

## Tour Report Easy Birding in Trinidad 30 March – 7 April 2025

Bare-tailed woolly opossum



Ruby-topaz hummingbird



Scarlet ibis



Rufous-tailed jacamar



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. Away from Asa Wright, we ate dinner and rum punch on a boat at Caroni Swamp at dusk, mesmerised by hundreds of scarlet ibises coming into roost and flamingos flying overhead. At Nariva Swamp we saw a pair of near-threatened rufous crab-hawks and a family of snail kites. Alongside the birds, there were plenty of different butterflies, including monarchs, a variety of dragonflies or damselflies and reptiles including the Trinidad tree boa, fer-de-lance and golden tegu lizard. During one of our nighttime walks we also spotted a rarely seen bare-tailed woolly opossum.

**Sunday 30 March 2025**

### **Day 1: Arrival at the Asa Wright Centre**

*Weather: hot, humid and showery, 30° C*

Most of us met together at check-in and took off just after 9:00 am from Gatwick Airport on our nine-hour flight to Trinidad. One couple had travelled out several days earlier to enjoy Port of Spain before transferring to Asa Wright. On arrival at Piarco International Airport – 24 kilometres east of the city, Port of Spain – we met our local guide Dave. On our walk across the car park to his maxi we saw tropical mockingbirds, a ruddy ground dove and a carib grackle. We headed up towards the Northern Range to the world famous Asa Wright Centre, a 45-minute drive away and 366 metres (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 with the condition the 1500-acre area became a nature reserve.

Along the way to the Asa Wright Centre, we spotted various birds including turkey vultures, a cattle egret, a few snowy egrets, crested oropendolas and two bright yellow saffron finches. At one point we were able to stop and admire a stunning white hawk perched very close to the road. Flowering trees were scattered along our route including African tulip trees and African flame trees, while colourful bougainvillea flowers adorned almost every garden and street. As we headed into the mountains the vegetation became lush and greener and passed trees such as nutmeg, cashew, mango, cacao, breadnut, the avocado-like chayote or christophine squash. The rain had also encouraged all the Trinidad stream frogs to 'sing', leading to a frog chorus all along the forest road.

On arrival at the Asa Wright Centre, we dropped off our luggage in our rooms before enjoying the birdlife 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 relax watching hummingbirds such as white-necked jacobins, white-chested emeralds, copper-rumped hummingbirds, a male black-throated mango and at least six brown violetears, a scarce species in Trinidad that has increased in numbers here at Asa Wright in the past year. We also spotted palm tanagers, silver-beaked tanagers, white-lined tanagers, a boat-billed flycatcher and a crested oropendola, while a bearded bellbird, spectacled thrush and a cocoa woodcreeper called in the background. One guest also spotted a red-rumped agouti near their room.

After a delicious buffet dinner at 6:30 pm, most of the group headed to bed after a long travel day. A few stayed for a night walk along the hotel's road at 7:40 pm with hotel wildlife guide Caleb. Alongside the soundscape of three or four different species of frogs, we saw two Trinidad chevron tarantulas together in the hole of a railing, large harvestmen, an impressive trail comprising hundreds of leaf-cutting ants, a stick insect, several whip scorpions, bush crickets and two mountain or maniocou crabs. One larger individual was on the edge of its tunnel while a smaller crab was trying to climb up the steep verge to reach it! As we headed back down the road Caleb found a thick-tailed scorpion using his UV torch, and then a second; scorpions glow under UV as their exoskeletons reflect visible light that we can see.

**Monday 31 March 2025**

**Day 2: Asa Wright Centre - Discovery Trail**

*Weather: Sunny spells, 30° C*

After a well-earned rest and after our buffet breakfast we spent a little time on the veranda seeing several Caribbean tree runner lizards, two channel-billed toucans and up to half a dozen Trinidad Euphonias including a pair that repeatedly visited a bromeliad where they likely have a nest. At 8:30 am we met with head guide Mukesh to hear a little more about the history and conservation work at Asa Wright before heading slowly along the Discovery Trail – the main, accessible trail down the valley. Just a little way along we heard and saw a streaked flycatcher and band-rumped swifts and listened to a singing southern house wren. Around a delightful range of flowers and a small pond, there were various butterflies, a dragonfly, a Trinidad stream frog and lots of well-grown tadpoles. Of the butterflies, highlights along our walk included monarch, scarlet peacock, cloudless sulphur, the tiger, white crescent, hermes satyr and doris. The background soundscape was the growling rattle of cicadas.

