

Tour Report Easy Birding in Trinidad 12 – 20 April 2026

Purple honeycreeper



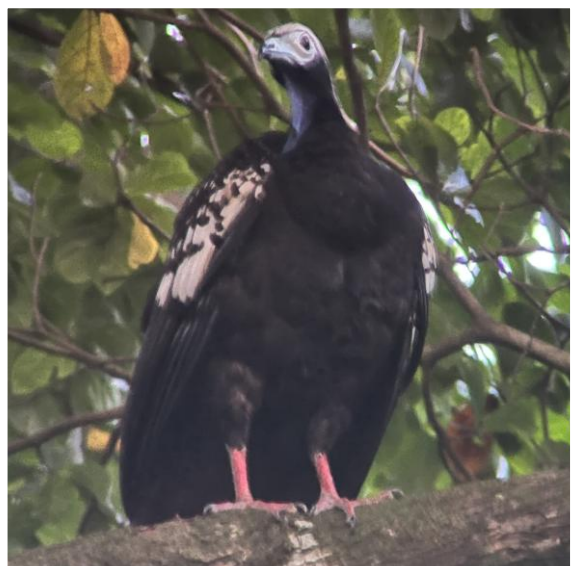
Bearded bellbird



Leatherback turtle



Trinidad piping guan



Compiled by Ed Drewitt

Based at the world-famous Asa Wright Centre, we spent a wonderful week watching a menagerie of birds coming to the veranda to feed alongside a whole host of rainforest birds flying across or singing from trees in the valley below. From toucans to tanagers and honeycreepers to hummingbirds, there was never a dull moment. Other highlights at Asa Wright included seeing lekking white-bearded manakins, hearing the clunking song of bearded bellbirds and spotting oilbirds in their daytime cave roost. We spent one night away on the beach at Grande Riviere where we saw leatherback turtles laying their eggs at night and several still on the beach as day broke the next morning. In the forest close to Grande Riviere, we also saw a small number of Trinidad piping guans. On our final full day in Trinidad, we ate a delicious dinner and enjoyed rum punch on a boat as we meandered through Caroni Swamp at dusk, enjoying scarlet ibises coming into roost and flamingos congregating close by. We also saw two separate sleeping silky anteaters curled up in a ball in the trees. Alongside the birds, across Trinidad there were plenty of different butterflies, including blue morpho and owl butterflies, and reptiles including the Trinidad tree boa, spectacled caiman and golden tegu.

Sunday 12 April 2026

Day 1:

Arrival at the Asa Wright Centre

Weather: hot and humid, 31°C at the airport; cooler at Asa Wright with welcome breeze.

Most of us met together in departures and took off just after 9.45 am from Gatwick Airport on our eight-and-a-half-hour flight to Trinidad. We arrived just before 1.30 pm and with a smooth transition through arrivals at Piarco International Airport – 24km east of the city, Port of Spain – we met our driver Rovaldo. While waiting for him to move his vehicle, we heard and saw a tropical mockingbird singing in a nearby bush. Several Carib grackles and shiny cowbirds were foraging nearby, and a few grey-breasted martins were flying over the car park. We headed up towards the Northern Range to the world-famous Asa Wright Centre, a 45-minute drive away and 366 m (1200 feet) above sea level. The Asa Wright Centre was established as a non-profit-making trust in 1967 after Asa Wright, who owned the house and land, sold it on the condition that the 1500-acre area became a nature reserve.

Along the way to the Asa Wright Centre, we spotted various birds including turkey vultures, black vultures, cattle egrets and a greater ani. As we headed into the mountains, the vegetation became lush and greener, and we passed trees such as nutmeg, cashew, mango, cacao, breadnut and the avocado-like chayote or christophine squash.

On arrival at the Asa Wright Centre at 2.30 pm, we headed straight for the veranda to see the hummingbirds coming to the sugar-water feeders and flowering shrubs just outside the veranda where we looked down across the Arima valley. We were able to enjoy watching various hummingbirds, particularly white-necked jacobins, white-chested emeralds, copper-rumped hummingbirds, several black-throated mangos, brown violetears and singles of ruby-topaz and long-billed starthroat hummingbirds. After dropping off our luggage in our rooms we came back down to the veranda and alongside the hummingbirds also enjoyed getting to grips with other birds including palm tanagers, blue and grey tanagers, silver-beaked tanagers, white-lined tanagers, orange-winged parrots, a great kiskadee, a violaceous euphonia, a channel-billed toucan and a crested oropendola, while a bearded bellbird, spectacled thrush, house wrens, cocoa thrush and barred antshrikes called or sang in the background. A red-rumped agouti also showed itself alongside a Caribbean treerunner and, for two guests, a golden tegu. As the light began to fade, cicadas and frogs began their evening chorus.

Two of the guests, who had flown on a later plane, joined us at 6.45 pm and Ed pointed out a tufted coquette feeding on flowers close to their room. As we gathered before dinner, we were treated to watching common long-tongued bats – resembling hummingbirds – coming to feed on the sugar water in a few nectar feeders left by the balcony of the veranda. We all met together for a delicious buffet dinner at 7 pm before retiring early to bed after a long travel day.

