

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

30th January - 12th February 2010



Pearl Kite, Arena savannah

(all photos Keith Grant)

Leaders / Guides:

Keith Grant (The Travelling Naturalist)
Jogie & Roodal Ramlal (Trinidad)
Gladwyn James (Tobago)
Harold (Asa Wright)
Sean Madoo (Caroni Swamp)
Zee (Frank's Glass-Bottom Boat Tours, Little Tobago)

Daily Diary:

Saturday 30th January

Arrival at Port of Spain, Asa Wright Nature Centre

We took a morning flight from Gatwick to Barbados, arriving about an hour early. Having stumbled through the baggage confusion, we settled down to await our onward flight to Port of Spain. Welcome drinks were accompanied by Grey Kingbird, Zenaida Dove and Carib Grackles around the airport concourse and we then went through to the departure gate. A short flight got us to Piarco International Airport, Port of Spain, where we met up with Jogie, Roodal and the guys from Asa Wright and were soon being welcomed at the Nature Centre with rum punch in hand.

Sunday 31st January

Asa Wright Nature Centre

Mainly sunny

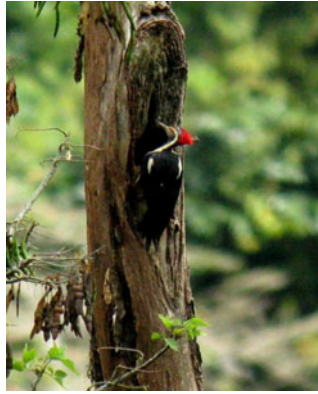
As usual due to the time difference and despite our tiredness from the travel day, most of us were awake at or soon after 6am, gathering on the veranda soon after dawn. We were soon into the usual frenzy of identification as various species of hummingbirds and tanagers appeared. Violaceous Euphonias were good to see close to, and Red-rumped Agoutis vied with Cocoa and Bare-eyed Thrushes for the spilt fruit and bread under the tables. A Blue-crowned Motmot also appeared briefly and a Channel-billed Toucan was found in the distance.

After breakfast we met up with Jogie and explored the main drive almost as far as the road. As the sun rose, so did the vultures and we saw several Turkey and Black Vultures. Fruiting trees were particularly attractive for Violaceous Euphonias and both Bay-headed and Turquoise Tanagers, and we found several Ochre-bellied Flycatchers and a single Forest Elaenia. The highlight here was probably the Golden-headed Manakin, though Rufous-browed Peppershrike and Golden-fronted Greenlet also showed really well if briefly, and we had excellent telescope views of Violaceous Trogon.

Returning to the veranda, always the centre of activity, at noon, we added various new species. After lunch and a short rest, we explored the main Discovery Trail through the forest below the Centre. A male Lineated Woodpecker was busy excavating a new nest hole and showed well through the telescopes. A Common Potoo was perched up on a tree a little way down the trail and further on beyond the manakin lek which was strangely quiet, we could hear several Bearded Bellbirds being particularly vocal. Careful searching produced excellent views of one of these males, and with much tripping over tree roots, we all managed to look through the telescopes. We returned to the veranda for tea and pastries, finding the usual array of birds at the feeders, and both Flambeau and Polydamus Swallowtail butterflies inspecting the flowering shrubs. Time then for another rest and we were ready for our rum punch and checklist at 6pm, interrupted by excellent views of Short-tailed Nighthawk and numerous bats hawking insects just outside the veranda. Dinner was followed by a well-earned sleep.



Zenaida Dove (Barbados)



Lineated Woodpecker



Common Potoo



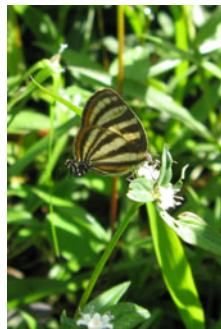
Bearded Bellbird



Small Postman



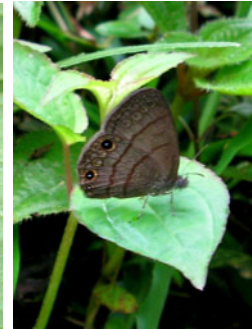
Small Flambeau



Lined Stripebreast



Small Brown Shoemaker



Libye Satyr

Monday 1st February

The Northern Ridge & Blanchisseuse Road

Sunny spells with occasional light shower, humid

All the usual array of species were seen at the bird feeders, though especial note must be made of the pair of Channel-billed Toucans fairly close and a Northern Waterthrush under one of the feeding tables. After breakfast, Jogie and Roodal arrived and we loaded the vehicles and headed up the hill. We did a series of stops on the roadside, finding White-tailed & Collared Trogons both of which showed well in the telescopes. A little further on we stopped again, this time peering intently down the slope and having brief views of Black-throated Antthrush and White-bellied Antbird on the forest floor below us. A good selection of tanagers a little further on again included several Speckled Tanagers amongst the usual Bay-headed, Blue-grey, White-lined, Silver-beaked and Palm. Euler's, Olive-striped and Olive-sided Flycatchers were also seen.

We stopped for lunch at the "Save the Pawi" road junction, after which we explored down the road towards Brasso Seco. On our return, we turned down the hill towards Morne La Croix where there was a small nesting colony of Yellow-rumped Caciques. We found a trio of Red-legged Honeycreepers, male Black-throated Mango and a couple of Ruddy Ground Doves in the village itself and a little way further on a pair of Scaled Pigeons sat up on the tree tops. A Southern Beardless Tyrannulet was flitting around the bushes nearby and we managed a piece of delicious home-made cake as well! We headed back, the second bus stopping for a pair of Blue-headed Parrots and a Rufous-tailed Jacamar. We got back to the centre in good time and convened again on the veranda to call the checklist. This was interrupted twice, firstly when the rum punch arrived and then for a distant view of a Bat Falcon at last light.

Tuesday 2nd February

La Laja Road & Asa Wright

Mainly cloudy, occasional light shower

We had an earlier breakfast so we could be away soon after 7am, heading the short distance down the road to the La Laja Road. The vehicles climbed steadily up to the first crest where a pleasantly fresh breeze greeted us. We then managed a combination of walking and driving back down the hill, finding Rufous-breasted Wren, Trinidad Euphonia, Long-billed Gnatwren, Streaked Xenops, Red-legged Honeycreepers and the usual mix of tanagers. On our return down the hill, we stopped to search for Grey-throated Leaf-tosser and were extremely lucky to not just find one but to have reasonable and prolonged views through the telescope.

