and held together with spiders web. Some found cabbage (or bhagi in trini) for breakfast with fried bake a little unusual, but there was always an omelette fall back option.

By 8.30am we were driving south down the valley towards the lowlands. A brief stop adjacent to a chrysothene plantation allowed us to undertake a "Swifts identification 101" class as both Band-rumped and Gray-rumped Swifts were wheeling around. Andy G came up trumps by calling out a larger bird which turned out to be a Chestnut-collared Swift (and Dave and I briefly saw an unidentified bird which could well have been a Chapman's Swift but joined the category of "the one who got away").

At the bottom of the valley we turned east and after a further 10 minutes drive found ourselves parked up inside the Aripo Agriculture Research Station replete with wall to wall new birds. First to show were a healthy gathering of Wattled Jacanas probing around the wet grass whilst on the other side of the road we quickly picked out our first of many Red-breasted Blackbirds and White-winged Swallows. Both Grassland Yellow-Finch and Green-rumped Parrotlet were quickly added to our tally before an adult male Fork-tailed Flycatcher flew into a nearby tree. This is a breeding visitor to T&T and the first bird of the season for both Dave and I. Walking along the track beside the water meadows we added White-headed Marsh-Tyrant and Pied Water-Tyrant, Yellow-chinned Spinetail and a distant Savannah Hawk whilst we were constantly being glared at by the herd of Buffalypso feeding nearby. The small remaining areas of water and mud held both Solitary and Least Sandpipers and towards the eastern edge of the compound a magnificent Cocoli Heron fed right out in the open.

From here we drove a short way east before stopping at the Ponderosa Bar, officially for a bathroom break but a bar is a bar. Nevertheless birding wasn't forgotten as a light phased Short-tailed Hawk flew low over our heads. The late morning was taken up with the drive to the east coast of the island where we took lunch at Manzanilla Beach resort, beside the Atlantic. Whilst the sea was bereft of birds, there were a number of purple coloured Portuguese Man O' War jellyfish both dead on the shoreline and alive in the more than lukewarm shallows, so what little paddling that occurred was done with more than a watchful eye out.

We then drove slowly south down the Cocal, a reclaimed sandspit which supports around one million coconut palms. Initially birds in the palms were few and far between but we slowly found both the expected Yellow-headed Caracara and the decidedly unexpected and rare Crested Caracara together with a few Savannah Hawks and a Common Black-Hawk. A brief stop beside a brackish mangrove fringed stream produced a confiding male American Pygmy Kingfisher together with a couple of Greater Anis - very uncommon on the east coast. Our last birding on this segment of the tour was to slowly drive the bund tracks inside Kernaham settlement, on the off chance of a Pinnated Bittern. However it was extremely hot and the sun was fierce (any streetwise bittern would have its head down in the shade), and so the only new species found were Great White Egrets.

The middle of the afternoon was spent retracing our steps before turning south and crossing the edge of the Aripo Savannah, arriving close to the village of Cumuto. The main attraction here is a party of Red-bellied Macaws which roost in nearby Moriche Palms - and we saw at least 35. However the real surprise was a Gray-necked Wood-Rail which I saw fleetingly cross the road close to some houses and which, to his eternal credit, Philip re-found for all to see. By now the sun had reached the yard arm, rum punch and chocolate cake had been consumed and we returned to the Centre with a days' total of 77 species under the belt.

Day 5

Wednesday 15th April

One thing about the tropics - the weather can really change quickly. A clear, if cool dawn soon clouded over with persistent rain lasting much of the morning. We were to spend the whole day at the Centre allowing quite a free agenda. Birding from the veranda was not quite as gloomy although numbers and variety were down on previous days. New for the tour was a Greyish Saltator seen by some, the usual tanagers, honeycreepers and hummingbirds being now firm friends. No cabbage today for breakfast; instead curried bodi to go with the omelette; the long awaited bananas and some particularly sweet pineapple.

The only fixed outing today was to be a guided walk down to Duston Cave and visit the renowned Oilbird colony. Harold's interpretive briefing was interrupted by an inconsiderate Lineated Woodpecker tapping on the bamboo but before too long our motley bunch, kitted out in various plastic rain macs and umbrellas, began the slow walk down to the gorge. The walk was quiet, sadly with no snakes on show, but as always the views and sounds of these impressive nocturnal fruit-eating birds, the size of a small harrier was well worth while. By now the rain has eased off and the forest was beginning to steam. On the return walk those in the front saw a male Red-crowned Ant-Tanager and a couple of White-flanked Antwrens but there was little else on show. We diverted down onto the Discovery trail on a quest for Bearded Bellbird, seeing a male White-tailed Trogon en route. The Bellbirds led us a merry dance for 20 minutes or so but after finally nailing down one high perched bird, we quickly found a second right beside the path and only about 15 ft off of the ground. By now, despite the overcast conditions it was hotting up and most opted for a refreshing shower before lunch.

