

Trinidad & Tobago

Thursday 3 – Wednesday 16 February 2011



Barred Antshrike (imm m), Asa Wright Nature Centre

(all photos Keith Grant)

Leaders / Guides:

Keith Grant (The Travelling Naturalist)
Roodal Ramlal (Trinidad)
Gladwyn James (Tobago)
Mukesh, Molly & Caleb (Asa Wright)
Nanan Boat Tours (Caroni Swamp)
Frank's Glass-Bottom Boat Tours (Little Tobago Is.)

Daily Diary:

Thursday 3 February

Arrival at Port of Spain, Asa Wright Nature Centre

We took a morning flight from Gatwick to Trinidad, this year setting down briefly in St Lucia. We arrived at Piarco International Airport, Port of Spain, where we met up with Roodal just after 6pm and were soon being welcomed at the Nature Centre with rum punch in hand.

Friday 4 February

Asa Wright Nature Centre

Heavy rain a.m., clearing p.m.

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. Blue-crowned Motmots appeared several times and there were both Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and Forest Eleania in the Tremor Tree.



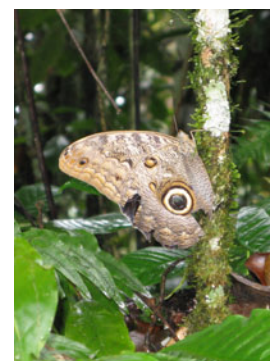
White-necked Jacobin



Blue Dacnis



White Hawk



Forest Mort Bleu

Roodal arrived soon after breakfast, immediately spotting two Common Black Hawks circling over the far side of the valley. We started our morning walk up the main drive, noting Torch Ginger, Coffee and Cocoa Trees, Lobster Claw and many other exotic plants, many of them introduced from else-where in the tropics. Streaked Flycatcher and Black-throated Mango were spotted on a bare tree up the hillside, but we hadn't got much further when the heavens opened with what was forecast as showers. This time though it was an absolute deluge and we aborted any further thoughts of walking the main drive. Returning to the veranda was most certainly the right decision as the rain continued for the rest of the morning. Even so, excellent views of White-breasted Emerald, White-necked Jacobin and Copper-rumped Hummingbird were obtained as they seemed to really enjoy 'having a shower'! Violaceous Euphonias seemed to like the Tremor Tree in particular and we had brief views of Turquoise and Bay-headed Tanagers here as well. A male Barred Antshrike showed well, pumping its tail as it called. A White Hawk was then found perched in a tall tree close to the main house, and we also had telescope views of distant Black-tailed Tityra, Bearded Bellbird and Channel-billed Toucan.

After lunch and a short rest, we again walked the main drive, where several Trinidad Mountain Crabs were noted and a Trinidad Chevron (tarantula) was found down the end of one of the scaffold tube railings alongside the road. Butterflies were few but included Cloudless Sulphur, Blue Transparent, Red Anartia and Cattle-heart, all seemingly very fond of the Busy Lizzie flowers lining the road.

We turned around when we reached the road and on our way back found a superb Forest Mort Bleu resting right alongside the drive. We were back to the veranda in time for tea and pastries before a short walk down the Discovery Trail. Time then for another rest and we were ready for our rum punch and checklist at 6pm. Dinner was followed by a short spot-lamping walk up the main drive with Mukesh. He quickly found Trinidad Chevron, stick insects, cicadas and glowworms. Roosting birds included a pair of Great Antshrikes, Northern Waterthrush and Grey-fronted Dove. Returning almost to the car park, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was a great finale to a very interesting walk.

Time for bed!

Saturday 5 February

The Northern Ridge & Blanchisseuse Road

Mainly sunny & hot, humid

Both Spectacled and Ferruginous Pygmy Owl were calling nearby at dawn and the usual array of species were seen at the bird feeders before breakfast. Olive-sided Flycatcher was spotted beyond the cabins and a Northern Waterthrush was seen under one of the feeding tables. After breakfast, Roodal arrived with the vehicle and we headed up the hill. We did a series of stops on the roadside, finding Red-crowned Ant Tanager, White-tailed & Collared Trogons, brilliant views of Black-throated Antthrush on the forest floor below us and brief views of White-bellied Antbird on the wooded slope above the road. A little further on, we again stopped, this time for a trio of Plain-brown Woodcreepers on some rotting fallen trunks by the road. Whilst watching these we realised

that a column of army ants were on the move and were busy attacking scorpions and a gecko. A Channel-billed Toucan flew off from the communications tower at the top of the hill and we also saw a Merlin fly in to land on the tower itself.



Plain-brown Woodcreeper



Broad-winged Hawk



Trinidad Admiral



Blue-headed Parrots

We continued on, stopping occasionally and headed for Brasso Seco to have lunch in the shade house. Here we were surrounded by masses of Red Anartia and other butterflies on the grassy slopes. On our return, we again stopped occasionally, identifying Band-rumped Swifts over the valley, finding a pair of Jacamars at the roadside and whilst watching these also finding Rufous-browed Peppershrike, and eventually finding a Rufous-breasted Wren willing to show itself! With the sun shining and a light breeze, raptors were much in evidence and during the day we noted Short-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk and Grey Hawk. The stop for a Broad-winged Hawk perched on a roadside dead tree also produced a superb Lineated Woodpecker. We turned down the hill towards Morne La Croix where there was a small nesting colony of Yellow-rumped Caciques. We managed a piece of delicious home-made cake as well! Here we also found Shiny Cowbirds and Carib Grackles, a really close Pale-breasted Spinetail and a pair of Blue-headed Parrots and a Golden-olive Woodpecker made an excellent finale to the day. We headed 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 very brief view of a Short-tailed Nighthawk amongst the large number of bats at last light.

Sunday 6 February Sunny & warm

La Laja Road & Asa Wright

After breakfast we were soon heading the short distance to the La Laja Road where we drove steadily up to the first ridge. By a combination of walking and driving back down the hill, we found the usual mix of tanagers plus Red-legged Honeycreepers and extremely confiding Grey-throated Leaf-tosser and White-bellied Antbird. Butterflies were very active due to the warm conditions and the photographers were much distracted by an often bewildering array.

Returning for lunch, everyone enjoyed some free time until we gathered again at 3pm to walk further down the Discovery Trail. Several Golden-headed Manakins were displaying near the old mango tree. Further on, the White-bearded Manakins were particularly active, and nearby a pair of Cocoa Thrushes were feeding three half-grown chicks in a nest. Bellbirds were now calling from further down the hill and this encouraged us onwards. One particular individual showed very well and allowed everyone good views and photographs through the telescopes. We returned to the veranda just in time for tea and pastries, watching many butterflies on the Lantana below and both Little Hermit and Tufted Coquette regularly checking out the Vervain.



