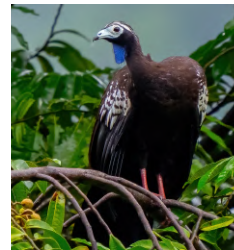


# Thanksgiving in Trinidad & Tobago | Nov. 23 – Dec. 2, 2024 | Trip Report | by Rick Weiman



With host Rick Weiman and local guides Lester Nanan, Dave Ramlal, Mukesh Ramdass, Jason Radix, Frank “Z” Zolani, and participants Mary, Andy, Laura, Cliff, Dan, Teresa, Elizabeth, Anindya, Danny, and Mary Alice



**Sat., Nov. 23**

## **Pax Guest House & Asa Wright Nature Center**

The Pax Guest House is located high in the northern hills overlooking Port of Spain and provides great views, food, and of course birds. Most of the group arrived the day before and assembled together for an early bird walk up the winding road towards the Mount Saint Benedict church. Our early arrivers enjoyed views of Tufted Coquettes feeding on vervain flowers and several tanagers including Palm, Blue-gray and a pair of beautiful Turquoise Tanagers. On a walk the morning of November 23, with nine of us now assembled, we had great views of a pair of Green-rumped Parrotlets snuggled together in the sunshine while a Lineated Woodpecker foraged on a nearby branch. Some of the group got a nice look at a Rufous-browed Peppershrike that had been calling elusively all morning. Amongst the vulture kettles we spotted a soaring Zone-tailed, Short-tailed, and Common Black Hawk. As we were walking down the winding hillside Anindya noticed a Yellow-headed

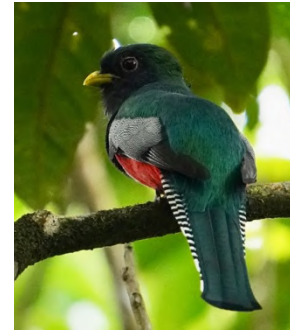


Caracara hidden in a tree just before it flew down into the valley. When we returned to Pax the hummingbird feeders there gave us great views of Copper-rumped, Ruby-topaz, Black-throated Mango, White-necked Jacobin, Blue-chinned Sapphire, and Green and Rufous-breasted Hermits.

After a filling soup and sandwich lunch we said our goodbyes to the owners Gerard and Oda and met our Trinidad guide Dave Ramlal and driver Paul as we loaded up our spacious coaster bus. Our next stop was the Asa Wright Nature Center in Arima. It rained heavily during our journey, but we arrived safely in a little over an hour thanks to Paul's expert driving skills. Greeted at the car park by a welcome committee of staff with cool lemon-grass infused wet towels and refreshing rum punch, we rushed excitedly to the famous veranda to see who was visiting the fruit and nectar feeders spread throughout the lush garden. Many of the same hummingbirds seen at Pax were there but in greater numbers and we added Brown Violetear and Long-billed Starthroat, as well as Silver-beaked Tanager and Green Honeycreeper in just a few minutes of searching. We could hear Bearded Bellbirds and Channel-billed Toucans calling in the forest, and before long had distant views of two toucans. A bit later in the afternoon our final guests Danny and Mary Alice arrived from the airport and over afternoon tea and pastries we had an orientation from the staff and then went through formal introductions and the plan for the next day. We had a lovely buffet dinner in the refurbished dining room and then most of us still had the energy to go out on a night walk with one of the center's young guides, Randall. He found us some very cool insects like whip scorpions, several walking sticks, orb spiders, as well as a sleeping White-throated Thrush. Rattle-voiced Tree Frogs and Cane Toads were calling as we ended our walk with a close view of a large Cook's Tree Boa in a stand of bamboo with a very fat belly from a recent meal.

