

Tour Report

Trinidad – Easy Birding in Trinidad

14 – 22 April 2024

Bearded bellbird



Green-backed trogan



Trinidad piping guan



Sleeping silky anteater



Compiled by Ed Drewitt

Based at the world-famous Asa Wright Centre, our week's stay did not disappoint. We were entertained by hummingbirds galore from the veranda at Asa Wright, while a nearby fruiting fig tree attracted in many different tanagers, trogons and flycatchers throughout our stay. From the lekking white-bearded manakins to the industrial hammering song of the bearded bellbird, there was so much to see and experience. Away from Asa Wright we boated through Caroni Swamp at dusk, mesmerised by hundreds of scarlet ibises coming into roost; we watched two Trinidad piping guans while exploring the forest in the Northern Range; and we observed a shy and cryptic pinnated bittern on the marshland at Nariva Swamp. Wherever we went, bananaquits, great kiskadees and tropical kingbirds were the supporting cast, complimenting the range of other species that were more specific to particular habitats. While birds were our main focus, we also saw several silky anteaters sleeping in Caroni Swamp, colourful butterflies and dragonflies and various amphibians and reptiles, including watching a leatherback turtle dig her nest in the sand and lay eggs.

Day 1:

Sunday 14 April 2024

Arrival at the Asa Wright Centre

Weather: hot, humid and sunny, 32° C

We met together at check in and took off just after 9:30am from Gatwick Airport on our eight-hour flight to Trinidad. On arrival at Piarco International Airport – 24km east of the city, Port of Spain, it was a sunny, hot and humid day. On arrival we met our guide Charran and quickly spotted several carib grackles, a yellow-headed caracara and a tropical mockingbird. Before heading up into the mountains to our accommodation, we spent 20 minutes slowly driving along a private golf course. It paid off as we delighted in seeing over a dozen southern lapwings – including a female standing over an egg – alongside cattle egrets, white-winged swallows, ruddy ground doves, two spectacular saffron finches, a male white-headed water tyrant, a pied water-tyrant, a solitary sandpiper and tropical kingbirds. On the edge of one pool a spectacled caiman was resting while a red-eared slider slipped into the water and a West Indian mongoose bounced along the shore. We then headed in Charran's maxi 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 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 perched white hawk, a calling cocoa woodcreeper and squawking orange-winged parrots alongside the calls of cicadas. As we headed into the mountains, the vegetation became lush and greener while the temperature dropped a little. The green forest was decorated with the flowering yellow poui trees – bright yellow as their name suggests. We also passed trees such as nutmeg, mango, cacao, breadfruit the avocado-like chayote or christophine squash.

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 at the Arima valley. We were able to relax while watching hummingbirds such as white-necked jacobins, white-chested emeralds, copper-rumped hummingbirds, a male black-throated mango, brief views of a long-billed starthroat and close views of a brown violetear, a scarce species in Trinidad. A pair of blue dacnis were in a nearby tree while a bearded bellbird and a toucan called in the background. Other birds included palm tanagers (also feeding young at a nest above our heads), mating silver-beaked tanagers and crested oropendolas. Two red-rumped agoutis also appeared, one raising all its rump hairs as a crest as it chased off the other!

A small number of the group met our hotel guide Mukesh for a night walk along the hotel's road at just after 7:30pm. Alongside the soundscape of various insects, we also spotted a large female Trinidad chevron tarantula, large harvestmen, a millipede, an impressive trail comprising hundreds of leaf-cutting ants (including the much larger 'majors'), stick insects, several whip scorpions, a katydid, bush crickets and various mountain crabs, often scuttling back into holes in the bank or road. Two snakes were also spotted: one, the coffee snake, which had its head hidden in a hole where it disappeared into, and two, the tropical flat snake, with an orange-red head, purple neck and red body with dark markings along its body, which

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

was moving along the edge of the road. A bananaquit was also spotted roosting in an old nest.

