

# Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds & Wildlife Species List | January 16 – 25, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by host guide James P. Smith with field contributions from our wonderful group; Dawn & Mike, Julia & Bill. Judith & George, Sandy & Art, Virginia and Kate.**

The Trinidad & Tobago tour began in earnest when we all met for the first time at Hacienda Jacana, a delightfully appointed lodge nestled deep within private avian-rich grounds. After thorough exploration of the nearby swamps, coast and lowland forest we headed over to the recently renovated Asa Wright Nature Centre for a further three nights. Here we accessed the famous Blanchisseuse Road and the Dunston Oilbird cave among other sites. A short 17 minute flight saw us ‘hop’ from Piarco International Airport to the beautiful island of Tobago where we spent the remaining three nights at the delightful Cuffie River Nature Retreat.

Tour highlights included an evening boat cruise through the Caroni Swamp where Judith celebrated her birthday, replete with Lester Nanan’s gourmet catering and an enormous chocolate cake! Nesting tropicbirds, boobies and frigatebirds highlighted our offshore trip to Little Tobago Island, and we did especially well to see all the expected and ‘hoped-for’ hummingbird species including Blue-chinned Sapphire, Ruby-Topaz, Tufted Coquette, and White-tailed Sabrewing....to mention just a few of those little gems.

Over 215 bird species were recorded on the tour along with a good variety of reptiles and amphibians although mammals were notably scarce. Two endemic bird species, the Trinidad Piping-Guan and Trinidad Motmot were both encountered and seen well, while the iconic Oilbirds and Bearded Bellbirds at the Asa Wright Centre were found....after a bit of effort!

Special thanks go to our amazing Trinidad local guide Dave Ramlal and his ever-reliable driver, Paul. We arrived to all of our destinations safely, and together they delivered a most enjoyable tour. Thanks to Martyn Kenefick, the author of the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, who joined us for a day and a half and brought his encyclopedic knowledge along with him! Gracious thanks must also go to Jason, Desmond and Zolani on Tobago, all of whom shared their intimate knowledge of the island with enthusiasm and patience.

The ebird species report link below details at least 217 species. If you click on “Show All Details” on the right side of the ebird list you will see the details of each sighting. Photos and some audio have already been added to the reports with more to follow;

[Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife | Jan 16-25, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

In addition, the lists below include some of the mammal, reptile, amphibian and butterfly/moth species found during the tour.

A final word of thanks must go to all the tour participants. Without their patience, humor and camaraderie this trip would not have been the success that it was!

### **MAMMALS (3)**

**Red-rumped Agouti** *Dasyprocta leporine*--- early arrivals had good views of several below the balcony at Pax Guest House on Mt. Saint Benedict but otherwise it was not seen on the main tour.

**Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* – a handful of sightings from Hacienda Jacana and Grand Riviere.

**Lesser Sac-winged Bat** *Saccopteryx leptura* – several could be seen hawking along the trails at the ASA Wright Nature Center as well as the Blanchisuesse Road.

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6)**

**Grenada Tree Anole** *Anolis richardii* – close views at Bon Accord Sewage Farm and at the Adventure Farm the following day.

**Weigmann's Striped Gecko** *Gonatodes vittatus* – at least one was spotted at Grand Riviere

**Tobago Racer** *Mastigodryas boddaerti dunnii* – close views of one 'sunning' on a grassy bank during our morning walk with Desmond at Cuffie Retreat.

**Spectacled Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus* – a nice selection of sightings from Hacienda Jacana, Nariva Swamp and the sewage pools on Tobago.

**Cane Toad** *Rhinella marina* – most commonly heard at Hacienda Jacana during dinner!

**Ruschenberger's Tree Boa** *Corallus ruschenbergerii*—Lester and Dave knew where to find one in the Caroni Swamp and duly delivered!

### **LEPIDOPTERA (a small sample of the species noted, many more were left unidentified);**

#### **Butterflies (15):**

**Ghost Yellow** *Abaeis albula*

**Red Peacock** *Anartia amathea*

**Great Southern White** *Ascia monuste*

**Polydamas Swallowtail** *Battus polydamas*

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*

**Gulf Fritillary** *Dione vanillae*

**Julia Heliconian** *Dryas iulia*

**Banded Yellow** *Eurema elathea*

**Red Postman** *Heliconius erato*

**Sara Longwing** *Heliconius sara*

**Polymnia Tigerwing** *Mechanitis polymnia*

**Malachite** *Siproeta stelenes*

**Plain Longtail** *Spicauda simplicius*

**Common Blue Morpho** (*Morpho helenor insularis*)

**Illioneus Giant-Owl** (*Caligo illioneus*)

#### **Moths:**

**Green-banded Urania** *Urania leilus* – a stunning day flying species seen along the trails at ASA Wright.