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**NATURALIST JOURNEYS: TRINIDAD ONLY TOUR WITH PIPING GUANS AND ASA WRIGHT NATURE CENTRE’S 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FEATURING SCOTT WEIDENSAUL**

**MARCH 18-25, 2017**

**With Caligo leader Bob Behrstock, Scott Weidensaul, local guide/drivers Roodal, Mahase, and David Ramlal, various Asa Wright in-house guides, and participants Karen, Amy, Annette and Alan, Jeanette, Hardy and Barb, Hillary and John**

**ITINERARY IN BRIEF:**

March 18 (Saturday) Scott, Amy and remainder of group arrive at asa Wright Nature Centre. Earliest arrivals have birding time on verandah and option of night walk. (Bob and Karen had already touched down March 16.)

March 19 Pre-breakfast verandah birding, orientation walk on discovery Trail, Waller Field for picnic dinner roosting macaws and nightbirding.

March 20 Pre-breakfast verandah birding. Remainder of day in North Range on Blanchisseuse Road with lunch, musical entertainment and cacao demonstration at Brasso Seco village.

March 21 Pre-breakfast verandah birding. Remainder of day (returning at 6:30 p.m.) eastward to Nariva Swamp (mostly agricultural habitats with some wetlands) with lunch at Manzanilla Beach and walk into mangroves near mouth of Nariva River.

March 22 Pre-breakfast verandah birding. Morning walk to Dunstan Oilbird Cave at Asa Wright Nature Centre (Bob and Scott with locals elsewhere on island, Amy with grade school visit). Afternoon visit to Caroni Swamp for Scarlet Ibis boat tour.

March 23 Pre-breakfast verandah birding. Drive to beach at Grande Riviere arriving at lunchtime. Beachfront break and dinner. After dinner (nighttime) walk on beach with local guide to view egg laying Leatherback Turtles.

March 24 Early (05:30) snack then birding for Trinidad Piping Guans and other birds until 9:00 with local guide Nicholas. Rather lavish breakfast afterward. Bob, Karen, Scott, and Amy return to Asa Wright. Participants overnight at Asa Wright.

March 25 (Saturday) Participants transfer Grande Riviere to Port of Spain for returning flights.

**Note:** Because there were three simultaneous Caligo events (including one that continued to Tobago), one of which was present with “our” group for several trips, plus independent Caligo-booked travelers staying at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, Bob and Scott were helping many folks besides those named above. The bird list is based, as much as possible upon what was encountered by this group of participants.

**BIRDS:**

**Little Tinamou** (Heard at the Moriche Palm grove at Waller Field)

**Trinidad Piping-Guan (Endemic)** (As many as 14 of these highly endangered birds seen in woodland just outside Grande Riviere, some coming very close to our viewing area.)

**Brown Pelican** (Beach Grande Riviere)

**Neotropic Cormorant** (A few along the beach at Grande Riviere)

**Anhinga** (One at the mouth of the Nariva River)

**Magnificent Frigatebird** (Beaches at Manzanilla and Grande Riviere)

**Pinnated Bittern** (Close looks roadside in the Nariva Swamp)

**Great Blue Heron** (At least one on the Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Great Egret** (Caroni boat trip, Nariva Swamp)

**Snowy Egret** (Caroni boat trip, Nariva Swamp)

**Little Blue Heron** (Caroni boat trip, Nariva Swamp)

**Tricolored Heron** (Caroni Swamp boat trip where numerous)

**Cattle Egret** (Nariva Swamp and at roadside here and there; not especially numerous)

**Striated Heron** (Nariva Swamp and Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (Numerous on the Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Scarlet Ibis** (Boat ride at the Caroni Swamp, perhaps the island’s signature birding spectacle)

**Black Vulture** (Small numbers most days, numerous at Waller Field and on the beach at Grande Riviere)

**Turkey Vulture** (Small numbers daily)

**American Flamingo** (Five seen closely on the Caroni Swamp boat trip--a rarity in Trinidad, but apparently increasing)

**Osprey** (Over Caroni rice fields and during Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Swallow-tailed Kite** (Four seen during the drive to Grande Riviere)

**Double-toothed Kite** (From the verandah at Asa Wright--Bob and Karen only prior to arrival of other participants)

**Plumbeous Kite** (A couple seen during the drive to Grande Riviere)

**Long-winged Harrier** (One in rice fields near Caroni Swamp)

**Gray-lined Hawk** (One during lunch at Brasso Seco, and one perched along the road in the Nariva Swamp area)

**Common Black-Hawk** (Four days, including two just outside Arima and a juvenile reoccurring over Asa Wright)

**Savanna Hawk** (One seen from the highway at the Aripo Livestock Station)

**Short-tailed Hawk** (Seen a couple days--good looks at Asa Wright)

**Zone-tailed Hawk** (Asa Wright and over Caroni Swamp visitor’s centre)

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** (One on Blanchisseuse Road at the Las Lapas Trace turnoff--close views of Trinidad’s largest bird of prey)

