

Go Slow...in Trinidad (at the Asa Wright Centre)

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 - 23 April 2018



Golden-headed Manakin



Scarlet Ibis



Giant Owl Butterfly



Violaceous Euphonia

Report compiled by Ed Drewitt
Images courtesy of Dave Potter



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Together with eleven Naturetrek clients.

Introduction

Set in the heart of the Northern Range on Trinidad, the Asa Wright Centre looks out across its tropical forest and down the Arima Valley. Our group of 11 spent a week enjoying the tanagers, hummingbirds and euphonias feeding on sugar water feeders within metres of the centre's veranda. While spending plenty of time around Asa Wright, we also explored the country's forests, grassland savannah, coastal bays, mud flats and Caroni swamp, enjoying a huge variety of birds, butterflies, bats, reptiles and fascinating invertebrates from tarantulas to leaf-cutting ants. A special highlight was visiting a nesting beach for Leatherback Turtles; we spent an hour with a female making her nest, laying eggs and covering them over before returning back to sea. Other highlights included 600 Scarlet Ibises flying in to roost, a stunning and formidable adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle, singing Bearded Bellbirds, lekking White-bearded Manakins and the unique fruit-eating and cave-dwelling Oilbirds.

Day 1

Sunday 15th April

In flight to Trinidad via St Lucia

After the UK's coldest winter for several years, and a slow spring, twelve of us including Ed, arrived at Gatwick airport and headed on our eight-hour flight to Trinidad via St Lucia. We headed west over southern England and south-west across the Atlantic, over the Azores, and on to the Caribbean, arriving in St Lucia on a sunny, tropical afternoon. We stopped for an hour or so to let some passengers off and others on - outside it was sunny and humid. A little ahead of schedule, we continued on our 40-minute flight south to Trinidad. Along the 218-mile flight we passed over the mountainous volcanic island of St Vincent and across the Grenadines, where the shallow coral reefs of the small islands glistened blue beneath the water.

As we came into Trinidad, the mountains loomed in the background and the city of Port of Spain sprawled beneath us. We landed at Piarco International Airport, 24 kilometres east of the city, at 3.40pm. After passing through security and being reunited with our luggage, we met one of the top guides on the island, Roodal. He greeted us at arrivals along with driver Stuart. Once in their maxi taxis with our luggage, we were on our 45-minute transfer to the world famous Asa Wright Centre. It was quite a busy Sunday afternoon with people out socialising together on the street or driving. We passed through the town of Arima before heading into the mountains, seven miles (11 kilometres) north of the town. At 1200 feet (366 metres) above sea level we arrived at the Asa Wright Centre and were greeted with rum punches and a happy welcome. Ann, the lodge manageress, came to say hello as our keys were given out. Her calm and smiley nature helps make the centre so relaxing. The Asa Wright Centre was established as a non-profit-making trust in 1967 after Asa Wright, an Icelandic woman, sold it with the condition it became a nature reserve. Prior to this, Asa and her husband nurtured the site as a plantation for coffee, cocoa and fruits such as oranges – however, despite its historical use as a plantation, environmental conditions meant that cocoa pods particularly didn't thrive very well for Asa. Now the 1500-acre site is an important nature reserve with many areas off limits to people to benefit wildlife and plants. However, there are established trails, in particular the Discovery Trail, which we were able to make full use of during our visit.

Along the way to the Asa Wright Centre there was plenty of birdlife still active, especially after the day's rain. At arrivals, several Palm Tanagers and a Carib Grackle were perched in a nearby palm. As we left the airport, Carib Grackles were busily feeding on the lawns in large flocks. A few Tropical Mockingbirds and many more Great Kiskadees and Tropical Kingbirds were perched along the telegraph wires. The odd Grey-breasted Martin flew around the departures building. A few Cattle Egrets fed by the roadside while others were flying parallel to the road in flocks of 10 to 20 birds. A pair of Orange-winged Amazon Parrots, two Turkey Vultures and Short-tailed Swifts were also seen in flight. As we headed into the mountains it was like being in a culinary kitchen as we passed familiar names of trees such as Cashew, Nutmeg, Mango, Cacao, as well as Breadfruit, Rubber and Tonka Bean trees, and Chayote or Christophine squash. Flaming Immortelle trees showed off their bright, crimson red flowers like bright cinders against a dark green forest backdrop. As we stopped at Asa Wright, two Cocoa Thrushes flew up, perched briefly and dropped away, as thrushes do.

After our rum punches on arrival we were taken to our rooms; we quickly freshened up and some made it to the veranda to see the last hummingbirds before they went to roost. Red-rumped Agoutis and various bats were flying around, including Long-tongued Bats coming to the nectar feeders.

The bell rang at 7pm and it was time for dinner - a delicious buffet of fresh garlic potatoes, noodles, roasted vegetables, chicken and roast beef, followed by a chocolate rum roulade. Martyn Kenefick, chair of the conservation committee for Asa Wright and Richard Bashford, who has just finished the previous week's Go Slow tour, also joined us.

After dessert many of us headed for an early night to get some rest and sleep before a busy time the next morning on the veranda looking for hummingbirds.

Day 2

Monday 16th April

Asa Wright Centre - Discovery Trail

During the night the air was filled with the sounds of crickets, cicadas and tree frogs, with different ones singing at different periods. The veranda would be our stopping point for birding before breakfast. Hummingbird nectar feeders and fruit such as watermelon and bread (for the agoutis) is put out each morning. At dawn, almost 5.30am on the dot while it was still pretty dark, a Cocoa Thrush was singing - its song was the tone of a Blackbird and comprised short repetitive phrases.

At just 5.45am a small number of the group assembled as the light came up and began working out all the different tanagers and hummingbirds as they appeared for their breakfast. A Cocoa Thrush was singing right by the centre, alongside a musical House Wren. A Barred Antshrike gave out its laughing call from the front. A distant Black-tailed Tityra sat in an exposed, leaf-less tree down the valley. Closer to the centre Banaquits, White-lined Tanagers and a Spectacled Thrush began feeding on the pineapple and watermelon put out for them. The White-lined Tanagers get their name from the male's white streaks on the inside of the wings which appear like flashes in flight.

At just before 6am a splendid male Bearded Bellbird began 'clanging' from the top of the naked branches where the tityra had been perched. His black wattly beard, coffee-brown head and white body were clearly visible. Both adult and recently fledged Palm Tanagers and Silver-beaked Tanagers fed beneath us on the feeding stations

while a pair of Blue-grey Tanagers came in for a brief period. A Tropical Mockingbird had also brought one of its young to feed on the fruit. A few Green Honeycreepers came to visit, the female's bright green contrasting with the male's blue-green hues and back mask.

As the light came up, various small groups of Orange-winged Amazon Parrots flew overhead. One perched nearby giving scope-filling views. Meanwhile the first hummingbirds appeared included White-necked Jacobins, White-chested Emeralds, Copper-rumped Hummingbirds, a Rufous-breasted Hermit and a Blue-chinned Sapphire. A Bright-rumped Attila sang in the distance and a fluty Rufous-browed Peppershrike sang musically nearby. Crow-size Crested Oropendolas came down to the fruit in twos or threes and dominated for the short while they stayed. Close up they have a sky-blue eye, bright yellow tail and rusty-coloured rump. Their long, tubular nests were dangling from a nearby tree.