As we headed down the trail we mostly heard (briefly saw) two golden-fronted greenlets and heard the mournful call of a less common dusky-capped flycatcher, a lineated woodpecker, a rufous-browed peppershrike and a green-backed trogon, while a white-necked thrush sang in the background. A small group of vocal orange-winged parakeets flew out of the trees letting everything know we were coming! We arrived at a white-bearded manakin lek where up to eight 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 bearded bellbirds broadcasting their mechanical-sounding song. We reached their lek further downhill and found two males in separate locations singing and bearing their dangling bare wattles, bright white breasts and tails and chocolate-coloured heads. Thrilled with our views we headed back up to Asa Wright for a break before lunch at midday, stopping to admire a large golden tegu lizard.

After lunch with time to relax and enjoy watching the birds from the veranda including hummingbirds such as white-necked jacobins, white-chested emeralds, copper-rumped hummingbirds, two male black-throated mango and two brown violetears. There was also a lot of activity with tanagers feeding on nearby wild tobacco, fig fruits and fruit laid out for the birds including blue-grey, palm, turquoise, white-lined and silver-beaked tanagers. Sharing the sugar feeders were also many bananaquits, a pair of purple honeycreepers and green honeycreepers. A blue dacnis also appeared in a mango tree by the veranda. Below, we also watched the antics of several zandoli, a ground lizard, as they chased each other or bathed on the stone slabs. Out across the valley, a juvenile double-toothed kite soared around, a goshawk-like bird with a long tail and bulging, rounded wings.

We met again at 3.30 pm and looked for birds in the top car park with guide Randall. Here we heard a white-bellied antbird and a cocoa woodcreeper. Many band-rumped swifts flew high overhead with a single Neotropical palm swift. A crimson-crested woodpecker was pecking a dead tree with a loud, deep, resonating effect. Before we headed down for afternoon tea we looked at six greater white-lined bats hanging or perched at an angle on a nearby outbuilding.

In the evening, we joined the night walk along the hotel's roads with Randall. Various bush crickets, stick insects and harvestmen were common while highlights included a tropical orb-web spider spinning her web, a net-casting spider poised with a rectangular net of web strung between its legs, a large leaf-like katydid, a small tarantula and a large wandering spider and a bare-tailed woolly opossum up along a branch of a large tree!

**Tuesday 1 April 2025**

**Day 3: Northern Range (Brasso Seco and Morne La Croix)**

*Weather: Mix of sunshine and cloud with occasional showers, hot and humid 29° C*

We met our guide Dave at 8:30 am and headed along the Arima-Blanchisseuse Road and up into the Northern Range, stopping at different locations to look for birdlife in the trees and other vegetation along the roadside. At least four white-necked thrushes flew across or away from the road on the highest part of the trip, where the cool, damp road verges provide good feeding opportunities. Several pairs of swallow tanagers were also seen flying away from the rocky verge wall where they nest in a burrow; one pair in particular remained close by. These birds will have recently arrived and come here for the dry season to breed.

We headed on to the village of Morne La Croix where we spent time at the far end of the village. Our first bird was a stunning rufous-tailed jacamar perched on a tree while another called nearby. We also had incredible views of a male Guianan trogon, a jackdaw-size bird with a bright yellow breast and eye ring. Scope views revealed its delicately vermiculated patterned wing coverts. On the overhead wires, at least eight juvenile grey-breasted martins sat together in a row; the odd southern rough-winged swallow was also seen flying past or stopping on the road. At the other end of the wires, we had a direct comparison between a giant cowbird and a much smaller shiny cowbird. Various butterflies were also seen including postman and white peacock. We were also watching the antics of a tarantula hawk wasp, a species that specialises in parasitising tarantulas. Other birds in the village included turkey vultures, great kiskadee, boat-billed flycatchers, crested oropendolas, yellow-rumped caciques and the mournful call of a grey-fronted dove. We also had views of three great black hawks overhead, two adults and a juvenile, while in the far distance, a white hawk was soaring.