Returning for lunch, we gathered again at 2pm to repeat our walk down the Discovery Trail for those who weren't present the first time. A White-tailed Trogon appeared, then a Green Hermit was found searching the flowers of one of the ginger plants alongside the path. The Common Potoo was on its usual stump and this time there was a great deal of activity in the vicinity of the manakin lek. As well as several White-bearded Manakins, a mass of Army Ants were disturbing everything else in their path and attracting in turn several White-necked Thrushes, Plain-brown Woodcreepers and Great Ant-shrikes. These gave really close and prolonged views for everyone. We tried further on for the bellbirds but on this occasion they were strangely quiet, so we returned via the Heliconia Trail back to the veranda for tea and nibbles. During the final hour on the veranda, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ochre-bellied Flycatchers, Forest Elaenia, Violaceous Trogon and a couple of Squirrel Cuckoos appeared. Raptors suddenly started to appear, with firstly Grey-headed Kite, then Short-tailed Hawk and White Hawk all circling overhead or drifting down the valley. Rufous-breasted and Little Hermits appeared occasionally, the former being seen perched for quite some while within a Lantana shrub just below the veranda. The Lineated Woodpecker seemed to have finished his excavations, being seen peering out from within his hole in the dead tree.



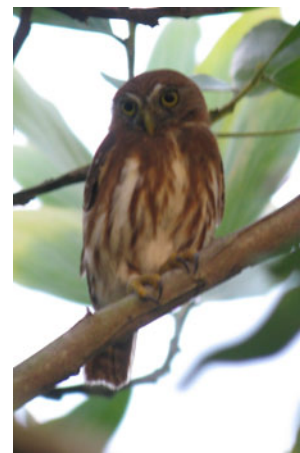
Violaceous Trogon



Channel-billed Toucan



Common Black Hawk



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Wednesday 3rd February

Aripo Cattle Station, Nariva Swamp, Arena Forest

Rain first thing, gradually clearing during morning

Despite the rain, the veranda was its usual busy self, in particular with Turquoise Tanagers, Ochre-bellied Flycatchers and an exquisite male Tufted Coquette. We were away after breakfast and made our first stop at the bottom of the Arima Valley. A Common Black Hawk was perched across the valley and we also noted two Short-tailed Hawks drifting over as the rain cleared. We continued on to the main road and were soon entering the cattle station where we quickly got to grips with a whole range of new species. Wattled Jacanas, White-winged Swallows, Red-breasted Blackbirds, Pied Water-tyrants and White-headed Marsh-tyrants all vied for our attention. Of particular note were several Green-rumped Parrotlets which landed close by us. A Peregrine was perched quietly on a dead tree and several Savanna Hawks were seen. Beyond the cattle sheds, we found Southern Lapwings and a couple of distant White-necked Herons. Finally a stunning male Grassland Yellow Finch appeared on the roadside fence, this species being a recent colonist from Venezuela.

After a brief rest-stop in town, we were again on the move to have lunch at Manzanilla. A lone Brown Pelican was fishing offshore and a Zone-tailed Hawk drifted past behind us. We worked our way along the coast road, checking the palms and overhead wires for raptors, and finding Savanna Hawks and Yellow-headed Caracara, several of the latter scavenging the tide-line on the beach. Also here were small numbers of Sanderling and Grey Plovers.

We finally arrived at Nariva Swamp, immediately finding Wattled Jacanas in the small remaining pools. Several Yellow-hooded Blackbirds were seen and a Striped Cuckoo was heard calling but played hard to get! A superb Grey Hawk flew past in front of us, eventually perching on a date palm, but it wouldn't allow any telescope views, flying off as soon as we offloaded from the bus. A Pinnated Bittern stood up as we passed which caused a bit of a sudden stop, and although it kept crouching down amongst the taller grasses, it did regularly give us head and shoulders views through

the telescopes. We then had to head back to the Arena Forest area where we broke out the rum punch and cake, just as seven Red-bellied Macaws flew overhead. They returned for a second fly-past and we saw three further birds as we headed back for dinner and checklist.

A couple of us went on a night-walk up the main drive with Harold from the centre. Using the spotlight, he showed us roosting Great Antshrike and Grey-fronted Dove, together with various Land Crabs etc.

Thursday 4th February

Asa Wright & Aripo Cattle Station night birding

Mainly sunny & humid, early rain

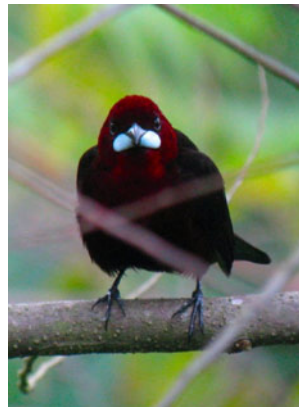
We gathered on the veranda after breakfast where Harold was waiting to take us to Dunstan's Cave to view that fantastic bird, the Oilbird. We walked slowly down the Guacharo Trail, stopping to view a Collared Trogon and then a Cocoa Woodcreeper. A Pale-breasted Spinetail was calling from the forest floor but did not show itself. Then in groups of three, we moved quietly into the entrance of the 'cave' as Harold carefully used his torch to highlight several Oilbirds sitting quietly on ledges. One ledge held a whole line of birds and one was even on a ledge right above us. What a fascinating bird! We then returned slowly up the trail, the tail-end charlies finding a fantastic male Collared Trogon sitting so close that it wouldn't all fit into the telescope view. This bird flew off a short distance, displaying vigorously by raising its tail, only to be replaced by a male White-tailed Trogon. We then spent the rest of the morning on the veranda before going in for lunch. Everyone utilised their free time during the first part of the afternoon in different ways. Some walked the main drive as far as the 'swimming' pool, others explored further down the Discovery Trail, and still others simply relaxed or zzzzz'd a bit! Some of us found a Vine Snake outside our cabin, then a little later as others walked down from the main house, we found a Green Hermit on the Torch Ginger, but then we couldn't understand a mass of alarm calls just past the Potoo on its usual stump. All was revealed when we realised there was a 7' Tigre climbing slowly up into the lower canopy right over the path near the manakin lek. We returned slowly up the Discovery Trail in time for tea and pastries.



Vine Snake



Rufous-breasted Hermit at nest



Silver-beaked Tanager (m)



Penelope Satyr

Setting off again at 4:30 to return to the Aripo Cattle Station, we were enjoying our rum punch and a rather early boxed dinner, when a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl appeared in a nearby tree. This gave super views through the telescopes, and with the light fading rapidly, we drove out past the fields and up into the scrubby savannah area. Fireflies gave us a nice display once it got dark. Tropical Screech Owls and Pauraque soon started calling and after failing at our first location, we spot-lit an owl sitting quietly low down in the roadside scrub. We drove on with the lamp checking on each side and spot-lit several Pauraques and White-tailed Nightjars. Finally we again walked a little way along the road, getting excellent views of these two species sitting on the road edge and a Common Potoo on a fence post. More of the same as we drove back, with nightjars sometimes right under the front of the vehicle. We were almost back at the main office building when we disturbed a Barn Owl from a fence post and we watched it as it flew low over the fields. Back to the Centre for a well earned night's sleep.