Day 2:

Monday 15 April 2024

Asa Wright Centre - Discovery Trail

Weather: Several morning showers and sunnier in the afternoon, 30° C

The first bird to start the dawn chorus – at 5:34am – was a cocoa thrush followed by a great kiskadee, palm tanagers and a house wren. Once some fresh fruit and sugar feeders were put out as the light came up, the different hummingbirds began appearing for their breakfast. We enjoyed watching various species coming to feed including two brown violetear hummingbirds. Grey-rumped swifts fed overhead. A pair of white-lined tanagers and a white-shouldered tanager came down to the fruit alongside two juvenile silver-beaked tanagers. Just before breakfast we also spotted a squirrel cuckoo, a cocoa woodcreeper, several crested oropendolas, a female swallow tanager (a scarce migratory species) and a tufted coquette. While the birds were coming out from the forest to feed, large bats were heading to roost in the corner of a nearby roof. An illioneus giant owl butterfly was also rescued after flying into the tiled floor of the centre building – it appeared to have knocked itself out, although fully recovered and flew off!

After breakfast we headed out with Mukesh and Charran along the Discovery Trail – the main, accessible trail down the valley. We did not have to go far before we stopped to watch many different species of bird foraging in a fig tree. Five turquoise tanagers were preening on some branches while bay-headed tanagers, a white-bearded manakin and green honeycreepers were feeding. To our delight several trogons appeared providing amazing views. A male green-backed trogon first appeared, swallowing a large stick insect, followed by a pair of smaller Guianan trogons. A rufous-browed peppershrike was singing close by.

As we headed down the trail we spotted two squirrel cuckoos. We could hear birds in the background including a Trinidad motmot, a grey-fronted dove, scaled pigeons, a little tinamou, a bright-rumped atilla and white-bellied antbird. There was a menagerie of plant life including a variety of palms originally deposited by oilbirds. Around us we could hear up to four singing bearded bellbirds – with their mechanical-sounding song – and, after listening to their special soundscape, managed to see several different males on branches above us with their dangling bare wattles and chocolate-coloured heads. A white-bearded manakin lek did not disappoint either. While it was quiet on the way down, with just a few birds present, as we headed back around 10 males were displaying in response to a visiting female. There was lots of wing-clicking and bouncing around! They also puffed up their white throat feathers, elongating the look of their head and bill. Nearby a huge plate-size cane toad was resting. We took a short detour to visit a golden-headed manakin lek and found a dominant male with a female. Heading back to the centre we also encountered a plain-brown woodcreeper and a green hermit feeding on a torch ginger flower head. A crimson-crested woodpecker was also seen. Back around the centre we spotted various butterflies including postman, cattle heart, scarlet peacock, gold rim swallowtail and cloudless sulphur.

After lunch and with time to relax and enjoy watching the birds from the veranda, we met again at 4pm and walked with Charran along the hotel's road. Although relatively quiet for birds, there were four noisy orange-winged parrots, several hummingbirds and fly-by northern waterthrush. Land crabs were common along the walk as were the range of colourful flowers, well suited for hummingbirds.

Day 3:

Tuesday 16 April 2024

Waterloo and Caroni Swamp

Weather: Hot and sunny, 33° C

The cocoa thrushes started up the dawn chorus slightly early today at closer to 5:30am! Before and after breakfast we watched the usual exciting menagerie of birdlife from the veranda alongside a black hawk-eagle diving downwards in the valley.

We headed out to Waterloo at 8:30am, a town on the west coast. Despite busy traffic along the way, our

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

slow progression allowed for some successful birding including numerous tropical kingbirds and great kiskadees perched on overhead wires, southern rough winged swallows, white-winged swallows, cattle egrets, great white egrets and black vultures. We pulled over to see a savannah hawk foraging in a field and saw another later in a tree. Other highlights along our journey included several ospreys, a crow-size ringed kingfisher, a white-headed marsh-tyrant, a smoothed-billed ani and a pearl kite with a lizard. We stopped at some grassland before Waterloo where we were successful in seeing several male red-breasted meadowlarks (blackbirds), over a dozen wattled jacanas, a snowy egret and a pair of yellow-hooded blackbirds. Over 50 black vultures were sheltering on the ground in the shade under tables further in town. Once we were by the sea, despite the tide still being high, we were rewarded with over 50 resting brown pelicans and a line of neotropic cormorants. Several magnificent frigatebirds were drifting low overhead. Black vultures were scavenging for any fish remains left by local people, and at one point all the pelicans came over to feed too! By the mangroves, where some mud was becoming accessible, southern lapwings, willets and semipalmated sandpipers were resting. Laughing gulls flew overhead calling. Several northern waterthrushes were in the nearby mangroves where a pair of cowbirds were foraging. Several great white egrets and great blue heron were perched in the distant mangroves. We headed inland for lunch where we tried traditional rotis – eating with our hands – at a local eatery which was very popular with locals. We headed back to Waterloo and while the tide was still high, we spotted a Cabot's tern perched on a post, several large-billed terns flying further out, a willet, a greater yellowlegs and a yellow-crowned night heron. Whilst briefly visiting the nearby statue of the monkey god, Hunaman – the largest outside of India – we also saw two green-rumped parrotlets, a small group of tricoloured munias and a yellow-bellied elaenia.

