

Trinidad & Tobago

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 March - 5 April 2013



Blue-grey Tanager



Trinidad Piping Guan



Scarlet Ibis



Venezuelan Flycatcher

Report and images compiled by Peter Dunn



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:	Peter Dunn	Naturetrek
Local Guides:	Roodal Ramlal	Trinidad
	Mahase Ramlal	Trinidad
	Gladwyn James	Tobago
	Zolani 'Z' Frank	Little Tobago
Participants:	Maxine Farlow	
	Donald Farlow	
	Mike Redfern	
	Dennis Redfern	
	Alvin Shaw	
	Susan Shaw	
	Peter Bather	
	Lynn Bather	
	Ray Watts	
	Brian Stump	
	Robert Page	
	Jennifer Page	
	Brian Dyke	
Alison Dyke		

Introduction

This 14 day tour gives a flavour of tropical South America and is a good way to gain experience of the numerous bird families of the tropics with most represented on the islands. Our trip was based at two centres. Firstly, at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWC), once a thriving coffee plantation in the northern highland rain forest of Trinidad, now a centre for the study of the local wildlife, but still producing much of its own coffee, fruits and vegetables within the grounds. From here we took day trips to other important habitats on Trinidad such as lowland forest, savannah and coastal mangroves. Our second centre was at the slightly more tourist orientated Blue Waters Hotel nestled in its own coral bay overlooking Little Tobago Island. We visited Tobago's rain forest from here to find some of the species missing from Trinidad and had a half day excursion to Little Tobago.

Day 1

Saturday 23rd March

In flight to Trinidad via St Lucia

Peter met the group either at Gatwick or on the plane and we left London in snow showers. However once in the air the flight was without incident and with a short pause at St Lucia to let most of the passengers off, we carried onto Port of Spain arriving around 6pm to be greeted by our guides for the week, Roodal and Mahase.

At Asa Wright's we were greeted with the customary fruit rum punch and quickly allocated our rooms so we could join other guests for dinner, after which most retired to bed, ready for our first morning on the veranda.

Day 2

Sunday 24th March

Asa Wright Centre – hot and humid

Before dawn the 'whoop' call of the Blue-crowned (or now Trinidad Motmot) was the first call and then as the sky lit up, the feeders in front of the veranda was the place to be. Body clocks had some of us awake much earlier but we all met before breakfast to start and put names to the many tanagers and hummingbirds arriving to feed on the fresh fruit on the tables. Palm Tanagers were by far the commonest of that family with Silver-beaked and White-lined following. The white hind neck of the male White-necked Jacobins were easy to spot but we had to work on the differences with White-chested Emeralds, Blue-chinned Sapphires and Black-throated Mangos. Bananaquits or BQs were late arriving with gaudy male Violaceous Euphonia in small numbers. Noisy Orange-winged Parrots set the scene as they flew up from the valley below and eventually a Channel-billed Toucan arrived on the 'toucan ridge' just before breakfast.

Following breakfast the local guide Roodal met us for a familiarisation walk along the main drive. We had good views of Guianan Trogon, Golden-olive Woodpecker and both Piratic and Boat-billed Flycatchers, being top of the list. Overhead we had White, Short-tailed and Zone-tailed Hawks and here we had a number of beautiful Caribbean butterflies such as the Postman, Flambeau and the large Owl or Caligo Butterfly. Roodal explained about the numerous flowering plants and their relationship to the wildlife and whether they were grown for food. We adjourned back to the centre for lunch followed by a short siesta back on the veranda.

After lunch, and a short siesta the group met for a walk down the discovery trail with Peter. As we walked down to the first clearing, a fruiting tree held a number of manakins including some nice male Golden-headed and close by was a pair of Green-backed (White-tailed) Trogons that were nesting in a termite nest. A little further we came to the Golden-headed Manakin lek which had a few males chasing around the foliage. The White-bearded Manakin lek was a little quiet with males stood quietly near their 'dance' poles and only a few pistol sounds going off. However it gave great photographic opportunities!

Further down the trail, after some searching we managed to locate two of the numerous calling Bearded Bellbirds, close to the which everyone saw. On the return journey a White-necked Thrush sang next to the track and a two singing Rufous-browed Peppershrike we hard to see with only a fleeting flight view. We completed our checklist with our rum punches before enjoying another dinner when some of the group joined the centre's guide on a night walk along the driveway, producing views of Chevron Tarantula.