## **Sun., Nov. 24**                      **Asa Wright Nature Center**

A few of us got up early and visited the vervain flowers near the welcome area and were rewarded with a male and female Tufted Coquette feeding on the flowers, as well as Blue-chinned Sapphires and a mix of butterflies. We birded the veranda with our breakfast plates and coffee and saw many of the same birds that amazed us the day before. Some of the group also saw a White Hawk fly by the veranda. We departed on the bus around 8:30 for a very busy day of birding on the local roads of Trinidad's northern range, reaching an elevation of almost 2,000 feet. Along Blanchisseuse Road we had many wonderful sightings including Long-billed Gnatwren, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Rufous-breasted Wren, and Golden-olive Woodpecker. We then stopped at the Brasso Seco Village's visitors center. Brasso Seco is a town that formed a cooperative where the residents got together to farm cocoa and coffee beans. After a locally prepared hot and delicious lunch we received a demonstration on



how the harvested cocoa is transformed into chocolate. Afterwards several of us purchased locally made chocolate bars and bags of powdered cocoa and coffee.

We birded the road in Brasso Seco and on our way back to Asa Wright we continued to make additional stops, first in Morne Bleu and again along Blanchisseuse Road. We added all 3 trogons, Collared, Green-backed and Guianan, Golden-crowned Warbler, Turquoise and Bay-headed Tanagers, and our first really good look of a perched Channel-billed Toucan. We got back to the lodge in time for more veranda birding, afternoon tea, and we watched a short video on the new Asa Wright and the many renovation improvements made since the reopening. We completed our species checklist before another enjoyable buffet dinner, and then retired to our spacious, air-conditioned cabins.

## Mon., Nov. 25 Trails at Asa Wright

Our original plan was to spend the entire day at Asa Wright, however, we had reports that the Oilbirds that roost in Dunstan Cave at the center had recently vacated the cave. This apparently sporadically occurs due to a lack of nearby palm nut food sources or for other unknown reasons. As an alternative we were told there was a gorge along the sea in the village of Blanchisseuse where Oilbirds were roosting, but they were only visible by boat. A few of the guides had traveled there the week before and were successful in observing them. Armed with this information six of us decided to give it a try while the rest of the group decided to sleep in and stay at the center and bird the veranda and the trails there with the local Asa Wright guides. Oilbirds are uncommon and interesting, as they are one of the world's only nocturnal fruit eating birds. They roost in caves during the day, use echo-location similar to bats, and Trinidad is one location that they can usually be found. Along the route we spotted two Rufous-tailed Jacamars perched on a wire, a bird we had only heard previously. Upon arrival we donned our life vests and after a short hike boarded two wooden skiffs and set out from the beach for a 10-minute ocean ride to the gorge. Unfortunately, the sea conditions were a bit rougher than anticipated so the boats could not safely maneuver close enough to the gorge to allow for a good viewing opportunity. We decided to head back to the beach but not before adding Brown Pelican and Magnificent Frigatebird to our list as well as several Ospreys. Although we were disappointed it was an exciting adventure none of us would soon forget. On the way back to Asa Wright we stopped at Las Lapas Trace at the top of the northern range and added several new birds including Black-tailed Tityra, Speckled Tanager, a pair of Blue Dacnis, and a distant Grey-headed Kite.

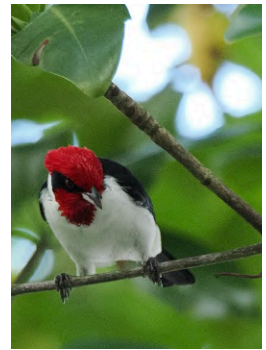


After a filling buffet lunch at the lodge we were led by long-time Asa Wright guide Mukesh (40 years at the center!) down the main trail into the forest to the manakin lek. Along the way we spotted a Golden Tegu lizard, the largest lizard in Trinidad. At the lek, we soon had several male White-bearded Manakins displaying and clicking their wings as they hopped from branch to vine and back again within twenty feet of us. Bearded Bellbirds were loudly calling down the trail and we soon had several males in view right over our heads. They have one of the loudest calls in the bird world and we had been hearing it daily there from the surrounding forest. We spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the multitude of birds at the feeder stations from the veranda and dining on the fresh pastries, cookies, and banana bread at the daily 4:00 tea time. Then it was time for a shower and short rest followed by our species checklist and another wonderful meal. We then headed off to our cabins as we had a very early day tomorrow.

