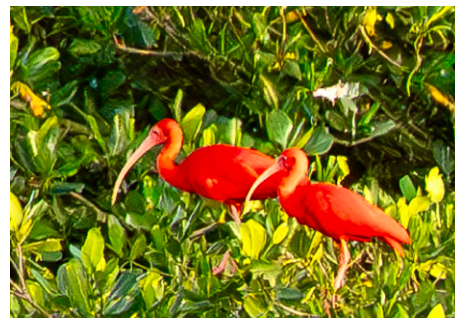


# Trinidad and Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife | Feb. 13 - 22, 2025 | Trip Report | by Steve Grace

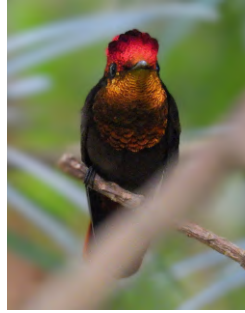


**Naturalist Journeys tour host Stephen Grace with local guides Barry Ramdass, Dave Ramlal, Lester Nanan, Josh, Randell, Giselle, and Mukesh Ramdass on Trinidad; Jason Radix and Desmond Wright on Tobago; and Zolani Frank on Little Tobago Island. Our 10 clients included Kaki, Christy, Bruce, Tim, Norma, Betsy, Melinda, Art, Ed and Irene.**



## **Wed., Feb. 12 Pax Guest House**

Our group of early arrivals was warmly welcomed by Gerard and Oda, the gracious proprietors of Pax Guest House. Situated in the foothills of Trinidad's Northern Range next to a Benedictine Abbey established in 1912, Pax overlooks the bustling metropolis of Port of Spain, offering a peaceful and scenic retreat.



Pax provided an excellent introduction to the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. The gardens and feeders were alive with hummingbirds, particularly standouts like the Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Blue-chinned Emerald, and Copper-rumped Hummingbird, the latter known for its distinctive white socks. We were also treated to soaring Zone-tailed Hawks gliding alongside Turkey Vultures in the bright sky.

The air was filled with the raucous calls of Orange-winged Parrots, and we were delighted by the sounds of Rufous-browed Peppershrikes—easier to hear than to see. A variety of beautiful passerines, including Blue-gray Tanagers and Yellow Orioles, added to the vibrant atmosphere.

Seven of us gathered for a delicious dinner on the veranda, enjoying the cool tropical evening. The night concluded with stargazing, where we marveled at the Orion Nebula, the moons of Jupiter, and a Tropical Screech Owl that Gerard called in for close-up views.

It was a perfect introduction to the natural wonders of Trinidad, setting the tone for the adventures ahead.

## **Thurs., Feb. 13 Pax Guest House | Hacienda Jacana**

For guests who arrived early, a morning birding excursion around the grounds surrounding Pax was led by local guide Barry Ramdass. Highlights included a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl being mobbed by angry passerines, excellent views of Turquoise Tanagers tucked into the tree canopy, and our first sighting of the always amusing Blue-black Grassquit—known as "Johnny Jump-up" for the male's leaping display to impress females.

In the afternoon, the group gathered at Hacienda Jacana, a former plantation that has been transformed into a bird-rich retreat set in an idyllic landscape of woodlands and wetlands not far from Port of Spain. We settled into our cabins and came together for an opening toast and feast, quickly getting acquainted and bonding over birds, a shared love of nature, and excitement for the explorations ahead.





## **Fri., Feb. 14 Hacienda Jacana | Caroni National Park**

Our morning began with relaxed birding over coffee as Tufted Coquettes flitted among the purple vervain flowers. These tiny hummingbirds, hardly larger than bumblebees, dazzled us with their iridescent colors and rapid wingbeats—a mesmerizing start to the day.

After breakfast, we were joined by longtime expert local guide Dave Ramlal for birding on the beautiful grounds of Hacienda Jacana. The property delivered a wealth of highlights, including a striking Gray-lined Hawk, eye-catching Violaceous Euphonias, and a lively flock of Green-rumped Parrotlets. A Rufous-tailed Jacamar shimmered in the morning light, while both Squirrel and Little Cuckoos made appearances. We enjoyed close views of Barred and Black-crested Antshrikes, their bold markings standing out against the foliage. The rhythmic wing-snaps of White-bearded Manakins echoed through the understory—a signature sound of the forest. Among the many standout sightings, a male Guianan Trogon perched beautifully in the canopy, and we watched a Wattled Jacana with absurdly long toes foraging in the wetlands. This species is notable for its fascinating role reversal: a female mates with multiple males, while males take on the responsibility of incubating the eggs and raising the chicks.