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Monday 13 April 2026

Day 2:

Asa Wright Centre - Discovery Trail

Weather: Overcast at first, leading to a sunny, bright day, 28°C.

Several of us met before breakfast to enjoy some of the early birds visiting the feeders as well as those calling or singing. Hummingbirds included at least four brown violetears and white-chested emeralds; others coming to feed included green honeyeaters, silver-beaked tanagers and white-lined tanagers. In the bushes close to our rooms, blue-grey and palm tanagers were busy singing and feeding. Meanwhile, further down the valley we saw two channel-billed toucans and two orange-winged amazon parrots. In a nearby tree, a female and an immature Trinidad euphonia were perched.

We met for a delicious buffet breakfast around 6.45 am and then spent a little time on the veranda. Down the valley, a flock of grey-rumped and band-rumped swifts were flying around and a Guianan trogon showed briefly. We then met with Caleb at 8.30 am for a short history of Asa Wright before heading out for a morning's walk. We first visited a fruiting fig tree on the incoming track; this tree and those nearby were busy with a range of birds including a pair of green-backed trogons, a male golden-headed manikin, a bare-eyed thrush, a white-shouldered tanager, a bay-headed tanager and a streaked flycatcher. In the distance we could also hear a Guianan trogon and a grey-fronted dove. Overhead we saw two black hawks, showing their distinctive white bands on their rumps. We nipped around a small building to see a greater white-lined bat (also known as a sac-winged bat) resting upside down on the outside wall; overhead there was a pair of white hawks and a plumbeous kite. Several crested oropendolas were singing and calling nearby, occasionally showing themselves and their long tails with bright-yellow edges. Above in a nearby tree we also had views of a pair of black-tailed tityras.

We slowly walked along the Discovery Trail – the main, accessible trail down the valley. The background soundscape was the growling rattle of cicadas and others that sounded like the sirens of a police car! As we headed along, we saw a white-necked thrush and a white-lined bat flying up and down above the pathway in front of us. Nearby, a bright-rumped Attila was singing while a white-flanked antwren was calling, although it only gave very fleeting glimpses. We arrived at a white-bearded manakin lek where up to six males were sitting on the forest floor or flying up and down and across. We could easily hear their wing-clicking display and whirring of wings when they flew past. The more dominant birds occasionally puffed up their white throat feathers, elongating the look of their head and bill. All along the trail we could hear up to three or four bearded bellbirds broadcasting their mechanical-sounding song. We reached their lek further downhill and had scope views of a male sporting his dangling bare wattles, bright white breast and tail and chocolate-coloured head. Only showed well for some of the group as we headed back up the pathways to the centre. It was getting hot by this point of the morning and from the veranda the feeders were much quieter for birds. However, several butterflies were out flying, including golden rim, cloudless sulphur and Hermes satyr alongside half a dozen oculate dancer damselflies. A zone-winged hawk, resembling a turkey vulture, also circled overhead. We enjoyed some well-earned cold and hot drinks and then headed for lunch at midday.

After lunch there was time to relax, especially during the heat of the day, before heading back out onto the veranda as the hummingbird and tanager activity increased again. Hummingbirds included white-necked jacobins, white-chested emeralds, copper-rumped hummingbirds, brown violetears and a long-billed starthroat. The tanagers had almost disappeared in the heat, although a few silver-beaked and palm tanagers still paid a visit to the laid-out fruit.

After some afternoon tea and sweet or savoury pastries, we headed out with guide Sabira to look for birds in the top car park. Several band-rumped swifts flew overhead, a great kiskadee visited its nest to feed its chicks in a palm tree and a palm tanager was busy building a nest in the streetlamp above us. We were also rewarded with views of a female tufted coquette flying in and out to feed on nearby flowers. We then headed back to the fruiting fig tree we visited this morning, where we spotted a male white-bearded manikin, heard a cocoa woodcreeper and a grey-fronted dove and further along the road had good sightings of a red-rumped agouti walking along the edge of the trees before coming to rest and feeding. One or two white-

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lined bats were also flying around low over the road and shrubs.

After meeting for dinner at 6.30 pm we went back to the veranda to look for the long-tongued bats coming to the nectar feeders; one of the group had a bat detector and recorder, revealing the echolocation calls of both these bats and others around. At 7.30 pm some of us joined the night walk along the road out from Asa Wright with Sabira. Various bush crickets, stick insects and harvestmen were common while highlights included a large brown leaf-like katydid, a chevron tarantula, several land crabs and a tropical luminous click beetle that gave off two spots of green light in the dark.

Tuesday 14 April 2026

Day 3:

Northern Range (Brasso Seco and Morne La Croix)

Weather: Mix of sunshine and cloud with occasional showers, hot and humid, 27°C.

We met our guide Dave and driver Curtis at 8.00 am and headed along the Arima-Blanchisseuse Road and up into the Northern Range, stopping at different locations to look for birdlife in the primary rainforest trees and other vegetation along the roadside.