We headed back up the road towards Brasso Seco village. We stopped just outside Morne La Croix where we had lovely scope views of an olive-sided flycatcher, a bird that will be heading north to spend the summer in North America soon. There were also a few bay-headed tanagers.

We carried on down the valley and stopped for lunch at the visitor facility in 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 had some delicious food and tasted the white flesh that surrounds cocoa beans before hearing 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 and while we had lunch a spectacled thrush was singing away and a grey-fronted dove was feeding on the ground nearby. A noisy flock of blue-headed parrots flew overhead. We explored the village a little, spending a little time comparing the nests of a colony of busy yellow-rumped caciques with a neighbouring tree full of the longer crested oropendola nests; these were largely empty although one oropendola came into an unfinished nest. Three ruddy ground-doves were nearby and a cocoa thrush was in a mango tree above. Across the way, we heard ferruginous pygmy owl and headed round to a fig tree where it was calling from. While the owl remained elusive we did see a new species that is rarely seen, the lilac-tailed parrotlet. One was feeding on ripe red fruits and was incredibly cryptic and difficult to see; fortunately, the scope helped to see its feather detail and revealed a second parrotlet next to it! Other birds included a tropical mockingbird, a singing rufous-browed peppershrike, a yellow-headed caracara and a flock of 40 orange-winged parrots. A young mole cricket was also spotted under a leaf. Meanwhile, overhead we had brilliant views of a grey-lined hawk and a zone-tailed hawk.

We headed back up the mountain road to Asa Wright stopping three or four times to look and listen for more birds, in particular the collared trogon. On our final stop, our luck was in and alongside hearing their calls we had brief views of the pink-brown back of a female and a male, with a red breast, who flew across the road. A cocoa woodcreeper also called nearby. At another stop, we had views of a short-tailed hawk just hanging in the air above the trees.

We also stopped at Las Lapas viewpoint looking north across the mountain range and out to the Caribbean Sea. A single leaf-bare tree was busy with birds including half a dozen red-legged honeycreepers, a female black-throated mango and a tropical parula. A flock of around 20 white-collared swifts passed overhead quickly.

We arrived back at 4 pm, just in time for afternoon tea; just as came to the front gates a male American redstart was flashing his black and orange tail close by.

We met again for the checklist and dinner at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday 3 April 2025**

#### **Day 4: Asa Wright and Caroni Swamp**

*Weather: Overcast with sunny spells and humid, 29° 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 white hawk, a yellow-headed caracara, a male Guianan trogon, a female green-backed trogon, a spectacled thrush, two cocoa thrushes, a female and male barred antshrike, a blue-chinned sapphire and a group of channel-billed toucans. Butterflies included a flambeau, a scarlet peacock and white crescents.

After lunch, we met our guide Dave at 1:30 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. The river was busy with roosting waders including a mixed flock of greater and lesser yellowlegs, 12 black-necked stilts, 15 southern lapwings, two wattled jacanas, two least sandpipers, a striated heron, a tricoloured heron and several snowy egrets and little blue herons. On the other side of the road down on the river, there were at least 16 great white egrets, an adult and juvenile black-crowned night heron, a striated heron and lots of large fishes, locally known as red tilapia and black tilapia. Two neotropical palm swifts, a tropical kingbird, a great kiskadee, blue-and-white swallows, at least four ospreys and a few yellow-hooded blackbirds were also seen nearby.

Ready for our late afternoon boat trip through Caroni Swamp we arrived at 3:30 pm and spent a little time looking for some land birds. We were rewarded with an adult and a juvenile masked cardinal, a specialist bird in the mangrove environment here. We also saw a pair of black-crested antshrikes raising their punk-style head crests. A woody, dead branch revealed itself as a tropical screech owl roosting on a mangrove tree, its head hidden behind a leaf.