Ready for our late afternoon boat trip through Caroni Swamp, we arrived just before 3:30pm and were rewarded with a close common black hawk and a resting greater ani. Here 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 boarded our boat and headed along the channel further into the mangroves. Fiddler crabs were all along the exposed mud, scuttling inside their burrows as we sailed passed. Spotted sandpipers were spread all along the channels, some developing their spotted plumage ready for breeding further north on fast-flowing rivers across North America. Little blue herons were also just as numerous and equally spread along the channels. Highlights included two separate sleeping silky anteaters, two resting Trinidad tree boas curled up on mangrove branches above us, a very cryptic sleeping tropical screech-owl, a sleeping common potoo, a foraging straight-billed woodcreeper searching for crabs, several striated herons, a very obliging American pygmy kingfisher and a pair of black-crested antshrikes. It was a memorable experience moving through the channels and experiencing the sounds and sights of this unique environment. As American flamingos came into sight – a newcomer to the swamp over the past eight years – an osprey flew overhead with a fish clasped in its talons. More flamingos were spread out across the shallow water in various open pools that we visited. Along the exposed mud eight semipalmated plovers were feeding, and we began to see our first scarlet ibises. Suddenly, around 5:30pm, a flock of 200 flew overhead in a stunning flash of bright, almost luminous red-pink colour. And so the display continued as various small flocks of scarlet ibises came into roost and find their position for the night in the mangrove trees. With the tide now low many chose to feed along the shallow channels between exposed mud, and we were able to see the adults, sub-adults and grey juveniles next to each other. As the light began to fade, tricoloured herons also began to fly in to roost alongside the ibises while snowy egrets also joined in. We also spotted several yellow-crowned night herons. By 6pm we were heading back to base and could see small gatherings of spotted sandpipers along the edges of the channels while a few dashed passed at eye level. We were back on the road to Asa Wright at 6:30pm and had a quick dinner at 8pm before heading to bed for a well-earned rest.

Day 4:

Oilbirds and turtle watching

Weather: Hot and sunny, 33° C

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Another fine morning of spotting the usual suspects coming to the plants and feeders outside the veranda. Additional highlights included a pair of channel-billed toucans together in the distance and a pair of lined woodpeckers, demonstrating some impressive drumming on a dead branch.

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

At 8:30am 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. We had a quick look at the fig tree where we spotted white-bearded and golden-headed manakins, bay-headed tanagers, turquoise tanagers and a lined woodpecker. Caleb, our guide, then gave us an introduction about the oilbirds. We then walked down to the caves – about an hour’s walk – stopping and starting to drink water and admire the rainforest and its wildlife. The occasional blue morpho butterfly glided through the gaps in the vegetation. A white-necked thrush was singing – a similar song to the cocoa thrush although much slower and with drawn-out notes. Other birds we heard included northern waterthrush and golden-fronted greenlet. We also spotted a green hermit and a cocoa woodcreeper. Down by the caves a greater white-lined bat was circling round and tiny Trinidad stream frogs were spotted. We carefully made our way into the cave and under red torchlight we saw up to seven oilbirds sat on rocky ledges with their large eyes, thick bristles and elongated bodies and wing/tail feathers. Standing beneath them, we could see the stones of palm fruits regurgitated back up after the softer fruit had been digested. As we left, we could hear them making strange hissing sounds. We slowly headed back up to the Discovery Trail, encountering a rufous-breasted wren and a female red-crowned ant-tanager along the way. A female golden-headed manakin was feeding her two fledged young a small fig. Back near the centre various ameiva lizards were racing away and a grey-lined hawk circled overhead.