At our first stop, we found a male white-winged becard, a piratic flycatcher and a yellow-olive flatbill. A postman butterfly was flying nearby and higher up in a tree we saw a female swallow-tanager; a male was calling nearby. At our next stop, a short distance down the road we had tantalising views of a black-faced antthrush as it flew through the vegetation, mostly calling and hidden. However, we had more success with a male great antshrike which was singing nearby and finally lingered in a nearby tree enabling us scope views, seeing its red eye, hooked-tipped bill and white-spotted tail. We also saw a cocoa woodcreeper and heard a red-rumped woodpecker. Further down the road we had success with seeing both a male and then a female collared trogon, sporting a red and pink breast respectively. We also heard a green-backed trogon and saw a male blue dacnis, a long-billed starthroat hummingbird and heard singing white-necked thrush.

Carrying on, we stopped at the Las Lapas viewpoint looking north across the mountain range and out to the Caribbean Sea. It was quite hazy and it was not long before the clouds rolled in and provided us with several short, sharp showers. However, before we headed back to our taxi, we had seen three rare yellow-bellied seed-eaters, including several singing males. A grey-fronted dove perched in a lemon tree and a female black-throated mango was foraging nearby. A pair of black-tailed tityras flew overhead giving out their grating, rasping call and a rufous-browed peppershrike sang in the background. A small group of orange-winged amazon parrots were squawking away and led to the detection of a large raptor. Despite this, we could not see it until it took off and revealed itself as an immature ornate hawk-eagle, one of the largest raptors on the island. Other birds included tropical mockingbird, red-legged honeycreeper, white hawk, band-rumped swifts, blue dacnis and a calling golden-olive woodpecker. At our final stop before lunch, we pulled into an unassuming gravelled area close to a house and gardens on one side and forest on the other. Within minutes we saw a variegated flycatcher, an olive-sided flycatcher, a southern beardless tyrannulet, a pair of white-shouldered tanagers and a blue-grey tanager. A light-morph short-tailed hawk glided overhead as did a small group of turkey vultures. Meanwhile, in the nearby trees we watched an ochre-bellied flycatcher foraging and then spent time watching several trogons including a male Guianan and a pair of green-backed trogons. The rain had dampened insect activity to our advantage and in the nearby roadside vegetation we got close views of over a dozen agnosia clearwing butterflies feeding on tropical whiteweed or billy goat weed. We also saw a harmonia tiger wing and postman butterfly.

We headed further down the road to the village of Brasso Seco where we stopped for lunch at the visitor facility in Brasso Seco village, the name meaning 'dry branch' and referring to a branch of the nearby river that only ever gets wet during the heaviest parts of the wet season. We had some delicious food and tasted the white flesh that surrounds cocoa beans before Alicia explained more about how the village prepares their own cocoa and coffee which they then sell (and some of the group bought). There were quite a few birds around too, including a flock of 12 blue-headed parrots feeding on the seed pods of a nearby immortelle tree. A giant cowbird was also perched in the same tree. Meanwhile, a spectacled thrush was singing outside the building on electricity cables above while silver-beaked tanagers were foraging across

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the road. We also saw several Carib grackles, a green-backed trogon – which perched on the fence – and a great kiskadee while a rufous-browed peppershrike sang in the background. After we had bought our chocolate, we wandered down through part of the village, seeing two southern rough-winged swallows, a tropical kingbird and a carib grackle. Nearby we watched both crested oropendolas and yellow-rumped caciques in the same tree; the latter were mostly busy preening close to their nests. The oropendolas had long hanging nests with a large sphere at the bottom, while those of the caciques were shorter and darker in colour, probably a result of them using different grasses. In the background, we could also hear a ferruginous pygmy owl. Other butterflies included white peacock and blue morphos, as well as further postman and harmonia tiger wing. We also saw a huge dead giant red-winged grasshopper that had been run over by a car.

Leaving the village around 3 pm, we headed back up the mountain road to Asa Wright, arriving back at 3.45 pm, just in time for afternoon tea and a chance to look out across the veranda or have a well-earned rest and reflect on the wonderful wildlife we had seen throughout the day. We met again for the checklist and then dinner at 6.30 pm.

Wednesday 15 April 2026

Day 4:

Dunstan Caves (oilbirds) and Asa Wright

Weather: Overcast with sunny spells and humid, 29°C.

At 8.15 am we headed down to Dunstan Caves, a traditional nesting location for these nocturnal birds and one of the most accessible in the world. The oilbird is specialised in feeding on fruits, such as those of palm trees, and uses echolocation – a little like bats – to find their food. Mukesh took us along the trail – just over an hour's walk – stopping and starting to take it easy along the way. As we headed down, we heard the drumming of a lineated woodpecker, a singing white-necked thrush and saw brief views of white-bellied antbirds (several were singing). We also had great views of an owl butterfly and a blue morpho. As we got nearer to the caves, a greater white-lined bat was circling round and another was around the cave entrance. We split into two groups, and the first group carefully made its way into the cave, walking into the water to get into position. Under red torchlight, we saw a pair of oilbirds with a chick sat on a rocky ledge with their large eyes, thick bristles and elongated bodies and wing/tail feathers. Another oilbird was sitting further up the cave, just showing its head, and one was flying around briefly. The two groups swapped over; those remaining outside were able to see at least three Trinidad stream frogs sat on some leaves or rocks close by. After this special experience, we slowly headed back up to the Discovery Trail, arriving back at 11 am. Other birds along our walk included a calling green-backed trogon, two common black hawks and a singing rufous-browed peppershrike.