Just before breakfast a Wryneck-like Barred Antshrike showed well on a lamp fitting; a striking black and white striped bird. And a male Guianan Trogon showed well. He looked a little like a Blue and Yellow Macaw in colour and with a bright yellow eye ring. Other birds included Scaled Pigeon, Lineated Woodpecker and a distant Turkey Vulture.

The breakfast bell rang at 7.30am and we left the colourful performance of birds momentarily to enjoy made to order omelettes and a mixed breakfast buffet.

Martyn Kenefick gave a briefing at 8.15am - Martyn is originally from the UK and his home is now Trinidad, where he is on the board of directors at the Asa Wright Centre. While chatting through our plans, right on cue when he mentioned her, a female Green Hermit came to feed her chicks. The tubular nest made out of soft plant material was woven onto the light fitting above. Two naked chicks stretched up tall while she fed them.

After a short break to get ready, we walked with Martyn and guide Barry up the track back towards the entrance of Asa Wright. Even before we went anywhere we saw two Southern Rough-winged Swallows on the overhead wires and a nearby bee-orchid. In a *Verbena* bush a female Tufted Coquette was feeding. All sorts of other plants were flowering along the walk, many with short tubular flowers ideal for the Little Hermit. These included *Kohleria*, Black Stick, Copper Leaf, Shrimp Plant or *Pachystachys* and more for the bats, Angel Trumpet or *Brugmansia*. There were also lots of Heliconias including the delightful 'Sexy Pink'.

Despite some rain we heard a few Cocoa Woodcreepers and a singing Collared Trogon. A Greater White-lined Bat was feeding amongst overhanging branches and bamboo across the road, flying in regular circles. At the top of the road a flock of probable Band-rumped Swifts were flying around overhead in the rain, and a small group of Crested Oropendolas were flying around in the canopies. As the rain eased off Yellow-throated or Trinidadian Stream Frogs all began to squeak in a loud chorus. Overhead a light phase Short-tailed Hawk was spotted briefly while Turquoise Tanagers fed in silhouette. We had brief, overhead views of a Streaked Flycatcher and a few had good views of a Grey-throated Leaf-tosser before it flew away from the leaf litter. As we headed back down the road, a highlight was seeing a large Trinidad Chevron Tarantula sat out on its log, its silk-woven tunnel beneath. A Spiny Tree Lizard and a Variegated Gecko were also seen briefly. Butterflies were out in small numbers including White Lycid, Cattle Heart, Blue Transparent and Small Postman, plus a juvenile female Rambur's Forktail damselfly.

After a delicious lunch of salad, sweet potato chips, rice, breaded fish and ribs, we met together again at 2.30pm with Dave, who would be our guide for the rest of the week. After a quick run through of the week's plans, we headed out, first looking at the plants that the hummingbirds find irresistible. These included *Lantana*, *Verbena*, *Kohleria*, *Mimosa* or Powder Puff tree, and *Sanchesia* – the latter is very important, providing lots of nectar for hummingbirds. The trees were full of epiphytes, plants that grow on the tree branches including mistletoe, orchids and a purple coloured plant called Wandering Jew or *Tradescantia*. A few Red-rumped Agoutis were foraging nearby.

It wasn't long before we had our first birds including a male Black-throated Mango, White-chested Emerald, White-necked Jacobins and Copper-rumped Hummingbirds. In the distance we could hear a Green-backed Trogon.

A little further along we stopped for an incredibly obliging male Tufted Coquette hummingbird. He sat on a branch showing off his crest, 'bearded' feathers and rump band. When you looked away he was hard to find again, cryptic against the background.

Along this part of the walk we were surrounded by a few familiar named plants - a Clove Tree, a Guava Tree, a Bay Tree, a Candlestick Tree (good for euphonias) and Hawaiian Torch Lily (*Etlingeria*) with impressive red flower heads. Nearby a Bay-headed Tanager was feeding and in the same tree was a stunning male Golden-headed Manakin. He was interested in a nearby cryptic female and from our view was showing off his yellow bill, eye and head, and iridescent black chin. Up amongst bromeliads a male Violaceous Euphonia was resting.

As we headed along a Cocoa Woodcreeper was calling. We had excellent views of a White-necked Thrush on the path and railings. Behaving like a blackbird, it had a very pale almost white neck and a grey breast. Moving along the path a Greater White-lined Bat was foraging and flying up and down in front of us. Further down the path we encountered a group of striking male White-bearded Manakins in their lek - the arena where they come together to dance and compete like rutting deer and impress a watching female or two. Some were very close showing their pied plumage, bulging white 'beard', round wings and orange-red legs. We counted up to seven as they flew past, making paper-scrunching sound with their wing feathers as they did so. Later we could hear some clapping their wings to make a clicking sound.

Above in the trees we spotted a peppershrike and Helen found a stunning toucan. A little further along we stopped to listen and see Bearded Bellbirds. We heard at least three and one started up only 20 metres away with clear views. Their dead-bell-like songs were very loud and distinctive. We watched this individual stretching up his neck and singing away while his compliment of dangling wattles, which looked like miniature dreadlocks, contrasted with his white body, black wings and brown head.

As we headed back up we had good views of a Cocoa Woodcreeper, a Squirrel Cuckoo which was Magpie-like in flight, and a Trinidad Motmot, an endemic to Trinidad and Tobago. We also had an intriguing reptile, a lizard worm or spectacled lizard, know as the Trinidad Hex-scaled *Bachia*, which had tiny, almost vestigial legs. It was curling itself in a way that it was jumping along the ground heading for the leaf litter. As we came back to the gardens we spotted the moulted skin of a Giant Cicada on a vertical railing.

We arrived back just in time for afternoon tea and cake/cheese pastries and a chance to relax before we met for cocktails at 6pm, the checklist at 6.30pm and dinner at 7pm. As it got dark some enjoyed watching Common Long-tongued Bats coming to drink from the nectar feeders, stopping just briefly to get a taste. Fireflies were flashing in the darkness from the balcony. As we entered the dining room and began to get our food, we were alerted to a stunning, huge Yellow Silk Moth clinging on to the back of a chair.

Dinner was a delicious mix of soup, chicken, chick peas, a delicious mix of vegetables and cottage pie. Most of the group met again at 8pm with our guide Elsa who took us on a night walk. There was much to be seen including harvestmen, Giant Centipedes, millipedes, stick insects, small Trinidad Stream Frogs, tadpoles, glow worms, a scorpion, whip scorpions, cockroaches, two Trinidad Chevron Tarantulas (one out on bamboo, the other within its web within a railing), many Mountain Crabs hiding in or on the edge of their holes in the road verge and a False Coral Snake. We headed back for 9pm and to bed ready for an early start on the veranda tomorrow and our field trip out into the rainforest.

Day 3

Tuesday 17th April

Northern Range; Blanchisseuse Road Rain Forest; Morne La Croix

With the Cocoa Thrushes starting the dawn chorus even earlier at 5.15am, it was another busy pre-breakfast watch from the veranda. Those who were up caught up with all the tanagers, hummingbirds, toucan, bellbird, Greyish Saltator, Tropical Kingbirds, parrots and agoutis. Our first Red-tailed Squirrel was also seen. We headed for breakfast at 7.30am, enjoying omelettes, cereal, bacon and eggs, or a local dish of gently cooked/fried mackerel with some fine vegetables.