## **Tues., Nov. 26                      Trinidad Piping Guan Search & Bajnath's Estate Hummingbird Sanctuary**

This was our earliest day of the tour as we said goodbye to Asa Wright and departed for Grand Riviere to search for the endemic Trinidad Piping Guan. The ride took us to the northeast part of the island along the Atlantic Coast. We arrived in Grand Riviere around 6:30AM and drove to the top of the steep Monte Video Road. It was raining but luckily a covered viewing platform awaited us where we could settle in and wait for the guans to show up. They enjoy feeding on wild nutmeg seeds and there were fruiting trees in the forest that we were closely watching. Several hummingbird feeders hung in the pavilion occupied our time and after a short wait the rain passed and our guide Dave alerted us to some guan activity further down the hillside. We soon had at least 5 guans in sight feeding in the tree canopy. They are amazingly agile for such large birds. Our photographers in the group captured some amazing pictures of the birds and I'm sure one is included in this trip report.

After getting our fill of the guans in one of the only places in the world you can find them, we had breakfast at the newly renovated Mt. Plasir hotel on the beach at Grand Riviere. After breakfast we walked and scanned the beach and nearby river mouth and added several new birds including Spotted Sandpiper and Snowy Egret. As we drove towards our next stop, the Bajnath Estate Hummingbird Sanctuary in Sangre Grande, we spotted a Belted Kingfisher and a pair of Whimbrels along the beachfront from the bus.



After Paul navigated a narrow road through the rainforest, we arrived at the Bajnath Estate, which is located deep in the heart of Matura National Park and home to over 130 bird species. We met the owner Josh Bajnath and settled in to watch the multitude of hummingbird feeders and several fruit feeding stations. There were also native fruiting trees in close proximity to the estate house making stunning views always within reach of your binoculars. Josh's mother Andrea had prepared a delicious lunch of lamb and local vegetables which we enjoyed on their picnic tables as seven species of hummingbirds zoomed around us, including a male Ruby-topaz. Green and Purple Honeycreepers jockeyed for fresh fruit with Silver-beaked and Palm Tanagers, and we added Band-rumped Swifts to our list as a flock of about 20 circled overhead. After enjoying dessert and some fresh local wine we said goodbye to Josh and Andrea and departed for the Hacienda Jacana ecolodge located in Talparo, formerly an old citrus estate, our home for the next three days. Upon arrival, we were dropped off at our individual cabins and had time to unpack and relax a bit before dinner. A late afternoon walk gave us more new birds, including Smooth-billed Ani's, Wattled Jacanas, a Striated Heron, and a Purple Gallinule with several chicks around the small pond on the property. During dinner we met the owners Helen and Jesse. Dinner was served outside buffet style in a covered dining hall area and we enjoyed vegetarian and meat lasagna expertly prepared by their chef Paul, brother of Jesse. After dinner we completed our growing checklist and walked to our cabins under the glow of the stars and our flashlights.

### **Wed., Nov. 27                      Hacienda Jacana - Aripo Savanna – Caroni Swamp**

Some early morning birding on the grounds of Hacienda Jacana gave us more good looks at Tufted Coquette, Blue-chinned Sapphires, and Copper-rumps on the vervain flowers. After grabbing our coffee we did a short walk before breakfast and noticed a mostly all yellow bird grooming itself in a tree. Eliminating Yellow Oriole as a candidate due to its larger size we decided with Dave's help that it was a yellow morph or leucistic Yellow-rumped Cacique, a unique and exciting find. Black-tailed Tityra and Streak-headed Woodcreeper were added along with many nice looks at previously observed birds. After breakfast we departed for the Aripo Savannah area for some non-forest birding and a chance at some new species. A side road at the Agricultural Research Station property yielded a Squirrel Cuckoo that flew over our heads and really nice views of a pair of Black-crested Antshrikes. Pale-breasted Spinetail and Southern-Beardless-Tyrannulet were also added among others. We arrived at a location with mangroves along the roadside and had nice perched Common Black Hawk who didn't mind being photographed. Dave worked hard for a special mangrove specific species and soon we had a pair of Silvered Antbirds perching on mangrove roots, with the male softly serenading her. A pair of Pied Water-Tyrants and three migrant Yellow Warblers were also tallied. After lunch at a local restaurant we drove towards Caroni Swamp and birded an old rice field area which were now freshwater wetlands. We had our first Green-