We spent a restful afternoon enjoying watching the birds from the veranda before meeting again at 3 pm. With Caleb looked for raptors overhead – it was a bit quiet, aside from black vultures and busy palm tanagers and a pair of great kiskadees visiting their nest. So, we headed back to the veranda or rooms and met again at 4 pm. From the veranda we enjoyed the range of hummingbirds coming to feed, including a blue-chinned sapphire and a ruby-topaz.

Meeting again in the top car park at 4 pm, we had more luck with raptors including several common black hawks, a brief double-toothed kite, turkey and black vultures. Other birds were becoming more vocal in a welcome breeze and herring-bone patterned cirrus clouds overhead. We heard two cocoa woodcreepers, a long-billed gnatwren, a spectacled thrush and a forest elaenia. Two scaled pigeons flew overhead, a male barred antshrike flew into a nearby bush, a pair of tropical kingbirds perched on the nearby communications transmitter and small parties of orange-winged amazon parrots flew overhead.

We met again at 6 pm for the checklist, followed by dinner at 6.30 pm.

Thursday 16 April 2026

Day 5:

Grande Riviere and turtle watching

Weather: Overcast and breezy first thing, brightening up; hotter, humid and sunny later, 27°C.

We had a leisurely morning enjoying time around Asa Wright and people exploring the grounds. Aside from the usual hummingbirds and tanagers, we also saw a pair of bay-headed tanagers, closer views of band-rumped swifts and two southern rough-winged swallows, a circling black hawk-eagle and a flock of 25 crested oropendolas moving through the trees in front of us – one was also displaying and singing, bowing down over the branch it was perched on. We met early for lunch – at 11.30 am – and then met Paul our driver, and local guide Dave at 12.15 pm to head to Grande Riviere on the north-east coast. Along the way we stopped on the Aripo savannah and farmland; we looked across a field with a pond and beyond that a cow shed. The pond was home to a striated heron, two wattled jacanas, a pied water-tyrant and a yellow-headed blackbird. On the edge, there were two or three southern lapwings, including a pair with a young chick wandering around. Beyond this, in the cow shed, we saw a giant cowbird while just outside it there were several cattle egrets. Above, in the humid heat, at least 300 black vultures were circling overhead and gaining height on the thermals. Other birds here included a tropical mockingbird, ruddy ground doves and a tropical kingbird. We then stopped briefly at the Aripo cattle range where we saw two more wattled jacanas, two yellow orioles, a grey kingbird and a tropical kingbird. Further along our journey, we stopped to see several perched plumbeous kites, one showing particularly well for us – these are ‘spring’ migrants from South America coming to Trinidad to nest. We headed north flanking the Atlantic Sea with large white waves and Sargassum weed and then travelled west with the Caribbean Sea on our right. As we got closer to our destination, the sea on the north side of the island was much calmer and bluer; the odd brown pelican was sitting on rocks poking out of the sea. At one stop along the way, we counted over 25 magnificent frigatebirds gliding high overhead.

We arrived at Mount Plaisir Estate Hotel around 4.10 pm and quickly dropped things off in our rooms before heading out to look for Trinidad piping guans; a yellow oriole was in a tree in the car park. Already, several leatherback turtles were surfacing offshore, waiting on the outgoing tide for day to turn to night. Meanwhile, we headed up the road to nearby forest to look for the pawi or Trinidad piping guan, an endemic to the country. As we headed out to the bus, Dave had found a ferruginous pygmy owl calling from a nearby tree which we stopped to watch and see in close detail through the scopes. Then we headed on to Pawi Lodge where some hummingbird feeders were attracting white-necked jacobins, copper-rumped and a ruby-topaz hummingbird. Right next to the viewpoint, we were lucky to see a female piping guan sat on a nest amongst an epiphyte; she was very well camouflaged, with just her wing showing and from another angle, her head. We carried on downhill along the road, hearing a cocoa woodcreeper, a lineated woodpecker and seeing several crested oropendolas. A piping guan flew overhead, followed by one or two more; one remained on an exposed tree branch just long enough for everyone to see it. We headed back up the track and Dave found another guan standing along a thick tree branch near the lodge. It stayed long enough for us all to get good views and to see it through the scope as it began preening and looking around. As we headed back to the bus the group saw a male tufted coquette feeding on the verbena.