Our morning target was to explore the Arima-Blanchisseuse Road which cuts through the cooler Northern Range. We stopped at Brasso Seco village, the name meaning 'dry branch' and refers to a branch of the nearby river that only ever gets wet during the heaviest parts of the wet season.

We set off at 8.30am and pushed on in the rain showers, stopping at various sites along the way, peaking at 700 metres above sea level before dropping down. Our first stop was brief and revealed a Grey-headed Kite, a Streaked Xenops, a White-shouldered Tanager and the call of a Scaled Pigeon.

Our next stop was a bend looking out across the valley, although the view was covered in mist and low cloud. Nearby a mother was sweeping the leaves off her track and had a young daughter nearby. Their house looked out on to their banana plantation. In their garden they had some lovely orchids growing including an impressive Butterfly Orchid. Amongst the canopies of their large trees there were various new birds to see. Helen spotted at least three Swallow Tanagers while Dave had located two Tropical Parulas which came down closer into some bamboo. One stopped to preen after the rain showing off its yellow breast, orange throat and white bottom. A female Black-throated Mango was flying around the bamboo, while a pair of Bay-headed Tanagers and a Violaceous Euphonia were busy carrying nest material. A little down the road we stopped to look closer at a stunning Collared Trogon with its red belly and, as Dave described, a tail patterned like piano keys. Other birds included Turquoise Tanager, Lineated Woodpecker and two Black-tailed Tityras. As we headed back up to the maxi taxis, the same or a different male Collared Trogon was busy eating a Leaf-mimic Katydid; after bringing it up a few times the trogon finally swallowed this wholesome animal. Joy meanwhile had been watching a

Northern Waterthrush, about to embark on its journey back north into the USA or Canada. Meanwhile, White-lined Tanagers were frequent here and all along our stops.

We passed the Paria Morne Bleu Road junction and continued downhill, pausing at a site for Golden-crowned Warbler which was singing away. As we headed on we spotted a perched immature Common Black Hawk and Ruddy Ground Doves. We also passed various people out looking for land crabs to take back home to cook.

At our next site by some houses looking out across the valley, we watched a Plumbeous Kite sat at the top of a tree. These raptors breed in Trinidad and spend their non-breeding season further south in Venezuela. At rest its wings extend beyond the tail to look like the fork-tail of a kite; when it stretched its wings the orange flush in the primary wing feathers could be seen. Overhead up to ten Magnificent Frigatebirds were circling together high while lower down Black Vultures started to soar. In nearby trees a peppershrike, Lineated Woodpecker and a Streaked Flycatcher all put in an appearance. Two Rufous-tailed Jacamas also gave lovely views perched on nearby electricity wires, their coppery-green bodies showing well in the sunshine.

We headed down the valley to lower ground and open grassland with some banana trees. Other nearby mature trees were covered in lichens and impressive bromeliads. A Southern Rough-winged Swallow and two Grey-breasted Martins sat on nearby electricity wires, along with two Great Kiskadees. As we scanned the trees a few Yellow-bellied Elaenias were easily identified as they raised their crests. Two distant large Giant Cowbirds were perched out in the open. A female Yellow Oriole was tending her hanging tubular nest and the male dropped in nearby. Keeping watch was a pair of Piratic Flycatchers. They raid the nests of orioles, oropendolas and caciques looking for arthropods and in the process often cause the failure of the nests through damage. Black Vultures were starting to lift off the trees and circle just above the valley, joined by a single Zone-tailed Hawk. While similar in shape, the tail has a distinctive white band. Band-rumped Swifts foraged over the grasslands and a Greyish Saltator sat at the top of a small tree. Before we headed off, one particular tree on the edge of the woodland was full of birds including Blue-grey Tanagers, a peppershrike, a female Blue Dacnis, a Streaked Xenops behaving like a Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Elaenias and Green Honeycreepers. A Guianian Trogon showed well for a short period, followed by a Green-backed Trogon. The icing on the cake was seeing two Crimson-crested Woodpeckers in separate trees; they differ from the Lineated by having the white markings on their backs joining together to form a v-shape.

We continued on in the maxi taxis and stopped for a delicious lunch at the Brasso Seco Visitor Facility, enjoying chicken or vegetarian rice dishes with vegetables and salad, followed by very tasty bananas. As we got out of the vehicles and visited the toilets, a male Green-backed Trogon was found above in the trees. Unlike the other trogons, this species has blue-white eye-rings, the same colour as their beaks and the males lack any black bars in their white tails. While eating lunch and looking out into the trees and vegetation, we enjoyed watching a Lineated Woodpecker sticking its tongue out as it moved around the trees. Two Green-backed Trogons came out in the open and two Smooth-billed Anis were moving amongst the plants. One was relaxing, opening out its wings in the sunshine. Throughout we could hear a chorus of Spectacled Thrushes singing.

Continuing our journey back to the road junction, we then headed down towards Morne Laqur. We stopped at several locations seeing Boat-billed Flycatchers, Tropical Pewee and Golden-fronted Greenlets. One site, looking out across another valley, was home to a singing Bearded Bellbird and a nearby Lineated Woodpecker. Further down the valley we stopped to see a White-necked Thrush in a mango tree and a singing Rufous-breasted Wren,

although it remained mostly elusive. This bird has a deep, red-orange breast and a black head dotted with white spots. Two motmots, a Barred Antshrike and oropendolas called nearby. In the Mango tree branches above we spotted two Red-rumped Woodpeckers, mostly mottled green and grey-brown with a red rump. A Greater White-lined Bat was flying beneath the canopy and a female Great Antshrike perched nearby, her clay-colour similar to that of the Cocoa Thrush and the female White-lined Tanagers.

A little further along at another site we saw two Rufous-breasted Wrens, two greenlets a Euler's Flycatcher and two Yellow-breasted Flycatchers, now known as Ochre-ored Flatbills. We headed on to Morne La Croix, pausing just outside the village for a medium-size (over a metre long) Tropical Racer or Grass Machete snake, with a lovely yellow underbody and a warm brown upper body. It was lucky to not get run over as it had just crossed the road. We had brilliant views.

We stopped for 20 minutes in the village to have afternoon cake and juice, watching a Yellow-rumped Cacique breeding colony in a fir tree. Their hanging nests are similar to the oropendolas and many of the lower nests were being tended to. Outside, a few male caciques were displaying by bowing and raising their bright yellow rump feathers. On the other side of the valley Crested Oropendolas were nesting and a male here was bowing and flaring his wings up to show off his colourful tail and rufous rump feathers. A Southern Rough-winged Swallow and Great Kiskadee were perched on the wires nearby. Dave showed us the Annatto fruits of the Achiotte Tree; the seed pods are a little like spiny conkers or Sweet Chestnut fruits. When crushed, the small seeds reveal a bright red substance which is often used as a dye in the food industry. It was also used by Amerindians as a sub screen.