The afternoon was a mixture of sunshine and showers with participants doing their own thing. From the veranda, the Double-toothed Kite could be seen down the valley on its favourite perch; a confiding Red-rumped Woodpecker fed on the closest Trema tree to the main building whilst a little further out a very handsome male Red-legged Honeycreeper and a Northern Waterthrush were welcome sights. After a particularly heavy shower, four species of swifts could be seen flying low over the canopy including several Chestnut-collared Swifts. Those brave souls venturing away from the main buildings had close views of Bearded Bellbird and Cocoa Woodcreeper.

The species list for the day was not large - nor was it expected to be. After two long and tiring days out in the field, and with some early starts and late finishes to come, a mid-tour rest day was in order. We had two main priority birds to find and we saw them well. Now half way through our tour of Trinidad, Heather had finally finished unpacking her suitcase - it was time to start re-packing in readiness for Sunday's departure!

Day 6

Thursday 16th April

No time for much veranda birding this morning as we were whisked into breakfast at 6.00am - that is most of us were...as Phil left his room while it was still dark to continue his solo vigil for Gray-throated Leaf-tosser.... with the same result as before; a fleeting glimpse of the bird's under-tail coverts as it scurried off into the shrubbery.

We left the Centre shortly after 6.30am and headed down the valley once more. A roadside stop paid dividends in spades as the first bird seen - and right out in the open walking along a bare branch - was a Leaf-tosser! A second stop a little further down produced Red-crowned Ant-Tanager for those who missed yesterday's birds plus yet another frustrating glimpse of White-bellied Antbird. A final stop, close to the Arima by-pass was busy with birds. Alongside Red-eyed Vireo and Yellow-olive Flycatcher we managed to lure in two male and a female Trinidad Euphonia to the roadside trees whilst a majestic White Hawk lazily soared over.

However this morning was supposed to be about lowland scrub and savannah birds. Several roadside stops along Sellier Rd produced our first Anhinga, a pair of stunning Rufous-tailed Jacamars and our two target birds in the area - Striped Cuckoo and Masked Yellowthroat, both of which behaved superbly. Walking into a couple of side tracks, down to the water cress beds produced an inquisitive male Black-crested Antshrike, Least, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers and possibly the worst view of a Limpkin I have ever had.

By now the morning was really hotting up and we slowly drove south towards the fringe of Arena forest. We did manage to find our first Gray Hawk along the route but the hoped for Bat Falcon appeared to have deserted his usual perch today. A slow drive back to the Centre in time for lunch was enlivened by a couple of flying Short-tailed Hawks but the main item on the agenda was celebrating Heathers birthday with a huge pink and white (but chocolate inside) birthday cake.

The early afternoon was "free time" to bird or relax with most of the "veranda regulars" on show. Shortly after 4.15pm a select group of us joined Dave for an evening with "night birds" back in the extensive savannah behind the Aripo Agriculture Station. We arrived with an hour or so of daylight left and slowly walked along then main drag. Most of the familiar species were present; Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Red-breasted Blackbirds, White-headed Marsh-Tyrants etc but we also managed to find a (presumed) pair of Peregrines, both adult and young American Purple Gallinules and, best of all, a Pinnated Bittern (well the bill and head of one sticking out of the wet grass!).

Following an "al fresco" dinner we drove on up into the rear of the Station grounds quickly finding a party of five Common Pauriques beside the road. We then parked up and walked the dark tracks, constantly hearing more Pauriques before finding the first of two Common Potoos hunting from fence posts. Our first Tropical Screech-Owl was a little distant; our second a brief fly past; but our third performed superbly and at one point was no more than 10 metres away, right out in the open.

Returning to the bus, we crept up on an obliging male White-tailed Nightjar and then a lovely white breasted Barn Owl perched over the road. All in all an extremely profitable excursion, returning us to the Centre by around 9.00pm.

Day 7

Friday 17th April

It was still pitch black when we took breakfast this morning. Dawn broke as we drove up towards Morne Bleu in Roodal's bus. This was to be our "Quest for Pawi" Right at the top there was time for a quick look at a female Hepatic Tanager before the serious business of quietly scouring the treetops close to the road. Very quickly we awarded both House Points and a Gold Star to Clive and Hazel who managed to pin down a bird shape to match the thin reedy whistle that is a Piping Guans contact call. Over the course of the next three quarters of an hour our only endemic species was almost constantly on view, latterly much close and lower down gently plucking fruit from a Red Gomier tree - much to the delight of the photographers in the group. So intense was the interest that a nearby Long-billed Starthroat went un-noticed.