Day 3

Monday 25th March

Blanchisseuse Road Rain Forest – hot and humid

Dawn saw a majority of the group back on the veranda where we added a few more species to the list such as Blue Dacnis and Forest Elaenia and also better views of Channel-billed Toucan. One or two walked the grounds and saw Northern Waterthrush and had good views of Great Antshrike.

After breakfast we boarded the maxi taxis with Roodal and Mahase for a day in the northern ridge rain forest. The day was spent with a series of driving and stopping at productive sites, starting at the Morne Bleu Wireless mast. First interest was for a huge Rhinoceros Beetle which the guard handed us, then we saw a number of Grey-breasted Martins around the compound but a calling Collared Trogon and a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl gave us the slip. As we were leaving the entrance road, we heard more Collared Trogons and this time one came into view and stayed long enough for the all the group to see.

We searched the road sides for birds stooping at various sites but it seemed extremely quiet in the rising heat, however a migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher was a good find, and on Lassa Pass we heard (and one person saw) a White-bellied Antbird, whilst a number of huge Blue Morpho butterflies bounced around the forest. With time quickly passing we headed into Brasso Seco Paria where we used the local community visitors centre to have our packed lunch and buy biscuits from the children. Around the lunch area was numerous Red Anathia butterflies and we had good views of Ruddy Ground Doves and Carib Grackles. A Green Kingfisher paused briefly near the stream for a few to see.

After lunch we had a short walk in the village and eventually saw a nice male Trinidad Euphonia and Red-legged Honeycreepers before we head down the hill to Morne le Crois, where a cool drink was called for. We walked the street to the other end of the village where a large colony of Yellow-rumped Caciques was found and also we managed to see some Blue-headed Parrots and a Rufous-tailed Jacamar.

Retracing our route we stopped near some fruiting trees where we eventually found Speckled Tanagers feeding with Bay-headed Tanagers and found another Olive-sided Flycatcher. We returned to the centre around 5.40pm and met up after rum punch and dinner to complete our log before bed.

Day 4

Tuesday 26th March

The Aripo Savannah. Hot with a few rain 'sprinkles'

We had arranged a 6am breakfast and met Roodal & Mahase at 6.30am to travel down the valley to the Aripo Savannah and make the most of any morning coolness! On the way down the road we stopped to look at a Broad-winged Hawk sitting confidently in a tree, and then to see Sooty Grassquit and Lineated Woodpecker.

After Arima we crossed the main highway into a cultivated area with scrubby edges and a stop here proved fruitful. First a pair of Black-crested Antshrikes performed well, then we all eventually managed to see a pair of Ochre-lored Flatbills (once known as Yellow-breasted Flycatcher). A little further and a fly-by Crested Caracara had us out of the vehicle again and we saw two Grey-headed Kites soar over.

Moving further on down the road Mahase found a pair of Pearl Kites which had a nest in the area and we added Green-rumped Parrotlet, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Osprey. The usual road down to the cress beds had been hit by fire recently and the good habitat had been burnt, however a Red-breasted Blackbird was a nice find and we found the Crested Caracara sat close by the road in a field. Our final stop was at the entrance to the Wallerfield estate where two Masked Yellowthroats performed well, a Savannah Hawk flew over and a pair of Greyish Saltators was added to everyone's list.

We retraced our steps back to Asa Wrights, and following lunch the afternoon was free for each to spend how they wished. Some staked out the veranda where a Brown Violetear Hummingbird made an appearance, whilst others opted for walking various trails getting further good views of the manakins and bellbirds and Brian and Alison found a Streaked Xenops entering a hole. We regrouped at 6pm for rum punches and to deal with the log and after dinner some watched a video on T&T wildlife.

Day 5

Wednesday 27th March

Oilbirds and Night Birding – some heavy showers but still humid

A few met up on the balcony whilst some walked the trails before breakfast, managing to catch up with a few missing species and getting better views of some of the regulars. Clouds were also building in the sky with the wind having reversed from the south to the north.

After breakfast, the group gathered at 8.30am for their visit to Dunstan Caves to see the mythical Oilbirds. A heavy shower cleared the air before we set off and Caleb our guide, used the waiting time to tell us about the bird's biology and history at Asa Wright before leading us down the trail. We entered the cave in pairs to see these large fruit-eating nocturnal birds in the torch light, with plenty of hissing and growling coming from the depths of the cave. Whilst waiting we were entertained by a Slatey-capped Flycatcher which was nesting close to the entrance.