Our final target bird here was Blue-headed Parrot and we had seen a few on arrival. A couple of Orange-winged Amazon Parrots had perched nearby. We took a short journey further up the road where a jacamar was keeping watch on its nest hole. Half a dozen Blue-headed Parrots suddenly flew in and perched at the top of a large tree. They gave us just enough time to see their blue heads through the telescope. With a final view of the jacamar disappearing into its nest hole at 4.45pm, we began to make our journey back to the Asa Wright Centre in glorious afternoon sunshine and warm, humid heat. We passed familiar places from this morning and arrived back at 5.30pm, in good time to freshen up, relax and enjoy rum punches and do our checklist at 6.30pm. A few had seen a Short-tailed Nighthawk hunting for insects from the veranda.

We enjoyed dinner together at 7pm - tonight's choice was a buffet of Chinese-inspired soup, chicken and fish with delicious noodles, rice and vegetables. After a bird-filled day, most of us headed to bed while a few joined Barry for a night walk, seeing many more harvest men and crickets than the evening before, plus some tiny jumping fish. As we headed out of the dining room we admired an impressive giant hawkmoth and a silk moth, both attracted to the lights of the garage where the maxi taxis drop us off each day.

Day 4

Wednesday 18th April

Asa Wright Centre and beach visit to see Leatherback Turtles

It was a pleasant, cooler morning and many attended the veranda for the morning birds, with views of Barred Antshrike, Squirrel Cuckoo and a large longhorn beetle. A distant male Guianian Trogon showed well – from a distance his yellow belly resembles a large, dead leaf while his blue plumage disappears; he becomes very cryptic to predators.

Throughout the day everyone was able to relax and explore the trails or simply enjoy the birdlife from the veranda. Outside the centre we found a hotspot for reptiles near security. Sunbathing lizards included at least two Giant Ameivas, two Caribbean Treerunners or Spiny Tree Lizards, an Audubon's Multicoloured Lizard and a Greater Windward Skink. Some of the group also found the large cryptic Golden Tegu lizards lurking around the lower paths around our rooms, Geraldine and Richard had found a lovely Trinidad Motmot by the Motmot Trail, and Richard had been watching army ants terrorizing the local insects with bush crickets jumping out of the way in all directions.

We met together again at 4pm and after a quick tea and cake/tuna pastry, we headed down the valley and east to the Matura Turtle Sanctuary. Just as we were coming along the track of Asa Wright we saw a very special and rare bird; an adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle. Although tricky to see, we could witness its thick banded tail, sharp talons and rusty-orange shaggy head feathers. Along the way we stopped briefly to see a White-winged Swallow perched and a Fork-tailed Kite overhead. Other birds included Grey-fronted Dove, Pale-vented Pigeon, Grey-breasted Martins, Short-tailed Swifts, Turkey Vultures, Plumbeous Kite, three Southern Lapwings and hundreds of Black Vultures roosting in trees.

It took around 1.5 hours and we arrived with the chance to see the sea in the daylight. The beach was festooned with coconut trees beyond the high tide mark while the sand itself was covered in a bloom of Sargasso weed. The tide was high with impressive white waves breaking in front of us with a roar. We headed back to the car park centre where had a delicious dinner of chicken/fish with rice, salad and cheesy Christophine squash made into cubes like potato. Once we were tidied up we headed down to the beach around 7pm and waiting as Dave, and later other beach patrol guides checked up and down the beach with their red torches. The red light doesn't disturb the turtles unlike white light. We waited on the beach, listening to the roar of the waves and refreshed by the warm wind coming off the sea. The tide was gradually taming and going out and by 8.15pm it was getting to a level that would be good for the turtles to come out. At 8.40pm we got the signal; a turtle was on the beach. We ventured down the sandy beach, perhaps ten minutes, all excited with anticipation. There in front of us an 800 pound (363 kilogramme) female Leatherback Turtle was already busy at work digging her hole in the sand beyond the high tide mark. We gathered round under the guidance of Francis, an experienced turtle ranger. While we watched what was going on he was telling us about her behaviour. Meanwhile, two turtle researchers were sensitively measuring her and recording both her flipper tag and an electronic tag just under her skin. In one night at this time of the year they might check over 100 turtles on this 14-metre stretch of beach.

The turtle meanwhile was using her back flipper with fine precision to dig the sand out while she was anchored into the sand with her front flippers. After a good ten or 15 minutes she stopped and began to lay her eggs. These tennis-ball size eggs slopped out in small batches, accompanied by smaller egg-like objects which help to separate the eggs and keep them aerated with the best possible chance of hatching. While she was doing this she had gone into a trance and we were able to turn on our white lights, photograph her and touch her smooth shell and leathery back flippers. It was a remarkable experience. Once all laid, she carefully filled the hole back up, patting down the sand with her flippers and weight. Once she got to a certain point she then swished her front flippers, spraying towards us and the area of the nest. She gradually moved forward until she began digging again and started to make a decoy nest a few metres from the real one. Once all the swishing of sand was also done here - almost an hour later - she slowly but surely began to make her way back down the beach, revealing more of her huge mass below her soft shell that had been hidden in the sand. With a final push she slipped back into

the sea ready to replenish her energy with jellyfishes and Portuguese Man O' War cnidarians. She will eat double her weight in them every day!

While looking at her up close we could see the pinkish diamond on top of her head – beneath here is a softer area of tissue through to her brain which helps her with navigation. Her eyes were dripping in a salty lubricant that protects them while she is on land. Her right fin was less smooth than the left, evidence she had been bitten by something before, perhaps a shark. Pinkish lines here and there on her body indicated scar tissue perhaps from other shark encounters. Looking closely at her flippers we could see the detail of her skin. Her soft shell was dotted with large whitish patches giving a marbled effect. Overall, it was a remarkable and special experience for everyone, and a birthday treat for Albert and Ed.

On the entrance gates, a Trinidad Chevron Tarantula was keeping guard and another was seen further down the track. As Ed got back to his room a Spectacled Owl was calling nearby too!

Day 5

Thursday 19th April

Asa Wright Centre and Wallerfield

With a late arrival back at midnight, everyone took a more leisurely start before breakfast. At 8.30am we met with guide Caleb for a walk up to the back car park, down the Motmot Trail and round to a hidden cottage. In the sunshine up to four Common Black Hawks were circling or displaying; the white tail band clearly visible. Seven Greater White-lined Bats were roosting on the outside of a wooden building. By the back car park an oropendola was displaying while a Great Kiskadee and a Piratic Flycatcher perched nearby. A Kymit tree was in full fruit with its apple-like fruits which are devoured by the birds. They are a very sweet, tasty fruit. Nearby a Tropical Pewee was showing well; largely grey toned with a soft lemon-yellow belly and a yellow-orange lower mandible. Several Iphiclus Sister (Four Continent) butterflies were flying around; one stopped for photographs. Other butterflies included Aetolus Stripestreak (White Lycid), Cattle Heart and Scarlet Peacock.

Cicadas called all around us, sounding like maracas or an electrical tool. A juvenile male Yellow-crowned Manakin moved through the trees, as did two Chiffchaff-like Golden-fronted Greenlets, while a male Black-throated Mango perched overhead. A Rufous-browed Peppershrike and Cocoa Thrushes sang in the background. Along the track and by the cottage we found two Cocoa Thrush nests with sitting birds. On the cottage, two separate paper wasps nests were being tended. With the smell of roasting coffee permeating the air, we headed back to see it being roasted. Overhead three White Hawks drifted over while a Blue-chinned Sapphire hummingbird sat nearby.