With the prize firmly under the belt, there was time for a gentle walk along Las Lapas trace which was extremely lively in the early morning sunshine. Most conspicuous both by sight and sound were a party of at least four Red-rumped Woodpeckers actively feeding in a tall tree that had been completely taken over by a Strangler Fig. Closer to earth a Black-faced Antthrush called close to the path. It was 3rd time lucky for Andy G - on Sunday he saw a tail; on Tuesday a head; this morning he saw all the bird in all its glory. A little further down a very confiding male White-bellied Antbird was similarly co-operative. With a back-up list including Channel-billed Toucan and Collared Trogon, this really was an incredibly successful three hours birding. By 9.30am, there was thick cloud cover and an occasional drizzle. During the dry breaks in the middle part of the day, some caught up on species they had overlooked earlier in the week whilst others watched from the comfort of the veranda enjoying most, if not all of the showing Short-tailed Hawk, Red-eyed Vireo, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Trinidad Euphonia and Channel-billed Toucan all seen out in the open.

Our second "night excursion" took us onto the north east Atlantic coast of the island beyond the village of Matura. En route we saw both Short-tailed Hawk and Plumbeous Kite; a pair of Ringed Kingfishers perched in a dead tree and close to the beach a most unexpected but welcome male Red Howler Monkey feeding on young Immortelle leaves totally non-plussed by our presence. After another al fresco dinner, we joined Francis, our Natureseekers guide, onto the beach and listened to an informative talk about the ecology of Giant Leatherback Turtles whilst awaiting the main attraction of the evening.....and it couldn't have been better. Turtles are coming up to lay their eggs in great numbers this year, indeed over 100 had appeared the previous night. The beach is over 8km long but by 7.30pm a 5ft female was approaching us only a few metres from the entrance track. Over the course of the next hour and a half, we enjoyed an enchanting encounter watching this clever lady dig her hole, anchor her front flippers in place, lay her eggs, cover up the nest hole, disguise the immediate vicinity to thwart would be nest robbers and then wearily return to the sea - a moment none of us will ever forget.

Day 8

Saturday 18th April

Our last day in Trinidad! Despite the late arrival back last night, most were up well before breakfast for a last look at Trinidad forest birds from the veranda.

It has to be said that the birding was quiet with no surprises other than excellent views of Lineated Woodpecker. Just as we were ready to board our buses for the final excursion of this leg of the tour, a female Collared Trogon perched out in the open beside the car park.

Our first birding stop was to be the Trincity Sewage Ponds - no birding tour is complete without this "ecosystem" - and straight away we found new birds. Around the grassy fringes were numerous Snowy Egrets and a couple of Little Blue Herons and an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen by some before it landed on the wrong side of a bamboo clump. Just as welcome was our first spotty Spotted Sandpiper, another Ringed Kingfisher, several American Purple Gallinules and even a Common Moorhen with much more red on the bill than European birds.

From here, we drove west and then south-west cutting through the back of Valsayn to reach an overlook beside the former Caroni Rice Project. Within minutes, this paid off as a dark morph Long-winged Harrier quartered the fields and our first distant Osprey came into view. The next 30 minutes were devoted to navigating the southbound highway and then west through southern Chaguanas before arriving at the Hanuman Murti - a magnificent Hindu Temple and 85 ft statue of the Monkey God. Beside the obvious "indo-trini" culture, there was a female Saffron Finch on the manicured lawns!

It was then a case of gulls terns and waders on tidal mudflats at Orange Valley. This is a concrete fisherman's jetty which juts out into the Gulf of Paria and our timing was perfect for the high tide roost. The majority of birds on show were Laughing Gulls - indeed this area holds the highest wintering congregation of this species in the entire Caribbean. Amongst them were numerous American Black Skimmers, Royal Terns and newly arrived Large-billed Terns from mainland South America. Careful scanning through the flock produced not only 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (our only other regularly occurring gull) but both an adult Ring-billed Gull and a first winter plumaged Great Black-backed Gull. The former is a rare visitor to the west coast of Trinidad occurring almost annually; the latter a first for the islands which has been present since late February. Four species of gull in one day is most definitely a "red letter" day on Trinidad.

Waders were initially hard to find as they sought shelter under the mangrove. However over a period of time we got to grips with parties of both Western and Semi-palmated Sandpipers; several Willet; dark-rumped Hudsonian Whimbrels (soon to be split and a species in their own right) and quite a few Semi-palmated Plovers. Perhaps the tamest bird on show however was the Clapper Rail which nonchalantly crossed the road beside the buses and fed right out in the open - if only all rails and crakes behaved so socially!