Friday 5th February

Aripo savannah & Arena Forest

Quite nice, dry but humid

After an early breakfast, we were away by 6:30, stopping again near the bottom of the Arima Valley to search for Trinidad Euphonia. We attracted several into the trees and bamboos around us, together with numerous other species, including a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. A single Rufous-tailed Jacamar was also found across the road. We then moved on, one vehicle stopping for a Striped Heron sitting on roadside wires whilst the other turned off to explore a back road off the Aripo main road. A Masked Yellowthroat showed really well, as did several Rufous-browed Peppershrikes and a Yellow Warbler. Walking further along the road, we found a stunning male White-winged Becard, Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird and another Yellow Warbler. We loaded up again and drove alongside the old Wallerfield Aerodrome, which is now being developed as an industrial estate. In a quiet road between tall trees, we attracted in a whole host of small birds, including Blue Dacnis, Long-billed Gnatwren, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and two Streaked Xenops. We also found the flamboyant Black-crested Antshrike here. Driving on a short distance, we stopped in a village just opposite quite a large colony of Yellow-rumped Caciques, before heading for the Arena Forest. We had lunch here, after which a ca.3' Tigre was spotted across the road but which disappeared before everyone else could get there. We returned to the Centre after lunch, stopping briefly to view the nest of a Rufous-breasted Hermit. Free time for the rest of the afternoon enabled everyone to do their own thing and we gathered again for rum punch and to call the checklist before dinner.

Saturday 6th February
Hot & sunny

Trincity, Waterloo & Caroni Swamp

Our first stop this morning was the Trincity Water Treatment Works where we immediately found Little Blue Heron, Least Grebe, Spotted Sandpiper and a couple of large Spectacled Cayman. An Osprey flew over, landing in a dead tree on the far side of the pools. There were both White-headed Marsh Tyrant and Pied Water Tyrant in the emergent vegetation, and the Snowy and Cattle Egrets provided good opportunities for comparative views with the white juvenile Little Blue Herons. Small numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were also present and showed well along the far bank.



Osprey



Clapper Rail



Scarlet Ibis flying in to roost

We then moved on, crossing the Caroni rice fields where another three Ospreys were flying, and headed down the west coast to Waterloo. Here at the fish quay, a large flock of several hundred Laughing Gulls were loafing on the mudflats very close to the causeway and we saw our first Scarlet Ibis. A brown first-year and two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were picked out, and small numbers of Black Skimmers and Royal Terns were also present. Two of the fishing boats moored offshore provided a suitable roost for a 'heap' of Brown Pelicans. Careful searching of the mudflats on the other side of the quay revealed a Willet fairly close to, Whimbrel and Southern Lapwing further off, and a small number of presumed Western Sandpipers sheltering from the sun in the deep shade of the overhanging mangroves. A Clapper Rail was creeping around the low mangroves immediately below the roadway. We had lunch in the shade of a boathouse, with Royal Terns perched on the wooden pilings just offshore. Magnificent Frigatebirds occasionally harassed either them or the Little Blue Herons feeding in the shallows. In the distance, a Great Blue Heron was easily identified by its comparatively huge size amongst the smaller egrets, and in the opposite direction, two Large-billed Terns were perched on a couple of posts. Just as we were about to leave, we found a Yellow-billed Tern on one of the posts in front of us.

We then headed back to Caroni, where we looked around the visitor centre whilst waiting for Sean Madoo to take us out through the mangroves. A Clapper Rail was nesting fairly close to the car park

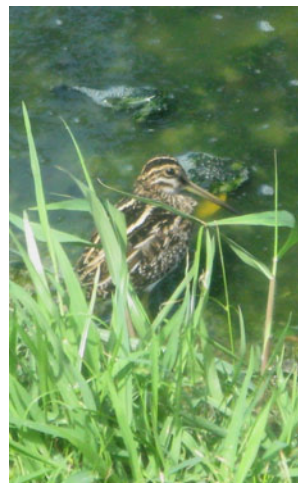
but was remarkably well hidden amongst the mangroves. Looking out across a shallow lagoon, we found our first Yellow-crowned Night Heron together with Lesser Yellowlegs and Spotted Sandpiper. Once in the boat, Sean stopped fairly quickly to show us a Cook's Tree Boa [now called *Central American Tree Boa*] curled up in a tight ball at the end of overhanging branches. We found two more, and had close views of a Common Black Hawk on the river bank. Tricolored and Little Blue Herons were passed regularly, then the first of two Silky Anteaters also curled up in tight balls high up in the trees. A Green-throated Mango, a mangrove specialist, was also found perched at the end of some twigs. We then found a flock of Blue-winged Teal and flushed both Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons. An Anhinga flew across and we eventually moored up to view across an open lagoon to an island of mangroves where several hundred Scarlet Ibis were dropping in to roost. With dusk approaching, we made our way back through the mangrove channels with flocks of ibis streaming over us. We returned to the quayside just on dusk and with Jogie and Roodal waiting for us, headed back to the Centre for dinner and to pack for our flight to Tobago in the morning.



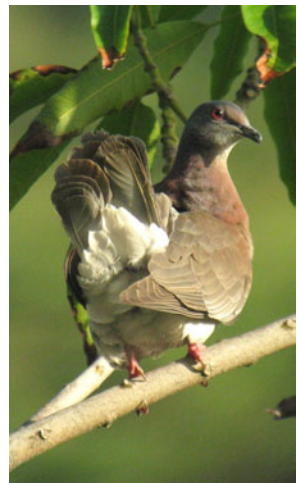
Anhinga (f)



Green Heron



Wilson's Snipe



Pale-vented Pigeon

Sunday 7th February
Hot & sunny

Asa Wright, Tobago (West End) & Blue Waters

The pair of motmots appeared as usual on the far table and we again checked the Lined Woodpecker at its nest hole. After an early breakfast, we were packed and away on time; check-in went smoothly and the short 20-minute flight was on time. Gladwyn was awaiting our arrival and we were soon on our way to our first birding spot, the Crown Point Water Treatment Works. Here we found a couple of Least Grebes and we had our first good views of Anhingas. A lone Blue-winged Teal flushed as we walked around the pools, though Whimbrel, Wilson's Snipe, and both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers stayed put. A Grey Kingbird was nice, as we had nice views of several Brown-crested Flycatchers. As we drove away, we found another Wilson's Snipe in the water-filled ditch alongside the road, and several Greater Yellowlegs, one being accompanied by a Lesser Yellowlegs.

We then drove up to the old Grafton Estate to have our sandwiches, being met by several Chachalacas. Gladwyn took us for a walk along one of the trails where we found several Scrub Greenlets and Yellow-breasted Flycatchers. A lone Cocoa Woodcreeper put in a brief appearance before we returned to the vehicle and headed the short distance to the Hilton pools, still called this even though the Hilton has sold on the resort. The pools here provided further Anhingas, a lone Neotropic Cormorant, and a Great Blue Heron. A Peregrine was loitering in the air and first beat up an Osprey, quickly followed by a half-hearted attack on an Anhinga flying in. Driving round to a second pool which looked as if it was either newly dug or at least newly cleared of vegetation, we found our only Purple Gallinule of the trip. We then headed eastwards towards Speyside and Blue Waters to settle into our rooms, have a swim and gather in the bar.