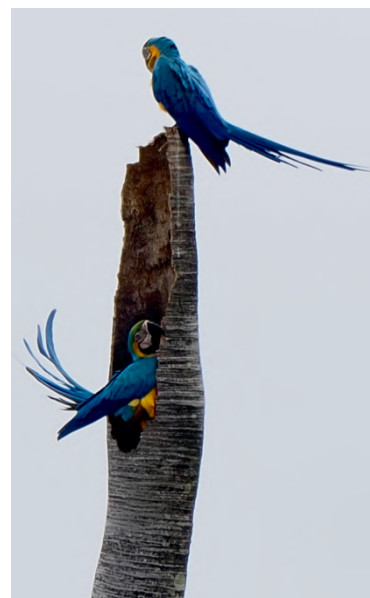


throated Mango hummingbird, a lone American Flamingo, and five Scarlet Ibis. Also spotted were several Black-necked Stilts, Anhingas, Yellow-chinned Spinetails, and a pair of White-headed Marsh Tyrants. Two very interesting birds we identified that were introduced to Trinidad many years ago and now have established breeding populations were a flock of a dozen Tricolored Munia and two Common Waxbills, mixed in with a few Saffron Finches.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we had a mid-afternoon boat trip scheduled in Caroni Swamp so we headed there next. Awaiting us was a special guest, Martyn Kenefick, author of *“The Birds of Trinidad and Tobago”* and a longtime friend of Naturalist Journeys, and we were thrilled to hear he would be spending the afternoon birding with us. Before long we had close views of a beautiful Masked Cardinal and multiple Greater Ani’s, and a pair of roosting Tropical Screech Owls at eye-level, tucked away in the mangroves.

We soon boarded our large wooden boat piloted by Lester Nanan, our Trinidad tour operator. During the tour we found out that Lester has a deep passion for Trinidad and Tobago’s wildlife and that he was the CEO of Nanan’s Caroni Bird Sanctuary Tours, and chair of the Nanan family’s scientific trust. Lester comes from a family of conservationists which started in the 1930’s when his grandfather, Oudit Nanan, petitioned the government to save the Scarlet Ibis when they were being hunted in the Caroni Swamp for their feathers and meat. Oudit was later murdered by poachers for his interference with their livelihood. The area became a protected National Park in 1948 and is now named for his father, Winston Nanan, who was also a champion of conservation of the swamp and the birds who lived there. Lester carries on this important family legacy and is highly regarded for his work to develop sustainable ecotourism in Trinidad. In 2018, he worked together with the Environmental Management Authority drafting successful policies for the Scarlet Ibis to become an environmentally sensitive species. He continues to work to ensure the Caroni Bird Sanctuary becomes officially designated an environmentally sensitive area so that every species that visits the swamp will be protected, and he is an integral partner with Naturalist Journeys and our Trinidad tours.

We had perfect late afternoon weather for the boat trip with comfortable temperatures and no rain in sight. Lester quickly spotted an American Pygmy Kingfisher and then a Cook’s Tree Boa coiled on a mangrove branch. Several Tricolored and Little Blue Herons flew in front of the boat and a secretive Yellow-crowned Night Heron was added to our list. A bird we really wanted to see as it is a mangrove specialist was the Straight-billed Woodcreeper and we soon had good views of one. Once in the heart of the swamp the boat was tied up to a post with a view of an island where Scarlet Ibis and various herons and egrets were known to roost. To our left



in some shallow water twenty American Flamingoes were elegantly feeding. A hot Asian dinner was served on the boat on a wooden table adorned with a red tablecloth, along with some rum punch for all as the sun was setting and the birds were returning from their feeding grounds to the roost. In an hours' time we counted approximately 2700 Scarlet Ibis along with hundreds of Snowy Egrets and herons, turning the island into a Christmas tree of color. As we reluctantly headed back to the dock in the near darkness several large Fishing Bats plied the water in front of the boat in search of a meal. Everyone agreed that Caroni Swamp was definitely one of the highlights of the trip (so far).