Lineated Woodpecker



White-bearded Manakin



Bearded Bellbird



Cocoa Thrush at nest

Monday 7 February

Aripo Cattle Station, Nariva Swamp, Wallerfield

Sunny & warm, strong onshore breeze, rain late pm

The veranda first thing was its usual busy self, in particular a superb Lineated Woodpecker showed well on the dead tree and a Grey-headed Kite soared across the valley, this latter bird performing a wing-fluttering display flight when a second kite joined it. We were away after breakfast, stopping firstly on the main road for a Merlin perched on a roadside tree. We continued on and soon entered the cattle station where we quickly got to grips with a whole range of new species. Wattled Jacanas, White-winged Swallows, Red-breasted and Yellow-hooded Blackbirds, Pied Water-tyrants and White-headed Marsh-tyrants all vied for our attention. A pair of Peregrines were perched quietly on a dead tree and a couple of Savanna Hawks were seen. As we approached the cattle sheds, we found Spotted, Least and Solitary Sandpipers along the wet ditch and muddy pools, and a Ruddy-breasted Seedeater perched on the fence allowing good if brief views. Beyond the sheds, we found Southern Lapwing and Cocoi Heron and a couple of Grassland Yellow Finches which only colonised Trinidad within the last 20 years or so.

After a brief rest-stop in town, we were again on the move to have lunch at Manzanilla. The strong onshore breeze had whipped up quite a surf and we were soon on our way again, working along the coast road, checking the palms and overhead wires for raptors. Only a couple of Yellow-headed Caracara were seen, one landing on the road in front of us. An Anhinga was perched on a fallen branch in mid-stream and we made several further stops along the road for Little Cuckoo, a perched Grey Hawk, an excellent pair of Black-crested Antshrikes and a small party of Green-rumped Parrotlets.

We finally arrived at Nariva Swamp, immediately finding Wattled Jacanas and Striated Heron in the wet areas. We worked our way along the roadways, scanning either side as we went. A single Purple Gallinule disappeared rather quickly but we did find Great Egrets and a Great Blue Heron. We then had to head back to the Moriche Palms in the Wallerfield where we broke out the rum punch and cake, just as a couple of Moriche Orioles appeared. These unfortunately didn't stay in view very long though several Sulphury Flycatchers did show well. The orioles did reappear a little later just as the rain started, again disappearing behind a palm but the rain prompted us to head back for dinner.



Yellow-chinned Spinetail



Grey Hawk



Sulphury Flycatcher



Least Sandpipers

Tuesday 8 February

Asa Wright & Aripo Cattle Station night birding

Mainly sunny & humid

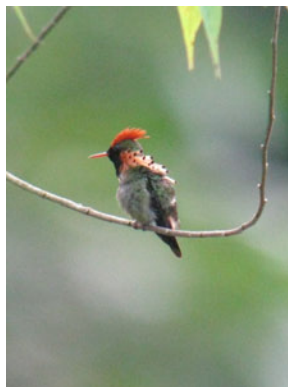
We gathered on the veranda after breakfast where Molly was waiting to take us to Dunstan's Cave to view that fantastic bird, the Oilbird. We walked slowly down the Guacharo Trail, stopping occasionally, until we reached the 'cave' entrance. There was a Rufous-breasted Hermit nesting here, its delicate nest suspended under a large leaf, and a Green Hermit appeared occasionally to feed on the flower of a Torch Ginger. Then two by two, we moved quietly into the entrance of the 'cave' as Molly carefully used her torch to highlight several Oilbirds sitting quietly on ledges. The closest ledge just above us held a pair of adults, and the next ledge further into the chasm held a pair with a large chick. What a fascinating bird! We then returned slowly up the trail, finding Stripe-breasted Spinetail and a Cocoa Woodcreeper. Some then walked the Bellbird Trail whilst others visited the Golden-headed Manakin lek before lunch. Most of us then rested or even had a nap during the first part of the afternoon before gathering again in time for tea and pastries.



Oilbird



Golden-headed Manakins



Tufted Coquette



Tropical Screech Owl

We set off again at 4:30 to return to the Aripo Cattle Station where we immediately found a Tropical Screech Owl sitting quietly up against a gnarled tree trunk right beside the main entrance. We then enjoyed our rum punch as the dinner table was prepared and we scanned the nearby pastures with the sun setting behind us. A couple of Savanna Hawks were noted, one in particular landing in the field very close to us. 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 and Pauraque soon started calling. We drove on with the lamp checking on each side and spot-lit quite a few Pauraques and White-tailed Nightjars. A large Green Iguana was found on a roadside shrub, looking quite prehistoric in the torchlight. Finally we again walked a little way along the road, getting excellent views of the two species of nightjars sitting on the road edge and a Common Potoo on a distant fence post. More of the same as we drove back, with nightjars sometimes right under the front of the vehicle. Back to the Centre for a well earned night's sleep.

Wednesday 9 February Sunny, hot & humid

Aripo savannah & Arena Forest

After an early breakfast, we were away soon after 6:30, stopping at various places down the Arima Valley. We were searching for White-tailed & Violaceous Trogons, and found the former on the outskirts of Arima. A single Rufous-tailed Jacamar was also found across the road, and a little further on, an untended area of land held a superb Masked Yellowthroat and several Yellow-bellied Elaenias. We then drove on, turning south off the main road for a short distance. A Striped Cuckoo eventually appeared here and at another stop, a superb Pearl Kite was perched quietly on a roadside tree. This flew off eventually, only to return a little later carrying a twig – obviously a present for the wife who was busy at the nest! Walking further along the road, we found a stunning male White-winged Becard. We loaded up again and continued to head south, stopping briefly in Cumuto for refreshments and to view quite a large colony of Yellow-rumped Caciques, before heading for the Arena Forest. We found Violaceous Trogon here (at last) and this very confiding bird allowed excellent views. There were several roosting White-lined Sac-winged Bats roosting around an old disused building and we had our lunch in the shelter here.

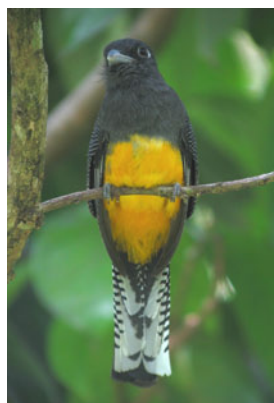
We returned to the Centre straight after lunch and free time for the rest of the afternoon enabled everyone to do their own thing. We gathered again at 6pm for rum punch and to call the checklist before dinner.