Monday 8th February
Hot & sunny with a fresh onshore breeze

Blue Waters & Little Tobago Island

A lovely morning and we duly met up on the jetty at 9am. Zee took us across to Little Tobago Island where we slowly climbed the steps up to the old house, which was being rebuilt as a Visitor Centre. On the way, we found Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Brown-crested Flycatcher on the way. We walked on through the trees, climbing to the decked lookout and having our first close glimpse of Red-billed Tropicbirds and the piratic behaviour of the Magnificent Frigatebirds. There were three tropicbirds on nests very close by here, giving us wonderful photo opportunities. Overlooking the bay with Sleeper and St Giles Islands in the distance, we could watch the frigatebirds hanging motionless in the air or cruising around without a wing beat, just waiting for an inattentive tropicbird or booby to fly in off the sea. Several Red-footed Boobies could be seen on the steep slopes and offshore stack, some attending quite well-grown white fluffy chicks. This is a species the individuals of which can have distinctly different plumages, and we could see white morph adults as well as brown morphs and white-tailed brown morphs. Brown Boobies were also present and we managed to have good views of both species together in the telescope. Overhead, several Short-tailed Swifts circled around and at one point, a Peregrine glided by.

We returned to Blue Waters in time for a quick swim, lunch and a siesta, then met again mid-afternoon for a walk up to the cannon and around the trail above the hotel. We didn't quite make it to the next bay, but we did find several pairs of Barred Antshrike and Ruby-Topaz Hummingbirds, as well as Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Scrub Greenlet, Fuscous Flycatcher and White-fringed Antwren. A male Rufous-tailed Jacamar flew past us and perched on a low branch quite close. Overhead, a couple of Peregrines swept by and we watched a Broad-winged Hawk soaring over and carrying a fairly large lizard.

We returned down the hill in time to shower and change, and gathered again in the bar for checklist and dinner.



Dawn over Little Tobago and Goat Islands

Tuesday 9th February
Hot & sunny

Kings Bay Trail & Blue Waters

We all had another early breakfast and set off soon after 8am, Gladwyn driving us to the Speyside Lookout. This gentle walk along the King's Bay Trail was full of interest, the first birds seen being a pair of Rufous-tailed Jacamars. This species seemed to appear every few yards and Ruby Topaz Humming-birds also showed well. A pair of Red-crowned Woodpeckers appeared amongst the Immortelle blossom, and we saw both Blue-black and Black-faced Grassquits. Several further woodpeckers all proved to be Red-crowned. We spotted a small yellow striped snake crossing the trail (Shaw's Black-backed Snake) and just before we turned about, a couple of ground orchids were flowering at the edge of the trees, these probably being *Spiranthes acaulis*. We returned to the vehicle and were back at the hotel for lunch, having spotted the Green Kingfisher from the 'waterwheel' bridge over the Speyside river.

Several of us (the others swimming, snorkelling off the beach or simply chilling out) then reconvened at 3pm for a walk up the higher trail around the top of the hotel. Halfway up the main drive, we saw the Belted Kingfisher sitting overlooking the sea at the end of the beach, then White-fringed Antwrens showed particularly well and we at last found the Ruby-Topaz nest which we had been told about. A couple of Fuscous Flycatchers, a lone Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Elaenias completed the list. Butterflies were very few, Caribbean Buckeye being the only species of note.



Shaw's Black-backed Snake



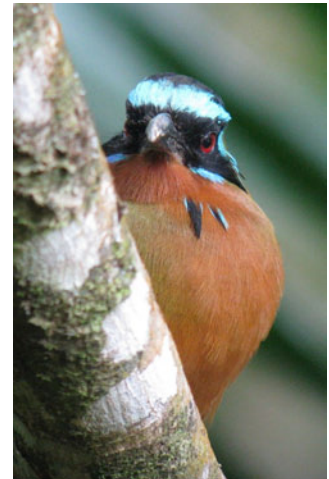
Rufous-tailed Jacamar



Orange-winged Parrot



White-tailed Sabrewing



Blue-crowned Motmot

Wednesday 10th February

Main Ridge & Gilpin Trace

Mixed sunshine and very heavy showers

Breakfast at 7:15 and we managed to be away soon after 8am. We retraced our route as far as Roxborough, then turned inland and began the climb up to the Main Ridge. excellent finale to our trip We stopped a couple of times on the roadside, finding Red-legged Honeycreepers, a diminutive Olivaceous Woodcreeper and a stunning male Collared Trogon amongst others. A Yellow-legged Thrush flew across the road in front of us but this really was just the briefest of views. After a short pit-stop at the lookout, we returned the short distance to the Gilpin Trace, immediately finding a pair of Golden-olive Woodpeckers. White-tailed Sabrewings were much in evidence, sometimes perching for quite long periods and often very close to us. We found a nest overhanging the path and Gladwyn showed us the nest burrows of motmot, jacamar and leaf-tosser. Some of us returned to the road whilst others pressed on a little way further, finding a pair of Plain Antwrens and eventually a playing-hard-to-see Stripe-breasted Spinetail. Heading back to the road, we had our sandwiches under the shelter there, accompanied by a superb motmot sitting close by awaiting titbits. Whilst there, a good number of Grey-rumped Swifts were flying around low over the treetops.

We returned to the lookout to use the facilities, then headed back down the hill a short distance before alighting once again and heading down a different trail. Very little here despite various calls of Blue-backed Manakin and Yellow-legged Thrush way out in the forest. A male Plain Antvireo again showed well albeit briefly before disappearing up into the treetops. Our final stop was where the road crossed a small stream. Here a pair of Green Kingfishers were very busy flying back and forth under the bridge, and a close inspection of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron revealed two of them in fact. We then continued back down the hill and headed back to the hotel for a swim and a drink, though not necessarily in that order.

Thursday 11th February

Blue Waters & departure

Strong onshore wind all night, easing only slightly at dawn, showers

Encouraged by yesterday's kingfisher, most did an early morning pre-breakfast walk, over the hill to the Speyside river and waterwheel. Although we found three species of heron in and around the river and shore, there was again no sign of the hoped-for Green Kingfisher. Returning up the hill, we all got caught in a heavy shower coming in off the Atlantic, but had soon dried off once this cleared. The morning was spent at leisure, reconvening again for our final lunch and then to await the arrival of Gladwyn with the bus and our departure to the airport.

Friday 12th February

Arrival back at Gatwick



King's Bay

Species Lists:

The various species lists below use the following references:

Birds: We use the worldwide English names and systematic order as recommended by the I.O.C., and published in *Birds of the World – Recommended English Names* (Gill, F. & Wright, M., 2006,).

Also: *Helm Field Guide - Birds of Trinidad & Tobago* (Kenefick, M., Restall, R. & Hayes, F., 2007).
A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad & Tobago (French, Richard, 1995).

Mammals: We use the worldwide English names and systematic order as published in *Mammals of the World, A Checklist* (Duff, Andrew & Lawson, Ann, 2004).