We headed back at just after 6 pm for a welcome shower and refresh before meeting for dinner at 7 pm. Dave sorted out our turtle experience permits and we then waited for the turtle guides to let us know when a turtle was nearby. As a distraction, we found a few medium-sized cane or marine toads just outside the restaurant. Around 8.30 pm we got the message we were eager to hear – a turtle was on the beach. We headed out with our red-light torches, joining a small group of other participants, and headed along the sandy beach to the turtle. We gathered round and as our guide explained what was happening, we watched as the female leatherback turtle began to scrape out her nest with her back flippers, creating a hole deep enough for her to lay her eggs. Once she was ready, she stopped scraping and went into an apparently relaxed phase or ‘trance’ to lay her eggs; we were able to edge closer to her to see her glistening eggs. We were also able to appreciate her large size, although as leatherback turtles go this individual was relatively small. We could also see the salty mucus hanging from her eyes; this is where she excretes excess salt from nearby glands. She also had distinctive grey-white blotches scattered all across her soft carapace and body,

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presumably to help with being cryptic in the sea from marine predators. Once she had finished laying her eggs, she began pushing sand into the hole and pressing it down firmly with her back flippers. She then continued to fill the hole and start spreading sand around to ensure her nest was camouflaged. While she was finishing off, another turtle had made her way up the beach around 50 metres away and was making her hole while another much larger female came up to the beach right where we were. She could not quite make up her mind where to dig and headed back down the beach a little way before turning back and coming back up the sand a little further along. While we had been watching the turtles, various bats had been feeding around us and over the beach, just catching the light of our torches. Around 10.15 pm we decided to head back to the hotel, passing a further two more turtles that were just starting to settle in and scrape out their holes. No doubt there would be many more turtles heading up the beach as the night went on, especially after midnight. Over recent weeks, as many as 60 or more turtles have been coming to lay eggs on this beach in just one night.

Friday 17 April 2026

Day 6:

Grande Riviere and Asa Wright

Weather: Hot and humid at Grande Riviere, 30°C (cooler at Asa Wright, 23°C).

As dawn broke, some of the group headed along the beach to see if there were any remaining leatherback turtles still laying their eggs. Much further along the beach we found a female just finishing off her nest and was now pounding the sand down into the hole where she had deposited her eggs. It was around an hour later before she was finally satisfied with how camouflaged she had left the nest and headed back into the sea. Two other turtles further along the beach were also finishing off and quickly headed into the sea once completed, suddenly becoming buoyant as they reached the shallows. Back in the other direction, another two turtles had also done the same. One of the passing turtle surveyors showed us the totals for the night – around 50 female leatherback turtles had visited the beach to nest overnight!

As soon as it was light the black vultures were on the beach looking for any turtle eggs that had been disturbed by new females digging down and digging out the eggs of other turtles. There did not appear to be much for the vultures to eat this morning, although we did spot at least one egg being eaten by a vulture. Meanwhile, a spotted sandpiper ran along the tideline feeding, and two southern lapwings stopped and started more slowly looking for food along the foreshore. Out over the sea, short-tailed swifts were foraging and magnificent frigatebirds began to appear in the air. Around 20 brown pelicans were standing on a large rock further out to sea. Some saw a yellow-headed caracara fly overhead while the odd white-winged swallow was flying over the river.

After breakfast at 8 am, some of the group met again at 9.15 am and we drove a short distance into the trees and old plantations. We saw two chivvy vireos, a tropical pewee, a forest elaenia, a male Guianan trogon, two grey-headed kites, a plumbeous kite, two red-breasted wrens and heard a cocoa thrush and the knocking sound of a crimson-crested woodpecker. We also heard a silvered antbird and before we headed off, finally got views of a second individual; these robin-sized birds like to live along streams and wetland areas such as mangroves. Butterflies included blue morphos, red anartia and owl butterfly. We could see the bird's tweezer-like bill and spot markings on its wing. We headed back to relax at the hotel; those looking out to sea spotted several leatherback turtles just offshore coming up to breathe.

We met at 12 pm for lunch, just as one turtle had become beached and was making her way back out to sea. We left at just after 12.45 pm, stopping at the Aripo cattle ranch to see two savannah hawks perched on an electricity pylon and cables. Along the journey we also saw three swallow-tailed kites (passing through on migration; one was being chased by a swallow), a grey-lined hawk and a grey-headed kite. We arrived back at Asa Wright around 3.30 pm, just in time for afternoon tea and to relax in our rooms or on the veranda watching the hummingbirds.

Saturday 18 April 2026

Day 7:

Asa Wright and Caroni Swamp

Weather: Bright morning, up to 29°C. Hotter and sunnier at Caroni Swamp, 31°C.

We spent the morning resting and relaxing on the veranda or casually walking down the Discovery Walk. Alongside the usual hummingbirds and tanagers, other highlights included a female green-backed trogon, a northern waterthrush and a channel-billed toucan. The nearby fruiting fig tree was also busy with birds including white-throated manikins, golden-headed manikins, violaceous euphonias, a red-crowned ant-tanager, a chivi vireo, a black-tailed tityra and a spring migrant, a male blackpoll warbler.