White-tailed Trogon



White-winged Becard



Violaceous Trogon



White-lined Sac-winged Bat

Thursday 10 February

Rain on & off all day, very heavy towards evening

Waterloo & Caroni Swamp

We made two brief stops in Arima, for a pharmacy and to check tyre pressures, before heading south-west across the Caroni rice fields. An Osprey or two were seen overhead and various herons noted. Our next stop down the west coast was at the Waterloo temple where we found Saffron Finches around the gardens and car park. At the fish quay a little further on, a large flock of several hundred Laughing Gulls were loafing on the mudflats very close to the causeway and we saw good numbers of both Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Hudsonian Whimbrel, the American subspecies, provided a good comparison with our European birds, as did Semipalmated Plover, a close relative of our Ringed Plover. We found several Black Skimmers amongst the Laughing Gulls and every one of the fishing boats moored off the quay provided ample space for roosting gulls, Brown Pelicans and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls (an adult and 2 first years). Careful searching of the mudflats on the other side of the quay revealed a Willet fairly close to, further Hudsonian Whimbrels and good numbers of Southern Lapwing further off.

As rain set in, we drove back into the town for lunch in the back room of a local bar, with Short-tailed Swifts and White-winged Swallows overhead. We returned to the shore, using a fisherman's boathouse as shelter from the drizzle. In the distance, a Great Blue Heron was easily identified by its comparatively huge size amongst the smaller Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons. A lone Tricolored Heron appeared very close to us but flew on past, one or two Ospreys were noted and at least three Royal Terns were perched on posts in the shallow waters.

We then headed back northwards, stopping at Cacandee on the southern edge of Caroni Swamp where there were wet marshes alongside the roadway. Here there were many Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-necked Stilts, one or two Solitary Sandpipers and right in the distance, a small number of Scarlet Ibis and at least one Glossy Ibis. Further along the road near the working quay, we found Yellow-bellied Eleania, Masked Cardinal, Yellow Warbler and a Spectacled Cayman hauled up on the mud on the opposite side of the creek. We then had to load up and drive round to meet up with Lester of Nanan Boat Tours for the finale to our visit to Trinidad, the boat trip out through the mangroves to view the Scarlet Ibis roost.

Once in the boat, we stopped fairly quickly to view a Cook's Tree Boa [*now called Central American Tree Boa*] curled up in a tight ball at the end of overhanging branches. A Green-throated Mango, a specialist mangrove hummingbird, was also found perched at the end of some twigs, and a little further on, an immature bird was found perched lower down giving better views. We then found a Green Kingfisher, followed by Pygmy Kingfisher and then a Potoo doing his normal tree stump impersonation. 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. Parties of Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons and the occasional Great White Egret joined them. With rain again setting in and dusk approaching, we made our way back through the mangrove channels with flocks of ibis streaming over us. We returned to the quayside and headed back to the Centre for dinner and to pack for our flight to Tobago in the morning.



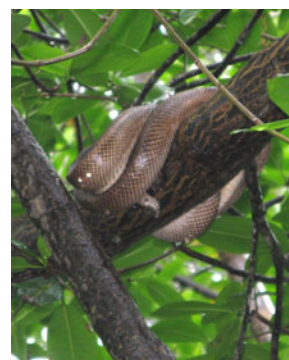
Willet



Semipalmated Plover



Masked Cardinal



Cook's Tree Boa

Friday 11 February

Hot & sunny, showers later in afternoon

Asa Wright, Tobago (West End) & Blue Waters

After an early breakfast, we were packed and away soon after 7am; check-in at the airport 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 at Bon Accord. Here at the edge of the mangroves, we found a trio of White-cheeked Pintails just visible through the trees on a patch of open water. A small number of Barn Swallows and Caribbean Martins were hawking insects over the Water Treatment Pools, and a lone Black-bellied Whistling Duck was present in the wet marsh across the road. We passed several Green Herons, Spotted Sandpipers and a Greater Yellowlegs along the wet ditches as we made our way back to the main road. Our next stop was the Hilton Pools where a good number of Anhingas were present on the large lake at the entrance. At least two Spectacled Caiman were also noted here, together with Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Southern Lapwing and several Least Grebes. A Belted Kingfisher was seen briefly before it disappeared amongst the lakeside trees. At another pool, covered mainly with rushes and emergent vegetation, we found a superb pair of Masked Ducks with four half-grown ducklings, together with several Purple Gallinules and Moorhens. A Sora flushed but disappeared immediately.

A Yellow-headed Caracara flew by as we drove away and headed to the old Grafton Estate to have our sandwiches. Here, Copper-rumped Hummingbird, Ruby Topaz and Black-throated Mango were all present around the flowering shrubs, and we then spent an enjoyable half hour stalking the numerous butterflies before Gladwyn took us for a walk along one of the trails. We found several Scrub Greenlets and Yellow-breasted Flycatchers, a lone Cocoa Woodcreeper and a very confiding pair of Jacamars. There was also a Green Iguana on a distant tree across the valley.

We then headed eastwards towards Speyside and Blue Waters to settle into our rooms and gather in the bar prior to dinner.

Saturday 12 February

Passing showers all day, sometimes heavy

Blue Waters & Little Tobago Island

We emerged from our rooms for our pre-breakfast walk to find it raining steadily, so we got as far as the bar where a never ending supply of tea and coffee was provided. The rain cleared after about a quarter hour so we did ultimately manage to reach the bridge over the Speyside River. A Ruby Topaz male was stunning as its crimson and gold plumage caught the light. Black-faced Grassquit, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Brown-crested Flycatcher were all seen. An Osprey plunged into the sea just off the jetty but failed to catch its breakfast. As we returned, we were treated to a trio of Barred Antshrikes dueting (*or whatever the verb is for three!*) against each other across the driveway.

Once we had finished lunch we again attempted a walk, finding White-fringed Antwren and Rufous-tailed Jacamar at close range, but again got caught in a shower. With the wind freshening, we decided not to continue round the trail above the hotel, instead opting for a repeat visit to the Speyside River bridge. An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron had caught a crab for its breakfast and was dealing with the claws before swallowing. Then a juvenile appeared hoping no doubt to be fed. The Ruby Topaz again looked stunning, as did Black-throated Mango and Copper-rumped Hummingbird. We returned up the hill to the cannon where two Broad-winged Hawks were hanging in the updraft above us. Lunch soon after midday, then we gathered again on the quay for our afternoon visit to Little Tobago Island.