The group had plenty of time to relax before and after lunch; some headed down to the Golden-headed Manakin lek where several males were lekking. Julie meanwhile found a Northern Waterthrush closer to the feeding stations. And Ed came out of his room to find a two-metre long Boa Constrictor on the lawn! After lunch and a restful afternoon we headed back out at just after 4pm; after a quick cuppa and a spinach quiche slice or pastry. As we were ready to go, a female Barred Antshrike was foraging amongst the flower beds.

As we headed down, we stopped briefly to see a perched Turkey Vulture; Dave pointed out the whitish area on the head which differs to those in North America with an all red head. Further down the road we saw the flowers of the Jade Vine with the unusual hues of teal-green. We stopped by a farm near Arima where a termite

nest was home to Brown-throated Parakeets, though no-one was at home. However, several tiny Green-rumped Parakeets were flying around and one was poking out of a metal tube where it was nesting. A female Barred Antshrike was in a nearby tree with a Great Kiskadee. Pale-vented Pigeons were dotted around nearby trees and a Giant Cowbird flew past. Other birds included Carib Grackle and Little Blue Heron.

As we headed on we stopped outside the Aripo Livestock Research Station where two Savannah Hawks were on the overhead wires and one came down to the ground being harassed by a Southern Lapwing. A type of buzzard, they are long legged, upright and sandy coloured. Nearby Buffalypso cattle were busy feeding in the fields. They are crosses between Asian Buffalo and Brahman cows and are sold for their meat and good milk. Cattle Egrets and a Great Egret were feeding nearby. Along the roadside at least 12 Smooth-billed Anis and five Southern Lapwings were seen along with five Northern Mockingbirds, Southern Rough-winged Swallows and two White-winged Swallows.

We headed for Wallerfield Airfield, a former American airbase now in Trinidad's hands. A part of it is being built as a university; other parts are used by fast cars/drag racing and the rest is left for nature. It has mostly been left for 40 years and many areas are now a sanctuary for bats, frogs, insects and birds. We drove through security and headed down one of the roads, the landscape now overgrown with trees and other vegetation. Over 100 Black Vultures were resting in trees and on the ground sunning their wings - the silvery white edges to their outer primaries were clearly visible. A juvenile Grey-lined Hawk was perched up in a tree by an old bird nest.

We headed off the runway to a corridor of Moriche Palm trees. Helen quickly picked up a Sulphury Flycatcher in one of the palms and with a little patience we saw two. They are a little like the Tropical Kingbird, however they have a white throat and a darker head. A few Fork-tailed Palm Swifts fed overhead. A Little Tinamou began its mournful call and a jacamar also called.

While enjoying rum punches we had lovely views through the telescope of Trinidad's second rarest bird, the Moriche or Epaulet Oriole. Once a common bird, the cagebird hobby has seen it disappear from almost all public areas of Trinidad. This particular individual was happily resting in a tree preening and later singing; another was singing close by. While it preened we could see its yellow thighs, hood and black plumage.

By 6.30pm the light was dropping away and there was a chorus of frogs including piping frogs. Fireflies began to flash on and off like a lighthouse. A Mottled Owl flew overhead and flew back again after calling amongst the trees. Meanwhile, a Common Pauraque was calling from the roadside ahead and, with Dave's headlamp, could be made out.

We got back in the maxi taxis and drove around the airfield looking for other night birds. It was a tricky night as evening rain had cooled the tarmac where insects are usually out in force. Therefore nightjars were keeping close to cover. Despite this, Dave located a White-tailed Nightjar on a log and we were able to view it through the telescope; its only giveaway to its presence was the occasional closing and opening of its eyes. Various other nightjars were seen, usually by their eye shine before they flew off.

At 7.50pm we headed back to Asa Wright and arrived back just after 8.30pm. The Trinidad Chevron Tarantula was still keeping guard on the gate. We were able to stop and found another on a railing where they like to hide within during the day.

Day 6

Friday 20th April

Waterloo and Caroni

Just before breakfast a male Great Antshrike was foraging near security after devouring a silk moth that had been resting under a nearby streetlamp. The moths that are left in the morning get picked off easily by the birds; another was taken by an oropendola. A Scaled Pigeon was sat out on some bamboo, enabling those who were on the veranda to see its clay-brown back and shiny, iridescent copper neck feathers, each one bordered black. Two Squirrel Cuckoos also made an appearance and a Golden-olive Woodpecker flew in and perched briefly, although it was missed by most. After a wholesome breakfast at 7.30am, we met with Dave and Boyie at 8.30am and headed out for a longer day exploring the west coast of the island.

On the way to the town of Waterloo, we stopped by a river where the shallow water and banks were home to lots of different wading birds. Firstly we caught up with Spotted Sandpiper, Little Egret and Pied Water Tyrant, a Pied Wagtail-like bird. Those at the back saw a large Ringed Kingfisher drop in too. On the other side of the road there was a plethora of birdlife. A group of 25 Black-necked Stilts and 20 Southern Lapwings were mainly resting on the bank, while a few were feeding. Two Wattled Jacanas fed nearby and a juvenile, grey and white, was feeding amongst some wading birds. There were at least six Stilt Sandpipers, three Lesser Yellowlegs, three Semipalmated Sandpipers, a single Semipalmated Plover, a Short-billed Dowitcher, another Little Egret and a Cattle Egret. To add further variety, a large Red-eared Slider terrapin was lurking beneath the water and coming up for breath.

At another site we stopped at some open lawn/grassy areas where up to four Red-breasted Blackbirds or Meadowlarks were feeding. Three were males with bright, scarlet red breasts. We then paused briefly at some extensive fields with some marshland. A stunning light phase male Long-winged Harrier flew low over the grassland before dropping down and reappearing. He had a white breast and chest, a grey flush to his dark wings and a white rump. Some also saw a second harrier nearby.

At Waterloo we parked up by the small fishing port and immediately spotted three Black Vultures on the street lamp above. The tide was very low and out on the nearby mud was an immature Scarlet Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Whimbrel and Little Blue Heron. We walked across some mounds of clay to look across the mud flats. There were tens of Little Blue Herons and with them a few Tricolored Herons, Willets and Whimbrel. Several Black Skimmers were flying around and skimming the shallow pools. They were joined by two Yellow-billed Terns, hovering and dipping up and down like a yo-yo. At least four Large-billed Terns were flying around, identified by their distinctive darker outer wings and backs. Further out Brown Pelicans were diving for fish, while 50 metres away half a dozen Grey Plovers and the same number of Western Sandpipers, were feeding together. Other birds included a Great Blue Heron and Snowy Egret.

We continued on round to Orange Valley, which was opposite where we had just been and also looking out across the Gulf of Paria. Thousands (3000) of Laughing Gulls were calling on the mud nearby; a few were also mating. Amongst them were a few flocks of up to 400 Black Skimmers, four Scarlet Ibises (mixed ages) and at least ten Large-billed Gulls. A Ruddy Turnstone was resting up by itself. Juvenile Brown Pelicans were resting on nearby boats and one was feeding successfully in the shallows nearby. Black Vultures were perched up on the lampposts and many were flying past, pushing hard to gain height before finally drifting upwards. Over 50 were circling on rising thermals.