Also: *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals, A Field Guide* (Emmons, Louise H., 1997).
A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America & Southeast Mexico (Reid, Fiona A., 1997)

Amphibians and Reptiles: *Amphibians and Reptiles of Trinidad & Tobago* (Murphy, John C., 1997)

Butterflies: www.neotropicalbutterflies.com

Butterflies of the Caribbean and Florida (Stiling, P., 1999).
Butterflies & other insects of the Eastern Caribbean (Stiling, P.D., 1986)
A Field Guide to the Butterflies of the West Indies (Riley, Norman., 1975)
Butterflies of Trinidad & Tobago (Barcant, Malcolm., 1970)

Alternate names are separated by '/' and optional names are enclosed by '[..]'

BIRDS - AVES**TINAMOUS - Tinamidae**

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* : heard at around dawn on 3 days at Asa Wright, 2nd, 5th, & 7th.

CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS, GUANS - Cracidae

Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda* : noted each day on Tobago.

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* : noted on 2 days with 38 Caroni Swamp on 6th, 1 Crown Point on 7th.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* : noted on 2 days, at Trincity Waterworks on 6th, and Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* : small flock on mudflats at Waterloo and several hundred Caroni Swamp on 6th.

HERONS & BITTERNs - Ardeidae

Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* : 1 Nariva Swamp on 3rd.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* : several juveniles at Caroni Swamp on 6th.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* : noted on 2 days with several adults Caroni Swamp on 6th, 2 Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* : several at Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* : noted on 2 days with 2 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, 2 on roadside wire on 5th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* : noted most days on both islands.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* : noted on 2 days with 1 Waterloo on 6th, 1 Hilton Pools on 7th.

Cocoi/White-necked Heron *Ardea cocoi* : noted on 2 days with 2 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, several Caroni Swamp on 6th.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba* : ones & twos noted irregularly on 5 days.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* : noted on 2 days, several Caroni Swamp on 6th, several Crown Point on 7th.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* : noted on 4 days, at Trincity Waterworks & Caroni Swamp on 6th, then most days on Tobago.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* : noted on 3 days with 1 en route on 3rd, several on Tobago on 6th & 7th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* : 1 Crown Point on 7th is our only record.

TROPICBIRDS - Phaethontidae

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* : noted on 4 days at Little Tobago Is on 8th, and offshore from Blue Waters 9th - 11th.

FRIGATEBIRDS - Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* : 3 high over Asa Wright on 31st, several Manzanilla on 3rd and Waterloo on 6th; then on Tobago, several over Hilton Pools on 7th, and regularly over Little Tobago Is & Blue Waters 8th - 11th.

PELICANS - Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* : noted on 4 days with 1 offshore from Manzanilla on 3rd, two 'boatfuls' at Waterloo on 6th, then single birds in Blue Waters Bay on 8th & 10th.

GANNETS & BOOBIES - Sulidae

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* : noted regularly on 3 days on Little Tobago Is on 8th & offshore on 10th & 11th.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* : noted regularly on 3 days on Little Tobago Is on 8th & offshore on 10th & 11th

CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic/Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus (=olivaceus)* : noted on 2 days with 3 at Waterloo & 3 Caroni Swamp on 6th, 1 Hilton Pools on 7th.

ANHINGAS / DARTERS - Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* : noted on 2 days with 1 Caroni Swamp on 6th, many at Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th.

NEW WORLD VULTURES - Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* : noted most days on Trinidad.

[American] Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* : noted each day on Trinidad, very common.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* : noted on 4 days with 7 Aripo Cattle Station / Manzanilla / Nariva Swamp on 3rd, then single birds Arena Savanna on 5th, Caroni Swamp on 6th, & Hilton Pools on 7th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* : 1 Arena Savanna on 5th is our only record.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis* : 1 Asa Wright at last light on 1st is our only record.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* : noted on 4 days with 1 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, 1 Arena Savanna on 5th, 1 Hilton Pools on 7th, 1 Little Tobago Is 2 Blue Waters on 8th.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* : noted on 3 days with at least 7 Trincity Waterworks / Waterloo / Caroni Swamp on 6th, 1 Hilton Pools on 7th, 1 Blue Waters on 9th.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* : 1 Asa Wright on 2nd is our only record.

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* : excellent views of 1 Arena Savanna on 5th is our only record.

White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis* : 1 overhead Asa Wright on 2nd, 1 perched distantly Asa Wright on 4th.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* : noted on 4 days with 3 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, 1 La Laja Road on 2nd, 1 Arena Valley on 3rd, 1 Caroni Swamp on 6th.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* : noted on 3 days with single birds Blue Waters on 8th, Kings Bay Trail on 9th, Blue Waters again on 11th.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* : noted on 2 days with several Aripo Cattle Station & Manzanilla on 3rd, 1 again at Aripo Cattle Station during evening on 4th.

Grey[-lined] Hawk *Buteo nitidus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Nariva Swamp on 3rd, 1 Arena Savanna on 5th.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* : noted on 4 days with single birds Blue Waters on 8th, Kings Bay Trail on 9th, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th, & again over Blue Waters on 11th.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* : noted on 4 days with 1 Asa Wright on 31st, 2 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, 1 Asa Wright on 2nd, 2 Arena Valley on 3rd.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* : noted on 2 days with single birds La Laja Road on 2nd, and Aripo Cattle Station & another at Manzanilla on 3rd.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* : 1 perched Asa Wright on 6th is our only record.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris* : 2 amongst small mangroves at Waterloo and another on nest Caroni Swamp on 6th.

[American] Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* : 1 Hilton Pools on 7th is our only record.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* : several Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* : noted on 5 days with several Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, heard Aripo Cattle Station during spot-lamping on 4th, several Waterloo Caroni Swamp on 6th, at least 50 Hilton Pools on 7th, 1 Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Grey/Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* : ca.10 Manzanilla beach on 3rd.

JACANAS - Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* : noted in small numbers on 4 days at Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 3rd, again at Aripo Cattle Station on 4th, Trincity Waterworks on 6th, Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

[Hudsonian] Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* : noted on 2 days with several at Waterloo on 6th, several Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* : 2 Caroni Swamp on 6th, several Crown Point on 7th.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* : 1 Caroni Swamp on 6th, 1 Crown Point on 7th.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* : noted on 3 days with single birds Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, Trincity Waterworks on 6th, Crown Point on 7th.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* : 1 on mudflats at Waterloo on 6th is our only record.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* : 1 Trincity Waterworks & several Caroni Swamp on 6th, then noted each day on Tobago with several at Crown Point and singles at Blue Waters & Speyside River.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* : noted each day at Blue Waters, max 26 on 7th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* : 2 Manzanilla beach on 3rd is our only record.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* : 2 Crown Point on 7th is our only record.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* : ca.10 Waterloo on 6th.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* : 3 birds (2 adult 1 first winter) at Waterloo on 6th.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* : several hundred at Waterloo on 6th.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* : ca.15 Waterloo on 6th.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* : 2 distantly at Waterloo on 6th.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* : 1 at Waterloo on 6th.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* : ca.30 at Waterloo on 6th.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* : noted on 5 days in towns and villages.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* : noted on 3 days with 1 Asa Wright on 31st, 2 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, 1 Asa Wright on 2nd.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* : noted on 4 days with at least 3 Blue Waters on 8th - 11th, and 2 Kings Bay Trail on 9th.