Once on our boat, we started to head along a channel 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 headed along the channel further into the mangroves where red mangrove trees dominate amongst black and white mangrove trees. Some fiddler crabs scuttled inside their burrows on the low tide and back on land two smooth-billed anis flew off. Two different green-throated mango hummingbirds, another speciality in mangroves were also seen.

As we slowly and quietly sailed along the channel occasionally we enjoyed a glass of rum lunch while enjoying the mangroves and birds such as spotted sandpipers and little blue herons lurking amongst the mangrove roots. A common black hawk took off from near the water and landed in a red mangrove tree. We stopped to see three scarlet ibises resting up high beneath the canopy of the trees. Other highlights included two separate resting Trinidad tree boas curled up on mangrove branches above us, two shed snake skins clung to branches, a brief straight-billed woodcreeper, the calls of ochre-lore flatbills and northern waterthrushes and a singing rufous-browed peppershrike. We also saw two mangrove tree crabs clinging to the vertical mangrove roots. It was a memorable experience moving through the channels and experiencing the sounds and sights of this unique environment.

The finale was sailing out into a more open lake focusing on a mangrove tree island where egrets and ibises come into roost. As we edged closer we saw 11 American flamingos, followed by another 20 or so a little later. A great blue heron and a cocoi heron loitered on the edge of the mangrove trees. We spaced ourselves out from some other boats and came to rest by a female white-winged swallow perched on a post. Two flamingos came and rested near the island while others flew past right over our heads. As a Trinidad-style dinner was served we were able to enjoy small flocks of bright pink-red scarlet ibises coming into roost in the trees on the island; most were small groups of 10-20 birds. Up to 5,000 may roost on this island in one night. As the light began to fade, 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. Great white egrets also flew past or into the trees. Other species included a yellow-crowned night heron, three separate neotropic cormorants, ten semipalmated plovers and eared doves. By 6.15 pm we were heading back to base while the moon's crescent looked down on us from the darkening sky above. We were back on the road to Asa Wright at 7 pm and arrived back at 8 pm before a quick nightcap and bed.

**Thursday 4 April 2025**

**Day 5: Dunstan Caves (oilbirds) and Matura**

*Weather: Overcast, breezy and cooler; hotter and sunny later with rain in the evening, 29° C*

At 8:30 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 – about an hour's walk – stopping and starting to take it easy along the way. Around us, the soundscape comprised the mournful calls of two grey-fronted doves, the clacking song of several bearded bellbirds and various frogs and cicadas. We also heard the calls of a white-throated spadebill, white-necked thrush and a very close little tinamou. An owl butterfly was feeding on the fermenting tonka fruits. As we headed down we encountered a pair of plain antvireos; the female almost resembles a female blackcap. Further along, we watched a singing white-bellied antbird. As we got nearer to the caves a greater white-lined bat was circling around and another was around the cave entrance. We carefully made our way into the cave, walking into the water to get into position and under red torchlight we saw up to ten oilbirds sitting on rocky ledges with their large eyes, thick bristles elongated bodies and wing/tail feathers. We slowly headed back up to the Discovery Trail, hearing a green-backed trogon, a rufous-browed peppershrike and a golden-fronted greenlet. Near a stream three large blue morpho butterflies were gracing the space and a green hermit hummingbird was feeding on flowers. We arrived back at 11 am and met again for the checklist just before lunch. We spent a restful afternoon catching up with scarcer hummingbirds such as two long-billed starthroats and a ruby-topaz hummingbird, sporting a bright red throat and iridescent orange crown. Some of the group also spotted a rare and tiny rufous-shafted woodstar.

We met Dave at 4 pm and headed to the east coast of the island and a sandy beach called Matura. Along the way, we stopped at several roadside locations to catch up with five raptors: a savannah hawk, two crested caracaras, an immature peregrine, two separate plumbeous kites (a migrant from Venezuela that comes to Trinidad to nest) and a bat falcon. We stopped in the town of Matura for a toilet break at the HQ of Nature Seekers, an organisation that monitors and educates about nesting turtles. Above short-tailed swifts were chasing and circling around.