A mile or so to the north is the floating temple at Waterloo. A small bay beside the temple held large numbers of Little Blue Herons, Large-billed Terns and Snowy Egrets. On the far shore the feeding waders included a couple of winter plumaged Short-billed Dowitchers, a number of Black-bellied (Gray) Plovers, a single winter plumaged Red Knot, several Ruddy Turnstones and our first Tricolored Heron, whilst amongst the gull and tern flock were around 20 Yellow-billed Terns looking like European Little Terns with wholly yellow bills and gray rumps.

Following a slight "vehicular altercation" in the car park we drove inland to have our last "al fresco" hot lunch, this time in the salubrious environs of a lean to at the back of a bar, replete with a snoring drunk collapsed at one of the tables - how long he had been there no one knows!

We then retraced our steps north onto the highway and up to the start of the Blue River (or No 9 drain as it is more commonly known) which leads into the Caroni Swamp Bird Sanctuary. With a little time to kill before boarding our boat, we checked out the mangrove close to the Visitors Information Centre finding a couple of Straight-billed Woodcreepers, a male Green-throated Mango hummingbird and our second Clapper Rail of the day. Then it was time to board Charlie's boat for an evening with Scarlet Ibis. The journey into the swamp first produced a white morph Long-winged Harrier and another Green-throated Mango and then a scenario which I will remember for a long while. We suddenly stopped as an adult Cook's Tree Boa (Cascabel in Trini) was found sleeping on a mangrove branch which projected out right over the boat....and of course Heather doesn't like snakes as witnessed by her hurdling athletically across the seats to put as much distance between her and this harmless docile 6ft reptile as is possible in a narrow boat!

After a brief encounter with a family of Bicoloured Conebills, and three more Straight-billed Woodcreepers (sometimes we miss this normally secretive bird altogether!) the mangrove opened out into a lagoon criss-crossed with exposed mud banks on the falling tide. Here numerous Yellow-crowned Night-Herons fed alongside more familiar herons and egrets and a really distant bird almost certainly was a moulting sub-adult Great Blue Heron, although I still have a nagging doubt (and Grey Herons have become almost annual in recent years). However the star bird of the journey, without question, was a roosting Common Potoo right beside the waters edge, no more than 15 ft up in full open view. Eventually we moved onto our traditional mooring area and watched as parties of Scarlet Ibis flew across our vista. Being April, the breeding season has begun and so most birds were travelling north to their nest sites a mile or so away. However with rum punch almost ibis red we were able to watch over a hundred of these spectacular birds before a dusk high speed return to the jetty, an uneventful drive back and our last night at "Asa Wright" ; 188 species under the belt with Tobago still to go...

Day 9

Sunday 19th April

There had been much concern about disruption to this our transfer day to the sister isle, due to the current Summit of the Americas taking place in Port of Spain. As it turned out, everything went absolutely to plan. The drive to the airport was free of the reported security road blocks; we checked-in without queuing; our Dash 8 flight left timely; the short flight was smooth; our baggage came through promptly; Gladwyn arrived within minutes of our appearing on the side-walk and by 9.30am we were watching our first Tobago birds at the Bon Accord sewage treatment ponds. This area is excellent first thing in the morning but by breakfast time, especially if the sun is hot, the area quietens down with birds retreating to cover in nearby mangrove. Nevertheless, there was still enough to keep our interest peeked. On the reedy fringes, Green Herons were very prominent at this, the southernmost edge of their range (every *Butoroides* heron south of here and all the way to Argentina is a Striated); our first Least Grebes and White-cheeked Pintails sat out in the open water; a couple of adult Black-crowned Night-Herons could be seen at their daytime roost; the air was filled with hawking Caribbean Martins and the roadsides with Eared Doves

Despite the ever encroachment of housing development and the consequent destruction of good birding habitat, a slow drive along the ditch bordered roads allowed us an excellent side by side comparison between Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs (both species incredibly missed in Trinidad) together with several Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, a Hudsonian Whimbrel and a couple of Solitary Sandpipers. A little further north east lies the Lowlands estate in Petit Trou. Once through the security barrier, the first large lake produced our first Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and several of the tall bare-branched trees were "full" of Anhingas.

Beside the ditch near the compound an enchanting, barely fledged, baby Green Heron wobbled on legs that looked too large and gangly to support its frame; and then we entered the sewage pond complex. The second award of House Points and Gold Stars on the trip goes rightly to Phil who attracted my attention with the shout "these have stripy heads, are they grebes?" in fact he had found a female and two young Masked Ducks hiding in the reeds. This species, whilst resident in both islands is rarely seen, extremely shy and local. The habitat on this pond is ideal and there is no reason why Masked Ducks should not be here all year round. Nevertheless in numerous visits to this site, I have only ever seen them twice. At the back pool, the shallow water and exposed mud held both Yellowlegs and an extremely late female Blue-winged Teal. On returning to the bus, our first Red-crowned Woodpecker pecked at a dead coconut palm trunk and a very scruffy Black-faced Grassquit buzzed at us from the tall grass.