**Crested Caracara** (One in the Nariva Swamp vicinity)

**Yellow-headed Caracara** (Small numbers at Nariva and Caroni swamps)

**Merlin** (One on a roadside tree in Arima)

**Southern Lapwing** (Seen several days including Waller Field and Nariva Swamp--where numerous)

**Black-bellied Plover** (One at the mouth of the Nariva River)

**Wattled Jacana** (Numerous in the Nariva Swamp area with juveniles of various sizes)

**Greater Yellowlegs** (Caroni rice fields and mud flats on Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Solitary Sandpiper** (One at Waller Field in a small stream with bathing Black Vultures)

**Rock Pigeon** (Seen on two or three days--mostly in urban situations)

**Scaled Pigeon** (Scope views at the Asa Wright verandah)

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** (Seen five days--nowhere really numerous)

**White-tipped Dove** (Heard only on the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Gray-fronted Dove** (One or two seen pretty much daily below the verandah at Asa Wright)

**Red-bellied Macaw** (Excellent looks at perhaps 80-100 coming to roost in Moriche Palms at Waller Field while we enjoyed our picnic dinner)

**Green-rumped Parrotlet** (A few in challenging light outside the Caroni Swamp visitor’s centre)

**Blue-headed Parrot** (Wonderful looks on the Blanchisseuse Road as a flock roosted in the open after a light rain)

**Orange-winged Parrot** (Most days from the Asa Wright verandah; small numbers elsewhere)

**Squirrel Cuckoo** (Heard only at the verandah at Asa Wright)

**Smooth-billed Ani** (Seen four days at roadside)

**Tropical Screech-Owl** (Two roosting in mangroves on the Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** (Heard daily at Asa Wright)

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** (Seen by Bob and Karen at Asa Wright veranda after returning from Grande Riviere)

**Common Pauraque** (Several near the Moriche Palms at Waller Field)

**White-tailed Nightjar** (Several on the old airstrip at Waller Field)

**Oilbird** (Close looks at this truly unique bird in the Dunston Cave on the grounds at Asa Wright)

**Short-tailed Swift** (Seen during the drive to Grande Riviere)

**Band-rumped Swift** (Quick looks at Asa Wright and Las Lapas Trace turnoff)

**Gray-rumped Swift** (Quick looks at Asa Wright and Las Lapas Trace turnoff)

**Fork-tailed Palm-Swift** (Several between Arima and Sangre Grande on the Nariva Swamp day)

**Rufous-breasted Hermit** (Seen at Asa Wright feeders and along the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)

**Green Hermit** (Seen several days at Asa Wright feeders)

**Little Hermit** (Seen once or twice at Asa Wright)

**White-necked Jacobin** (Seen daily; numerous at Asa Wright)

**Black-throated Mango** (As many as six daily at Asa Wright feeders; one outside Grande Riviere)

**Ruby-topaz Hummingbird** (One male was seen by about half the group just above the headquarters at Asa Wright)

**Tufted Coquette** (This delightful hummer was easily seen daily at Asa Wright; several were present almost constantly in flowering Porterweed around the Centre headquarters)

**Blue-chinned Sapphire** (One or two seen daily at Asa Wright)

**White-chested Emerald** (Seen daily at Asa Wright where numerous)

**Copper-rumped Hummingbird** (Seen daily at Asa Wright)

**Long-billed Starthroat** (At least one seen from the Asa Wright verandah on two or three days)

**Green-backed Trogon** (Seen only along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Guianan Trogon** (Seen several days: Asa Wright and Blanchisseuse Road--nesting outside cabins at Asa Wright)

**Collared Trogon** (Small numbers--Asa Wright and Blanchisseuse Road)

**Trinidad Motmot** (Regional Endemic) (One in the driveway at Asa Wright--difficult this trip)

**Ringed Kingfisher** (One near the Caroni Swamp boat ride area)

**Green Kingfisher** (Quick looks by a couple of participants in the Nariva Swamp)

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** (Singles at Waller Field and Blanchisseuse Road)

**Channel-billed Toucan** (Seen daily from the verandah at Asa Wright; also outside Grande Riviere)

**Red-rumped Woodpecker** (One or two along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** (One along the Blanchisseuse Road; heard daily at Asa Wright)

**Lineated Woodpecker** (One in palms as we were en route to the Nariva Swamp)

**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** (A male in the cacao plantation just outside Grande Riviere)

**Pale-breasted Spinetail** (Seen by two of us in woodland outside Grande Riviere)

**Stripe-breasted Spinetail** (A skulky pair seen in forest along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail** (Close looks in the Nariva Swamp)