We stopped for lunch at Carli Bay, a grassy picnic area with trees by the coast. A flock of Brown Pelicans was sitting on the shallow sea nearby. Out where the tide was starting to come in up to 300 Brown Pelicans, mainly juveniles, were resting up with half a dozen Neotropic Cormorants. An Osprey was also found by Dave perching on an old dead tree.

It was a very hot day and before we left we headed for shade by the mangroves where we found a male Black-crested Antshrike, an American Pygmy Kingfisher and four Green-rumped Parrotlets.

We travelled on for 40 minutes to Caroni Swamp, arriving at 3pm, where it was still very hot and sunny. We were on the edge of the 40 square kilometres of mangroves and marshes that border the Gulf of Paria. Water flows down to the sea through the Caroni and Madame Espagnole rivers. We had time to explore the visitor centre and rest under the shade where four Proboscis Bats were roosting alongside numerous paper wasp nests. By the security gate two stunning Masked or Red-capped Cardinals were resting low in the trees. A Green Kingfisher was perching over the lagoon and with some help from Dave we spotted a Straight-billed Woodcreeper, with a thrush-like breast and a pink bill. A female Black-crested Antshrike called nearby, shaking her tail in rhythm with her calling. Her pied-marked tail and tertial feathers were striking. Two Rufous-browed Peppershrikes sang in the area and a Northern Waterthrush was seen. Richard also found a West Indian Mole Cricket before it buried itself into the ground.

At just after 4pm we met our guide Darren and headed on to the boat which had just been fitted with its engine. A Yellow-headed Caracara flew on to the centre just as we left. We spent just under three hours on our trip spotting the crabs, oysters and mussels amongst the roots of the Red and Black Mangroves. White Mangroves are also here but further inland. The Red Mangroves have lots of roots growing out and down from the trees. The Black Mangroves have lots of roots pointing up and help to desalinate the water.

Throughout our journey through the mangroves overhanging the channels we saw over 100 Spotted Sandpipers, some developing their breeding plumage of spots. As we sailed along we paused to see a very cryptic, nocturnal juvenile Boat-billed Heron with huge eyes. Nearby an American Pygmy Kingfisher perched giving close views. Several Ruschenberger's Treeboas (formerly known in error as Cook's Boas) were curled up on mangrove branches above. A Greater Ani, male Black-crested Antshrike and Pied Water Tyrant were also seen early on.

As we sailed further into the mangroves we saw over 30 Little Blue Herons; a mix of the blue adults and whitish immatures. There was a cacophony of ticking Northern Waterthrushes at one point and small numbers of Bicolored Conebills, a type of honeycreeper, called from the mangroves overhead. As we headed out into more open water we saw over 50 Scarlet Ibises resting the trees; many were immature, showing a mix of brown and scarlet feathers. Several Yellow-crowned Night Herons were on the edge of the mangroves in the golden afternoon sunshine; we passed the nest of one with eggs. As we carried on an Osprey flew overhead.

We entered into the main lake where thousands of egrets come to roost each night. Up to 60 American Flamingoes were split into three or four groups, a mix of adults and juveniles. Small flocks of stunning adult Scarlet Ibises flew past in haste as they were flying back to their breeding colonies for the night. We headed round to our stopping position looking out across to a mangrove island where the egrets and ibises come. The evening sunshine was perfect, illuminating these bright red Scarlet Ibises, as they flew across the landscape with the Northern Range. Flocks containing tens or hundreds of birds flew across and into the island's trees.

Occasionally just single birds flew across. At the same time small flocks of Snowy and Tricolored Egrets flew towards the island and disappeared into the trees. Most of the ibises stayed on the outer branches - the trees looked like fruiting or flowering trees! Many of the flocks contained browner juvenile birds hatched over the past few years. The red of the adults was spectacular and dazzling - the colour is derived from beta-carotene which the birds get from feeding on crabs and shrimps around the mangroves and mud flats. Before we headed off over 400 were roosting in the trees and in total we had seen over 600.

We headed off while it was still light, spotting Proboscis Bats flying low over the water. Tens of Spotted Sandpipers were flying away from the boat, at one point four were coming towards us together. Back at the lagoon where we got off, over 20 were resting on the bank. It was getting dark by the time we got back to the maxi taxis and we headed back to the Asa Wright Centre. Down the road to the centre we stopped to see Trinidad Chevron Tarantulas outside their homes in different railings. The first group saw their tarantula make for cover, although a nearby scorpion made up for it. The other group had more luck and their spider stayed out. Meanwhile, the tarantula on the entrance gate was positioned on the corner as usual. We arrived back just in time for dinner after a long and memorable day.

Day 7

Saturday 21st April

Asa Wright Centre - Oilbirds

This morning before breakfast highlights included Scaled Pigeon and up to three Trinidad Motmots. It was a beautiful morning with excellent views down the valley towards Arima. Dave and Geraldine had been stalking a Great Antshrike and a pair of Barred Antshrikes with success.

After breakfast we met again at 8.30am and met with Caleb and Elizabeth, who gave a briefing about Oilbirds and the walk we were about to do. We took a slow walk with plenty of stops down to the Oilbirds, taking about an hour or just over to get there. Along the way we travelled through the original cocoa and coffee plantations which are less good for birdlife. However, there was still plenty to see including a White-necked Thrush, two Blue Dacnis (very high and almost invisible!), Boat-billed Flycatcher, female White-shouldered Tanager and a calling Scaled Pigeon. Butterflies showed well including Blue Morpho, Postman and Tiger-striped.

Caleb showed us Tonka Bean fruits, a little like miniature mangoes. They smelt of highly concentrated mango and the owl butterflies love them; one was nearby sucking up the juices. The seed or stone inside is used in the food industry as a flavour. An oil rich ingredient, coumarin, is extracted and tiny amounts provide a rich unique flavour to foods, particularly desserts.

Further along Caleb illustrated how cryptic animals can be by revealing three Common Tent-making Bats roosting in their own leaf, engineered into an umbrella. By biting around the central stem, the leaf collapses around into a tent-like enclosure where the bats can sleep safely. These three had distinctive white lines on their faces and you could just see their ears twitching. As we got close to the cave a Rufous-breasted Wren could be heard singing. Rufous-breasted Hermit and Blue-chinned Sapphire fed in the trees and a pale-yellow breasted Forest Elaenia sat up amongst some vines.

We headed down some steps by a fast flowing stream to the entrance of the Oilbird cave. We split into two groups and Caleb led the first group down to the cave entrance to look for the Oilbirds. Across a little stream

and into the darkness a metre or two, Barry shone a torch up towards an Oilbird sat on a cave ledge near a plant struggling to grow. Another two were slightly closer. Sometimes others nearby hissed or flew. Throughout the whole cave area there are up to 160 birds and they are surveyed monthly. They are the only nocturnal fruit-eating bird in the world. Tracked birds have been recorded regularly visiting fruiting palms down the east coast of Trinidad while one visited Venezuela overnight. We could see their whiskers or rictal bristles for feeling their way round in the dark. They also use echolocation to find their way around and we could hear one clicking. They are big birds too - the size of a large Carrion Crow. There are eight caves like this documented on the island and the species is protected from hunting or disturbance. Their name is derived from the times when their slow growing chicks grew very fat, perhaps twice as heavy as their parents, and were killed and used for lighting such as candles and cooking fat. During the 1960s, Roodal, one of our guides, had helped support the Oilbirds. With other key ornithologists such as Richard French, they made some new ledges in the caves out of cement to give the Oilbirds more opportunities for nesting. This, alongside their legal protection, seems to have been a success as numbers have been rising ever since. We headed back up all the steps in very humid conditions. A Greater White-lined Bat was feeding in circles nearby. We arrived back just before 11am to cool off and relax.