It was now seriously hot and time to sit back, relax and enjoy the air-conditioned drive up the Windward Rd to the village of Speyside and Jemmas Seaview Kitchen, our lunchtime halt. As always the chefs did us proud and served up more dishes than we could consume. And so it was that after another five minute drive, we reached Blue Waters Inn, our base for the remaining four nights of the tour. After an early start and a day of travelling, there is nothing better than a swim to wind down - and it seemed everyone had the same idea! Way offshore there was a constant feeding frenzy of Boobies, Terns, Tropicbirds and Frigatebirds, but that's for tomorrow.

Day 10

Monday 20th April

The day dawned cloudy and rather breezy, but nothing you could describe as cold. A pre-breakfast walk through the hotel grounds and over the hill to the main road allowed some of the group to catch up on species Phil had found on his late afternoon walk the previous day. White-tipped Doves, Pale-vented Pigeons and Yellow-bellied Elaenias were everywhere but it was not until we reached close to the old water wheel that birds started to show. A female Ruby Topaz hummingbird flitted too and fro across the road; two Broad-winged Hawks glided over; several Common Terns wheeled around in the bay and there were several glimpses of Brown-crested Flycatchers. Philippa found the bird of the morning - an excellent male Green Kingfisher perched low over the stream, and on the walk back to our rooms, some managed to put a face to the noise that is Rufous-vented Chachalacas,

One of the highlights of any tour in Tobago is the boat ride over to Little Tobago Island. I must have made this journey well over 50 times and today was about as successful as it comes. The water was a little choppy but with the expert boatmanship of Shayne and Zee it was always comfortable. As we closed in on the island a raft of over 100 Brown Noddies rose up off of the water, and, at one point, were briefly joined by a Sooty Tern. We diverted briefly to the western end of the island where we got up close and personal to a nesting Brown Booby mummy and its extremely inquisitive white chick before berthing at the normal jetty.

The walk up the hill is usually both tiring and humid despite the short distance, but this morning didn't seem too bad. Birds (other than the native chickens) in the forest are few and far between save for a couple of Red-eyed Vireos and a Brown-crested Flycatcher but upon reaching the first seabird lookout, it was evident that there were "boobies a plenty". Viewing is always so much better higher up, so another five minutes hike found us at the second lookout where we slowly got to grips with separating "white-tailed brown morph" Red-footed Boobies from Brown Boobies and saw far more white morph "red foots" than normal.

Being a morning excursion, many of the Red-billed Tropicbirds were far out at sea feeding but there were still enough around to ensure the photographers in our midst were kept busy. Whilst all this was going on, I tracked down a nearby roosting White-tailed Nightjar and an almost fully grown tropicbird chick allowing everyone the opportunity to see these wonderful birds at extremely close range. The final bird of interest sadly was not seen by all. Probably a total of seven Bridled Terns flew across in front of us some way off, but were never easy to pick out amongst the many Noddies and Boobies in the bay,

The return ride paused over the worlds largest living Grooved Brain Coral and the fascinating coral reefs of Japanese Garden and Angel reef, where some of the group would return to snorkel during the afternoon. Indeed by 2.30pm five intrepid Naturetrekkers had donned snorkels and masks and spent around an hour in the lukewarm waters. Clive found a young Hawksbill Turtle which some managed to see before it slipped down over the side of the canyon and into deep and dark waters. Over the course of their time, in excess of 50 species of tropical fish were seen including large numbers of Blue Tang, Blue-headed Wrasse, Black Surgeon and Banded Butterfly fish. All this whilst others slept, read in the sun or swam in the shallows.

Day 11

Tuesday 21st April

Another day of hazy sunshine and often overcast conditions, but it remained dry. Shortly after breakfast, we boarded Gladwyn's bus for the 50 minute drive up into the Main Ridge Forest Reserve, protected rain forest since 1765 (from human destruction, but nevertheless partially devastated by Hurricane Flora in 1963). Our first roadside walk was quiet to say the least - in fact we didn't see a single bird, but shortly thereafter a pair of Great Black Hawks soared effortlessly low over our heads, an omen of a good day.