We arrived at our beach destination, ate our sandwiches and waited for the volunteers and staff to arrive from Nature Seekers. We headed down to the beach for a short while as Dave also went in search of any turtles. Meanwhile, we watched as fireflies gently flashed in the woodland nearby and house geckos called from the walls of the centre building. A marine toad was also keeping us company. After introductions to the turtle beach and the research project, we waited in the hot, moist breezy air with waves crashing close by. Sadly, the tide was just too high for seeing turtles, perhaps exasperated by the presence of Sargasso weed and coastal erosion, leaving less and less of the sandy beach available for the turtles to nest. Turtles will come back to lay a clutch of eggs up to ten times, each time visiting different parts of a beach or other beaches elsewhere on the island. Many are not favouring the north coast beach and those on the Caribbean side where there is more sand and no Sargasso weed. We arrived back at 11:15 pm, travelling along roads where there had been heavy rainfall all evening away from the coast.

**Friday 5 April 2025**

**Day 6: Leisurely morning; Arena Forest and Eteck Park, Wallerfield**

*Weather: Overcast and showery, sunny spells, 26° C*

We had a leisurely morning enjoying the birdlife from the veranda. Highlights included a pair of Guianan trogons, close views of the crested oropendolas, distant scope views of a channel-billed toucan and two scaled pigeons. We met at 9:45 am for a walk along the road with Randall. The cooler, cloudier morning meant butterflies were more obliging with close views of three postman butterflies and one, the aetolus stripe-streak, whose tail resembled the head of a butterfly. Our slow walk along the road revealed a calling ochre-ored flatbill and a Euler's flycatcher, two rufous-browed peppershrikes, a golden-headed manikin and several golden-fronted greenlets. A real highlight was seeing a fer-de-lance snake or Trinidad bothrops resting on the road before heading off into the leaf litter.

At 4 pm we met Dave and headed back down the valley to Wallerfield, an area formerly a World War II American air base. Many parts of it now are agricultural fields and dwellings. There is a university built on site while the main airfield has become a savannah with moriche palms. We spent some time walking along a particular track looking and listening for birds and spotting dragonflies. We saw orange-winged parrots flying over in pairs and heard yellow-crowned parrots. We also saw a scaled pigeon, a sulphury flycatcher, and several tropical kingbirds. A ferruginous pygmy owl called in the background along with one or two little tinamous. We finished with a delicious sit-down, open-air dinner and rum punch to drink. While we ate several palm swifts flew overhead and the frogs all began 'singing', creating a wonderful dusk chorus. Once it was dark we went looking for nightjars. They were everywhere and appeared to be doing really well in this habitat. Along the wide grassy verges, we spotted at least 14 pauraques, including one obliging singing male who sat on a branch and allowed us to see his plumage detail, including his white chin. Amongst the taller grassier areas of the runway, we found half a dozen smaller white-tailed nightjars, including a female without the white in her tail. While the pauraques have black stripes in their plumage, the white-tailed nightjar have white streaks; differences we were able to see in many of these individuals. Dave also found us a Trinidad tree boa sticking out up in the trees resembling a tree branch. We then headed back to Asa Wright, arriving back around 8:15 pm.

**Saturday 6 April 2025**

### **Day 7: Manzanilla/Nariva Swamp**

*Weather: Overcast with heavy showers, 25° C.*

We headed out at 8 am, our destination the east coast and Nariva Swamp. We headed south down the valley and then east through the bustling town of Sangre Grande. We carried on east to Manzanilla Beach, a long curving sandy beach looking out towards the Atlantic and where the white frothy waves were breaking in the shallows. There was quite a warm, strong breeze too. We pulled in for a brief toilet stop; here several magnificent frigatebirds were drifting overhead. Around the resort buildings were grey-breasted martins, carib grackles and tropical mockingbirds.