Returning to the centre some checked out the breeding Streaked Xenops found by Brian and Alison with the bird peering out at us, and back on the balcony the Brown Violetear and a Little Hermit made brief appearances before lunch. After lunch we relaxed and explored.

At 4.30pm we gathered on the balcony to head out south for an evening of night birding on the Aripo savannah. Taking our rum punch and dinner we stopped at the experimental research station to use the 'workers' sheds and also to check the pools where we had both White-headed Marsh and Pied Water Tyrant and also an American Purple Gallinule.

After dinner Roodal, Mahase and Ramdash led us along the paths on foot or by vehicle where we managed to see in torch light a Tropical Screech Owl with two full grown young, many Pauraques and some White-tailed Nightjars. We finished the night with a Northern Potoo sat on a post.

Day 6

Thursday 28th March

Nariva Swamp and Wallerfield – Warm and humid, cooling breeze at the coast

Some were about for dawn either on the balcony or in the grounds but all met up for breakfast before our 8.30am departure to Aripo, Nariva and Wallerfield. We headed down the hill and entered the Aripo Research Centre where we had done our birding the night before. We walked the entrance road up to the 'buffalypso' pens adding many new species. Firstly some caught up with the tiny Green-rumped Parrotlet and then we started to see the Grassland Yellow Finch sharing the habitat with Red-breasted Blackbirds, and where there was water, brightly coloured Wattled Jacanas were common and noisy Southern Lapwings gathered.

There were a couple visiting waders – Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, the latter in fine summer plumage and Yellow-chinned Spinetails trilled in the sedges and behaved like European Reed Warblers, one very photogenic on the fence. We continued on from here making a brief comfort stop at the Valencia Visitor Centre and then onto a bar for cooling drinks and ice cream.

We continued through Sangre Grande (the site of the last big battle between the Spanish and English in the 1800's and translated as 'big blood') and then enjoyed a leisurely lunch of shepherd's pie at Manzanilla Beach. Following lunch we drove slowly south towards Nariva, checking areas near the river where we found a American Pygmy Kingfisher and a pair of Ochre-lored Flatbills.

Our final destination in this area was the rice and melon fields in the Nariva marsh near to the village of Kernahan. We slowly worked the edges of the fields looking for bitterns or hummingbirds but instead found Great White Egrets and Yellow Orioles. Smooth-billed Ani were common and a Merlin was found in a tree, with prey. We decided to head back to Wallerfield disused airbase, where over rum punches, we found Sulphury Flycatchers. Two Moriche or Epaulette Orioles, Fork-tailed Palm Swifts and a Crimson-crested Woodpecker, just as we were leaving. On the journey back a huge Ringed Kingfisher was seen sat on a wire over a river and we got back to Asa Wrights to enjoy another dinner.

Day 7

Friday 29th March

Free Day – extra excursions. Hot and humid

Today was Good Friday, a public holiday and AWC expected quite a few visitors. Most of the group opted for a free and easy day to explore the grounds and relax, whilst four joined Peter and Roodal for a visit to the radio station. During the visit at the beginning of the week, one of the guards told us that the previous night, workers clearing the brush had seen and photographed three Trinidad Piping Guan or Pawi, Peter had seen some birds up there three years ago so this small group opted for a dawn visit.

After an early breakfast, Roodal collected us at 5.30am and we headed to the station. We checked all the likely places at the top without success and then started walking back down the entrance road. A White-flanked Antwren put in a brief appearance but it seemed we were going to fail with the Pawi. Peter played some Pawi 'song' and nothing, then just as we were about to leave both Peter and Roodal heard something which was not the usual sound of this area. A thorough search of the canopy and Roodal found the Guan feeding, partially hidden by leaves. Most managed to see the shape before it flew into another tree. Refusing to give up we searched the tree from every angle until Brian found it and we able to see parts of it again between leaves before it disappeared from view. A helicopter spooked it but Peter played their calls again and it flew right out into the open for breath-taking views, first on one side of the road, then the other.