Zenaida Dove *Zenaida aurita* : 1 around the Barbados Airport concourse on 30th.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* : noted on 2 days with 1 on nest Waterloo on 6th, Tobago on 7th.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* : noted in small numbers on 6 days along the Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Aripo Cattle Station / Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Arena Savanna on 4th & 5th, Trincity Waterworks & en route on 6th & 7th.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* : noted on 4 days with several La Laja Road on 2nd, several Tobago on 7th, 1 Little Tobago Is on 8th & 2 Blue Waters on 8th & 9th.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* : noted most days at Asa Wright, also Blanchisseuse Road on 1st.

PARROTS & allies - Psittacidae

Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilata* : 10 Arena Savanna during evening on 3rd is our only record.

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus* : noted on 2 days with 4 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, at least 3 Hilton Pools on 7th.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* : noted on 3 days with 2 Blanchisseuse Road & 2 Asa Wright on 1st, 2 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, 1 perched distantly Asa Wright on 4th.

Orange-winged Amazon [Parrot] *Amazona amazonica* : noted commonly each day on both islands.

CUCKOOS - Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* : noted fairly regularly most days on both islands.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* : heard at two different locations at Nariva Swamp on 3rd is our only record.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* : noted on 2 days with 2 Asa Wright on 2nd, 1 again Asa Wright on 5th.

BARN OWLS - Tytonidae

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* : 1 Aripo Cattle Station during spot-lamping on 4th is our only record.

OWLS - Strigidae

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* : 1 seen well & others heard Aripo Cattle Station during spot-lamping on 4th is our only record.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* : heard overnight or just before dawn on 6 days at Asa Wright.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* : noted on 6 days, heard regularly around dawn at Asa Wright, 1 also seen well Aripo Cattle Station late afternoon on 4th.

OILBIRD - Steatornithidae

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* : Several seen well on the ledges at Asa Wright on 4th.

POTOOS - Nyctibiidae

Grey/Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* : 1 noted on 4 days on its regular perch at Asa Wright, plus 3 others Aripo Cattle Station during spot-lamping on 4th.

NIGHTJARS - Caprimulgidae

Short-tailed/Semicollared Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* : noted on 2 days at Asa Wright with 1 hawking insects in front of the veranda on 31st, 1 around cabins at dawn on 7th.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* : noted on 2 days with several Aripo Cattle Station during spot-lamping on 4th, 1 Arena Savanna, flushed from roadside (nearly trodden on!!), on 5th.

White-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus cayennensis* : several Aripo Cattle Station during spot-lamping on 4th.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* : Swifts noted overhead each day were probably mainly this species, positively identified on 5 days, at Asa Wright on 31st, Asa Wright & Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright on 5th, at least 50 Tobago Main Ridge on 10th, several Blue Waters on 11th.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* : noted on 5 days with 2 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, 2 Crown Point on 7th, 4 Little Tobago Is on 8th, several Kings Bay Trail on 9th, several Blue Waters on 11th.

Neotropical/Fork-tailed Palm Swift *Tachornis squamata* : at least 2 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd.

HUMMINGBIRDS - Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus* : on Trinidad, noted each day at Asa Wright plus a nest Arima Valley on 5th, and Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* : single birds noted on 3 days at Asa Wright, on 31st, 2nd, & 4th.

Little Hermit *Phaethornis longuemareus* : ones & twos noted on 5 days at Asa Wright (31st – 4th), also Blanchisseuse Road on 1st.

White-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus ensipennis* : several great views plus nest, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* : noted each day at Asa Wright, plus a male Kings Bay Trail on 9th, 2 Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Green-throated Mango *Anthracothorax viridigula* : 1 Caroni Swamp on 6th is our only record.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* : noted each day at Asa Wright, several Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, La Laja Road on 2nd, Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd, 1 Arena Savanna on 5th, 2 Kings Bay Trail on 9th, female on nest Blue Waters on 11th.

Ruby Topaz *Chrysolampis mosquitus* : noted on 6 days with several Arena Savanna on 5th, 2 Grafton on 7th, 3 pairs plus a nest Blue Waters 8th - 11th, regularly seen Kings Bay Trail.

Tufted Coquette *Lophornis ornatus* : noted each day at Asa Wright.

Blue-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes notatus* : single birds noted on 2 days at Asa Wright on 1st & 4th.

White-chested Emerald *Amazilia brevirostris* : noted on 4 days with single birds Asa Wright on 31st, La Laja Road on 2nd, Asa Wright on 4th & on 6th.

Copper-rumped Hummingbird *Amazilia tobaci* : noted each day on both islands.

TROGONS - Trogonidae

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *Trogon viridis* : noted on 3 days with several Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright on 2nd & 4th.

[Amazonian] Violaceous Trogon *Trogon violaceus* : several noted on 3 days at Asa Wright on 31st, 2nd & 4th.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* : noted on 4 days with a male Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright on 4th, heard Blue Waters on 8th, a nice male Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* : 1 Caroni Swamp on 6th is our only record.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* : noted on 3 days with 2 Nariva Swamp on 3rd, 1 Speyside River on 9th, a pair Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* : noted on 2 days with a female Blue Waters on 8th & 9th.

MOTMOTS - Momotidae

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota* : noted most days on both islands.

TOUCANS & BARBETS - Ramphastidae

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* : one or two noted each day at Asa Wright.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* : noted on 3 days with a female Grafton on 7th, several Kings Bay Trail on 9th, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus* : a pair Tobago Main Ridge on 10th is our only record.

Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans* : noted on 4 days with 1 Asa Wright on 31st, 1 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright on 4th & 6th.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* : noted most days at Asa Wright with a male excavating a nest hole on 31st - 5th, a pair on 6th, just the male on 7th.

JACAMARS - Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* : noted on 6 days with 2 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, 1 Arima Valley on 5th, a male Blue Waters on 8th, numerous Kings Bay Trail on 9th, several Tobago Main Ridge on 10th, Blue Waters on 11th.

MANAKINS - Pipridae

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* : noted on 5 days with 2 males Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, several Asa Wright on 2nd & 4th - 6th.

Blue-backed Manakin *Chiroxiphia pareola* : noted on 3 days with a pair very briefly Kings Bay Trail on 9th, several Tobago Main Ridge on 10th, excellent views of an immature male Blue Waters on 11th.

Golden-headed Manakin *Pipra erythrocephala* : noted on 4 days with ones and twos Asa Wright on 31st, 2nd, & 5th, several Blanchisseuse Road on 1st.

COTINGAS - Cotingidae

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana* : a distant view at Asa Wright on 4th is our only record.

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus* : a male Arena Savanna on 5th is our only record.

Bearded Bellbird *Procnias averano* : noted on 6 days with 1 seen well several others heard Asa Wright on 31st, several heard Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, then heard Asa Wright on 2nd - 5th.