After lunch we met our guide Dave and driver Curtis at 1.00 pm and headed for the Trincity Millennium Park, an area of grassland and ponds close to a river an hour away on the west side of Trinidad. We passed a ringed kingfisher and a small group of great and snowy egrets in a drainage channel. By the river at Trincity we found four black-crowned night herons and a striated heron, plus lots of large fishes, locally known as red tilapia and black tilapia. On the other side of the road there was a roosting flock of waders: four black-necked stilts and 24 southern lapwings plus two wattled jacanas. An osprey also flew overhead and three anhingas were sunning themselves on the edge of a pool nearby.

Our next stop was at Orange Grove, an area of agricultural land and palms with a whole range of produce being grown, including chillies, beans and okra. Here we found a pair of rare pearl kites; one was perched in a tree and then joined by the other. One then flew, resembling a merlin in flight. A yellow-bellied elaenia perched close by giving us views of its crest and as we headed away, a yellow-hooded blackbird was foraging on fallen branches over a pond. Cattle egrets paraded along the crops looking for insects and ruddy ground doves were numerous. As we neared Caroni Swamp a smouldering field had attracted over 20 cattle egrets and a crested caracara to an adjacent grassy area, no doubt where insects were heading for shelter from the fire.

Ready for our late afternoon boat trip through Caroni Swamp we arrived at 3.30 pm and headed onto our boat at 3.45 pm. It was a hot sunny afternoon and the mangroves provided welcome shade. We headed along a channel on the edge of the 40 square kilometres of mangroves and marshes that border the Gulf of Paria. Water flowed down to the sea through the Caroni and Madame Espagnole rivers. We headed along the channel further into the mangroves where red mangrove trees dominate amongst black and white mangrove trees. It was not long before we saw a green-throated mango hummingbird, a bird that lives in mangroves, and a straight-billed woodcreeper flew across the channel.

As we slowly and quietly sailed along the channel, we saw small numbers of little blue herons, tricoloured egrets and spotted sandpipers, while a few northern waterthrushes were heard calling and a rufous-browed peppershrike was singing. The tide was high and rising; so many birds had finished foraging and some, such as three yellow-crowned night herons, were roosting together. We passed a tiny American pygmy kingfisher and were lucky enough to see two separate silky anteaters curled up fast asleep on the branches of mangrove trees. We passed a sleeping Trinidad tree boa followed by a pair of boas together, one looking alert – we also saw the shed skin of a snake sloughed off onto a branch. At one location we stopped to get some close views of two bicoloured conebills, a mangrove specialist that is related to the honeycreepers. We saw several ospreys, including one perched nearby. A few eared doves flew overhead and we heard an ochre-lored flatbill calling.

At around 5.15 pm we entered a larger area of water and were greeted by over 250 American flamingos – a species that would not have been here ten years ago. Its population has been growing ever since. We positioned ourselves evenly from other boats and came to rest. At high tide, egrets were beginning to come into roost early. As we enjoyed a delicious dinner on the boat, we watched small flocks of dark immature and bright pink-red adult scarlet ibises coming into roost in the trees on the island; most were small groups of 10–20 birds. We saw at least 350 during our visit. Small flocks of tricoloured herons, little blue herons and snowy egrets flew low over the water and disappeared into the trees out of view. The ibises flew in much higher and remained on the outside of the trees, although many still disappeared deeper into the

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trees. Other species included several yellow-crowned night herons, a neotropic cormorant, another green-throated mango and a yellow-headed caracara. By 6.15 pm we were heading back to base and were treated to seeing a spectacled caiman resting on the land by the channel; several bats were flying around and a common pauraque called nearby. We were back on the road to Asa Wright at 7 pm and arrived back just after 8 pm.

Sunday 19 April 2026

Day 8:

Asa Wright and travel back to London Gatwick

We spent the morning enjoying birdwatching from the veranda with all the range of hummingbirds and tanagers. Highlights included scaled pigeon, short-tailed nighthawk and the calls of little tinamou, red-rumped woodpecker and a singing bright-rumped Attila.

We transferred to the airport at 11.30 am; along the way we saw two saffron finches on a fence, a perched crested caracara and several tropical kingbirds. Paul, our driver, slowed down by a waterway at the airport where we spotted several lesser yellowlegs, black-necked stilts, 20 least sandpipers, a great white egret and numerous wattled jacanas. We arrived at the airport at 12.30 pm; despite a two-hour delay we headed off at just after 5.30 pm, flying across many of the areas we had visited in recent days, then over the mountains, across Tobago, Barbados and on to the UK.

Monday 20 April 2026

Day 9:

Arrival back in the UK

After a good overnight flight, we arrived back at 7 am at Gatwick and bid our farewells.