Flushed with success we headed back to the Blanchisseuse Road and headed north stopping at likely spots looking for Swallow Tanager. We did not find any but added Chestnut and Red-rumped Woodpecker and Euler's Flycatcher to the list before we headed back to the AWC by mid morning. The rest of the day was spent at leisure by the group with a selection of wildlife seen, and in the evening everyone relayed what they got up to including taking an early bath in the stream, which had everyone in stitches!! The log was done again over the rum punches and then dinner, before we retired looking forward to our last full days excursion on Trinidad

Day 8

Saturday 30th March

Waterloo and Caroni. Hot and sunny – cooler breeze from the sea

Another day another dawn - group members made the most of the free time before breakfast, either on the veranda, in the grounds or catching up on some well-deserved sleep. All made it out for the 8.30am start to Waterloo and Caroni and we headed down the hill. We made a brief stop Trincity Ponds to see good numbers of Yellow-hooded Blackbirds, American Purple Gallinule and Pied Water Tyrants.

Travelling south from here we pause on a bridge to view over the rice fields near Caroni and were rewarded with two Long-winged Harriers quartering the fields and our first Osprey of the day. We continued south and then turned towards the sea and made our first stop at Orange Valley fish pier where there were over 1000 noisy Laughing Gulls, intermixed with Black Skimmers, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a Royal Terns. On the other side of the road we got to grips with identifying Western and Semi-palmated Sandpipers at close quarters whilst further out were Willet, Greater Yellowlegs and the American form of Whimbrel, with no white rump. Of great surprise was a European style Grey Heron. Continuing south we tried a spot at Cali Bay for Saffron Finches but being Easter it was too busy so we headed back to Waterloo for our lunch and cold drinks. Our final stop in this area was to the mud flats to the north of the Temple-in-the Sea at where we had a few Large-billed Terns, some Royal Terns and a Greta Blue Heron.

Time was ticking on so we headed back to Caroni where we had a comfort stop and boarded Nanan's boat with Lester for a trip around the swamp. We slowly worked the channels through the Mangroves (both black and red species) whilst Lester told us about their biology and we found a number of species new to the tour. Two Cook's Tree Boas were found in trees above us and eventually most were able to see the Straight-billed Woodcreepers attracted by Roodal's calls. Diminutive Bi-coloured Conebills fed like warblers in the trees and we flushed quite a few Little Blue Herons and saw the bright crimson shapes of Scarlet Ibis in the mangrove roots. Before heading out for the roost with the other boats, Lester showed us a sleeping Northern Potoo and a tiny Silky Anteater or Two-toed Sloth, also asleep.

By now (around 5pm) we started seeing Scarlet Ibis flying over together with Tri-coloured, Snowy and Little Blue Heron so Lester suggested we make our way to the cleared area of the swamp with some islands of mangrove, where many species of heron came into roost including the spectacular Scarlet Ibis. We joined about ten other boats moored up facing the roost island and Lester explained its protection and biology as cameras clicked on flocks of birds passing the boat. Having enjoyed the birds with our cake and rum punch we headed back to the dock down quieter channels where we saw a small falcon flash over head and catch an insect in its feet and start eating it on the wing. Those who knew the species said it reminded them of a Eurasian Hobby and the pale cheeks, small size and dark under body and behaviour almost certainly pointed to Bat Falcon. We arrived back around 8pm for dinner then bed as we had an early start for the airport in the morning.

Day 9

Sunday 31st March

Transfer to Tobago. Hot and sunny both island. Cooling sea breezes on Tobago

All agreed that Asa Wrights was a magical place and we left a token of our appreciation for the staff and also thanked Roodal and Mahase for their safe and careful driving, wildlife spotting and meal prep.

An early start was required to catch our 8.10am flight to Tobago. We said our goodbyes to our friends Roodal and Mahase at Piarco Airport, swapping our last views of Trinidad for the Tobago holiday island in a fast 20 minute flight. Gladwin James met us outside the terminal and our bags were quickly loaded and we set out to do some birding before heading to the Blue Waters for lunch.

We travelled through the Bon Accord Community watching birds from the bus as we went along: Green Heron, Whimbrel, Black-faced Grassquits and Brown-crested Flycatcher were added to the day list. We called into the old Hilton Hotel grounds (now Tobago Plantations) where we checked out the ponds. Many Anhinga were present with Neotropical Cormorants and some diminutive Least Grebes on the main pool. We also found five Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, a Black-crowned Night Heron and two Spectacled Caiman lazing on the bank.

We headed to the settling ponds and watch a heron 'rookery' containing breeding Cattle Egrets and Little Blue and Tri-coloured Herons, with chicks or eggs. We also saw a huge Green Iguana 'head bobbing' on the bush – an escapee originating in South America. On the old sewage pools we saw American Purple Gallinules and the large dark Caribbean race of Moorhen. and Blue-winged Teal showed well and we had a Greater Yellowlegs and a Solitary Sandpiper. A pair of Red-crowned Woodpeckers was breeding in a broken palm and some had a brief view of a Ruby Topaz Hummingbird.