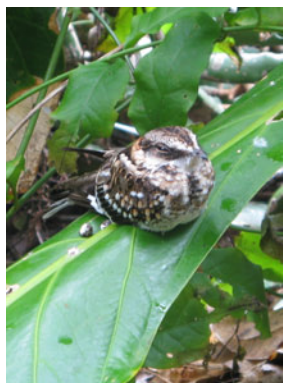
Green Heron



(adult with crab) Yellow-crowned Night Heron (juv)



Rufous-tailed Jacamar



White-tailed Nightjar



Copper-rumped Hummingbird



White-tailed Sabrewing

The rain held off and we were taken 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. 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 two tropicbird's nests very close here, one with a half-grown chick and the other with an adult in attendance. A White-tailed Nightjar roosting on a "banana" leaf was most unexpected and gave 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, a Merlin glided by and a little later a Peregrine was spotted sitting quietly on a bare tree. As we returned in the boat, we briefly passed over the Brain Coral and Japanese Garden reef and returned to the hotel in time to shower and change, and gathered again in the bar for checklist and dinner.

Sunday 13 February

Hot & sunny, clouding over mid-afternoon

Kings Bay Trail & Blue Waters

We had an 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 and a number of Black-faced Grassquits. Red-crowned Woodpeckers appeared amongst the Immortelle blossom on a couple of occasions, and we saw a number of Red-legged Honeycreepers in the large Swamp Immortelle trees. Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Barred Antshrikes, and Scrub Greenlets were all noted, and two Giant Cowbirds were found, again in Immortelle trees in the valley below us. Two flycatcher species showed well albeit briefly, these being Fuscous and Ochre-bellied, the latter species having already been seen several times from the Asa Wright veranda earlier in the trip. Just before we turned about, half a dozen or so ground orchids were flowering at the edge of the trees, these being *Spiranthes acaulis*. Heading back, a Broad-winged Hawk soared over and two Green-rumped Parrotlets appeared in the Secropia trees. We returned to the vehicle and were back at the hotel for a swim before lunch.

Several of us then reconvened at 3pm for a walk up the higher trail around the top of the hotel. This was relatively quiet except for a Merlin zooming over as we were halfway up the trail. A Copper-rumped Hummingbird posed exceptionally well for photographs. We reached the corner where we overlooked the next bay just as a Peregrine soared past and an Osprey flew round the bay. As we returned, a male Ruby Topaz posed frustratingly at the back of a pink flowering tree.

Monday 14 February

Main Ridge & Gilpin Trace

Sunny to start, rain often heavy from mid-morning

Despite an early breakfast, confusion about our picnic lunch delayed our departure somewhat. However, we were soon on our way, turning inland at Roxborough and climbing the Main Ridge to the Gilpin Trace. We immediately had excellent views of a male Collared Trogon sitting in a tree right beside the road as we got out. Heading slowly down the trail, we were listening to both Yellow-legged and White-necked Thrushes in full song. In fact, we had excellent views of several Yellow-legged Thrushes during our walk, even watching a White-tailed Sabrewing chasing one away when it approached too close to a nest. The Sabrewings were much in evidence, sometimes perching for quite long periods and often very close to us, another being very aggressive towards a motmot. We found a nest hanging under a palm frond and Gladwyn also showed us the nest burrows of motmot, jacamar and leaftosser in the earth banks alongside the trail. We heard Stripe-breasted Spinetail at several places but only obtained the briefest of views on one occasion. Cocoa Woodcreeper also appeared, then Golden-olive Woodpecker. We also found Copper-rumped Hummingbird at its nest, and a little further on, Rufous-breasted Hermit at the nest. How do these apparently fragile little nests survive the torrential rains?

We returned to the roadside shelter to have our sandwiches. After a brief drive up to the lookout to use the facilities, we then headed back down the hill a short distance before alighting once again on the roadside as the rain eased. Having heard Blue-backed Manakin giving their characteristic lekking calls, we were encouraged down another trail into the forest. Here we found just a single male sitting quietly at eye level through a narrow window through the foliage, which made it very difficult for everyone to see. Several attempts were made to get telescopes trained on to it as it moved periodically and we eventually gave up as it moved away completely and the rain really started in earnest. We then drove back down the hill and headed back to the hotel for a well-earned hot drink.

Tuesday 15 February

Blue Waters & departure

Sunny periods

A morning at leisure awaiting the arrival of Gladwyn at midday and our departure to the airport.

Wednesday 16 February

Arrival back at Gatwick



Spectacled Caiman, "Hilton Pools"

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

www.learnaboutbutterflies.com

www.butterfliesofamerica.com

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* : noted on 2 days with calling birds heard Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 7th.

CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS, GUANS - Cracidae

Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda* : noted each day on Tobago, particularly the 'dawn chorus' at Blue Waters each morning!

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* : one at Bon Accord on 11th is our only record.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* : three at Bon Accord on 11th is our only record.

Masked Duck : a pair with 4 half-grown ducklings Hilton Pools was a new species for us during this trip.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* : several Hilton Pools on 11th.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* : many hundreds Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* : at least 1, possibly 2, feeding with a small number of Scarlet Ibis near Cacandee on the southern edge of Caroni Swamp on 10th.

HERONS & BITTERNs - Ardeidae

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* : noted on 6 days, with several Caroni Swamp on 10th, then several at Bon Accord & Hilton Pools on 11th, an adult & juv at Speyside river mouth 12th - 15th.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* : noted on 2 days on Tobago on 11th & 13th.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* : several noted on 2 days, at Nariva Swamp on 7th, and Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* : first noted at the airport during our brief touchdown at St Lucia on 3rd, then most days thereafter on both islands.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* : noted on 3 days, single birds at Nariva Swamp on 7th, Waterloo area on 10th, Hilton Pools on 11th.

Cocoi/White-necked Heron *Ardea cocoi* : noted on 2 days with single birds at Aripo Cattle Station on 7th, Caroni rice fields on 10th.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba* : noted in small numbers on 4 days, Nariva Swamp on 7th, en route on 9th, Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, Bon Accord & Hilton Pools on 11th.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* : noted on 2 days with good numbers in Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, several at Bon Accord & Hilton Pools on 11th.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* : noted at Nariva Swamp on 7th, Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, then each day at Speyside river mouth 11th - 15th.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* : noted on 2 days, Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, Hilton Pools on 11th.

TROPICBIRDS - Phaethontidae

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* : noted each day off Blue Waters and around Little Tobago Is., nesting birds seen close to on Little Tobago Is on 12th.