We had lunch and a restful afternoon before heading out at 4pm to the west coast of the island to a sandy beach called Matura. Along the way, close to Valencia, we stopped to enjoy a pair of bat falcons. The larger female was perched calling while the smaller male was flying around and eventually stopped on an old dead palm tree to feast on an illionus giant owl butterfly. Nearby we could hear a cocoa woodcreeper and several smooth-billed anis flew past. Orange-winged parrots also perched to give us some closer views. A short distance down the road we stopped again to look at a perched sooty-coloured plumbeous kite, a migrant from Venezuela that comes to Trinidad to nest. We arrived at our destination, ate our sandwiches and waited for the volunteers and staff to arrive from Nature Seekers. Meanwhile, we watched as fireflies gently flashed in the woodland nearby and house geckos called from the walls of the centre building. After introductions to the turtle beach and the research project we waited in the hot, moist, breezy air with waves crashing close by. A few turtles had come out of the sea and had gone back in again, perhaps in response to the mounds of sargasso weed creating less ideal conditions for them. Around 10pm a female was spotted by the volunteers settling in and camouflaging herself with sand. At the right moment we were invited to join them and gathered round, using red light only, to watch as she expertly dug a bell-shaped hole with her back flippers. This was a small female, perhaps her first time laying, and would therefore be around 25 years old. Once she began egg-laying she went into a trance. This was the opportunity for the researchers to put metal identification tags on her back flippers and insert a passive integrated responder (PIT) tag into her right shoulder. We were also able to get closer and observe her. Once her eggs were laid she spent the remaining time covering up her eggs with all her flippers, making sure the exact location of the eggs would be undetected by predators such as vultures or opossums. We left her to it at around 11pm. However, the evening was not quite over. We were shown wooden boxes containing sand and turtle eggs from vulnerable areas of the beach, for example those areas prone to erosion where the eggs may get washed away. At the very end our guide showed us three early turtle hatchlings that had been found – we had the chance to hold them before they were returned to the beach on their way to the sea. A fine way to end a memorable evening before getting back to our rooms at 1:15am.

Day 5:

Thursday 18 April 2024

Arena Forest and Etect Park, Wallerfield

Weather: Hot and sunny, 33° C

We spent the morning resting and relaxing on the veranda after the previous late night. Highlights included the common black hawk, Trinidad euphonia, boat-billed flycatcher, a pair of Guianan trogons, purple and green honeycreepers, a female barred antshrike and a circling double-toothed kite carrying a lizard with a long tail! Some of the group also had success in photographing a male tufted coquette visiting flowering

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

vervain below the veranda where butterflies such as scarlet peacock, long-tailed skipper and postman were busy feeding. There were also several roseate skimmer dragonflies. After lunch we also caught sight of an immature male green mango – a first for Asa Wright – and a blue chinned sapphire.

Just after 2:30pm we headed back down the valley to Wallerfield, an area formerly a second World War American air base. Many parts of it now are agricultural fields and dwellings while the main airfield has become savannah with moriche palms. Our first stop by some fields and a garden centre revealed two green-rumped parrotlets, tropical kingbirds and great kiskadees. One tree contained two yellow orioles, black-faced grassquits, a ruddy ground dove and a singing greyish saltator. A palm swift also flew overhead. Further round the corner we stopped by a roadside pineapple plantation and watched a pair of yellow-bellied elaenias – one had food for young in its beak. A rufous-browed peppershrike was also moving through the bushes and two crested oropendolas flew past. After a quick comfort stop we carried on to the main abandoned airfield to look for birds amongst the moriche palms and other trees. We encountered orange-winged parrots, a pair of blue dacnis, a blue chinned sapphire, a stunning scaled pigeon (plus a few flying over), a pair of violaceous euphonias, palm tanagers and calling ochre-ored flatbills. We also heard a ferruginous pygmy owl and little tinamous. We finished with a lovely surprise – a sit down, open-air dinner with rum punch to drink. While we ate, a plumbeous kite perched nearby and was being mobbed by a pair of sulphury flycatchers, specialists in this moriche palm savannah. Three short-tailed swifts flew around overhead calling and frogs began ‘singing’ around us, while fireflies were flashing like mini-torchlights. A single palm swift flew overhead. Once it was dark we went looking for nightjars and could hear both white-tailed nightjars and pauraques and, using torchlight, we managed to see both. We then headed back to Asa Wright, arriving back around 8:30pm and saying goodbye to Charran and our driver Curtis for the last time.