## **Thurs., Nov. 28            Hacienda Jacana - Agricultural Fields – Manzanilla Beach and the Atlantic Coast - Nariva Swamp**

Happy Thanksgiving! Some of the group met at 6:30AM for some pre-breakfast birding around the dining area gazebo and we were once again joined by Martyn Kenefick who planned to spend the day with us. We had another Green-backed Trogon, some more Palm, Blue-gray, and Silver-beaked Tanagers, a Striated Heron, and more oropendolas, anis, and caciques to name just a few. After breakfast we loaded up the bus and headed back to the Aripo Agricultural Research Station where we made several stops. A little searching gave us a pair of Red-breasted Meadowlarks and two Savanna Hawks in the back of the same field near some Western Cattle Egrets. A stop further down the road led us to a perched juvenile Gray-lined Hawk, a Forest Elaenia, a Long-billed Gnatwren, and a mixed flock with our three commonly seen tanagers and Bananaquits.

It was then on to Manzanilla Beach for our lunch stop, which was another homemade hot meal delivered by one of the local families cooking for us. While eating lunch we enjoyed the ocean view and crashing waves as several Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans glided by. After lunch we continued south along the Atlantic Coast towards Nariva Swamp. As we birded out the bus window a large dead palm tree caught our attention as two large birds were on it. They turned out to be a pair of Blue-and-yellow Macaws working on a nest cavity in the side of the tree. Trinidad had undertaken a reintroduction program of the species and Dave thought we were probably looking at some of the successful offspring. A little further down the road a marshy area gave us three Snail Kites which were apparently becoming more common and now probably breeding in the area per Martyn. We added another Yellow-headed Caracara and Gray-breasted Martins as we drove towards our next stop. We soon were in the vicinity of Nariva Swamp known as the melon patch area. We had a large raptor perched in a palm tree in a field so we put the scopes on it. Martyn became visibly excited as it turned out to be an immature



White-tailed Hawk, a bird not seen in Trinidad in several years. During additional stops we added Bicolored Conebill, Purple Gallinule, Gray Kingbird, and Yellow Oriole to our day list and had many good looks at other repeat birds. On the way back towards the Hacienda we passed the macaw nest site just as five additional macaws flew into an adjacent tree, a really nice way to end the day.

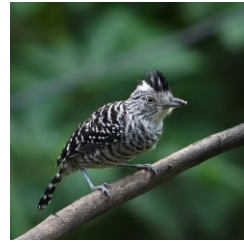
It was Thanksgiving so the group showered and met for dinner in the dining area and enjoyed some local wine and cocktails. Chef Paul had prepared a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings for us, with a local Trinidad flare and side dishes. It was a very memorable treat for us being so far away from family on this special holiday, and was a meal we would not soon forget.

## **Fri., Nov. 29                      Hacienda Jacana Morning Birding – On to Tobago!**

After a breakfast of fresh eggs and local fruits like papaya, watermelon, and pineapple we birded the grounds of Hacienda Jacana with our exceptional local guide Dave Ramlal. We saw several new birds for the new trip such as White-winged Becard, Ochre-ored Flatbill, and several Chivi Vireos. Other highlights were a pair of male Golden-headed Manakins seen by several of the group, two Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, several more male Green-backed Trogons, and a pair of Black-tailed Tityras building a nest of small sticks. Laurie even got to finally see a Little Hermit and the elusive Rufous-browed Peppershrike. We had repeat looks at several other beauties like Blue Dacnis, Purple Gallinule, and Tufted Coquette, and tallied 59 species in our final morning of birding this magical place.

After finishing packing, we enjoyed a delicious Asian style lunch prepared by the wonderful Paul and loaded up the bus and headed for the airport for our flight to Tobago. We said goodbye to Dave and our fun driver Paul and thanked them for their exceptional service. After the 30-minute flight we were met in Tobago by our new local guide Jason Radix. On our way to our next lodge, we made a stop at the Bon Accord Treatment Ponds and the Centre Street Ponds. The ponds at Bon Accord were quite productive with 37 species observed. New to our list were White-cheeked Pintail, Least Grebe, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated Plover. At the nearby Centre Street ponds was a Tobago rarity, a Lesser Scaup, more pintails and grebes, as well as a dozen Black-crowned Night Herons and Common Gallinules. A Peregrine Falcon flew over the pond in search of a meal as we were departing. We arrived at our new home at the Cuffie River Nature Retreat in the lush and remote Runnemede valley and met the friendly owner, Regina. After unpacking we enjoyed a family style dinner of fresh snapper and rice with carrot cake for dessert. After dinner we enjoyed watching a White-tailed Nightjar





on the driveway hunt for insects under the streetlight. We then completed our growing checklist and retired to our spacious new rooms after a very busy day.