Beyond birds, a Trinidad Ameiva lizard with a vivid green head darted through the undergrowth, and a Scarlet Peacock butterfly caught the sunlight, its intricate patterns and bright colors on full display.

Following a delicious lasagna lunch at Hacienda Jacana, we set out for Caroni Swamp, spotting a Red-breasted Meadowlark perched among the grasses and a Long-winged Harrier gliding low over the fields. At the edge of the wetlands, we explored on foot, discovering a Little Blue Heron, a Straight-billed Woodcreeper, and the striking Masked Cardinal—a brilliant red, black and white member of the tanager family. But the most unforgettable moment of the day awaited us on the water: the legendary gathering of Scarlet Ibis at Caroni Swamp.



We boarded a boat piloted by Lester Nanan, whose grandfather was a pioneer in protecting both Caroni Swamp and the Scarlet Ibis. As we cruised through the mangrove-lined waterways, Lester's wife, Gale, served us drinks and somehow managed to spot a Silky Anteater—a tiny, arboreal species—curled into a ball and napping in a tree. A Tropical Screech-Owl, roosting low in the branches, cracked open one sleepy eye as we drifted past.

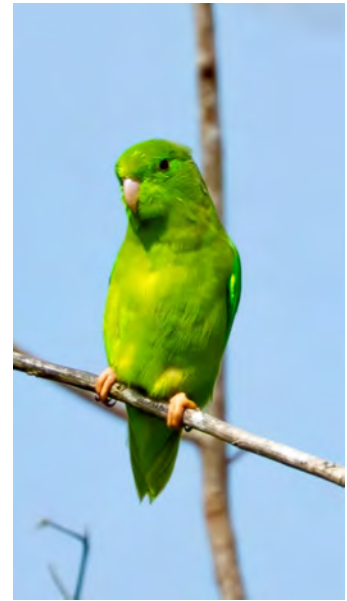
As dusk approached, we moored near an island, settling in to enjoy a delicious meal catered by Lester and Gale. Then, the spectacle began. Thousands of Scarlet Ibis streamed in, wave after wave, their dazzling red plumage igniting the green canopy in a breathtaking display. The sheer magnitude of the gathering was awe-inspiring, a scene that felt almost surreal in the fading light.

Just as we thought the evening couldn't be more dramatic, a Peregrine Falcon sliced through the sky. The ibis erupted in a frenzied explosion of crimson, their wings flashing brilliantly as they scattered in all directions. The ripple effect of the falcon's chase spread through the swamp—Tricolored Herons darted low over the water, seeking refuge among the mangroves, while Snowy Egrets lifted into the air, their white forms catching the last golden rays of sunlight. Amid the chaos, American Flamingos stood undisturbed, their soft pink silhouettes glowing against the twilight—a serene contrast to the drama above.

Eventually, the Peregrine veered away, and the swamp slowly settled into its nightly rhythm. Yet, the thrill of that wild chase lingered, a vivid reminder of the untamed beauty of Trinidad and Tobago.

## **Sat., Feb. 15   Aripo Savannah | Trinidad's Atlantic Coast | Nariva Swamp**

Our day exploring Trinidad's diverse landscapes began at the Aripo Savannah, where we spotted a perched Crane Hawk. This striking raptor, with its long legs and uniquely flexible, double-jointed ankles, is specially adapted for reaching into tree cavities to extract prey. Nearby, a Blue Dacnis dazzled us with its vibrant plumage, while Green-rumped Parrotlets, glowing electric green, flitted energetically through the trees.