Day 6:

Friday 19 April 2024

Northern Range (Brasso Seco and Morne La Croix)

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

Today we met our new guide Dave and headed along the Arima-Blanchisseuse Road and up into the Northern Range, stopping at particular locations to look for birdlife in the trees and other vegetation along the roadside. Before heading up we went downhill a short distance to catch up with a sooty grassquit, a bird more commonly associated with low-lying grasslands and moving up into the hills. We saw a pair alongside a long-billed gnatwren, a rufous-breasted wren, a female golden-headed manakin, white-lined tanagers and bananaquits.

Heading north, Dave was listening out for collared trogons, a species we had not yet encountered. We were in luck and stopped at one place to see a female and then a male in the trees above. Here we also encountered ochre-ored flatbills, golden-fronted greenlets, a pair of purple honeycreepers, a rufous-breasted wren, two female golden-headed manakins and a blue-chinned sapphire. As we headed on, a cocoa thrush flew across the road and we found its nest in the embankment with three eggs. A frigatebird flew high overhead close to some soaring black vultures.

We stopped at an opening in the protected forest area where, concerningly, small-scale farming has been creeping into it. Despite this, the joining of three valleys here meant ornate hawk-eagle, turkey vulture, broad-winged hawk and a plumbeous kite all circled overhead. The kite was feeding on something in its talons as it flew. A real treat was seeing channel-billed toucans for a prolonged period in a tree, feeding and being social. Although only three or four were in view at any one time, when they flew out there appeared to be six! Other highlights include a female blue dacnis sitting on a woven nest, a chivy vireo and an olive-sided flycatcher.

Further along we stopped by a flow of water down the rocks where a great kiskadee was resting, and a northern waterthrush was busily foraging. A heavy shower moved us on. However, we returned back after lunch and spotted a pair of bay tanagers, a forest elaenia and a tropical parula.

We carried on down the valley and headed along a lane where there was small-scale agriculture on the edge

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

of Brasso Seco village. We were in luck as two Trinidad piping guans – a turkey or peacock-like bird and usually difficult to see later morning – were perched in a tree. We could not believe it, especially as these are critically endangered. We had superb views and one even flew right over our heads before resting up. Eventually they both disappeared into the trees. Meanwhile, the nearby vegetation was alive with birds; we saw a rufous-browed peppershrike, an ochre-lore flatbill, a piratic flycatcher, purple and green honeycreepers, silver-beaked, white-lined and turquoise tanagers, a northern waterthrush and a striking male white-winged becard.

We stopped for lunch at the community centre in Brasso Seco village, the name meaning 'dry branch', 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 hearing about how the village prepares their own cocoa and coffee which they then sell (and some of the group bought). Here we also heard ferruginous pygmy owl and saw several yellow-rumped caciques.

We then headed back up the road and down to the village of Morne La Croix. On our way down we stopped several times and caught up with tropical pewee, a male great antshrike, a Trinidad motmot (and heard several more) and a pair of nesting boat-billed flycatchers. At another place we saw streaked flycatcher, long-billed gnatwren, purple honeycreepers, female golden-headed manakin, blue-chinned sapphire, chivy vireo and the songs of crested oropendolas.

Further down, by someone's garden, a female rufous-tailed jacamar flew up from a nest hole in an old mound of sand. While we waited for her to return the garden, the trees were bustling with a spectacled thrush, a southern beardless tyrannulet, a tropical mockingbird, purple honeycreepers, a calling chestnut woodpecker and violaceous euphonias. The female jacamar returned with a beetle to feed her young so we got into the bus and headed away just as she came back out of the hole and sat nearby.