After lunch group members did their own thing, perhaps walking on a trail or resting, waiting for the wildlife to come to them. We said our farewells to Joy and Julie who were heading to Tobago for a few days before flying back to the UK. Back at Asa Wright many gathered back at the centre at 4pm for tea and cake. After a quiet period around the feeders, the hummingbird activity increased and by 5pm most of the species were dipping in and out to feed, dominated by the White-necked Jacobins. Highlights included our first Ruby-topaz, Blue-chinned Sapphire and Black-throated Mango. Dave and Geraldine photographed a close squirrel and many of the group caught up with a Golden-olive Woodpecker. Other birds included Scaled Pigeon, three Purple Honeycreepers (two males and a female), Greyish Saltator, Spectacled Thrush and a White Hawk circling overhead.

After a delicious last dinner together, most of us headed out on a night walk at 7.45pm, quickly reaching the two Chevron Tarantulas (one of which was very shy and disappeared into its hole) before turning back. The one that remained out had brass-coloured hairs covering its sternum. Along the walk we spotted lots of large crickets, crabs and harvestmen. A species of giant treefrog was croaking away; it sounded more like a dog from a distance! To Richard's delight we found two Tail-less Whip Scorpions, plus a few more spiders, including what looked like a young tarantula.

Day 8

Sunday 22nd April

Asa Wright Centre; flight back to the UK

We enjoyed another beautiful sunrise and pre-breakfast watch from the veranda. Amongst the usual suspects a small group of Turquoise Tanagers and a Bay Tanager made an appearance. A Scaled Pigeon was perched up as usual for its morning presence, and a pair of Orange-winged Amazon Parrots perched in a nearby tree. We watched the slightly larger male bobbing and regurgitating food to his mate, repeating this half a dozen times. They then flew to the trunk of the tree before flying off.

Richard had managed to identify an intriguing work of natural art; a 35-year old Stingless Robber Bee colony that have made a remarkable tube that runs down from the base of the veranda and looks a little like an extended

overflow pipe or a black hose pipe. All throughout the week the small bees had been busy tending to the pipe's entrance while others come and go.

Throughout the morning the group was able to relax, pack and catch up with all the local wildlife before we met again at midday. Ed, Dave and Joan watched a very distant White Hawk and a Plumbeous Kite, while Martyn pointed out the squeaky calls of Trinidad Euphonias. Dave and Helen watched an Ochre-bellied Flycatcher on the Bamboo Trail for around 15 minutes. Richard also caught up with a few Bullet Ants. Just before lunch some commotion round the back of the kitchen revealed a Ruschenberger's Treeboa constricting a huge, baby bat before beginning to eat it head first. There was quite a crowd gathering including many intrigued and apprehensive kitchen and laundry staff. The snake thought better of the situation and let go of the now-dead bat and began to climb up the wall to a nearby sink. The staff were very distracted so Barry carefully encouraged the snake onto the handle of a long net and moved it to a tree near the entrance of the centre. Meanwhile, the two young Green Hermit chicks in the nest in the main room of the centre were now feathered and whirring their wings in practice for when they fledge. A remarkable transformation!

We did the checklist straight after lunch and said our thanks to Dave and Boyie at Asa Wright before we set off just before 1pm. As we drove to a lower altitude it suddenly became hotter and hotter! Along the journey there were several Tropical Kingbirds, Ruddy Ground Doves and a pair of Blue-grey Tanagers. We paused briefly on the bridge by the airport. There were no caimans around, however Striated Heron and Snowy Egret were fishing.

With a very quick check in and bag drop followed by security, we had three hours to wait for our flight, stopping for an hour and a half in St Lucia before another eight hours on to London Gatwick.

Day 9

Monday 23rd April

Arrival at Gatwick

After a smooth overnight flight back to Gatwick, we landed early at 8.30am on a sunny, spring morning. With a quick arrival at the gate and collecting luggage at baggage retrieval, we said our goodbyes and were soon on our way to different parts of the UK and home.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; I = Introduced; N = near endemic; E = Endemic)

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>					H			
2	American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>						60+		
3	Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>						600+		
4	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>						1		
5	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>						6		
6	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>						1	1	
7	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓				✓	✓		
8	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>						1		
9	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					1	2		
10	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>						100+		
11	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>						200+		
12	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>						100+	1	
13	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>						300+		
14	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>			10					
15	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>						6+		
16	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	2	1	✓	200+	100+	100+		✓
18	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						2		
19	Grey-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>			1					
20	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>				1				
21	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>				1				
22	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>			1	1				1
23	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>			1		4			
24	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>					2			
25	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>		1			3	1		1
26	Grey-lined Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>					1			
27	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>		1	1			1		
28	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>			1					
29	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>						25+		
30	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>				3		20+		
31	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						6+		
32	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>						1		
33	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>						3		
34	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>						1		
35	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>						4+		
36	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>						H		
37	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>						3+		
38	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>						5+		
39	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>						100+		
40	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						1		
41	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>						6+		
42	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>						6+		
43	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>						6+		
44	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>						400+		
45	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>						3000+		
46	Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>						2		
47	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>						14		

	Common name	Scientific name	April								
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
48	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	8+						✓		✓
49	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>		1	H				1	1	1
50	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>				1					
51	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>							1		
52	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	4		4	1	✓	✓	✓		✓
53	Grey-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>				1					
54	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>							1		
55	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>			2	4	✓	✓	✓		
56	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		2		1			2		1
57	Mottled Owl	<i>Strix virgata</i>							1		
58	Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>				H					
59	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>		H					H		
60	Oilbird	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>								3	
61	Short-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>			1						
62	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>						2+			
63	White-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis cayennensis</i>						2+			
64	Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>		30+	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
65	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>	6			✓	✓	✓	✓		
66	Neotropical Palm Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>						2+			
67	Rufous-breasted Hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>		1						1	
68	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>		1		1	1	1	1	1	1
69	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>		1	2	1	2			1	1
71	Tufted Coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i>	1	5+	1	2	4	2+	4+	4+	1
72	Blue-chinned Sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>		1	1		1			2	1
73	White-chested Emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Copper-rumped Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tobaci</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Helimaster longirostris</i>	1	1		1	1				
76	Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>		H	3						
77	Guianan Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>		1	2	1	2	2			1
78	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>		H	2						
79	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>						2			
80	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>						1			
81	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>						1			
82	Trinidad Motmot	<i>Momotus bahamensis</i>		2	H	1				2	
83	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>			3						
84	Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>			1	1					
85	Red-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>			2						
86	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>								1	
87	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>		1	4	H					H
88	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>			2						
89	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>						1			
90	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>			8						
91	Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	2	50+	50+	✓	✓	✓	✓		2+
92	Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>					6+	6+			
93	Grey-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus albigularis</i>			1						
94	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>			2						
95	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>						1			
96	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>		1	H	H				H	1
97	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>			1				1	1	1
98	Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>						3			