FRIGATEBIRDS - Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* : noted on 8 days, 2 high overhead Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, several drifting over Manzanilla on 7th, 1 Waterloo area on 10th, then regularly overhead on Tobago 11th - 15th.

PELICANS - Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* : noted on 5 days, with several Waterloo area on 10th, 1 Speyside on 12th, 2 there on 13th, 1 Roxborough on 14th & 15th.

GANNETS & BOOBIES - Sulidae

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* : nesting birds on Little Tobago Is on 12th.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* : nesting birds on Little Tobago Is on 12th.

CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic/Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (=olivaceus) : noted on 3 days with several Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, several Hilton Pools on 11th, 1 Kings Bay on 14th.

ANHINGAS / DARTERS - Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* : noted on 2 days, 1 Nariva River 7th, many Bon Accord & Hilton Pools 11th.

NEW WORLD VULTURES - Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* : noted each day on Trinidad.

[American] Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* : noted each day on Trinidad, often in large numbers.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* : noted on 4 days with 1 en route from the airport on 3rd, then 3 Manzanilla & Nariva Swamp on 7th, 1 Waterloo area on 10th, 1 Hilton Pools on 11th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* : noted on 4 days with single birds Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Manzanilla & Wallerfield on 7th, Little Tobago Is on 12th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* : noted on 3 days with a pair at the Aripo Cattle Station on 7th, then single birds Little Tobago Is on 12th and Blue Waters area on 13th.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* : noted on 5 days with several Caroni rice fields & Swamp, Waterloo area on 10th, then 1 regularly fishing Blue Waters Bay on 12th -15th.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* : Asa Wright NC on 7th is our only record.

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* : 1 Aripo Savannah on 9th is our only record.

White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis* : single birds noted on 5 days, La Laja Road on 6th, and Asa Wright NC on 4th, 7th, 8th, & 10th.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* : singles or pairs noted on 5 days, at Asa Wright NC on 4th, 8th & 10th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* : noted on 2 days with a bird heard calling above Gilpin Trace on 14th but unfortunately not seen above the trees, and 1 seen briefly by one member looking wistfully back at the hotel as we left for the airport on 15th. (Upon my return to Blue Waters, I had a pair displaying overhead on the following morning [KG])

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* : several noted on 4 days, at Aripo Cattle Station on 7th & 8th, Aripo Savannah on 9th, Caroni rice fields on 10th.

Grey Hawk *Buteo nitidus* : single birds noted on 4 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 6th, Manzanilla on 7th, then 2 Aripo Savannah on 9th.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* : noted on 6 days, 1 Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, then ones or twos each day Speyside – Blue Waters area 11th - 15th.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* : single birds noted on 3 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Aripo Cattle Station on 7th.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* : one Blanchisseuse Road on 5th is our only record.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* : one seen over the valley from the Asa Wright NC on 6th.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Sora *Porzana carolina* : one very briefly Hilton Pools on 11th is our only record.

[American] Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* : noted on 2 days, Nariva Swamp on 7th, Hilton Pools on 11th.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* : noted on 2 days, Caroni Swamp on 10th, Tobago on 11th.

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* : ca 20 Caroni Swamp on 10th is our only record.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* : noted on 4 days, at Aripo Cattle Station on 7th & 8th, Waterloo area on 10th, and on arrival Tobago on 11th.

Grey/Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* : one Waterloo area on 10th is our only record.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* : several Waterloo area on 10th.

JACANAS - Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* : noted on 4 days, at Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 7th, Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, Caroni Swamp on 10th, Tobago on 11th.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

[Hudsonian] Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* : several Waterloo area on 10th.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* : noted on 2 days with 1 Waterloo area & several Caroni Swamp on 10th, 1 Bon Accord on 11th.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* : many Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* : noted on 3 days, at Aripo Cattle Station on 7th & 8th, 2 Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* : several Waterloo area on 10th is our only record.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* : noted on 5 days, at Aripo Cattle Station & Manzanilla on 7th, Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, Tobago on 11th, 1 Blue Waters beach on 12th & 14th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* : noted on 5 days with 10 at Waterloo area on 10th, then max 29 Blue Waters area 12th - 15th.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* : several hundred Waterloo area on 10th.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* : several hundred Waterloo area on 10th.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* : two noted on 2 days at Aripo Cattle Station on 7th & 8th.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* : an adult & 2 first winter birds at Waterloo area on 10th.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* : noted on 2 days with hundreds Waterloo area on 10th, 1 Speyside on 12th.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* : noted on 2 days with 3 at Waterloo area on 10th, 4 en route to airport on 15th.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* : several Waterloo area on 10th is our only record.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* : noted on 5 days around human habitation, 7th - 11th.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* : noted on 2 days at Asa Wright NC, 6th & 9th.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* : noted each day on Tobago, 11th - 15th.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* : noted on 2 days, at Waterloo area & Caroni Swamp on 10th, upon arrival on Tobago on 11th.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* : noted most days on both islands.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* : noted each day on Tobago, 11th - 15th.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* : noted each day on Trinidad, usually under the feeders at Asa Wright NC, 4th - 10th.

PARROTS & allies - Psittacidae

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus* : noted on 2 days, with several at Manzanilla on 7th, 2 Kings Bay Trail on 13th.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* : noted on 2 days, at Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th.

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

CUCKOOS - Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* : noted most days in the lowlands on both islands.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* : one Aripo Savannah on 9th is our only record.

Little Cuckoo *Coccyua minuta* : one Manzanilla on 7th is our only record.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* : one Aripo Savannah on 9th is our only record.

OWLS - Strigidae

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* : one seen at close quarters roosting near the main gate Aripo Cattle Station on 8th.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* : heard just before dawn Asa Wright NC on 4th.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* : noted each day on Trinidad with one seen Asa Wright NC on 4th, then heard before dawn Asa Wright NC on 5th - 11th.

OILBIRD - Steatornithidae

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* : several really close views in Dunstan's Cave, Asa Wright NC, on 8th.

POTOOS - Nyctibiidae

Grey/Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* : noted on 2 days with 2 spotlit at Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, 1 roosting Caroni Swamp on 10th.

NIGHTJARS - Caprimulgidae

Short-tailed/Semicollared Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* : 1 briefly at dusk Asa Wright NC on 5th.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* : several spotlit at Aripo Cattle Station on 8th.

White-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus cayennensis* : noted on 2 days with several spotlit at Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, then 1 roosting near the viewpoint on Little Tobago Is on 12th.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicauda* : noted on 2 days with birds identified overhead Asa Wright NC & Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 6th.