Finishing up in Morne La Croix we watched a lined woodpecker trying to hide from us, and saw carib grackles, ruddy ground doves, several female black-throated caribs, a pair of piratic flycatchers visiting an oropendola nest and four blue-headed parrots flying quietly overhead.

We arrived back at just after 5pm and met again for the checklist and dinner, with a little celebration of Ed's birthday with some floral table decorations and a special cake.

Day 7:

Manzanilla/ Nariva Swamp

Weather: Hot and sunny, 32° C. Overcast in the afternoon.

Saturday 20 April 2024

We headed out at 8am, our destination the east coast and Nariva Swamp. On our way down we stopped by the roadside where a whole collection of birds came into the nearby trees. The highlights were a male plain ant-wren, a male red-legged honeycreeper and three white-shouldered tanagers. We also got good views of several long-billed gnatwrens, a tropical parula, a forest elaenia, a bay-headed tanager, a female blue dacnis and a calling red-breasted wren. We carried on south and then headed east towards the bustling town of Sangre Grande. On the way east we stopped by the Aripo Livestock Research Station to watch a pair of savannah hawks perched on the ground and above on electricity cables. In Sangre Grande we picked up lunch from a popular eatery, choosing our own selection of cooked Trinidad dishes that have become familiar over the past week. We carried on east to Manzanilla beach, a long curving sandy beach looking out towards the Atlantic. Here, we stopped for an early lunch while watching frigatebirds drifting overhead and the odd brown pelican flying low over the high tide. We were also treated to a pair of blue-yellow macaws casually flying past and occasionally calling. Grey-breasted martins were perched on nearby wires and carib grackles were around the car park looking for an easy snack.

A little further along the road, we were on the edge of Nariva Swamp and were treated to four immature snail kites, flying around and often perching in nearby trees. Through the scope we could see their extraordinary long hooked bill used for prising out snails from their shells. Moving on we drove through

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

coconut trees and fields now converted to watermelon fields – all once part of the wetlands. We encountered several yellow-headed caracaras, savannah hawks and southern lapwings (often mobbing the hawks) as well as a perched juvenile common black hawk. By the tidal inlet we spotted snowy egrets, several streaked herons, three semipalmated plovers and two spotted sandpipers. By now the heat was intense. We stopped by a freshwater swamp, keeping in the shade, to look for silvered antbird. This is a species restricted just to the Nariva Swamp in Trinidad. We had success with two birds arriving and singing almost at ground level in the mangroves – the male was dark all over with white flecks on his wings. A female bicoloured conebill also came to investigate metres away from us.

We carried on through the cultivated fields passing various groups of smooth-billed anis and buffalypso cattle. At one point we saw three or four grey kingbirds and half a dozen barn swallows perched on wires; they were all passing through heading north on migration. Most of the ditches were dry and it was only when we drove further inland around these fields that we found some water – often sighted with wattled jacanas – and more birdlife. Our prize find was an adult pinnated bittern foraging in wet vegetation and from a distance looked like a broken stick! We also saw several white-headed marsh tyrants, pied water tyrants and yellow-chinned spinetails. We stopped to watch a pair of yellow-headed caracaras displaying to each other in a palm tree. Before we left, as a few turkey vultures circled low overhead, Dave spotted a zone-tailed hawk, which mimicked the shape and flight of vultures.

Before heading back at 2:30pm we stopped by the roadside to eat some fresh watermelon and got back to Asa Wright just after 4pm, in good time to freshen up and relax before the checklist and dinner a few hours later.

Day 8:

Sunday 21 April 2024

Asa Wright and travel back to London Gatwick

We had most of the morning to enjoy birdwatching from the veranda and soak up the Trinidad sunshine. A memorable highlight included a pair of channel-billed toucans feeding in a nearby tree. Dave picked us up at 11am and dropped us off in good time at the airport. One couple carried on to Port of Spain for a few days while the remainder headed back to the UK.

Day 9:

Monday 22 April 2024

Arrival back in the UK

After a good overnight flight, we arrived back at Gatwick on time at 5am and bid our farewells.