**Sat., Nov. 30**

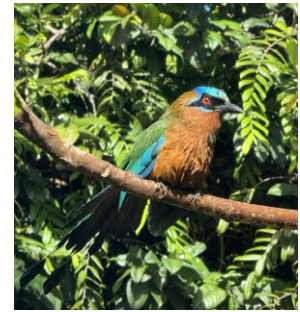
## **Cuffie River Nature Retreat & Adventure Farm**

Before our breakfast at Cuffie River most of us walked the grounds or watched the hummingbirds at the feeders. In no time we had several new for the trip including at least ten of the very large and Tobago only White-tailed Sabrewing hummingbird, and a wonderful look at our first Trinidad Motmot perched on a fence post near the pool area. Rufous-breasted Hermits mixed with the sabrewings and Copper-rumped Hummingbirds at the nectar feeders if the many Bananaquits would make room for them. By the river below the lodge Dan spotted a foraging Little Blue Heron.

After breakfast we went for a walk on the property and up the winding roadside hill with William, one of the local guides and the now retired director of the Tobago forestry service. We added several Venezuelan Flycatchers, a pair of Piratic Flycatchers, and at least four Blue-backed Manakins. One of the other highlights of the walk was when William heard the alarm call of a Rufous-vented Chachalaca and explained to us that usually meant a Great Black Hawk had been spotted by them. He knew his stuff because we then heard the hawk calling and soon had tremendous views of it soaring up on a thermal above the valley. During the walk we had three additional Trinidad Motmots and several Rufous-tailed Jacamars, both apparently much easier to see on Tobago than Trinidad.

Mary found a large land crab on the road that with a little research turned out to be Manicou Mountain Land Crab. Manicou is the Amerindian name for opossum and the reason for the name is the female crabs actually carry their fertilized eggs in a pouch-like structure on the bottom of their shell which then hatch into live baby crabs on her body. Therefore, unlike most land crabs they do not need to return to water to breed, a marvel of crab evolution.

After lunch, Jason picked us up in the bus and we drove to Adventure Park. This private nature preserve had a row of chairs very close to fruit and nectar feeders for wonderful views of many of the same local birds. Walking the trails there gave us a Cocoa Woodcreeper, Northern Waterthrush, several Red-crowned Woodpeckers, Shiny Cowbirds, an Ochre-ored Flatbill, and several others including a Ruby-topaz Hummingbird at the nectar feeders.



Our final stop of the day was at Fort James in Plymouth, an 18th century fort overlooking Courland Bay. Jason spotted a Bank Swallow strafing the nearby soccer field and over the sea were more frigatebirds, pelicans, several distant Brown Boobies, and a Royal Tern. We then headed back to Cuffie River for some cocktails followed by completing our growing species checklist and another delicious dinner.

## **Sun., Dec. 1                      Cuffe River Retreat, Main Ridge Forest Reserve, Little Tobago Island**

It was our last full day of the tour and after breakfast we departed with Jason for a drive along the Caribbean coast on our way to the Main Ridge Forest Preserve. Our first stop was a quick scenic overlook at Castara Bay. It was a beautiful view with a few pelicans and frigatebirds spotted that were already on our list. After a few more overlook stops at Englishman's and Parlatuvier Bay we stopped for some roadside birding near a fruiting Ficus tree. We soon had good views of two male Blue-backed Manakins, another perched Trinidad Motmot, and a pair of Red-rumped Woodpeckers. Our next stop was Gilpin Trace in the Main Ridge Forest Reserve for a hike through the rainforest. The forest was dark, wet, and thick but we found more jacamars and motmots and several new birds for the list like Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Plain Antvireo, Fuscous Flycatcher, and Yellow-legged Thrush. Walking along the trail next to the rainforest stream we heard many Tobago Ravine Frogs calling and Jason showed us some small Jumping Guabine fish that have the ability to launch out of the water onto land and wriggle short distances to a new body of water during droughts. The fish can accomplish this because it can breathe atmospheric air through its tail, which is covered in capillaries.