We then settled back in our seats to head north to the Blue Waters Hotel, where we were greeted by Jason the manager and allocated our rooms. After lunch we spent the afternoon exploring the ground, swimming or just generally "chillin" after our early morning start.

Day 10

Monday 1st April

Tobago Rain Forest. Humid and warm in the forest, cooling breezes at Speyside

We had breakfast at 7.30am and met Gladwyn at 8am for our journey to the Northern Ridge Rain Forest Reserve. We left Blue Waters and journeyed to Roxborough where we turned right towards Bloody Bay. As we climbed into the rain forest we made a number of stops for Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Streaked Flycatcher and a Copper-rumped Hummingbird nest with two young. We continued up to the Bloody Bay lookout to use the facilities and then returned to the start of Gilpin Trace.

Gilpin Trace is one of the best known trails in this rain forest and was particularly dry this year so we had no need for the 'boot man'. We made our way down the trail with Gladwyn in the lead and Peter following up behind. This helped most to see the birds we encountered, the first was a male Yellow-legged Thrush – looking like a British Blackbird with yellow legs. Then we had our first of a number of sightings of White-tailed Sabrewing, a 'hummer' found only on Tobago and much sought after by visiting birders. Continuing on we had views of Blue-backed Manakins, a Stripe-throated Spinetail and an Ochre-bellied Flycatcher building a nest.

Lunch was eaten back at Bloody Bay where we saw a Red-legged Honeycreeper briefly in the trees. We slowly drove back down the hill after lunch; stopping at site Peter had seen Venezuelan Flycatcher in the past. Fortunately as we stopped a Trinidad Motmot appeared on a close branch for all to see. Peter played the calls of the flycatcher and soon we were watching the species at close quarters.

Heading back to Blue Waters, we made a brief photo-stop at the Speyside lookout and saw a Black-throated Mango on a nest and were able to compare a Brown-crested Flycatcher with the species we had seen earlier. Before we left a Great Black Hawk flew over and we arrived back to hotel around 3pm. The rest of the day was free time to enjoy the surroundings of the hotel in its idyllic bay, before meeting up at 6.30pm to do the checklist before dinner.

Day 11

Tuesday 2nd April

Little Tobago Island. Sun and cloud, warm with fresh breeze

We spent the morning exploring the grounds or relaxing by the sea as we were to sail over to Little Tobago after lunch. After a leisurely lunch we gathered on the quay to board Frank's Glass Bottomed boat for our trip. Our guide was to be Zolani 'Z' the son of the owner and he explained the visit and helped us to board with the assistance of his crew. We travelled around the north side of Goat Island seeing our first Red-footed Boobies and a flying fish. Landing on Little Tobago was efficient and after an introductory talk on its history, Z led us through the island explaining about the various plants and birds as we climbed the steps and finally arrived at the newly refurbished but not open visitor centre. Around us were Pale-vented Pigeons, Blue-grey Tanagers and Chivi Vireo.

We climbed to the main viewpoint where cameras were on fire with the number of photos taken!! Many adult Red-billed Tropicbirds were sailing around the cove and Z pointed out Brown Boobies and the three morphs of the Red-footed Booby, all seen through the telescope. We then made our way slowly back to the quay where the boat came and we were skilfully boarded. The journey back took us back to the south of Goat Island and over the Japanese Gardens and Angel Coral Reefs, said to be the best scuba diving in the area. We saw many species of coral, such as dead man's fingers, potato and chimney coral and their associated fish before returning to Blue Waters around 4.30pm. We gathered up to do our log and discuss the next day's activities before another Blue Waters dinner.

Day 12

Wednesday 3rd April

Northern Ridge Forest. Sunny and warm

An early breakfast was arranged for half the group who wanted to revisit the Northern Rain Forest, whilst the others continued to enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Blue Waters. Gladwyn arrived at 7am and we headed out stopping briefing at the water mill where we saw the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and two Trinidad Motmots and then onto the Roxborough-Bloody Bay Road. We stopped to watch and/or photograph Rufous-tailed Jacamars and Giant Cowbird and found a nest of the Yellow-bellied Elaenia.