I always think of Gilpin trace as a rainforest birding jigsaw. Birds aren't in your face as, say, the Asa Wright veranda. Here you have to work for them but patience and perseverance pays off with usually good views of all the target species. Within a minute of entering the track, and the very first bird we saw, was a White-tailed Sabrewing - our principle target for the day. However the light was poor and you had to work hard to make out any colour on it whatsoever - even in flight it seemed to be moulting its tail feathers - so it appeared to the group as just a "rather large blackish hummer"

A little further on, both Rufous-breasted Wren and Stripe-breasted Spinetails were found feeding low in the leaf litter to our left and again the finer plumage detail was a challenge to be sure of. And then the sun came out. Almost immediately Yellow-legged Thrushes were singing from the lower canopy and we managed to see three males very well; a Plain-Brown Woodcreeper crept up a vine; the usual Rufous-tailed Jacamars and Blue-crowned Motmots posed for the photographers and a few male Red-legged Honeycreepers showed well but the "speciality birds" of the area were either seen briefly by some or just heard by others. Indeed Clive saw everyone off with a tantalisingly brief, but un-mistakable view of an Olivaceous Woodcreeper.

Eventually we reached just short of the first waterfall - a known good area and our main quest, a fine male Sabrewing, perched out on its favourite snag just a few feet up before display flying around the tree, showing its extensive white in the tail. The return walk was much more productive. Firstly an enchanting female Rufous-breasted Hermit voraciously guarded its nest from either another female or perhaps a suitor; several more Sabrewings, Thrushes and Spinetails showed well but we were still short of a decent look at a Blue-backed Manakin. Shortly before the trail head our luck changed and one fine adult male performed for all.

Lunch was taken at the trail head shelter with a sleeping Mango Snake in the rafters. We planned to catch up with other species missed during the morning by walking the eastward slope road. We saw bits and pieces including a couple of Streaked Flycatchers several Red-eyed Vireos and a Cocoa Woodcreeper but the afternoon birding tailed off tantalisingly with several species still to find and one day left for a final fling.

Day 12

Wednesday 22nd April

Our last full day in T&T! A hard core of the party boarded Gladwyn's bus on a hot and sunny morning to try and play catch up with a few species not previously found. Our first walk along the hillside overlooking Speyside village added little to the checklist but it was definitely a male morning. First to show was a Ruby Topaz. In the shade it just looked chocolate brown, when it turned slightly towards the sun the tail was a burned orange and on the one occasion that the sun hit its head, there was this beautiful red forehead and lemon throat giving rise to the birds' name. The male supporting cast included Red-legged Honeycreeper and Black-throated Mango and we also had prolonged views of a perched Streaked Flycatcher. It was then time for our second visit to the rain forest, but first a bathroom break at the Bloody Bay lookout enlivened by a close and confiding adult Great Black-Hawk perched out in the open. Despite our presence, it seemed much more interested in the small dog that was trotting along the roadside (it in itself was big enough, and the dog was small enough to make for an interesting lunch session).

Once back down the hill we parked up and walked a wide benching loop track locally known as Spring trail. The going was a little muddy but looking down into the forest as opposed to scanning the treetops is a definite advantage. As always is the case, we heard far more than we saw. However the highlights proved to be well worthwhile. First to show was a male White-tailed Sabrewing followed by a pair of Plain Ant-Vireos. The star of the show, however, was a frenetic Olivaceous Woodcreeper who flew from tree to tree round us in a circle, trying to pin down where its mimicry noise was coming from. All along the trail Collared Trogons were calling and it was with some relief that an obliging male bird perched low in a tree just as we reached the road.

Lunch was back at the Gilpin trace trail head shelter - two roosting Mango Snakes for company today. But as someone said, we left the best 'til last. A quick after lunch walk along Niplig trace (Gilpin spelt backwards as its on the other side of the road!) produced stunning views of two adult male Blue-backed Manakins side by side chattering to each other on an exposed branch - the photographers had smiles on their faces all the way back to Blue Waters.

Whilst all of this was going on, Andy and Heather were alternating between hand feeding Ruddy Turnstones in the hotel bar and causing a few heart flutters by capsizing their Kayak over at Goat Is. No harm done and only a pair of flipflops and sunglasses overboard.

Day 13

Thursday 23rd April

Our final morning walk was taken along Starlight Rd, in the scrub forest above the hotel complex. On a very sunny but windy morning, Rufous-vented Chachalacas were calling left, right and centre; Caribbean Martins were hawking low over the track; both Pale-vented Pigeons and White-tipped Doves were "coo-ing" from the shrubbery and Bananaquits appeared in almost every bush.

We had excellent views of male Ruby-Topaz, Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Blue-crowned Motmot; several male Barred Antshrikes flitted too and fro and many of the group finally caught up with the rather drab but inquisitive Scrub Greenlet. We reached the Batteaux Bay overlook and, amazingly, from a height of perhaps 150ft could clearly see at least four, and very probably six, Hawksbill Turtles regularly surfacing in the clear pale blue water below. The return walk produced a very obliging Osprey and a Brown-crested Flycatcher before we joined Heather, Andy and Suman for our final breakfast.