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Checklist for Easy Birding in Trinidad



	Common name	Scientific name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	BIRDS									
1	Little tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>						H		
2	Scarlet ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>							✓	
3	American flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>							✓	
4	Yellow-crowned night heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>							✓	
5	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							✓	
6	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>							✓	
7	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	
8	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						✓	✓	✓
9	Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>							✓	
10	Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>							✓	
11	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>							✓	
12	Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>					✓	✓		
13	Neotropic cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>							✓	
14	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>							✓	
15	Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>					✓	✓		
16	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Western osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							✓	
19	Grey-headed kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>						✓		
20	Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>						✓		
21	Pearl kite	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>							✓	
22	Double-toothed kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>				✓				
23	Plumbeous kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>		✓			✓	✓		
24	Common black hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>		✓		✓				✓
25	Savanna hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>						✓		
26	White hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>		✓	✓					

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27	Grey-lined hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>						✓		
28	Short-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>			✓					
29	Zone-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>		✓						
30	Black hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>				H	✓			
31	Ornate hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>			✓					
32	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>					✓	✓		
33	Wattled jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>						✓		
35	Greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>							H	
36	Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>								✓
37	Least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>								✓
38	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>						✓	✓	✓
39	Scaled pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>				✓				
40	Eared dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>							✓	
41	Ruddy ground dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
42	Grey-fronted dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>		H	✓		H		H	H
43	Greater ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	✓							
44	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>								✓
45	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		H						
46	Ferruginous pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>			H		✓			
47	Oilbird	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>				✓				
48	Common pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>							H	
49	Short-tailed nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>								✓
50	Band-rumped swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
51	Grey-rumped swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>		✓						
52	Short-tailed swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>						✓		
53	Rufus-breasted hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>	✓							
54	Little hermit	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>		✓						
55	White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Green-throated mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridigula</i>							✓	
57	Black-throated mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Ruby-topaz hummingbird	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
59	Tufted coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i>	✓	✓			✓			
60	Blue-chinned sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>				✓	✓	✓		

61	White-chested emerald	Amazilia brevirostris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Copper-rumped hummingbird	Amazilia tobaci	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Long-billed starthroat	Helimaster longirostris	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
64	Brown violetear	Colibri delphinae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Green-backed trogon	Trogon viridis		✓	✓	H			✓	
66	Guianan trogon	Trogon violaceus		✓	✓			✓	H	H
67	Collared trogon	Trogon collaris			✓				✓	
68	Trinidad motmot	Momotus bahamensis					H			
69	Channel-billed toucan	Ramphastos vitellinus	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	H
70	Red-rumped woodpecker	Veniliornis kirkii			H					H
71	Golden-olive woodpecker	Colaptes rubiginosus			H					
72	Lineated woodpecker	Dryocopus lineatus				✓	H		✓	H
73	Crimson-crested woodpecker	Campephilus melanoleucos					✓	H		
74	Yellow-headed caracara	Milvago chimachima						✓	✓	
75	Crested caracara	Caracara cheriway							✓	✓
76	Blue-headed parrot	Pionus menstruus			✓					
77	Orange-winged amazon	Amazona amazonica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Green-rumped parrotlet	Forpus passerinus							✓	
79	Grey-throated leaftosser	Sclerurus albigularis			✓					
80	Straight-billed woodcreeper	Dendroplex picus							✓	
81	Cocoa woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus susurrans			✓	H	H		H	
82	Great antshrike	Taraba major			✓					
83	Barred antshrike	Thamnophilus doliatus		✓	✓	✓	H		✓	H
84	White-bellied antbird	Myrmeciza longipes				✓				
85	White-flanked antwren	Myrmotherula axillaris		✓						
86	Silvered antbird	Sclateria naevia						✓		
87	Black-faced antthrush	Formicarius analis			✓					
88	Southern beardless tyrannulet	Camptostoma obsoletum			✓					
89	Ochre-bellied flycatcher	Mionectes oleaginous			✓					
90	Forest elaenia	Myiopagis gaimardii				H		✓		
91	Yellow-bellied elaenia	Elaenia flavogaster							✓	
92	Yellow-olive flatbill	Tolmomyias sulphurescens			✓					
93	Ochre-lored flatbill	Tolmomyias flaviventris							H	H
94	Olive-sided flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			✓					

95	Tropical pewee	Contopus cinereus						✓		
96	Pied water-tyrant	Fluvicola pica					✓			✓
97	Great kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Piratic flycatcher	Legatus leucophaeus			✓	H			H	H
99	Streaked flycatcher	Myiodynastes maculatus		✓						
100	Variegated flycatcher	Empidonomus varius			✓					
101	Tropical kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
102	Grey kingbird	Tyrannus dominicensis					✓			
103	Bright-rumped attila	Attila spadiceus		H	H	H			H	H
104	Bearded bellbird	Procnias averano	H	✓	H	H	H	✓	H	H
105	White-bearded manakin	Manacus manacus		✓					✓	
106	Golden-headed manakin	Ceratopipra erythrocephala		✓	✓	H		✓	✓	
107	Rufous-browed peppershrike	Cyclarhis gujanensis			H	H	H		H	H
108	Chivi vireo	Vireo chivi						✓	✓	
109	White-winged swallow	Tachycineta albiventer					✓	✓		
110	Grey-breasted martin	Progne chalybea	✓			✓	✓			✓
111	Southern rough-winged swallow	Stelgidopteryx ruficollis	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Rufous-breasted wren	Pheugopedius rutilus			H			✓		
113	Southern house wren	Troglodytes musculus	✓	✓	H	H	✓	H	H	H
114	Long-billed gnatwren	Ramphocaenus melanurus		H		H				H
115	Tropical mockingbird	Mimus gilvus	✓		✓		✓		✓	
116	Cocoa thrush	Turdus fumigatus	✓	H		✓	✓	H		✓
117	Spectacled thrush	Turdus nudigenis	H	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
118	White-necked thrush	Turdus albicollis		✓	H	H	H	H	H	
119	Trinidad euphonia	Euphonia trinitatis		✓		H	H		H	
120	Violaceous euphonia	Euphonia violacea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
121	Crested oropendola	Psarocolius decumanus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Yellow-rumped cacique	Cacicus cela			✓					
123	Yellow oriole	Icterus nigrogularis					✓			
124	Giant cowbird	Molothrus oryzivorus			✓		✓			
125	Shiny cowbird	Molothrus bonariensis	✓	✓					✓	
126	Carib grackle	Quiscalus lugubris	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Yellow-hooded blackbird	Chrysomus icterocephalus					✓		✓	
128	Northern waterthrush	Parkesia noveboracensis					✓		✓	