Sign up to our e-news

Sign up to our e-news to find out more about our tours, events, late availability, offers and tour reports at <https://www.wildlifeworldwide.com/subscribe>

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Checklist for Easy Birding in Trinidad



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day ✓	Day ✓	Day ✓	Day 4	Day 5	Day ✓	Day 7	Day ✓
	BIRDS									
1	Little tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>		h			h			
2	Scarlet ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>			✓					
3	American flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>			✓					
4	Pinnated bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>							✓	
5	Yellow-crowned night heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</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	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓				✓	
10	Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>			✓					
11	Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>			✓					
12	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓		✓				✓	
13	Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</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	Pearl kite	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>			✓					
21	Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>				✓	✓			
22	Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							✓	
23	Black hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>			✓					✓
24	Ornate hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>						✓		
25	Double-toothed kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>					✓			

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)
 01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

26	Plumbeous kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>				✓	✓	✓		
27	Common black hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Savanna hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
29	White hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	✓							
30	Grey-lined hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>				✓			h	
31	Broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>						✓		
32	Zone-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>							✓	
33	Trinidad piping guan	<i>Pipile pipile</i>						✓		
34	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
35	Semipalmated plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>			✓				✓	
36	Wattled jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>			✓				✓	
37	Least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>			✓					
38	Semipalmated sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>			✓					
39	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>			✓				✓	
40	Solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	✓							
41	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>			✓					
42	Greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>			✓					
43	Laughing gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>			✓					
44	Cabot's tern	<i>Thalasseus acuflavidus</i>			✓					
45	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
46	Scaled pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>		✓			✓	✓		
47	Common ground dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>			✓	✓				
48	Ruddy ground dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Grey-fronted dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>		h		h		h		
50	Eared dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>			✓					
51	Greater ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>			✓				✓	
52	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>			✓	✓			✓	
53	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Tropical screech owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>			✓					
55	Ferruginous pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>					h	h		
56	Oilbird	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>				✓				
57	Common potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>			✓					
58	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>				✓	✓			
59	White-tailed nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis cayennensis</i>					✓			
60	Band-rumped swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

61	Short-tailed swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>					✓			
62	Neotropical palm swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>					✓			
63	Rufous-breasted hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
64	Green hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>				✓		✓		✓
65	Little hermit	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>						✓		
66	White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Green-throated mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridigula</i>					✓	✓		
68	Black-throated mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Tufted coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Blue-chinned sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>					✓	✓		
71	White-chested emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Copper-rumped hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tobaci</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Long-billed starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		
74	Brown violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Green-backed trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>		✓				h		
76	Guianan trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	h	h
77	Collared trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>						✓		
78	African pygmy kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>			✓					
79	Ringed kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>			✓					
80	Trinidad motmot	<i>Momotus bahamensis</i>		h	h	h		✓		
81	Rufous-tailed jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>						✓		
82	Channel-billed toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	h			✓	✓	✓	h	✓
83	Chestnut woodpecker	<i>Celex elegans</i>						h		
84	Lineated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>				✓		✓		✓
85	Yellow-headed caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	✓		✓				✓	
86	Bat falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>				✓				
87	Blue-headed parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>						✓		
88	Yellow-crowned amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>							✓	
89	Orange-winged amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
90	Green-rumped parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>			✓		✓			
91	Blue and yellow macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>							✓	
92	Yellow-chinned spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>			✓					
93	Grey-throated leaftosser	<i>Sclerurus albigularis</i>							✓	

94	Plain-brown woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>		✓		✓			✓	
95	Straight-billed woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>			✓					
96	Cocoa woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	h	✓	✓	✓	h	h	h	
97	Plain antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>							✓	
98	Barred antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
99	Black-crested antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>			✓			✓		✓
100	Great antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>						✓		
101	Silvered antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>							✓	
102	White-bellied antbird	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>		h						
103	Forest elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>						✓	✓	
104	Southern beardless tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>						✓		
105	Ochre-ored flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>						✓		
106	Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>						✓		
107	Tropical pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>						✓		
108	Pied water tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>	✓						✓	
109	White-headed marsh tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>	✓		✓				✓	
110	Piratic flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>						✓		
111	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Streaked flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>						✓		
113	Boat-billed flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		
114	Sulphury flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>					✓			
115	Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Grey kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>							✓	
117	Bright-rumped attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>		h						
118	Bearded bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>	h	✓	h	h	h	h	h	h
119	White-bearded manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>		✓		✓				
120	Golden-headed manakin	<i>Ceratopira erythrocephala</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	White-winged becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>						✓		
122	Rufous-browed peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	h	h	h		✓	✓	h	
123	Chivi vireo	<i>Vireo chivi</i>						✓		
124	Golden-fronted greenlet	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons</i>				h		✓		
125	White-winged swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>	✓		✓					
126	Grey-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>							✓	