For lunch, we enjoyed a seaside picnic at Manzanilla, savoring a delicious spread of Trinidadian cuisine. Our meal featured calaloo made from taro leaves, a hearty provision dish with sweet potatoes, flavorful barbecued chicken, fried rice, noodles, and fresh salad. As we dined, Magnificent Frigatebirds soared overhead, silhouetted against the sky, while the Atlantic Ocean lapped gently at the shore. Some in our group couldn't resist wading into the warm, inviting waters.

Continuing along Coconut Alley, we encountered an impressive variety of raptors, including Yellow-headed and Crested Caracaras, as well as a Snail Kite, keenly scanning the landscape for its next meal.

At Nariva Swamp, we were delighted to spot a Boat-billed Flycatcher, a close relative of the Great Kiskadee. While similar in appearance, this species is distinguished by its oversized bill and the absence of rusty tones on its wings and tail.

One of the day's most memorable moments came when we sighted Blue-and-yellow Macaws in the wild at Nariva Swamp. These magnificent parrots, with their brilliant plumage and resonant calls, are a testament to successful conservation efforts. Once extirpated from this region due to habitat loss and trapping, they have been reintroduced through the dedicated work of our guide, Dave Ramlal, and a team of conservationists. Thanks to their efforts, the macaws are once again thriving, making each sighting a powerful reminder of the impact of committed conservation work.

With this inspiring encounter fresh in our minds, we returned to Hacienda Jacana, smiling at the day's adventures and the resilience of Trinidad's incredible wildlife.

## **Sun., Feb. 16 Grand Riviere | Bajnath's Estate | Asa Wright Nature Center**

Our day began with an early departure from Hacienda Jacana, setting off toward Grande Riviere with the primary goal of observing the critically endangered Trinidad Piping-Guan, locally known as the Pawi. This striking, turkey-like, tree-dwelling bird is endemic to Trinidad, distinguished by its black plumage with white





patches on the wings and crown, a light blue face, and an azure dewlap hanging from its throat. Once abundant, the Pawi has suffered severe population declines due to habitat loss and hunting, making sightings exceptionally rare. To our immense delight, we encountered ten individuals—a significant and encouraging number for this species.

As we explored the mature forests of Grande Riviere, we caught fleeting glimpses of the elusive Pale-breasted Spinetail and White-fringed Antwren. Overhead, a majestic Gray-headed Kite soared low, offering excellent views, while a vibrant male Guianan Trogon added a brilliant splash of color to the verdant canopy. New additions to our growing species list included the Forest Elaenia and Streaked Flycatcher, each contributing to the remarkable diversity of the region.

After savoring coffee and a tranquil beach walk at Grande Riviere, we continued to Bajnath's Estate Hummingbird Sanctuary, a haven for hummingbird enthusiasts nestled within Matura National Park. The feeders and flowering plants were alive with activity, drawing in species such as the Tufted Coquette, Blue-chinned Sapphire, Ruby Topaz, White-chested Emerald, Black-throated Mango, Green Hermit, and Rufous-breasted Hermit. Among the day's highlights was a sighting of the elusive Brown Violetear, a new hummingbird species for our group, along with excellent views of the striking Long-billed Starthroat.

For lunch, we enjoyed a spread of traditional Trinidadian cuisine, featuring favorites such as calaloo and macaroni pie, which quickly became a group favorite. We also sampled sorrel drink, a refreshing, hibiscus-like beverage made from the Roselle flower, and finished with a delightful homemade lemon cake, all while continuing to watch hummingbirds flit busily around us.

As we departed Bajnath's Estate, several impromptu roadside stops rewarded us with fantastic raptor sightings. We had the fortune of spotting the diminutive yet formidable Bat Falcon twice and, on another occasion, a bright little Pearl Kite, each offering excellent photographic opportunities as we made our way to the legendary Asa Wright Nature Centre.



Founded in 1967 on a former plantation, Asa Wright is a cornerstone of Caribbean conservation, preserving vital habitats for species such as the Bearded Bellbird and the enigmatic Oilbird. Pioneering ornithologists like William Beebe and David Snow conducted groundbreaking research here, solidifying the center's reputation as both a research hub and a sanctuary for biodiversity.