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* : noted on 5 days with birds identified overhead Asa Wright NC & Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, then Asa Wright NC on 6th - 9th.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* : noted on 3 days with several overhead at Waterloo area on 10th, several noted at different locations on Tobago 11th & 13th.

Neotropical/Fork-tailed Palm Swift *Tachornis squamata* : several at Wallerfield on 7th is our only record.

HUMMINGBIRDS - Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus* : noted on 6 days, at Asa Wright NC & Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, then Asa Wright NC on 6th & 8th - 10th, nesting pair Gilpin Trace on 14th.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* : one near Dunstan's Cave, Asa Wright NC, on 8th.

Little Hermit *Phaethornis longuemareus* : single birds noted on 6 days at Asa Wright NC, 4th & 6th - 10th.

White-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis* : several, including nesting birds, Gilpin Trace on 14th.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* : noted most days on both islands.

Green-throated Mango *Anthracothorax viridigula* : 2 at Caroni Swamp on 10th is our only record.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* : noted on 6 days, at Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 6th, 8th & 11th, Blue Waters area on 12th.

Ruby Topaz *Chrysolampis mosquitus* : noted each day on Tobago.

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

Blue-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes notatus* : noted most days at Asa Wright NC.

White-chested Emerald *Amazilia brevirostris* : noted most days at Asa Wright NC.

Copper-rumped Hummingbird *Amazilia tobaci* : noted on 7 days on both islands.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* : one Asa Wright NC on 10th is our only record.

TROGONS - Trogonidae

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *Trogon viridis* : noted on 2 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC & Aripo on 9th.

[Amazonian] **Violaceous Trogon** *Trogon violaceus* : one Arena Forest on 9th is our only record.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* : noted on 4 days, at Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, en route on 8th, Gilpin Trace on 14th.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* : 2 Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* : 1 Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* : 1 Hilton Pools on 11th.

MOTMOTS - Momotidae

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota* : noted each day on both islands.

TOUCANS & BARBETS - Ramphastidae

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* : noted only on 3 days, at Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 10th.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* : noted on 2 days with 1 Grafton on 11th, 2 Kings Bay Trail on 13th.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus* : noted on 3 days with single birds Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 9th, Gilpin Trace on 14th.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* : noted on 4 days with one Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, then either seen or heard Asa Wright NC on 6th - 8th.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* : one Manzanilla on 7th is our only record.

JACAMARS - Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* : noted on 8 days, along the Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Wallerfield on 7th, Aripo Savannah on 9th, and seen each day on Tobago, 11th -15th.

MANAKINS - Pipridae

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* : noted on 4 days, at Asa Wright NC on 6th & 8th - 10th.

Blue-backed Manakin *Chiroxiphia pareola* : a female plus lekking male Main Ridge on 14th.

Golden-headed Manakin *Pipra erythrocephala* : noted on 5 days, with lekking males at Asa Wright NC on 4th, heard Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 6th, 8th & 9th.

COTINGAS - Cotingidae

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana* : one distantly at Asa Wright NC on 4th is our only record.

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus* : a stunning male Aripo Savannah on 9th.

Bearded Bellbird *Procnias averano* : noted most days at Asa Wright NC, usually heard but also seen well.

TYRANT-FLYCATCHERS - Tyrannidae

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* : noted on 4 days at Asa Wright NC, on 4th - 6th, & 9th.

- Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* : noted on 4 days, at Aripo on 9th, Caroni Swamp on 10th, several locations on Tobago on 12th & 13th.
- Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* : one Aripo on 9th is our only record.
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* : noted most days at Asa Wright NC, then also at Speyside on 12th, Kings Bay Trail on 13th, Gilpin Trace on 14th.
- Yellow-olive Flatbill/Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphureus* : one Aripo on 9th is our only record.
- Ochre-ored Flatbill / Yellow-breasted Flycatcher** *T. flaviventris* : noted on 2 days with several at Grafton on 11th, Kings Bay Trail on 13th.
- Euler's Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus euleri* : one along the La Laja Road on 6th is our only record.
- Fuscous Flycatcher** *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* : one along the Kings Bay Trail on 13th is our only record.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* : noted on 2 days at Asa Wright NC on 5th & 8th.
- Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* : one Blanchisseuse Road on 5th.
- Pied Water Tyrant** *Fluvicola pica* : noted on 3 days with several Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 7th, Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, Waterloo area on 10th.
- White-headed Marsh Tyrant** *Arundinicola leucocephala* : noted on 4 days with several Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 7th, Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, en route on 9th, Waterloo area on 10th.
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* : noted each day on Trinidad.
- Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* : noted on 2 days at Asa Wright NC on 4th & 8th.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* : two Arima on 9th is our only record.
- Sulphury Flycatcher** *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* : several at Wallerfield on 7th is our only record.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* : noted most days on both islands.
- Grey Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* : noted on 6 days, with one Aripo Savannah on 9th, then each day on Tobago 11th - 15th.
- Venezuelan Flycatcher** *Myiarchus venezuelensis* : a pair Gilpin Trace on 14th is our only record.
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* : noted on 3 days on Tobago, 11th - 13th.

ANTBIRDS - *Thamnophilidae*

- Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* : noted on 3 days with a pair roosting Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 8th.
- Black-crested Antshrike** *Sakesphorus canadensis* : a pair Manzanilla on 7th is our only record.
- Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* : noted each day on both islands.
- Northern White-fringed Antwren** *Formicivora intermedia* : noted each day on Tobago.
- White-bellied Antbird** *Myrmeciza longipes* : noted on 2 days, along the Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th.

ANTTHRUSHES & ANTPITTAS - *Formicariidae*

- Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* : excellent and prolonged views along the Blanchisseuse Road on 5th.

OVENBIRDS - *Furnariidae*

- Stripe-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis cinnamomea* : noted on 4 days, heard Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, seen Asa Wright NC on 8th, heard Asa Wright NC on 9th, heard & briefly glimpsed Gilpin Trace on 14th.
- Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* : noted on 2 days, Blanchisseuse Road at Morne La Croix on 5th, Nariva Swamp on 7th.
- Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* : noted on 2 days at Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 7th, Caroni Swamp on 10th.
- Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* : seen well La Laja Road on 6th, though nesting burrows seen regularly throughout the trip.

WOODCREEPERS - *Dendrocolaptidae*

- Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* : noted on 3 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on

6th, Arima on 9th.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus* : 2 at Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* : noted on 3 days, Asa Wright NC on 8th, Grafton on 11th, Gilpin Trace on 14th.

VIREOS - Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* : noted only on 4 days, heard Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC on 8th, singing Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Chivi [Red-eyed] Vireo *Vireo olivaceus chivi* : noted on 3 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th & 9th, Little Tobago Is on 12th.

Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* : noted on 2 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th, La Laja Road on 6th.

Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes* : noted on 3 days on Tobago, 11th - 13th.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* : noted on 3 days, Aripo Cattle Station & Nariva Swamp on 7th, Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, Waterloo area on 10th.

Caribbean Martin *Progne dominicensis* : noted on 2 days, at St Lucia airport on 3rd, Tobago on 11th.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* : noted most days on Trinidad.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* : noted only on 4 days on Trinidad.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* : several at Bon Accord water treatment pools on 11th is our only record.

WRENS - Troglodytidae

Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus* : noted on 5 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th, singing Gilpin Trace on 14th.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* : noted each day.

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS - Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* : noted each day.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Yellow-legged Thrush *Platycichla flavipes* : several good views Gilpin Trace on 14th.

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 2 days, Asa Wright NC on 8th, singing & glimpsed Gilpin Trace on 14th.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* : noted most days Asa Wright NC, also Kings Bay Trail on 13th.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS - Parulidae

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi* : one La Laja Road on 6th is our only record.

American Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* : one Caroni Swamp on 10th is our only record.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* : noted on 2 days with a male Asa Wright NC on 9th, a male Gilpin Trace on 14th.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* : noted each day on Trinidad, also Little Tobago Is on 12th.

Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis* : one seen well near Arima on 9th & another briefly Aripo savanna same day.

Golden-/Stripe-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* : one La Laja Road on 6th is our only record.

NEW WORLD ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS - Icteridae

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* : noted each day on both islands.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* : noted on 2 days with nesting colonies at Morne La Croix on 5th, Cumuto on 9th.

Moriche Oriole *Icterus chrysiocephalus* : seen briefly at Wallerfield on 7th.

Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis* : noted on 4 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th & 5th, Aripo savanna on 9th, Waterloo area on 10th.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* : noted on 3 days, Aripo Cattle Station on 7th & 8th, Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* : noted on 3 days, 1 Arima on 9th, 2 Kings Bay Trail on 13th, several Main Ridge on 14th.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* : noted on 3 days, Morne La Croix on 5th, Speyside & Little Tobago Is on 12th, Speyside on 13th.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris* : noted most days around human habitation.

Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* : noted on 2 days, Aripo Cattle Station on 7th & 8th.

BANANAQUIT - Coerebidae

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* : noted each day on both islands.

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Masked [Red-capped] Cardinal *Paroaria [gularis] nigrigenis* : 1 Caroni Swamp on 10th.

TANAGERS, NEW WORLD FINCHES & allies - Thraupidae

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

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

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* : noted on 5 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th, Asa Wright NC & Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th & 9th.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* : noted on 6 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th & 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Wallerfield on 7th, Asa Wright NC on 8th & 9th.

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

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* : noted on 3 days, La Laja Road on 6th, Arima Valley on 9th, at least 4 Kings Bay Trail on 13th.

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

Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor* : 2 Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* : several Waterloo area on 10th.

Grassland Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteola* : two Aripo Cattle Station on 7th.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* : noted on 5 days, 6th - 10th.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta* : one Aripo Cattle Station on 7th.

Black-faced Grassquit *Tiaris bicolor* : noted each day on Tobago.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* : Blanchisseuse Road on 5th is our only record.

GROSBEAKS, SALTATORS & allies - Cardinalidae

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* : noted on 2 days at Asa Wright NC on 8th & 10th.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

RODENTS - Order: RODENTIA

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* : noted on 3 days, Asa Wright NC on 9th, Grafton on 11th, Blue Waters area on 12th.

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

BATS - Order: CHIROPTERA

Greater White-lined [Sac-winged] Bat *Saccopteryx bilineata* : noted specifically on 2 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Arena Forest on 9th, though other day-flying bats seen on other occasions.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

Green/Common Iguana *Iguana iguana* : 1 spotlight Aripo Cattle Station on 8th, 1 Grafton on 11th.

Richard's Anole *Anolis richardii* : 1 on tree Grafton on 11th.

Variegated Gecko *Gonatodes ceciliae* : One caught up in the middle of an Army Ant column, Blachisseuse Road on 5th.

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia* : noted at Asa Wright NC.

Common Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* : noted most days on both islands.

Striped Runner / Foot-shaker *Cnemidophorus lemniscatus* : Asa Wright NC on 6th is our only record.

Common/Golden Tegu *Tupinambis teguixin* : noted most days at Asa Wright NC.

Central American Tree Boa *Corallus ruschenbergi* : one Caroni Swamp on 10th.

Brown-banded Water Snake *Helicops angulatus* : a juvenile swimming across a patch of open water, Nariva Swamp on 7th.

Spectacled Cayman *Caiman crocodilus* : one Caroni Swamp on 10th, several Hilton Pools on 11th.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Marine/Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* : noted at Asa Wright NC on 4th, en route Arima valley on 8th & at Blue Waters.

Unidentified Tree Frog : a large individual spotlight during the night walk at Asa Wright NC on 4th.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

SKIPPERS - Hesperidae

Narrow Banded-Skipper *Autochton longipennis* : one photographed on La Laja Road on 6th. This is a species not recorded in T&T by Barcant (1970).

Brown Longtail [Skipper] *Urbanus procne* : a female photographed, Waterloo area, on 10th.

Lilac-banded Longtail [Skipper] *Urbanus dorantes* : photographed on 2 days, on La Laja Road on 6th, Waterloo area on 10th.

Geyer's Zera *Ouleus fridericus* ssp. *sinepuntis* : photographed La Laja Road on 6th.

Tropical Chequered Skipper *Pyrgus oileus* : noted on 2 days, at Grafton on 11th, Kings Bay Trail on 13th.

SWALLOWTAILS & allies - Papilionidae

Polydamus Swallowtail / Black Page / Gold Rim *Battus polydamas* : noted regularly on both islands.

Cattle Heart *Parides anchises* : noted on 4 days, at Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th.

WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS - Pieridae

Florida White / Pure White *Glutophrissa drusilla* : noted on 2 days, La Laja Road on 6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th.

Great Southern White / Cabbage White *Ascia monuste* : noted on 2 days, La Laja Road on 6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th.

Apricot Sulphur *Phoebis argante* : noted on 2 days, Asa Wright NC on 8th & 9th.

Cloudless Sulphur / Common Yellow *Phoebis sennae* : noted on 3 days at Asa Wright NC.

Little Yellow *Pyrisitia venusta* : noted on 5 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Aripo Cattle Station on 7th, Aripo Savannah & Arena Forest on 9th, Bon Accord on 11th, Tobago on 13th.

