

Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife | Species List January 19 – 28, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Naturalist Journeys host guide James P. Smith with further eBird checklists shared by Barb Jording and Melissa McMasters as well as field-time contributions from a wonderful group of travelers; Deb & Lou, Peter & Mary, George & Peggy, Linda and Liz.

The Trinidad & Tobago tour began with a whirlwind adventure through low-lying fields, swamps and coastlines all explored from the delightfully appointed lodge at Hacienda Jacana. The newly renovated Asa Wright Nature Centre became home for a further three nights providing access to the famed Blanchisseuse Road and the Dunston Oilbird cave. After a short flight from Piarco International Airport we were soon on the beautiful island of Tobago where we spent the remaining three nights at Cuffie River Nature Retreat.

The tour included an evening cruise through the Caroni Swamp and an offshore boat trip to Little Tobago Island. Well over 210 bird species were recorded along with a nice variety of reptiles, amphibians and butterflies. Mammals, however, were notably scarce. Highlights were many but would have to include thousands of Scarlet Ibis heading to roost in the Caroni Swamp, endemic Piping-Guans and Trinidad Motmots, the iconic Oilbirds and Bearded Bellbirds at the Asa Wright Centre, at least 14 species of hummingbirds throughout and a spectacular display of tropicbirds, frigatebirds and boobies on a drizzly afternoon at Little Tobago.

Special thanks go to our amazing Trinidad local guide Dave Ramlel and his stoic, unflappable driver, Paul. They got to us to all destinations safely and on time and delivered an exceptionally enjoyable tour. Further thanks must go to Jason, William and Zee on Tobago all of whom showed us many a life bird with courtesy and patience.

The ebird species report link below details at least 216 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 have already been added to these reports with more to follow;

[Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife | January 19-28, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

In addition, the following lists include mammal, reptile, amphibian and butterfly/moth species found during the tour. Special thanks and kudos go to Melissa McMasters for identifying and compiling the comprehensive list of butterflies and moths!

MAMMALS (4)

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporine*---seen just twice at Asa Wright. George had the best views of one below the veranda while the rest of the group were out birding on the trails!

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* – a thin scatter of sightings, all singles, from Hacienda Jacana to the Asa Wright Center.

Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat *Artibeus jamaicensis* – this fairly large species could be seen around (and sometimes in) the Cuffie House on Tobago.

Brazilian Long-nosed Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*— a small group roosting on a tree trunk in Caroni Swamp

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6)

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – a couple seen around the sewage ponds on Tobago during our first afternoon there.

Ocellated gecko *Gonatodes ocellatus* – Zee went to great lengths to show us a couple of these on Little Tobago but it was well worth it – beautiful animal!

Trinidad Amevia *Ameiva atrigularis*---singles seen on both islands with nice views at Asa Wright.

Yellow-throated Frog *Mannophryne trinitatis*---up to three seen at Asa Wright

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* – most common at Hacienda Jacana but also seen at Asa Wright.

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

LEPIDOPTERA (66 species identified, compiled by Melissa McMasters):

Butterflies:

Ghost Yellow *Abaeis albula*

Smooth-Banded Sister *Adelpha cytherea*

Pointed Sister *Adelpha iphiclus*

Red Peacock *Anartia amathea*

Death-mask Spurwing *Antigonus nearchus*

Aetolus Stripestreak *Arawacus aetolus*

Arita arita

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

Polydamas Swallowtail *Battus polydamas*

Orcus Checkered-Skipper *Burnsius orcus*

Saturnus Skipper *Callimormus saturnus*

Anius Metalmark *Charis anius*

Bordered Patch *Chlosyne lacinia*

Penelope's Ringlet *Cissia penelope*

Mimosa Skipper *Cogia calchas*

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

Deltaya andrei

Widespread Eighty-eight *Diaethria clymena*

Gulf Fritillary *Dione vanillae*

Julia Heliconian *Dryas iulia*

White Sailor *Dynamine theseus*

Southern Sicklewing *Eantis thraso*

Banded Yellow *Eurema elathea*

Helias phalaenoides

Red Postman *Heliconius erato*

Heliconius ricini

Sara Longwing *Heliconius sara*

Hanno Blue *Hemiargus hanno*

Hermeuptychia canthe

Grass Skippers *Hesperiinae*

Agnosia Glasswing *Ithomia agnosia*

Whitened Crescent *Janatella leucodesma*
Molpe Metalmark *Juditha molpe*
Justinia gava
Sky-blue Groundstreak *Kisutam syllis*
Polymnia Tigerwing *Mechanitis polymnia*
Orange-barred Pixie *Melanis electron*
Cramer's Ringlet *Modica myncea*
Royal Firetip *Mysoria barcastus*
Nikko Skipper *Niconiades nikko*
Stub-tailed Skipper *Niconiades xanthaphes*
Tamarind Owl *Opsiphanes cassiae cassiae*
Fridericus Spreadwing *Ouleus fridericus*
White Satyr *Pareuptychia ocirrhoe*
Anchises Cattleheart *Parides anchises*
Orange-barred Sulphur *Phoebis philea*
Statira Sulphur *Phoebis statira*
Pompeius Skipper *Pompeius pompeius*
Leuce Yellow *Pyrisitia leuce*
Pale Yellow *Pyrisitia venusta*
Common Mellana *Quasimellana eulogius*
Gold-bordered Hairstreak *Rekoa palegon*
Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*
Plain Longtail *Spicauda simplicius*
Tanna Longtail *Spicauda tanna*
Cramer's Scrub-Hairstreak *Strymon bubastus*
False Nymphidium *Synargis calyce*
Turesis complanula
Vinius tryhana

Moths:

Aellopos ceculus
Aleuron carinata
Curve-lined Cydosia *Cydosia nobilitella*
Streaked Sphinx *Protambulyx strigilis*
Green-banded Urania *Urania leilus*