

Trinidad's Asa Wright Nature Center Species List | May 9-16, 2025 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Naturalist Journeys guide Greg Butcher with local guides Lester Nanan, Dave Ramlal, Mukesh Ramdass, Caleb Walker, Giselle Ragoonanan, and Randell Duberry. Our clients included Eric and Karen, Marilyn, Eileen and Larry, David and Dottie, Lorna, and Michele.

We all got together for a relaxing week at Asa Wright Nature Centre. Other tours visit Tobago and stay at other lodges in Trinidad, but this trip was designed as a one-lodge special. It's a great idea, because the lodge and cabins at AWNC have been completely renovated since covid, and the buffet meals are wonderful. From AWNC, we traveled north, south, southeast, and southwest to sample all the major habitats of Trinidad.

BIRDS

The eBird link below details the 164 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's Asa Wright Nature Center | May 9-16, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS (5):

Northeastern Silky or Pygmy Anteater *Cyclopes didactylus*—We saw this tan species at Caroni Swamp. We couldn't believe how tiny and cute it was, even those of us who hesitate to call animals cute. It is actually a bit more than a foot long, but the tail comprises half the animal's length.

Proboscis Bat *Artibeus jamaicensis*—We also had this bat at Caroni Swamp. This species is really small, only a bit more than two inches.

Lesser Sac-winged or Lesser White-lined Bat *Saccopteryx leptura*—We saw this bat several times at Asa Wright roosting under the leaves of a building. They primarily eat bees, wasps, and flying ants.

Greater Fishing or Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus*—This species is only about twice the size of the Proboscis Bat. It eats insects, crabs, and crayfish in addition to fish.

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporina*—Because it was hanging out below the veranda, we had leisurely looks at this chubby-rumped species. Locals say it's good to eat!

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6)

Small lizard *Anolis sp.*—Several of us saw small lizards that were probably anoles, especially on the Nariva Swamp trip.

Northern Turniptail Gecko *Thecadactylus rapicauda*—I had a gecko outside my room that perfectly matched the pale gray paint. It may have been this species.

Trinidad Ameiva *Ameiva atrigularis*—We saw this green-backed species almost daily from the veranda and on nearby walks.

Cryptic Golden Tegu *Tupinambis cryptus*—This was the impressively large and mottled lizard we saw several times from the veranda.

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*—Caimans are closely related to alligators and crocodiles and can be just as large, although the ones we saw at Caroni Swamp weren't.

Yellow-throated or Trinidad Stream or Trinidad Poison Frog *Mannophryne trinitatis*—We saw several different frogs, but never really studied them. Several of them could have been this small species, which is found mostly in the Northern Range, but potentially anywhere on Trinidad.

BUTTERFLIES (4):

Erato Longwing or Postman *Heliconius erato*—We saw many of these butterflies with lack wings and bold red wing-stripes.

Molpe Metalmark *Juditha molpe*—This is the brown-winged butterfly with dramatic white patches in the center.

Common Morpho *Morpho helenor insularis*—Morphos are the rainforest butterflies with the iridescent blue wings; this is the subspecies we saw in Trinidad.

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*—We are familiar with the migratory populations in North America, but there are many resident populations around the world, apparently all introduced from North America. One individual hung around the pick-up spot at the front of the lodge throughout our stay.

OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES

Giant Red-winged Grasshopper *Tropidacris cristata*—This is how iNaturalist identified the huge locust that was brought to us while we were doing the checklist.

Centipedes

Snails

Orb-weaving Spiders

Crabs: large land crabs at Asa Wright, large water crabs at Caroni Swamp, and tree-climbing crabs in the mangroves at Caroni Swamp