That effectively ended the birding of Naturetrek's Trinidad & Tobago tour. All that was left was for most of us to hand feed not only Ruddy Turnstones but the local Blue-crowned Motmot as well. We had amassed a very creditable total of 221 species. Those of the "listing fraternity" (but none in our prestigious group) would make it 223 adding both Feral Pigeon and the Little Tobago "Red Jungle Fowl".

Of particular interest is that there was only one additional species seen only by the leader; on this occasion Long-billed Starthroat. Bearing in mind the predominance of forest birding in T&T, this is testament to the sharp eyes and level of interest within the group. At the time of writing British Airways has landed in Tobago on time, and I am embarking on my own short flight home having thoroughly enjoyed the last 13 days with a great bunch of folk.

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Species Lists

Birds (C = commonly recorded; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>		h					h						
2	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>								5					
3	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>									30			10	
4	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>			c					c	c		1	1	1
5	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>									50				
6	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>									50			6	6
7	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>								20					
8	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>					1			30					
9	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>		1	2					c	c	c	c	c	c
10	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>								1	2	1			
11	Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>			1										
12	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			4		1			20	4				
13	Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>								6	2				
14	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>								100	6	2	1	1	1
15	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>								100+	10				
16	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			c		c	c	c	c	c		c		c
17	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>									10	1	2	1	1
18	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			10		5			10					
19	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>								40	5	2	1	1	1
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								1	2				
21	Pinnated Bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>					1								
22	Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>								100+					
23	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	c	c	c		c	c	c						
24	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c						
25	Masked Duck	<i>Nomonyx dominicus</i>									3				
26	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>									20				
27	White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>									6				
28	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>									1				
29	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								2	3	1	1	1	1

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
30	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>		1		1			1					
31	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>		1	1	1	1	1						
32	Long-winged Harrier	<i>Circus buffoni</i>								2				
33	White Hawk	<i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>					1							
34	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	3	2	4	2	2							
35	Great Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>										2	4	
36	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>			8		1							
37	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>					1		1					
38	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>									3	3	1	
39	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	2		1		2	3	1					
40	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>			1				2					
41	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>			4		1		1					
42	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>			1									
43	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>					1							
44	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					2		1	1	1		1	
45	Rufous-vented Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis ruficauda</i>								c	c	c	c	c
46	Trinidad Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile pipile</i>						1						
47	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>					2							
48	Gray-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>			1									
49	Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>							2					
50	American Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>					2		4	2				
51	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>			c				c	c				
52	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>			c		c		c	c		c		
53	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							10					
54	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>							30					
55	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>							2					
56	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							3	1				
57	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>					1		5	6	3	2	1	
58	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>			3		3		2	4				
59	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>								7				
60	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>							2					
61	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>								5				

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
62	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								12	30	30	30	30
63	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>								1				
64	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>								150				
65	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>								50				
66	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>			10		6							
67	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>								1				
68	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>								4				
69	Greater Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>								1				
70	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>								1000+				
71	Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>									250			
72	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>									7			
73	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>									1			
74	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>								100				
75	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>								40				
76	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>									4			
77	Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>								20				
78	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>								250				
79	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>		1			1	2						
80	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>					1			c	c	c	c	c
81	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>								c				
82	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		c	c	c	c	c	c	c				
83	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>								c	c	c	c	c
84	Grey-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>	3	1	1	1	1	1	1					
85	Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i>			35									
86	Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>			3		1			4				2
87	Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	<i>Touit batavicus</i>		5										
88	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>		8				2						
89	Orange-winged Parrot	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
90	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	1											
91	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>			2									
92	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>			c		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
93	Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>			h		2							

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
94	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>					1							
95	Tropical Screech Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>					3							
96	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	h	1		h								
97	Oilbird	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>				25								
98	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>					2		1					
99	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>					8							
100	White-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus cayennensis</i>					2							
101	Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>			3	4								
102	Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>			c	c	c	c	c					
103	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>			c	c	c	c	c			c	c	
104	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>			c	c	c	c	c		c	c	c	
105	Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>	2		c		c							
106	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>		1										
107	Rufous-breasted Hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>		2				1				8	6	2
108	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>		1										
109	White-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus ensipennis</i>										5	2	
110	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c			1	2	
111	Green-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridigula</i>							2					
112	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>	2	3	2	2	2	2	3		1	2	3	
113	Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitus</i>									2	2	2	5
114	Tufted Coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i>	2	1		1	1		1					
115	Blue-chinned Sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>	1	1		2	1	1	1					
116	White-chested Emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c					
117	Copper-rumped Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tobaci</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	c	c
118	White-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>	2			1		h						
119	Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	2	2		h		h						
120	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>		3		h		1	1					
121	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>			1									
122	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>									1	1		
123	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>						2	1					
124	Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	3	1	2	6	1	1	2	1	1	4	6	2
125	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>		h				2				6	4	4