Our first walk was part of the way along the Spring Trail, which is usually good at the entrance. We walked about 200 yards with no sightings so Gladwyn suggested a return visit to Gilpin Trace would be best. However as we retraced our steps we had good views of Golden-olive Woodpecker, a male Blue-backed Manakin out in the open and up to three Cocoa Woodcreepers showing very well. We set off along the trail to the sounds of singing Yellow-legged and White-necked Thrushes and a little way in, both Gladwyn and Peter heard the calls of a White-throated Spadebill. Gladwyn located it high in a tree but by its very nature of not moving when landing, only half the group managed to see anything, some just a glimpse as it flew from one branch to another.

Further along the trail we had more views of Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Blue-backed Manakin and a young Great Black Hawk sat in a tree. We saw a few hummingbirds' nests including a Rufous-breasted Hermit with young and saw another Venezuelan Flycatcher high in the canopy. We returned to Blue Waters by 12.15 for lunch and to spend the rest of the day relaxing, packing or a final look around the grounds before the formalities of the checklist, flight check-in and dinner.

Day 13

Thursday 4th April

Caribbean side of the island AM, Departure PM. Sunny and warm

With a 1.20pm departure back to Trinidad for our flight connection, Gladwyn agree to collect us at 8.30am so we could see the Caribbean coast. We started on the trip south along the Atlantic coast side, recording Orange-winged Parrots, Magnificent Frigatebirds and Grey Kingbirds and then crossed to the Caribbean Coast at Scarborough. We went to the town of Plymouth where we looked across the cove towards Turtle Beach. There were a good number of Roseate Terns with the Laughing Gulls and we also saw the yellow-billed Cabot's Terns – a recent re-naming of the Sandwich Tern and Cayenne Terns group on the west side of the Atlantic.. On the other side of the bay we were given permission by security to enter Turtle Private beach to get closer to the Laughing Gulls and Magnificent Frigatebirds, one of the latter being wing-tagged H81.

It was a quick call at a beach near to Crown Point to see more Cabot's (Cayenne) Terns), before Gladwyn dropped us at the airport where we said goodbyes. We went to Trinidad smoothly and efficiently, reclaiming our bag to check onto the BA flight back to London. This got away on time and we settled back for the journey home...

Day 14

Friday 5th April

Arrival at Gatwick

The flight was efficient and arrived half an hour early. We met and said our final farewells in luggage reclaim before each heading their own way home after a very exciting and enjoyable trip to some fascinating islands.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = commonly recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April											
			Trinidad							Tobago				
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
1	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	H	H			H	H						
2	Rufous-vented Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis ruficauda</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	H
3	Trinidad Piping Guan	<i>Pipile pipile</i>						1						
4	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>								14				
5	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>								8				
6	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>								✓				
7	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>							800					
9	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticora nycticora</i>								1				
10	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>								4		1	2	1
11	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>								6				
12	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>				2	1		1					
13	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			1	✓
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>								1				
15	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>								2	1			
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					6		✓	1				
17	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>							✓	✓				
18	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>							✓	✓	2	2	1	1
19	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>							✓	2				
20	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>								1				
21	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>								7	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				1	4			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>									✓	✓	✓	
24	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>								1	✓	✓	✓	1
25	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>							✓	✓		1		
26	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>								✓				
27	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April											
			Trinidad							Tobago				
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
28	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					1
29	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			1					✓		1	1	1
30	Pearl Kite	<i>Gampsony swainsonii</i>			2									
31	Grey-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>			2									
32	Black Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	1											
33	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>				1								
34	Long-winged Harrier	<i>Circus buffoni</i>								3				
35	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>		2										
36	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	1	5	3	2	2	7	2					
37	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>			1	1	5							
38	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>									2	1	2	
39	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	1	1	1		1	1						
40	Grey-lined Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>		1										
41	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>			1				1		2	1	1	
42	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	1	1										
43	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	1	1				1	1					
44	Northern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>			1									
45	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>		1	1	1	4							
46	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			1		2							
47	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>								1				
48	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1	2	1		1		1			1
49	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>				1				✓	✓			
50	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>									✓			
51	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>			H	✓	40		6		✓			2
52	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>								1	1			
53	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>						✓		✓	5			
54	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								8	1			
55	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>								5	1			
56	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>						4			1			
57	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>									12			
58	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>						1		10	2		1	1