A little further along the road we were on the edge of Nariva Swamp and were treated to three juveniles, an adult female and two adult male snail kites. They were gathered together in bushes on the edge of the brackish water. One youngster was dealing with a snail while an adult flew away with a stick in its talons. A pied water-tyrant was perched close to the kites and a yellow oriole was up on some overhead wires. In a nearby palm a close grey-lined hawk perched being mobbed by a smaller bird. And over the pools beyond the kites, a large male long-winged harrier was slowly flying along. A limpkin was also perched on top of some vegetation.

Moving on we drove through coconut trees and fields now converted to watermelon fields – all once part of the wetlands. We stopped by the tidal inlet where the tide was in and spotted 20+ snowy egrets and a spotted sandpiper. We then carried on along a quieter road through the cultivated fields and a freshwater channel. The tide was on our side as many of the raptors that are normally more spread out at low tide foraging were gathered in the trees resting, including a pair of the rare and globally near threatened rufous crab-hawk. Nearby in a palm tree, we also saw a savanna hawk while in a tree over the channel, we saw a merlin. Another merlin also flew overhead. Here we also spotted over a dozen ruddy ground doves, a pale-vented pigeon, a giant cowbird, a yellow-headed caracara and a yellow oriole. As we drove on we passed two or three more savannah hawks and small groups of smooth-billed anis. We stopped for Dave to scan

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the landscape where he picked up some distant blue-and-yellow macaws. We drove a little further down the road and walked along a vegetated pathway to get a closer look. Fifteen or more macaws were in an area of palm trees, squawking, preening both themselves and others or hanging on dangling on the thick threads that bear the palm tree fruits. They were a stunning yellow and sky blue. Nearby a grey-lined hawk was calling. As we headed back to the main road we stopped by a pool to see several pied water-tyrants and a wattled jacana.

We stopped in Sangre Grande at 1 pm for lunch at a popular eatery, choosing our own selection of cooked Trinidad dishes that have become familiar over the past week. On the way back we stopped by the Aripo Livestock Research Station to look for some savannah birds. Two Savannah hawks were perched up on the telegraph wires and closer a great kiskadee and a tropical kingbird were perched on the wires. Over 100 black vultures soared overhead. We then had the joy of seeing up to five green-rumped parrotlets in a nearby bush, superbly camouflaged when amongst the leaves. Two grassland yellow finches also flew past calling. We nipped round to the opposite end of the fields where we saw a distant red-breasted meadowlark and a crested caracara that perched up in a tree. Two white-tipped doves called nearby.

We arrived back at Asa Wright just after 3 pm and said farewell to our amazing guide Dave who had been with us all week. We were back in good time for afternoon tea and some birding from the veranda.

**Sunday 6 April 2025**

### **Day 8: Asa Wright and travel back to London Gatwick**

We spent the morning enjoying birdwatching from the veranda; there was rain for much of the morning which led to watching some interesting behaviour. During the rain, the hummingbirds, particularly the jacobins, find a perch and spread their wings out to have a wash. One blue-chinned sapphire even used a leaf covered in raindrops to have a splash. As the rain continued insects began to fly above the shrubs enticing tanagers and hummingbirds to rise up into the air and start fly-catching. A flock of grey-rumped swifts also joined in and flew past close to the building and across the valley. Other highlights included a pair of spectacled thrushes, a Guianan trogon, a streaked flycatcher, four turquoise tanagers, a bat tanager, two common black hawks and a lineated woodpecker. A palm tanager was feeding fruit to its two recently fledged young on one of the bird tables and a nest with very young tanager chicks was also discovered close to our rooms.

We transferred to the airport at 11.20 am arriving 50 minutes later in good time for our flight back to the UK. We flew east across many of the areas we had visited in recent days then over the mountains, across Tobago, Barbados and on to the UK.

**Monday 7 April 2025**

### **Day 9: Arrival back in the UK**

After a good overnight flight, we arrived back early at 4.30 am at Gatwick and bid our farewells.