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129	Blackpoll warbler	Dendroica striata							✓	
130	Red-crowned ant tanager	Habia rubica							✓	
131	White-shouldered tanager	Loriotus luctuosus		✓	✓					
132	White-lined tanager	Tachyphonus rufus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Silver-beaked tanager	Ramphocelus carbo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
134	Blue-grey tanager	Thraupis episcopus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Palm tanager	Thraupis palmarum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Bay-headed tanager	Tangara gyrola		✓	✓		✓			
137	Swallow tanager	Tersina viridis			✓					
138	Blue dacnis	Dacnis cayana			✓					
139	Purple honeycreeper	Cyanerpes caeruleus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Red-legged honeycreeper	Cyanerpes cyaneus			✓					
141	Green honeycreeper	Chlorophanes spiza	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Bicoloured conebill	Conirostrum bicolor							✓	
143	Bananaquit	Coereba flaveola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Saffron finch	Sicalis flaveola								✓
	BUTTERFLIES									
1	Postman	Heliconius melpomene			✓	✓		✓		
2	Cloudless sulphur	Phoebis sennae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
3	Cattle heart	Parides anchises						✓		
4	Red anartia or coolie	Anartia amathea						✓		
5	Illioneus giant owl	Caligo illioneus				✓		✓		
6	Monarch	Danaus plexippus					✓		✓	✓
7	Blue morpho	Morpho peleides	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
8	Harmonia tiger wing	Tithorea harmonia			✓	✓				
9	Hermes satyr	Hermeuptychia hermes		✓						
10	White crescent	Janatella leucodesma						✓		
11	Ruby spotted swallowtail	Parides anchisiades							✓	
12	Gold rim swallowtail	Battus polydamas		✓	✓					
13	White peacock	Anartia jatrophae			✓		✓	✓		
14	Agnosia clearwing	Ithomia agnosia			✓					
	INVERTEBRATES									

1	Trinidad chevron tarantula	Psalmopoeus cambridgei		✓						
2	Pink-footed tarantula	Avicularia avicularia					✓			
3	Tropical orb weaver spider	Eriophora sp.		✓						
4	Harvestmen	Santinezia serratotibialis		✓						
5	Manicou or mountain crab	Eudaniela garmani		✓						
6	Tail-less whip scorpion	Phrynus pulchripes		✓						
7	Leaf-cutting ants	Atta cephalotes		✓		✓				
8	Leaf-mimic katydid	Tettigoniidae family		✓						
9	Walkingstick (stick insect)	Creoxylus spinosus		✓						
10	Fiddler crab	Uca maracoani							✓	
11	Mangrove tree crab	Aratus pisonii							✓	
12	Carmine skipper	Orthemis discolor		✓						
13	Oculate dancer	Argia oculata		✓						
14	Tropical luminous click beetle	Pyrophorus pellucens		✓				✓		
15	Giant red-winged grasshopper	Tropidacris cristata			✓					
	MAMMALS									
1	Greater white-lined bat	Saccopteryx bileneata		✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	Common long-tongued bat	Glossophaga soricina	✓	✓						
3	Red-rumped agouti	Dasyprocta agouti	✓	✓						
4	Silky anteater	Cyclopes didactylus							✓	
5	Small Indian mongoose	Herpestes auropunctatus								✓
	REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS									
1	Leatherback turtle	Dermochelys coriacea						✓	✓	
2	Cryptic golden tegu	Tupinambis cryptus	✓	✓		✓				
3	Caribbean treerunner	Plica caribea	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
4	Zandolie or giant amieva lizard	Ameiva atrigularis		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
5	Green iguana	Iguana iguana						✓		
6	Cane toad	Bufo marinus					✓	H	H	
7	House gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus					✓	H	H	
8	Trinidad tree boa	Corallus ruschenbergerii							✓	
9	Trinidad stream frog	Mannophryne trinitatis				✓				
10	Lesser Antillean whistling frog	Eleutherodactylus johnstonei		H				H		

11	Spectacled caiman	Caiman crocodilus							✓	
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