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

127	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
128	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>							✓	
129	Rufous-breasted wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>						✓	h	
130	House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	h	✓	✓		✓	✓	h	h
131	Long-billed gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>		h				✓	✓	
132	Tropical mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Cocoa thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>		✓	h	h	h	✓	h	h
134	Spectacled thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	White-necked thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>				h		✓		
136	Trinidad euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i>					✓			
137	Violaceous euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Red-breasted blackbird	<i>Leistes militaris</i>			✓					
139	Crested oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Yellow-rumped cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>						✓		
141	Yellow oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>					✓		✓	
142	Shiny cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
143	Carib grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Yellow-hooded blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>			✓					
145	Northern waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>		✓	✓	h		✓		
146	Tropical parula	<i>Setophaga pitaiayumi</i>						✓	✓	
147	Red-crowned ant tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>				✓				
148	White-shouldered tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>		✓					✓	
149	White-lined tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Silver-beaked tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Blue-grey tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	Palm tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Turquoise tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
154	Bay-headed tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>		✓				✓	✓	
155	Blue dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	
156	Purple honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Red-legged honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>							✓	
158	Green honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
159	Bicolored conebill	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>							✓	
160	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Find out more about our [Easy Birding in Trinidad](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

161	Saffron finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	✓		✓					
162	Greyish saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>					✓			
163	Blue-black grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>					✓	✓	✓	
164	Sooty grassquit	<i>Tiaris fuliginosus</i>						✓		
165	Tri-coloured munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>			✓					
	BUTTERFLIES									
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	Long-tailed skipper	<i>Urbanus sp.</i>					✓			
9	Flambeau or Julia Butterfly	<i>Dryas julia</i>							✓	
	INVERTEBRATES									
1	Trinidad Chevron Tarantula	<i>Psalmopoeus cambridgei</i>	✓							
2	Harvestmen	<i>Santinezia serratotibialis</i>	✓							
3	Mountain Crab	<i>Eudaniela garmani</i>	✓			✓				
4	Tail-less Whip Scorpion	<i>Phrynus pulchripes</i>	✓							
5	Leaf-cutting Ants	<i>Atta cephalotes</i>	✓							
6	Leaf-mimic Katydid (several species)	<i>Tettigoniidae family</i>	✓							
7	Walkingstick (stick insect)	<i>Creoxylus spinosus</i>	✓							
8	Fiddler crab	<i>Uca maracoani</i>			✓					
9	Praying mantis						✓			
10	Rubyspot	<i>Hetaerina sp.</i>					✓			
11	Roseate skimmer	<i>Orthemis ferruginea</i>				✓	✓			
	MAMMALS									
1	Silky anteater	<i>Cyclopes didactylus</i>			✓					
2	Greater white-lined bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>		✓		✓			✓	
3	Red-rumped agouti	<i>Dasyprocta agouti</i>	✓							

4	Small Indian mongoose	<i>Urva auropunctata</i>	✓							
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS										
1	Cryptic golden tegu	<i>Tupinambis cryptus</i>		✓	✓					
2	Caribbean treerunner	<i>Plica caribea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Zandolie or giant amieva lizard	<i>Ameiva atrigularis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Cane toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>		✓						
5	House gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓	✓					
6	Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>			✓					
7	Coffee snake	<i>Ninia atrata</i>	✓							
8	Tropical flat snake	<i>Siphlophis compressus</i>	✓							
9	Trinidad stream frog	<i>Mannophryne trinitatis</i>				✓				