Then it was on to the town of Speyside on the Caribbean coast for an outdoor lunch at The Birdwatcher's Restaurant. After lunch we made the short drive to the Blue Waters Inn where we met local guide Frank Zolani or "Z", our guide for our glass bottom boat trip to Little Tobago island. Rick had visited Blue Waters in 2016 with his family and again on a tour in 2023 so he and Z were old friends. Before boarding the boat we added Ruddy Turnstones to the list as there were ten on the beach by the dock and several in the open air restaurant looking for scraps. After the short but scenic 10-minute boat ride past Goat Island and onto Little Tobago, Zolani told us about the interesting history of Little Tobago and how it came to be a preserve. We hiked up the trail to the overlook on the north side of the island but not before passing the ground nest of a Sargasso Shearwater. We could see part of the bird in the nest hole and quickly moved past so as not to disturb her. These birds mostly feed off the coast of South America and travel great distances to return to feed their usually single chick, typically under the cover of darkness. Upon reaching the overlook which faces a cove on the other side of the island, we were greeted by several hundred Red-billed Tropicbirds flying and circling in front of us in an effort to



execute a smooth landing at their nest sites. Several frigatebirds were observed harassing the tropicbirds in flight, sometimes forcefully grabbing a wing or tail to force the bird to regurgitate its catch. There were also many Red-footed Boobies and a smaller amount of Brown Boobies nesting on the island that were either on nests and perches, or flying above and below our overlook viewpoint. In the distance we could see St. Giles Island which apparently had thousands of nesting frigatebirds as Z explained to us, and through the scope we could see 500 or so filling the skies above the island. On the way back to the dock we glided slowly over the reef as one of the crew pointed out some of the colorful reef fish, sea fans, and corals to us visible through the boat's glass bottom.

Back at the Cuffe River Lodge we had a terrific farewell dinner and went over some memories of the trip. As we did our final species checklist Rick asked everyone for their favorite birds of the trip and most of the group all had different choices. However, Scarlet Ibis was the winner, with honorable mentions going to Trinidad Motmot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Tufted Coquette, female Barred Antshrike, Red-billed Tropicbird, Silvered Antbird, and Trinidad Piping Guan. The Caroni Swamp boat tour complete with dinner and rum punch on the boat and several thousand Scarlet Ibis flying in to roost for the night was the major highlight for all of us of the tour. A close second was the successful search (thanks to the outstanding efforts of our guide Dave) for the Trinidad Piping Guan through the rain drops at Grand Riviere.

## **Mon., Dec. 2                      Cuffe River Lodge & Departures**

After breakfast, the group departed today at different times for the airport and flights to Trinidad and the journey home. Many fond memories and new friends were made!

*Photos: Purple Honeycreeper (Anindya Sen - AS), Ruby-topaz Hummingbird (AS), Channel-billed Toucan (RW), Group (Rick Weiman - RW), Trinidad Piping-Guan (AS), White-necked Jacobin (AS), Copper-rumped Hummingbird (AS), Green-rumped Parrotlets (Daniel Goodman - DG), Green Honeycreeper (CH), Crested Oropendola (AS), Long-billed Starthroat (AS), Collared Trogon (CH), Group Birding (RW), White-bearded Manakin (AS), Bearded Bellbird (AS), Trinidad Piping-Guan (AS), yellow morph of a Yellow-rumped Cacique (CH), Yellow-rumped Cacique (CH), Black-crested Antshrike female (CH), Masked Cardinal (DG), Tropical Screech-Owl (AS), Group (RW), American Flamingoes (AS), Green-backed Trogon (AS), Blue-and-yellow Macaws (DG), Grey-lined Hawk (immature) (AS), Thanksgiving Dinner at Hacienda Jacana (RW), Spectacled Caiman (CH), Black-tailed Tityra (DG), Rufous-tailed Jacamar female (CH), Western Cattle Egret (CH), Rufous-tailed Jacamar male (AS), Jason (RW), Barred Antshrike (CH), Trinidad Motmot (CH), Spectacled Thrush (CH), Red-rumped Woodpecker (female), Trinidad Motmot (RW), Red-billed Tropicbird (AS), Magnificent Frigatebird (immature) (AS)*