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
126	Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	1	h	1	h		3						
127	Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>								3		2	2	1
128	Red-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>	1	1		1		5						
129	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>	1	1		h						h	1	
130	Chestnut Woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>		1										
131	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	1			2	1	1						
132	Stripe-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis cinnamomea</i>		1								3	3	
133	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>			6		8		10					
134	Grey-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus albigularis</i>					1					1		
135	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>		2										
136	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>		1								1		
137	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>										1	1	
138	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	1	h		1		h				1		
139	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>							5					
140	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>	2	1			2	1						
141	Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>					1		h					
142	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	2	2		h	2	2		2		2	h	4
143	Plain Antwren	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>											2	
144	White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>		2		2								
145	White-fringed Antwren	<i>Formicivora grisea</i>										2		
146	White-bellied Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>		1			1	1						
147	Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	1	1		h		1						
148	Bearded Bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>	h	h	h	2+	h	h	h					
149	Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>	4	4	1	4		1						
150	Blue-backed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia pareola</i>										5	4	
151	White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	10	4	1	10		1						
152	Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>	1	1	1									
153	Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>		1			1							
154	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>					c			c	c	c	c	c
155	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	2	2										
156	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>		1										
157	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	1	1								1	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
158	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphureus</i>	1				1							
159	Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>		1										
160	Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>		h				h						
161	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	3	2	1	2	1	1						
162	Pied Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>			3		2		6					
163	White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>			8		4		3					
164	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>			1	1	1	1	2			1		
165	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c					
166	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>		1	1							1	1	
167	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	2			1		1						
168	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	c
169	Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>							2	c	c	c	c	c
170	Venezuelan Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus venezuelensis</i>										h		
171	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>									5	1	1	2
172	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	h	h		h		h						
173	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>			c		c		c					
174	Caribbean Martin	<i>Progne dominicensis</i>								c	c	c	c	c
175	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>		c	c		c	c	c					
176	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>		c	c	c	c	c	c					
177	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>												
178	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus rutilus</i>		1	h	2	h	h						
179	Northern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	
180	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
181	White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>	3	1		4						2	2	
182	Cocoa Thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c					
183	Bare-eyed Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
184	Yellow-legged Thrush	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>		1								3	1	
185	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	h	2		h		h						
186	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>					1	1		h	1	4	h	h
187	Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	1											
188	Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>								1				3
189	Golden-fronted Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons</i>	6	4			2	4						

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
190	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	h	1		h			h	1				
191	Trinidad Euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i>					3	1						
192	Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		1		
193	Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>		2	1									
194	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>		2		1	1				1	2	1	
195	Masked Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>					1							
196	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	1	2					2					
197	Bicoloured Conebill	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>								5				
198	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	c
199	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c				
200	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
201	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
202	Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>	10	4	3	6	3	6						
203	Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>		6										
204	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	10	5		6	3	6						
205	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	3	2	2	1	1							
206	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c				
207	Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c				
208	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>		2		2						3	10	
209	Swallow Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>		2										
210	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
211	Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>								c	c	c	c	c
212	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>				1	2	2	1					
213	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>		c	c	c	c	c	c			c	c	c
214	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>							4					
215	Grassland Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>			10		h							
216	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>		2				1						
217	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>				1	2							
218	Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>			100		4		100+					
219	Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>			10		4		6					
220	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>		c	c		c		c	c		c	c	c
221	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	c	c

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
222	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>		1	47									
223	Moriche Oriole	<i>Icterus chryscephalus</i>			4									
224	Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c					
225	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>		10	6		1							
226	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	c	c

Mammals

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporine*
Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta seniculus*

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*

White-lined Sack wing Bat *Saccopteryx bilineata*

Reptiles

Tegu Lizard *Tupinambis teguixin*
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*
Rainbow Boa *Epicrates cenchria*
Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Common Ameiva, *Ameiva ameiva*
House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Spectacled Cayman *Caiman crocodilus*

Cane Toad *Bufo marinus*
Cook's Tree Boa *Corallus cookii*
Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*

Butterflies

Postman *Heliconius melpomene*
Tiger-striped Butterfly *Heliconius ismenius*
King Page *Papilio thoas*
White-tailed Page *Urania leilus*

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*
Small Blue Grecian *Heliconius sara*
Cattle Heart *Parides anchises*
Gold-Rim *Battus polydamas*

Flambeau or Julia Butterfly *Dryas julia*,
Blue Morpho *Morpho peleides*
Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae*
Blue Transparent *Ithomia pellucida*

Other fauna

Portuguese Man O' War *Physalia physalis*

Four-eyed Fish, *Anableps anableps*