METALMARKS, HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES - Lycaenidae

Metalmarks - subf: Riodininae

Laverna Scintillant *Calephelis laverna* : photographed Aripo Savannah on 9th.

Common Lenmark *Juditha molpe* : photographed at Asa Wright NC on 6th.

Hairstreaks - subf: Theclinae

Brangas sp. *Brangas caranus* : photographed Asa Wright NC on 3rd.

Lined Stripestreak *Arawacus aetolus* : photographed La Laja Road on 6th.

Blues & Opals - subf: Polyommatae

Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius* : noted on 4 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Speyside on 12th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

Hanno Blue *Hemiargus hanno* : Blue Waters area on 13th is our only record.

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES - Nymphalidae**Monarchs & allies - subf: Danainae**

Large Tiger *Lycorea halia* : photographed on 2 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th. Barcant (1970) lists this species as *Lycorea ceres*, more recently it was known as *Lycorea cleobea*, but it is now being described as a new Trinidad subspecies of *L. halia*.

Monarch *Danaus plexippus* : noted on 2 days, La Laja Road on 6th, Aripo Savannah on 9th.

Clearwings & Tigerwings - subf: Ithomiinae

Blue Transparent *Ithomia agnosia (=pellucida)* : photographed Asa Wright NC on 4th.

Pashas & (Tailed) Emperors - subf: Charaxinae

Blue-barred Leafwing *Fountainea ryphaea* : photographed on La Laja Road on 6th.

Silver King *Archaeoprepona demophon* : photographed near the telecoms tower on 5th.

Tropical Brushfoots - subf: Biblidinae

Red Rim *Biblis hyperia* : noted on 3 days, La Laja Road on 6th, Grafton on 11th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

Grey Handkerchief *Mestra dorcas (=hypermestra)* : noted on 4 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Grafton on 11th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

Variable Cracker *Hamadryas feronia* : three resting typically upside down on the main trunk of a tree La Laja Road on 6th.

Four-spotted Sailor / Emerald-wing / Large Dynamine *Dynamine postverta (=mylitta)* : photographed on 2 days, Grafton on 11th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

White Sailor / Blue-tinted Handkerchief *Dynamine theseus* : noted on 2 days, Grafton on 11th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

89 butterfly *Diaethria clymena* ssp *aurelia* : seen on Blanchisseuse Road on 5th.

Admirals & Gliders - subf: Limenitinae

Smooth-banded Sister / Trinidad Admiral *Adelpha cytherea* : photographed on 2 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th.

Vanessids & smaller Fritillaries - subf: Nymphalinae

White Peacock / White Biscuit *Anartia jatrophae* : Aripo Savannah Arena Forest on 9th.

Red Anartia / Princesa Roja *Anartia amathea* : noted most sunny days on both islands.

Tropical Buckeye *Junonia genoveva* : photographed on 3 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Bon Accord on 11th, Blue Waters area on 13th.

Larger Fritillaries & Heliconians - subf: Heliconiinae

Gulf Fritillary / Silver-spotted Flambeau *Agraulis vanillae* : photographed Kings Bay Trail on 13th.

Flambeau *Dryas iulia* : noted on 3 days, Asa Wright NC on 6th, 8th, & 9th.

Small Flambeau *Eueides aliphera* : noted on 4 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, Asa Wright NC & La Laja Road on

6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th - 9th.

Ethilla Heliconian *Heliconius ethilla* : photographed Blanchisseuse Road on 5th.

Small Blue Grecian *Heliconius sara* : photographed at the roadside, Manzanilla, on 7th.

Postman *Heliconius melpomene* or

Small Postman *Heliconius erato* : one or other of these two species noted most days on both islands.

Morphos & Owls - subf: Morphinae

Common Morpho / Emperor Butterfly *Morpho helenor (=peleides)* : Blanchisseuse Road on 5th is our only record.

Forest Mort Bleu *Caligo eurilochus* : noted & photographed on 3 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th, & 9th, Grafton on 11th.

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Penelope Satyr *Cissia penelope* : La Laja Road on 6th.

Terrestrial Satyr *Cissia terrestris* : La Laja Road on 6th.

Hermes Satyr *Hermeuptychia [=Euptychia] hermes* : noted on 5 days, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th, Asa Wright NC on 8th, Aripo / Arena on 9th, Tobago on 13th.

Two-banded Satyr *Pareuptychia ocirrhoe* : noted on 3 days, Asa Wright NC on 4th, Blanchisseuse Road on 5th, La Laja Road on 6th.

OTHER SELECTED TAXA - .

Leaf-cutter Ant *Atta cephalotes* :

Anglewing Hopper sp. *Microcentrum sp.* :

Pink-toed Tarantula *Avicularia avicularia* : one near reception, Asa Wright NC, during late evening on 6th.

Trinidad Chevron *Psalmopoeus cambridgei* : several, Asa Wright NC.

Bark Scorpion *Centruroides limbatus* : two being smothered by Army Ants, Blanchisseuse Road, on 5th.

Trinidad Mountain Crab *Pseudotelphusa garmani* : Asa Wright NC.

Atlantic Ghost Crab *Ocypode quadrata* : Blue Waters beach.

Fiddler Crab sp. *Uca sp.* : Waterloo & Caroni Swamp.

Mangrove Tree Crab *Aratus pisonii* : Caroni Swamp.

Four-eyed Mud Skipper : Waterloo & Caroni Swamp.

ORCHIDS - Orchidaceae.

.. *Spiranthes acualis* : several in flower along the King's Bay Trail on 13th.

Virgin Orchid *Caularthon bicornutum* : several in flower could be seen along the cliff top at Blue Waters.

Brown Bee Orchid *Oncidium altissimum* : a nice specimen in flower near reception at Asa Wright NC.



Southern Lapwing, "Hilton Pools"

The wet season which should be long since over seemed remarkably resistant this year. We had unseasonably heavy rain on occasions too numerous to mention but even so I'm sure everyone has their own highlights and memories. The sheer diversity of birds seen from the veranda at Asa Wright, also the manakin lek here and the Bearded Bellbird shouting at us from the branches. Then there was the evening spent spot-lighting nightjars at the cattle station and the boat trip through the mangroves to view the heron roost and of course the Scarlet Ibis. On Tobago, the tropicbirds and boobies on their nests on the island, the stunningly showy Ruby Topaz when the sun catches the male's plumage and the surprise find of the brood of Masked Ducks. And of course we can't forget the richest birds in the world, can we? Why? because dey live in da bank!!

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 2011

Keith Grant, March 2011

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