*Images by Stephen Harrington*

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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
	<b>BIRDS</b>									
1	Little tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>					H	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 blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>				✓				
9	Cocoi heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>				✓				
10	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓		✓	
11	Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>				✓				
12	Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>				✓				
13	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓			✓			✓	
14	Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>						✓	✓	
15	Neotropic cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				✓			✓	
16	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>						✓		
17	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Western osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				✓				
20	Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							✓	
21	Double-toothed kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>		✓						
22	Plumbeous kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>					✓			
23	Common black hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
24	Savanna hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>					✓		✓	
25	White hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
26	Grey-lined hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>			✓				✓	

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27	Short-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>			✓			✓		
28	Zone-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>			✓					
29	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Semipalmated plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>				✓				
31	Wattled jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>				✓			✓	
32	Least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>				✓				
33	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				✓			✓	
34	Greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>				✓				
35	Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>				✓				
36	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>				✓		✓	✓	
37	Scaled pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>						✓		
38	Vale-vented pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>							✓	
39	Ruddy ground dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
40	Grey-fronted dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>			✓	H	H	H	H	H
41	White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>							H	
42	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>						✓		
44	Tropical screech owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>				✓				
45	Ferruginous pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>			H			H		
46	Oilbird	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>					✓			
47	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>						✓		
48	White-tailed nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis cayennensis</i>						✓		
49	White-collared swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</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	Neotropic palm swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
54	Green hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>					✓			
55	Little hermit	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>		✓						
56	White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Green-throated mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridigula</i>				✓				
58	Black-throated mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Ruby-topaz hummingbird	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitus</i>					✓	✓		✓
60	Tufted coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

61	Rufous-shafted woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus jourdanii</i>				✓	✓	✓		
62	Blue-chinned sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	White-chested emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Copper-rumped hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tobaci</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Long-billed starthroat	<i>Helimaster longirostris</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Brown violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Green-backed trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>		H		✓	H			
68	Guianan trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓
69	Collared trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>			✓					
70	Trinidad motmot	<i>Momotus bahamensis</i>				H				
71	Rufous-tailed jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>			✓					
72	Channel-billed toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
73	Lineated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Crimson-crested woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>		✓				✓		
75	Yellow-headed caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>			✓	✓			✓	
76	Crested caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>					✓	✓	✓	
77	Bat falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>					✓			
78	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					✓			
79	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>							✓	
80	Blue-headed parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>			H					
81	Yellow-crowned amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>							✓	
82	Orange-winged amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Lilac-tailed parrotlet	<i>Touit batavicus</i>			✓			H		
84	Green-rumped parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>							✓	
85	Blue-and-yellow macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>							✓	
86	Straight-billed woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>				✓				
87	Cocoa woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>		H	H	H	H		H	
88	Plain antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>					✓			
89	Barred antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>			✓	✓		✓	H	H
90	Black-crested antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>				✓		H		
91	White-bellied antbird	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>		H			✓	H		
92	Ochre-lored flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>				H		H		
93	White-throated spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>					H			
94	Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>			✓					

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95	Tropical pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>						✓		
96	Pied water-tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>							✓	
97	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Euler's flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>						H		
99	Streaked flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>		✓	✓					✓
100	Dusky-capped flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>		H						
101	Boat-billed flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	✓							
102	Sulphury flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>						✓		
103	Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
104	Bearded bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>	H	✓	H	H	✓	✓	H	H
105	White-bearded manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>		✓		✓				
106	Golden-headed manakin	<i>Ceratopipra erythrocephala</i>						✓		
107	Rufous-browed peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>		H	H	H	H	✓	H	
108	Golden-fronted greenlet	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons</i>		✓			H	✓		
109	Blue-and-white swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>				✓				
110	White-winged swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>				✓				
111	Grey-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>			✓			✓	✓	
112	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>			✓		✓		✓	
113	Rufous-breasted wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>			✓					
114	Southern house wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	H	H	H	H	H	✓	H	H
115	Long-billed gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>						H		H
116	Tropical mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Cocoa thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>		H	✓	✓	H	✓		
118	Spectacled thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓		✓
119	White-necked thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>		H	✓	H	H	H	H	H
120	Trinidad euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i>		✓	✓		H			
121	Violaceous euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓
122	Red-breasted blackbird	<i>Leistes militaris</i>							✓	
123	Crested oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Yellow-rumped cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>			✓					
125	Yellow oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>							✓	
126	Giant cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>			✓				✓	
127	Shiny cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>			✓					✓
128	Carib grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓

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129	Yellow-hooded blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>				✓				
130	Northern waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>			✓	✓				
131	American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>			✓					
132	Tropical parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>			✓				✓	
133	Red-crowned ant tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>				✓				
134	White-lined tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Silver-beaked tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Blue-grey tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Palm tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Turquoise tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
139	Bay-headed tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>			✓					✓
140	Swallow tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>			✓					
141	Blue dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>		✓						
142	Purple honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
143	Red-legged honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>		✓	✓					
144	Green honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Saffron finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	✓		✓					
147	Grassland yellow-finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>							✓	
148	Masked cardinal	<i>Paroaria nigrogenis</i>				✓				
	<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>									
1	Postman	<i>Heliconius melpomene</i>			✓			✓		
2	Cloudless sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
3	Cattle heart	<i>Parides anchises</i>		✓	✓					
4	Scarlet peacock or coolie	<i>Anartia amathea</i>		✓		✓				
5	Illioneus giant owl	<i>Caligo illioneus</i>				✓	✓			
6	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
7	Blue morpho	<i>Morpho peleides</i>		✓			✓			
8	Large tiger	<i>Lycorea halia</i>		✓			✓			
9	Flambeau or julia butterfly	<i>Dryas julia</i>		✓		✓				
10	White crescent	<i>Janatella leucodesma</i>		✓		✓	✓			
11	Doris longwing	<i>Laparus doris</i>		✓			✓			

12	Gold rim swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
13	White peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>			✓				✓	
14	Aetolus stripestreak	<i>Arawacus aetolus</i>						✓		
	<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>									
1	Trinidad chevron trantula	<i>Psalmopoeus cambridgei</i>	✓	✓						
2	Net-casting spider	<i>Deinopis</i> sp.		✓						
3	Tropical orb weaver spider	<i>Eriophora</i> sp.								
4	Harvestmen	<i>Santinezia serratotibialis</i>	✓	✓						
5	Manicou or mountain crab	<i>Eudaniela garmani</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		
6	Tail-less whip scorpion	<i>Phrynus pulchripes</i>	✓	✓						
7	Leaf-cutting ants	<i>Atta cephalotes</i>	✓	✓						
8	Leaf-mimic katydid (several species)	<i>Tettigoniidae</i> family		✓						
9	Walkingstick (stick insect)	<i>Creoxylus spinosus</i>	✓							
10	Fiddler crab	<i>Uca maracoani</i>				✓				
11	Mangrove tree crab	<i>Aratus pisonii</i>				✓				
12	Band-winged dragonet	<i>Erythrodiplax umbrata</i>						✓		
13	Thick-tailed scorpion	<i>Tityus trinitatis</i>	✓							
14	West Indian mole cricket	<i>Scapteriscus didactylus</i>				✓				
15	Tarantula hawk wasp	<i>Pepsis</i> sp.				✓				
	<b>MAMMALS</b>									
1	Greater white-lined bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2	Red-rumped agouti	<i>Dasyprocta agouti</i>	✓							
3	Bare-tailed woolly opossum	<i>Caluromys philander</i>		✓						
	<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>									
1	Cryptic golden tegu	<i>Tupinambis cryptus</i>		✓						
2	Caribbean treerunner	<i>Plica caribeaana</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Zandolie or giant amieva lizard	<i>Ameiva atrigularis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Cane toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>					✓			
5	House gecko	<i>Hermidactylus frenatus</i>		✓			✓			
6	Variegated gecko	<i>Gonotodes ceciliae</i>		✓						

<b>7</b>	Trinidad tree boa	<i>Corallus ruschenbergerii</i>				✓		✓		
<b>8</b>	Fer-de-lance or Trinidad bothrops	<i>Bothrops atrox</i>						✓		
<b>9</b>	Trinidad stream frog	<i>Mannophryne trinitatis</i>	✓	✓	H	✓	H	H		

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