**Streaked Xenops** (One was seen by some participants on the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** (One was seen by Scott’s group on the Oilbird walk)

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** (Seen with difficulty on the Caroni Swamp boat trip)

**Cocoa Woodcreeper** (One seen along the Blanchisseuse Road just below Asa Wright; heard elsewhere)

**Great Antshrike** (Unusually--heard only at Asa Wright)

**Black-crested Antshrike** (Seen very well as we walked in mangroves on the Nariva Swamp day)

**Barred Antshrike** (Seen or heard daily; a pair usually present below the Asa Wright verandah)

**Plain Antvireo** (One male seen along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**White-flanked Antwren** (A male seen by Hardy and one of the local guides; a pair seen at Asa Wright by Bob and Karen prior to the arrival of the other participants)

**White-bellied Antbird** (Surprisingly good looks a couple days at Asa Wright and outside Grande Riviere)

**Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** (Seen or heard a couple days at Asa Wright)

**Forest Elaenia** (Heard only a couple days at Asa Wright)

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** (Close looks at the Nariva boat launch cabin and just outside Grande Riviere)

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** (A pair was seen on the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)

**Euler’s Flycatcher** (One or two along the Blanchisseuse Road; also at Asa Wright by Bob and Karen)

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** (One along the Blanchisseuse Road may have been seen by some group members)

**Tropical Pewee** (Seen during lunch at Brasso Seco)

**Pied Water-Tyrant** (Several in roadside ditches at the Nariva Swamp)

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (Heard only along Blanchisseuse Road)

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** (Seen as we walked into mangroves on the Nariva Swamp day)

**Great Kiskadee** (Seen daily; noisy and conspicuous)

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** (At least one seen at woodland edge outside at Grande Riviere)

**Streaked Flycatcher** (One seen briefly along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Piratic Flycatcher** (Seen from the Asa Wright verandah and grounds and at Grande Riviere)

**Sulphury Flycatcher** (Nice looks at two in Moriche Palms at Waller Field)

**Tropical Kingbird** (Seen most days; conspicuous in open country and early around cabins at Asa Wright)

**Gray Kingbird** (Two seen well in the Nariva Swamp area)

**Black-tailed Tityra** (One from the Asa Wright verandah; one in woodland just outside Grande Riviere)

**Bearded Bellbird** (Another of Trinidad’s iconic birds: a displaying male was seen daily from the verandah at Asa Wright; one or two displaying along the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)

**White-bearded Manakin** (A few at the lek on the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright trails)

**Golden-headed Manakin** (Seen with difficulty feeding along the Discovery Trail and the Asa Wright verandah; the usual lek was not attended by displaying birds)

**Golden-fronted Greenlet** (Discovery Trail at Asa Wright and Blanchisseuse Road; probably elsewhere)

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** (Heard daily at asa Wright; one seen in woodland just outside Grande Riviere)

**Gray-breasted Martin** (A phone wire bird several days; common along the coast)

**White-winged Swallow** (A few seen at several locations; nowhere common)

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** (Seen several days--close looks along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Rufous-breasted Wren** (A pair seen just outside Grande Riviere)

**House Wren** (Vocal and seen daily at Asa Wright and Grande Riviere)

**Long-billed Gnatwren** (Seen along the Blanchisseuse Road by Hardy, heard at Asa Wright)

**Cocoa Thrush** (Most looks at Asa Wright feeders, a couple along trails; extremely vocal)

**Spectacled Thrush** (A few around the Asa Wright feeders and grounds; frequently heard

**White-necked Thrush** (One seen along the Blanchisseuse Road; others heard at Asa Wright)

**Tropical Mockingbird** (Small numbers seen daily)

**Tropical Parula** (One on the Discovery Trail orientation walk)

**Yellow Warbler** (Two or three migrants in the Nariva Swamp in roadside brush)

**American Redstart** (One along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Northern Waterthrush** (Seen with some difficulty in the Caroni Swamp, one at a pond outside the lodge at Grande Riviere)

**Bananaquit** (Abundant at the feeders at Asa Wright; seen everywhere else, as well)

**Bicolored Conebill** (Seen nicely in mangroves on the Nariva Swamp day and just before the Caroni Swamp boat trip by the visitor’s centre)

**White-lined Tanager** (Seen daily at the Asa Wright feeders; others “in the wild”)

**Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** (One seen during the walk to the Oilbird cave)

**Silver-beaked Tanager** (Small numbers seen daily at Asa Wright feeders and grounds)

**Blue-gray Tanager** (Seen daily; less common than the next species)

**Palm Tanager** (Numerous at Asa Wright and most other sites)

**Turquoise Tanager** (‘Scope looks of a small flock off the Asa Wright verandah and Blanchisseuse Road at Las Lapas Trace)