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April												
			Trinidad							Tobago					
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
59	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								6	30	✓	✓	15	✓
60	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>										1	2		
61	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>								1					
62	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>								4					
63	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>								1000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								3					
65	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maimus</i>								15	2				20
66	Cabot's Tern	<i>Thalasseus acufilavidus acufilavidus</i>													10
	Cayenne Tern	<i>Thalasseus acufilavidus eurygnatha</i>													20
67	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>													35
68	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simple</i>								3					
69	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓			✓
70	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	1	3	2		1	1	2						
71	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>							2		2	✓	✓	✓	2
72	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>								5	✓				✓
73	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	3	2		
74	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreaui</i>			1							✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Grey-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufilla</i>	1	1	2	1	1	1	2						
76	Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>			3	✓	✓				5			2	
77	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>		3					1						
78	Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>												✓	✓
80	Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>					H								
81	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	1						2						
82	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				1				1					
83	Tropical Screech Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>				3									
84	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>		H	H	H			H						
85	Oilbird	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>					129		H						
86	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>					2			1					
87	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>				✓									
88	White-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis cayennensis</i>					10								

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April											
			Trinidad							Tobago				
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
89	Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
90	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	
91	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Neotropical Palm Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>					4							
93	Rufous-breasted Hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>	1			2					2	1	2	
94	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	1		1	1	1							
95	Little Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>	1			1								
96	White-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus ensipennis</i>									6		5	
97	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1		2	
98	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>			1	1								
99	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothora nigricollis</i>	2	1	2	2	✓	2	✓	1	1	✓	1	
100	Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitus</i>								2	4	✓	3	1
101	Tufted Coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i>	1	1	1	2			1					
102	Blue-chinned Sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>	2	1	1	1	✓	1	1					
103	White-chested Emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	✓	✓	3	✓	✓	✓	✓					
104	Copper-rumped Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tobaci</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	✓		
105	Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>	2		2	2		2	1					
106	Guianan Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>			1			1	2					
107	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>		3		H	1	1			H			
108	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>					1							
109	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>		1			1							
110	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>					1							
111	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>									1	1	1	
112	Trinidad Motmot	<i>Momotus bahamensis</i>	1	2	1	1	1	1			3	2	4	1
113	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	H	1							4		4	
114	Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	3	6	1	3	✓	3	2					
115	Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>									1	4	6	2
116	Red-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>						3		3				
117	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>	2	1	1	1		1			1		1	
118	Chestnut Woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>						2						
119	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	1	H	1	1		1	1					

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April											
			Trinidad							Tobago				
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
120	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>					1							
121	Stripe-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis cinnamomea</i>									2		1	
122	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhias cinnamomeus</i>				1				✓				
123	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>			1	1		1	1					
124	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>				2		1	1					
125	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>									H		H	
126	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrople picus</i>							4					
127	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>iphorhynchus susurrans</i>	1	1	H	H		H	1		H		3	
128	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>	1		1	1		2	1					
129	Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>			2		1							
130	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	3		4	3	2	3	3	2	✓	2		
131	White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula aillaris</i>				1		1						
132	Northern White-fringed Antwren	<i>Formicivora intermedia</i>								1	2	✓	2	
133	White-bellied Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>		1	H									
134	Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>		H				H						
135	Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>		1	1		1							
136	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>		1	4						3	2	✓	2
137	Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>		1	1									
138	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	1								2			
139	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>				1		1						
140	Northern Scrub Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>							1					
141	Ochre-ored Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>			2		2	1			1			
142	White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>											1	
143	Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>						1						
144	Fuscous Flycatcher	<i>Cnemotriccus fuscatus</i>									1			
145	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>		2										
146	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	1	1				2						
147	Pied Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>				1	3		1					
148	White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>			2	1	✓		1					
149	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	1	✓	1	2								
150	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April												
			Trinidad							Tobago					
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
151	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>		1		H				2		1			
152	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	1		H	H									
153	Sulphury Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>					4								
154	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
155	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>									1				
156	Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>			2		1				✓		1	1	
157	Venezuelan Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus venezuelensis</i>										1		1	
158	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>									1	1	4	2	
159	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	H			H				H					
160	Bearded Bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>	3	H	6	✓	H	✓	✓						
161	White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
162	Blue-backed Manakin	<i>Chiroiphia pareola</i>										5		5	
163	Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Diiphia erythrocephala</i>	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
164	Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>		1											
165	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	1	H	1	H	H								
166	Chivi Vireo (Resident) [vividior]	<i>Vireo olivaceus vividior</i>	2			1									
	Chivi Vireo (Resident) [tobagensis]	<i>Vireo olivaceus tobagensis</i>									2	✓	✓	✓	1
167	Golden-fronted Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons</i>		1	1		H								
168	Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>									1				
169	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>			1	3	6			✓				2	
170	Caribbean Martin	<i>Progne dominicensis</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
171	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>		✓			✓			✓				✓	
172	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidoptery ruficollis</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
173	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>									1	1			
174	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>		H	2			H				1			
175	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		1			1	2				3	✓	4	
176	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	1	1	1					1					
177	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
178	Yellow-legged Thrush	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>								1		2		4	
179	Cocoa Thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
180	Spectacled Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			Trinidad							Tobago						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4		
181	White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		H	
182	Trinidad Euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i>	1	1	1	H	1	H								
183	Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
184	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>		1	2	1	1	1	2						2	
185	Masked Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>			2											
186	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>		1			1									
187	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>		1												
188	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	4		1			1								
189	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			2	✓	2		
190	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>		✓			✓									
191	Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>	1		1		2									
192	Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>							50							
193	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>		1								1				
194	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	1	1		✓	✓	1	✓			✓	✓			
195	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
196	Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>			1	3	10									
197	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
198	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1				
199	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
200	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
201	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
202	Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara meicana</i>	4	✓		✓		✓	2							
203	Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>		3					2							
204	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	2							
205	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>		1	1	1	2	2	2							
206	Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
207	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	1	4		1		1			2			6		
208	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
209	Bicolored Conebill	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>							3							
210	Grassland Yellow Finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>					✓									
211	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>			✓	✓	✓	H	2	2		✓	2	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April													
			Trinidad							Tobago						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4		
212	Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>												✓	3	
213	Sooty Grassquit	<i>Tiaris fuliginosus</i>			1											
214	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>		1	2											