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
99	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>		1+		1	2	1	2	1
100	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>								1
101	Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii trinitatis</i>							1	
102	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>			2					
103	Ochre-lore Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>			1					
104	Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>			1					
105	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>			1		1			
106	Pied Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>						4		
107	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>			2+		1			
108	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	6+		4+	2+	1			✓
109	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>		1	2					
110	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>			2				1	
111	Sulphury Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>					2			
112	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	6+		6	✓	✓	✓		✓
113	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>		H						
114	Bearded Bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>		2	H	H	H	H	1	H
115	White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>		7+		✓			1	
116	Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Ceratopira erythrocephala</i>		2			2			
117	Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>		1	2		1	1		
118	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>		1	3		H	2	H	
119	Golden-fronted Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons saturatus</i>			4		2			
120	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>				1		2+		
121	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	4		2	✓		6+		
122	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>		2	2	2+	2+	2+		
123	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>			3				H	
124	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		2+	2+	2+	2		H	H
125	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>			1					
126	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	2	2	✓	2+	2	4+		✓
127	Cocoa Thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>	2	2+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
128	Spectacled Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>		2+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>		1	1	1	1		1	
130	Trinidad Euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatus</i>								1
131	Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
132	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>			1		1	✓		
133	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>			2					
134	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>			1					
135	Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>						4		
136	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>		10+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>			6+					
138	Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>		1+	6		1			
139	Moriche or Epaulet Oriole	<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>						2		
140	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>			2		1			
141	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>		1	2				1	2
142	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
143	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Masked Cardinal	<i>Paroaria nigrogenis</i>						2		
145	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>			1				1	
146	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
148	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>		2	6	6	6			2	1+
149	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	6+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>		4	3+	✓					3+
151	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>		1	2						1
152	Swallow Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>			3+					2	
153	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>			1						
154	Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>		4	2	2	2			3	2
155	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>			2+						
156	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>		2+	4+	2	2			2	2
157	Bicolored Conebill	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>							H		
158	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>							6		
159	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
160	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>					2				

Mammals

1	Red-rumped Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta leporina</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>			1	1				1+	
3	Greater White-lined Bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>		1	1		7			1	
4	Common Tent-making Bat	<i>Uroderma bilobatum</i>								3	
5	Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>							10+		
6	Common Long-tongued Bat	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	✓								
7	Small Asian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>							1		

Reptiles, Amphibians and Fishes

1	Cryptic Golden Tegu	<i>Tupinambis cryptus</i>				2+	2+			2+	
2	Caribbean Treerunner/Spiny Tree Lizard	<i>Plica caribbeana</i>		1		2	2				
3	Variegated Gecko	<i>Gonatodes cecillae</i>		1							
4	Zandolie or Giant Ameiva	<i>Ameiva atrigularis</i>				2+	2+				
5	Rainbow Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus lemniscatus</i>				1					
6	Trinidad Hex-scaled Bachia	<i>Bachia trinitatis</i>		1							
7	Audubon's Multicoloured Lizard	<i>Polychrus auduboni</i>				1					
8	Greater Windward Skink	<i>Copeoglossum aurae</i>				1					
9	African House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>		1							
10	False Coral Snake	<i>Oxyrhopus petolarius</i>		1							
11	Grass Machete or Tropical Racer	<i>Mastigodryas boddaerti</i>			1						
12	Ruschenberger's Treeboa	<i>Corallus ruschenbergerii</i>							2		
13	Boa Constrictor	<i>Boa constrictor ssp.</i>					1				
14	Leatherback Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>				2					
15	Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>							1		
16	Trinidad Stream Frog/Yellow-throated Frog	<i>Mannophryne trinitatis</i>	H	2	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
17	Giant Treefrog	<i>Boana sp.</i>								H	

Butterflies and Moths

1	Postman	<i>Heliconius melpomene</i>		1	2+	6	20			1	
2	Flambeau or Julia Butterfly	<i>Dryas julia</i> ,								1	
3	West Indian Buckeye	<i>Junonia evarete</i>		1							
4	Blue Morpho	<i>Morpho peleides</i>		1	2+					1	

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			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
5	Longtail sp.	<i>Urbanus sp.</i>			2+		1			
6	Cloudless Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>		1		2+	2+			
7	Tiger-striped Butterfly	<i>Heliconius ismenius</i>							1	
8	Cassius Blue	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>					1			
9	Blue Transparent	<i>Ithomia pellucida</i>		1						
10	Cattle Heart	<i>Parides anchises</i>		1			2+			
11	Anarca Blue Ringlet	<i>Chloreuptychia anarca</i>					6			
12	White Lycid or Aetolus Stripebreak	<i>Arawacus aetolus</i>		1			1			
13	Stinky Leafwing or Grape Shoemaker	<i>Historis odius</i>							1	
14	Hyalinus Satyr or Lady Slipper	<i>Pierella hyalinus</i>							1	
15	Yellow Silk Moth	<i>Copaxa sp.</i>		1						
16	Giant Silkmoth	<i>Copaxa marona</i>			1					
17	Scarlet Peacock or Coolie	<i>Anartia amathea</i>			1		2			
18	Smooth Banded Sister	<i>Adelpha cytherea</i>			1		1			
19	Iphiclus Sister or Four Continent	<i>Adelphas iphiclus</i>					2+			
20	Illioneus Giant Owl	<i>Caligo illioneus</i>		1	2				1	
21	Renata Satyr	<i>Ypthimoides renata</i>		1						
22	Bullseye Moth	<i>Automeris liberia</i>				1				

Invertebrates

1	Trinidad Chevron Tarantula	<i>Psalmopoeus cambridgei</i>		3		3	2	2	2	
2	Scorpion	<i>Tityus trinitatis</i>		1				1		
3	Harvestmen	<i>Santinezia serratotibialis</i>		✓	✓				✓	
4	Mountain Crab	<i>Eudaniela garmani</i>		✓	✓		1		✓	
5	Fiddler Crabs	<i>Uca maracoani</i>						✓		
6	Tail-less Whip Scorpion	<i>Phrynus pulchripes</i>		✓						2
7	Leaf-cutting Ants	<i>Atta cephalotes</i>		✓						✓
8	Yellow-banded Millipede	<i>Anadenobolus monilicornis</i>		✓			1			✓
9	Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes lanio</i>					✓	✓		
10	Click Beetle ("Firefly")	<i>Photinus noctilucus</i>		✓			✓			
11	Leaf-mimic Katydid (several species)	Tettigoniidae family		1					1	1
12	Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra gigantea</i>		✓						
13	Walkingstick (stick insect)	<i>Creoxylus spinosus</i>		3					1	
14	Rambur's Forktail	<i>Ischnura ramburii</i>		1						
15	West Indian Mole Cricket	<i>Scapteriscus didactylus</i>						1		
16	Bess Beetle	Passalidae family						2		
17	Stingless Robber Bee	<i>Lestrimelitta limao</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Bullet Ant	<i>Paraponera clavata</i>								2

Others

1	Stinkhorn (Bamboo Fungus)	<i>Phallus indusiatus</i>			✓					
2	Butterfly Orchid	<i>Oncidium papilio</i>			1					
3	Lamb's Tail Orchid	<i>Epidendrum coronatum</i>							1	