**Speckled Tanager** (One seen along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Bay-headed Tanager** (Seen a couple days from the Asa Wright verandah)

**Green Honeycreeper** (Daily at the Asa Wright feeders; less common than the next species)

**Purple Honeycreeper** (This stunner was seen daily and was numerous at the Asa Wright feeders)

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** (One male at the Asa Wright feeders; a couple along the Blanchisseuse Road)

**Swallow-Tanager** (Seen at three sites along the Blanchisseuse Road; some off the Asa Wright verandah may have been seen by members of our group)

**Blue-black Grassquit** (Seen two days, displaying birds common in Nariva Swamp agricultural land)

**Masked (Red-capped) Cardinal** (A local beauty: two were at the Caroni Swamp guard shack)

**Grayish Saltator** (Two seen at woodland edge outside Grande Riviere)

**Dickcissel** (A small fly-by flock in agriculture land at the Nariva Swamp)

**Yellow-hooded Blackbird** (A flock in a roadside ditch in the Nariva Swamp)

**Red-breasted Blackbird** (A couple ‘scoped from the highway in the currently closed Aripo Livestock Station)

**Carib Grackle** (Seen four days; numerous in towns and around beach picnic areas)

**Shiny Cowbird** (One at the Asa Wright feeders, a pair in the Nariva Swamp with Yellow-hooded Blackbirds)

**Giant Cowbird** (A pair just outside Grande Riviere)

**Yellow Oriole** (Seen daily at the Asa Wright’s verandah; a few elsewhere)

**Yellow-rumped Cacique** (Seen several days, colonies active along Blanchisseuse Road and Nariva Swamp day)

**Crested Oropendola** (Common: seen daily and closely at Asa Wright)

**Trinidad Euphonia** (Seen by a couple people in roadside trees just outside Arima)

**Violaceous Euphonia** (Common; often seen from the Asa Wright verandah)

**MAMMALS:**

**Red-rumped Agouti** (Seen at the feeders at Asa Wright and at Waller Field)

**Red-tailed Squirrel** (Seen by a few people at Asa Wright)

**Pallas’s Long-tongued Bat** (Numerous nightly at the feeders at Asa Wright)

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:**

**Trinidad Stream Frog, *Mannophryne trinitatis*?** (Likely this speciesbeing seenat roadside pools along the Asa Wright driveway. Scott photographed one carrying tadpoles on its back.)

**Gold Tegu** (*Tupinambis teguixin*) (This large lizard was easily seen below the feeders and along trails at Asa Wright)

**White-striped Gecko, *Gonatodes vittatus*** (Several seen in the open structure just above the office at Asa Wright)

**Other geckos** (several species were present at Asa Wright)

**Trinidad/Central American Tree Boa** (*Corallus ruschenbergerli*) (Two during boat trip at Caroni Swamp)

**Leatherback Turtle** (*Dermochelys coriacea*) (The world’s largest turtle. Two were seen at night laying eggs on the beach at Grande Riviere; another was present the next morning before we went into the field)

**JUST A FEW BUTTERFLIES:**

**Cattle Heart Swallowtail** (Common at roadside flowers and along Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)

**Orange-barred Sulphur** (Often floating by the balcony at Asa Wright)

**Black-bordered White** (Numerous in roadside blossoms at the Brasso Seco lunch stop)

**Cassius Blue** (Numerous around flowering shrubs, never landing long enough for a good look)

**Blue-stitched 88** (Seen by several of us on the Discovery Trail)

**Clymenta 88 (89)** (Seen just below the Asa Wright verandah)

**Owl Butterfly, *Caligo* sp.** (Seen on several occasions. No definitive looks.)

**Monarch** (Seen in the garden at Asa Wright)

**Julia** (One seen in flowering shrubs at lunch in Brasso Seco)

**Sara Longwing?** (Nariva Swamp-seen by Bob and Barbara. A quick look and one similar species cannot be eliminated)

**Erato Heliconian (Small Postman)** (Seen several times at roadside)

**Common Morpho** (This crowd pleaser was seen several times at Blanchisseuse Road and Grande Riviere)

**Scarlet Peacock** (A few at weedy roadside including the Asa Wright driveway)

**White Peacock** (Several at weedy roadsides)

**Hermes Satyr** (Common in forest undergrowth)

**Long-tailed Skipper sp., *Urbanus* sp.** (Seen along the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)

**OTHER CRITTERS:**

**Trinidad Chevron Tarantula (*Psalmopoeus cambridgei*)** (Seen by people who went on the night walk after arriving at Asa Wright)

**Golden Orb Weaver Spider (*Nephila* sp.)** (Seen roadside at Waller Field)

**Leaf-cutter Ants, *Atta cephalotes*** (Large nests present along the Discovery Trail at Asa Wright)