Our tour checklist follows the names and taxonomy (including species order) of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) list of the birds of the world (version 2.11, January 2012) which seems destined to become the global standard in future. The list is available online at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>

ⁱ Cabot's Tern is now the name for the American form of Sandwich Tern, which includes the yellow-billed subspecies known as Cayenne Tern

ⁱⁱ White-tailed Trogon ⁱⁱⁱ Violaceous Trogon ^{iv} Yellow-olive Flycatcher ^v Yellow-breasted Flycatcher

214 Species recorded on this trip which included four species that were heard only (Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Little Tinamou, Olivaceous Woodcreeper and Yellow-rumped Attila.)

Other Fauna

Mammals

Red-rumped Agouti - *Dasyprocta leporina*

Red-tailed Squirrel - *Sciurus granatensis*

Small Asian Mongoose - *Herpestes javanicus*

White-lined (Greater) Sack wing Bat - *Saccopteryx bilineata*

Silky Anteater - *Cyclopes didactylus*

Jungle Rat sp.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Tegu Lizard - *Tupinambis teguixin*

Trinidad Stream Frog *Mannophryne trinitatus*

Common Ameiva - *Ameiva ameiva*

Cane Toad – *Bufo marinus* (dead)

House Gecko - *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Spectacled Cayman - *Caiman crocodilus*

Cook's Tree Boa - *Corallus cookii*

Hawksbill Turtle - *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Spiny Tree Lizard - *Tropidurus plica*

Various unidentified snakes and lizards

Butterflies

Postman - *Heliconius melpomene*

Monarch - *Danaus plexippus*

Flambeau or Julia Butterfly - *Dryas julia*,

White Peacock - *Anartia jatrophae*,

Blue Morpho - *Morpho peleides*

Cabbage White - *Ascia monuste*

Brown Longtail - *Urbanus procne*

Cloudless Sulphur - *Phoebis sennae*

Tiger-striped Butterfly - *Heliconius ismenius*
 Common Lenmark butterfly *Juditha caucana*

Red Anartia - *Anartia amathea*
 Polydamas Sallowtail - *Battus polydamas*,

Owl Butterfly - *Caligo memnon*
 Numerous other butterflies & moths not yet identified

Cattle Heart - *Parides neophilus*

Moths

Urania Leilus (Day Flying Swallowtail Moth)

Various others

Chevron Tarantula - *Psalmopoeus cambridgei*

Ghost Crab - *Ocypode quadrata*

Rhinoceros Beetles - *Dynastes hercules trinidadensis*

Blue-backed Crab - *Callinectes sapidus*

Stick Insect sp

Mangrove Oyster, *Crassostrea rhizophorae*

Tree-climbing Crabs

Firefly sp.

Four-eyed Fish, *Anableps anableps*

Land Crabs

Glow-worms sp.



Savanna Hawk