

Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds & Wildlife Species List | April 4 – 13, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Michael Good with local guides Mukesh Ramdass, David Ramlal, Lester Nanan, Jason Radix. Our clients included Steven, Lise, Bill, Kit, Hildy, Lisa, David, Janice, Charlotte, Peter and Amy

Trinidad

Our 2024 Naturalist Journeys Trinidad and Tobago trip included several days based at the newly renovated Asa Wright Nature Centre, where we spent time getting ourselves in shape for the rest of the trip by birding the hills behind the center. Asa Wright Nature Centre is a sanctuary located in an ancient rainforest of the Northern Range of the island of Trinidad. Our Naturalist Journeys team spent one full day birding and breathing in the sweet air of the mountains of the Northern Range. Asa Wright Nature Centre was established in 1967 with a mission to protect part of the Arima and Aripo valleys for wildlife conservation, education, and scientific research. One of the iconic birds to see and hear are the easily accessible breeding colony of nocturnal Oilbirds in Dunstan Cave, found on the Centers 1,500 acres of protected rainforest, which houses a rich biota with an outstanding species list that includes native mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies, and a variety of flowering plant species. While in Trinidad we visited the Northern Range along the Blanchisseuse Road into Brasso Seco village and drove to the village of Morne la Croix for the amazing Rufous-tailed Jacamar. Lodging at Hacienda Jacana for the next two nights allowed visits to Trinidad's Atlantic coast and Nariva Swamp followed by dinner and night birds at Eteck park Wallerfield, which was a particularly unique experience. A morning of cultural visits to Temple by the Sea and the towering 85-foot statue of Lord Hanuman in the village of Carapichaima, gave us all a deeper understanding of the Hindu culture in Trinidad and Tobago. Hummingbirds were the focus at Yerette and the fascinating hummingbird talk we listened to by Theo Ferguson, followed by an incredible lunch prepared by his wife, Gloria. No rest for the weary, we head to Caroni National Park and one of the top experiences of dinner with thousands of Scarlet Ibis, the national bird of the islands. After a drive to the northeastern corner of the island, we are treated to endemic Trinidad Piping Guans and the nesting Leatherback Turtles in Grand Riviere.

Tobago

Driving back to the Piarco International Airport we board a prop airplane and fly to Tobago, our second island of the trip. Here we meet guide, Jason Radix, and immediately begin birding at Bon Accord sewage ponds, where the birding was excellent, and we had a chance to acclimate to a new guide and Island. We finished the day at Cuffie River Nature Retreat and numerous Rufous-vented Chachalacas. The following morning, we birded with Desmond Wright around the Cuffie River lodge, followed by lunch and a trip with Jason to the adventure farm and nature preserve in Plymouth. Our last stop was along the coast at the port of Plymouth and Fort James,

where we saw the Sandwich Tern (Cayenne) and learned some of the colonial history of the island. The last full day of our experience took us to the Gilpin Trace and the Main Ridge Forest Preserve. Here we had our first great observations of the important White-tailed Sabrewing (hummingbird) and other forest specialties. Driving the coastal road, we traveled to Little Tobago Island, where we met Zee and his boat crew for a hike and adventure on the top of Little Tobago Island for unique nesting seabirds like Red-billed Tropic bird and the Red-footed Booby.

Birds 206 species were recorded of which, 2 were endemic and 2 introduced species.

The eBird link below details the 206 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds & Wildlife | April 4-13, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (3):

Southern Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis*

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporin*

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (9):

Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Cryptic Golden Tegu *Tupinambis cryptus*

Yellow-throated Frog *Mannophryne trinitatis*

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina*

Sac-winged Bat *Emballonuridae*

Ocellated gecko *Gonatodes ocellatus*

Common Tree Boa *Coraluus hortulanus cookii*

Black-tailed Tree Boa *Corallius ruschenbergerii*