TYRANT-FLYCATCHERS - Tyrannidae

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* : noted on 6 days with ones or twos Asa Wright on 31st - 4th, & 6th.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* : noted on 4 days with 2 Arena Savanna on 5th, 2 Grafton on 7th, 1 Blue Waters on 8th, several Blue Waters & Kings Bay Trail on 9th.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* : noted on 2 days on Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Arena Savanna on 5th.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* : noted on 2 days on Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, La Laja Road on 2nd.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* : noted most days on both islands.

Ochre-lored Flatbill / Yellow-breasted Flycatcher *T. flaviventris* : noted on 2 days with 1 Caroni Swamp on 6th, 4 Grafton on 7th.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri* : 1 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st is our only record.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* : noted on 3 days with 2 Blue Waters on 8th & 9th, 2 Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* : noted on 3 days with 1 Asa Wright on 31st, 2 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, 1 again Asa Wright on 2nd.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* : noted on 4 days with single birds Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright and La Laja Road on 2nd, Asa Wright on 4th, Arima Valley on 5th.

Pied Water Tyrant *Fluvicola pica* : noted on 2 days with several Aripo Cattle Station and Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Trincity Waterworks on 6th.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* : noted on 2 days with several Aripo Cattle Station and Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Trincity Waterworks on 6th.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* : noted each day on Trinidad.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* : 1 Kings Bay Trail on 9th is our only record.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* : 1 Arena Savanna on 5th is our only record.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* : noted most days on both islands.

Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* : noted on 4 days with 1 Barbados Airport concourse on 30th, 2 Nariva Swamp on 3rd, 2 Crown Point on 7th, 2 Kings Bay Trail on 9th.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* : noted most days on Tobago with several Crown Point on 7th, 2 Little Tobago Is & 1 Blue Waters 8th, several Kings Bay Trail on 9th, at least 2 Blue Waters on 11th.

ANTBIRDS - *Thamnophilidae*

- Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* : noted each day at Asa Wright, also Blanchisseuse Road on 1st.
- Black-crested Antshrike** *Sakesphorus canadensis* : noted on 3 days with 1 briefly Nariva Swamp on 3rd, a male Arena Savanna on 5th, and Caroni Swamp on 6th.
- Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* : noted on 8 days with 1 Asa Wright on 31st, 4th & 6th, a male Arena Savanna on 5th, several pairs Blue Waters 8th - 11th, several Kings Bay Trail on 9th.
- Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis* : a pair plus 1 other Tobago Main Ridge on 10th is our only record.
- Northern White-fringed Antwren** *Formicivora intermedia* : noted on 4 days with 1 Grafton on 7th, 1 Blue Waters on 8th, several great views Blue Waters & Kings Bay Trail on 9th & 11th.
- White-bellied Antbird** *Myrmeciza longipes* : a male Blanchisseuse Road on 1st is our only record.

ANTTHRUSHES & ANTPITTAS - *Formicariidae*

- Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* : 1 seen and others heard Blanchisseuse Road on 1st.

OVENBIRDS - *Furnariidae*

- Stripe-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis cinnamomea* : 1 seen plus others calling, Tobago Main Ridge, on 10th.
- Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* : noted on 3 days with 1 La Laja Road on 2nd, heard Asa Wright on 4th, a pair Arena Savanna on 5th.
- Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* : several Aripo Cattle Station and Nariva Swamp on 3rd.
- Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* : excellent views of 1 La Laja Road on 2nd.
- Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans* : noted on 2 days with 1 La Laja Road on 2nd, 2 Arena Savanna on 5th.

WOODCREEPERS - *Dendrocolaptidae*

- Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* : noted on 2 days at Asa Wright with 2 on 2nd, 1 on 5th.
- Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* : 1 seen well plus others calling Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.
- Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* : noted on 2 days with 1 Asa Wright on 4th, 1 Grafton on 7th.

VIREOS - *Vireonidae*

- Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* : noted on 4 days with several heard plus 1 seen Asa Wright on 31st, heard Asa Wright & La Laja Road on 2nd, heard again Asa Wright on 4th, several seen well Arena Savanna on 5th.
- Chivi [Red-eyed] Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus chivi* : noted on 2 days with 1 Kings Bay Trail on 9th, 1 Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.
- Golden-fronted Greenlet** *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* : noted on 3 days at Asa Wright on 31st & 4th, La Laja Road on 2nd.
- Scrub Greenlet** *Hylophilus flavipes* : noted each day on Tobago.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - *Hirundinidae*

- White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* : noted on 3 days with several Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Aripo Cattle Station on 4th, Trincity Waterworks on 6th.
- Caribbean Martin** *Progne dominicensis* : noted on 3 days with several Crown Point & Hilton Pools on 7th, several Little Tobago Is on 8th, several Blue Waters on 11th.
- Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* : noted on 4 days with ca.90 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Aripo Cattle Station / Manzanilla / Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Arena Savanna on 5th, Trincity Waterworks on 6th.
- Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* : noted on 5 days, 1 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, 2 Asa Wright on 2nd, 1 Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Arena Savanna & Asa Wright on 5th, Arima Valley on 6th.

WRENS - *Troglodytidae*

- Rufous-breasted Wren** *Thryothorus rutilus* : noted on 5 days with several seen & heard Asa Wright and Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright and La Laja Road on 2nd, Asa Wright on 4th, Arena Savanna on 5th, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* : noted each day at Asa Wright, also on Little Tobago Is on 8th, Kings Bay Trail & Blue Waters on 9th.

GNATCATCHERS - Polioptilidae

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* : singles noted on 2 days, La Laja Road & Asa Wright on 2nd, Arena Savanna on 5th.

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS - Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* : noted regularly each day on both islands.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Yellow-legged Thrush *Platycichla flavipes* : 1 briefly across road plus others heard Tobago Main Ridge 10th.

Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus* : noted each day on Trinidad.

American Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus nudigenis* : noted most days on both islands.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* : noted on 5 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Asa Wright & La Laja Road on 2nd, Asa Wright on 4th & 5th, several Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Trinidad Euphonia *Euphonia trinitatis* : noted on 2 days, 1 La Laja Road on 2nd, several Arima Valley 5th.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* : noted each day on Trinidad.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS - Parulidae

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi* : 1 Asa Wright on 31st is our only record.

American Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* : single birds noted on 3 days - Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Arena Savanna on 5th, Caroni Swamp on 6th.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* : single birds noted on 3 days - Asa Wright on 31st & 1st, Caroni Swamp on 6th.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* : noted most days at Asa Wright, also Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Caroni Swamp on 6th, Kings Bay Trail on 9th, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis* : a male Arena Savanna on 5th is our only record.

Golden-/Stripe-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* : 1 La Laja Road on 2nd is our only record.

NEW WORLD ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS - Icteridae

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* : noted each day.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* : noted on 2 days with breeding colonies on 1st & 5th.

Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis* : noted on 6 days with 2 Asa Wright on 31st, Asa Wright on 2nd, Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Asa Wright on 4th, Arena Savanna on 5th, Caroni Swamp on 6th.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* : noted on 2 days with several Nariva Swamp on 3rd, several Trincity Waterworks on 6th.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* : noted on 2 days with several Tobago Main Ridge on 10th, 2 Blue Waters on 11th.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* : noted on 6 days with several Asa Wright on 31st - 2nd & 4th, Caroni Swamp on 6th, a male Kings Bay Trail on 9th.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris* : noted on 9 days with several Barbados Airport concourse on 30th, then irregularly on both islands.

Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* : noted on 2 days at Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 3rd, Aripo Cattle Station on 4th.

BANANAQUIT - Coerebidae

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* : noted each day.

TANAGERS, NEW WORLD FINCHES & allies - Thraupidae

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* : noted most days on both islands.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* : noted each day on Trinidad.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* : noted most days on both islands.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* : noted each day on both islands.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana* : noted most days on Trinidad.

Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata* : several Blanchisseuse Road on 1st is our only record.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* : noted most days on Trinidad.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* : noted on 3 days with several brief sightings Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, a female briefly Asa Wright on 4th, a male Arena Savanna on 5th.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* : noted each day on Trinidad.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* : noted on 4 days with 3 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, La Laja Road on 2nd, at least 5 Kings Bay Trail on 9th, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* : noted each day on Trinidad.

Grassland Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteola* : 2 Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd is our only record.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* : noted on 5 days with a male La Laja Road on 2nd, several on 3rd, several along roadside Arima Valley on 4th & 5th, a male Kings Bay Trail on 9th.

Black-faced Grassquit *Tiaris bicolor* : several Kings Bay Trail on 9th is our only record.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* : at least 2 Asa Wright on 5th is our only record.

GROSBEAKS, SALTATORS & allies - Cardinalidae

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* : 2 Blanchisseuse Road on 1st is our only record.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

ANTEATERS & SLOTHS - Order: PILOSA

Silky Anteater *Cyclopes didactylus* : 2 Caroni Swamp on 6th.

RODENTS - Order: RODENTIA

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* : noted on 7 days at Asa Wright on 31st, Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, Hilton Pools Golf Course on 7th, Blue Waters on 8th - 9th, Tobago Main Ridge on 10th, Blue Waters on 11th.

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporina* : noted each day at Asa Wright.

BATS - Order: CHIROPTERA

Greater White-lined [Sac-winged] Bat *Saccopteryx bilineata* : noted on 4 days with several Blanchisseuse Road on 1st, La Laja Road on 2nd, Arima Valley on 3rd, Asa Wright on 5th.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

White-banded Gecko *Gonatodes vittatus* : photographed Aripo Cattle Station on 3rd.

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia* : noted on 3 days at Asa Wright.

Common Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* : noted on 5 days at Asa Wright on 31st & 4th - 5th, Little Tobago Is on 8th, Blue Waters on 11th.

Striped Runner / Foot-shaker *Cnemidophorus lemniscatus* : Tobago Main Ridge on 10th.

Common/Golden Tegu *Tupinambis teguixin* : noted each day at Asa Wright.

Central American Tree Boa *Corallus ruschenbergi* : 3 Caroni Swamp on 6th.

Horsewhip/Vine Snake *Oxybelis aeneus* : a ca.3' individual just outside the cabins on 4th.

Brown/Moon/Coal Snake *Pseudoboa newwiedii* : 3 Little Tobago Is on 8th.

Tigré / Tropical Rat Snake *Spilotes pullatus* : noted on 2 days with 1 at least 7' ascending a tree near the manakin lek on 4th, 1 ca.3' Arena Savanna plus 1 dead on road on 5th.

Shaw's Black-backed Snake *Liophis melanotus* : 1 King's Bay Trail on 9th.

Spectacled Cayman *Caiman crocodilus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Nariva Swamp on 3rd, several large individuals at Trincity Waterworks plus other smaller ones on 6th.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Marine/Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* : noted on 3 days at Blue Waters.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

SWALLOWTAILS & allies - Papilionidae

Polydamus Swallowtail / Black Page / Gold Rim *Battus polydamas*

Cattle Heart *Parides anchises*

WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS - Pieridae

Little Yellow *Eurema venusta*

Cloudless Sulphur / Common Yellow *Phoebis sennae*

METALMARKS, HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES - Lycaenidae

Blues & Opals - subf: Polyommatainae

Lined Stripestreak *Arawacus aetolus* [= *A. linus*]

Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius*

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES - Nymphalidae

Monarchs & allies - subf: Danainae

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

Vanessids & smaller Fritillaries - subf: Nymphalinae

Small Brown Shoemaker *Hypanartia lethe*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*

Red Anartia / Princesa Roja *Anartia amathea*

Caribbean Buckeye *Junonia evarete* (= *Precis lavinia*)

The Mimic *Hypolimnas missipus*

The Handkerchief *Janatella leucodesma*

Larger Fritillaries & Heliconians - subf: Heliconiinae

Flambeau *Dryas iulia*

Small Flambeau *Eueides* (= *Heliconius*) *alipha*

Postman *Heliconius melpomene*

Small Postman / Crimson-patched Longwing *Heliconius erato*

Morphos & Owls - subf: Morphinae

Common Morpho / Emperor Butterfly *Morpho helenor* (= *peleides*)

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Hermes Satyr *Hermeuptychia* [= *Euptychia*] *hermes*

Libye Satyr *Magneuptychia libye*

Penelope Satyr *Cissia* [= *Euptychia*] *penelope*

OTHER SELECTED TAXA - .

Leaf-cutter Ant *Atta cephalotes*

Mangrove Tree Crab *Aratus pisonii*

Trinidad Mountain Crab *Pseudotelphusa garmani*

Atlantic Ghost Crab *Ocypode quadrata*

The weather was remarkably dry underfoot which was good for us as insects seemed to be fewer than in past years. The downside of this was the relative scarcity of butterflies. However, this was an excellent trip with all of us gaining tremendously from each other's knowledge and enthusiasm. . It is just impossible to pick out highlights as we will all have our own memories. However, to name just a few, remember on Trinidad the Scarlet Ibis with the herons and egrets coming in to roost at Caroni, the Bearded Bellbird shouting at us from the branches, the sheer diversity of birds seen from the veranda at Asa Wright and the evening spent spot-lighting owls and nightjars at the cattle station. On Tobago, the Red-billed Tropicbirds on nests on the island and the stunning White-tailed Sabrewings in the forest spring to mind. All three species of trogon, Pearl Kite, Blue-crowned Motmot, the cheeky B&Qs all deserve mention. I have undoubtedly not mentioned your own favourites, but whatever you do, don't hang your unmentionables out to dry during a windy night and always bring your own rum for the ice creams for dessert!

We must say a big thank you to the Asa Wright and Blue Waters staff, and to all the local guides and drivers who are listed at the front of this report, and well done to all of you who made this trip the success it was. I hope to see you all on another trip, sometime in the not-too-distant future.

Keith Grant, February 2010



Common Black Hawk, Arima Valley