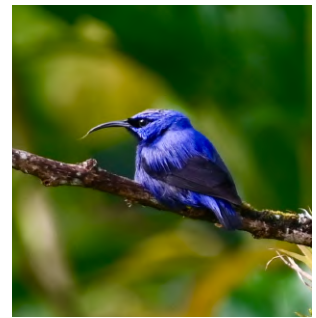
Upon arrival, we settled into our accommodations before gathering on the famed verandah, where we observed Blue-headed Parrots feasting on the vibrant flowers of the Immortelle trees. In the distance, the unmistakable call of a Bearded Bellbird echoed through the forest. The verandah feeders were alive with activity, attracting a dazzling array of tanagers and hummingbirds, while a Red-rumped Agouti made a brief but memorable appearance.

Our day concluded with a delightful dinner prepared by Chef Jackeline, featuring a choice of sweet and sour fish or teriyaki chicken, the perfect end to a day filled with extraordinary birding, rich conservation stories, and Trinidadian culinary delights.

## **Mon., Feb. 17 Blanchisseuse Road and Brasso Seco**

Our journey today took us along the Blanchisseuse Road, a winding route renowned for its rich biodiversity and exceptional birding opportunities. The dense forests here shelter some of Trinidad's most elusive and sought-after avian species, rewarding patient observers with glimpses of rare and secretive birds.

We were fortunate to encounter a remarkable trio of elusive forest species. The White-bellied Antbird, often concealed in dense undergrowth, briefly emerged, allowing us a rare look at this secretive bird. The Black-faced Anthrush, more frequently heard than seen, stepped cautiously across the leaf litter, its posture and movement reminiscent of a small rail. Perhaps the most striking of the three was the Chestnut Woodpecker, its deep chestnut plumage standing out vividly in rays of sunlight against the forest backdrop.



Adding to the day's highlights, a Great Antshrike revealed itself, its piercing red eyes gleaming from the shadows. A Collared Trogon also made a timely appearance, completing our trio of trogon species for the trip, each sighting more captivating than the last.

High in the rainforest canopy, a Golden-crowned Warbler tested both our necks and our patience as we strained to catch a clear view. Its pretty song, reminiscent of familiar warbler tunes, served as a delightful reminder of the region's avian diversity. Unlike the migratory New World warblers we had observed, such as the American Redstart and Northern Waterthrush, this species is a year-round resident of Trinidad's forests.

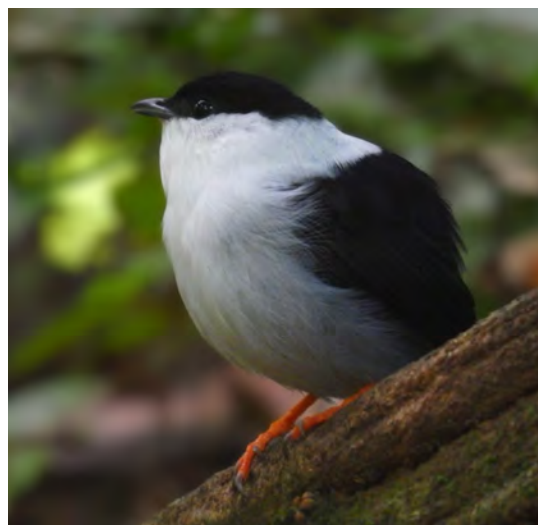
As we reached the summit, a White Hawk soared gracefully overhead, its crisp white plumage striking against the backdrop of green. A prominent viewpoint offered panoramic views of the rainforest stretching toward the Caribbean Sea, a breathtaking reward for our morning's efforts.

Our midday respite took us to the village of Brasso Seco, where we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch featuring local delicacies. Community members demonstrated traditional cacao processing methods, guiding us through the transformation from raw cacao pods to rich, aromatic chocolate. Many in our group couldn't resist purchasing some to savor later. On our return journey, we were once again treated to the sight of a White Hawk gliding effortlessly above, a fitting bookend to the day's birding adventures.

After dinner, we embarked on a nocturnal walk, uncovering the forest's lesser-seen inhabitants. Under ultraviolet light, spiders fluoresced eerily, revealing their hidden presence. A Southern Opossum, perched high in the trees, feasted on blossoms. Using a smartphone-based bat detector, we identified several bat species navigating the night skies, adding another layer of discovery to our experience.

The evening culminated with a clear, star-studded sky, freshly washed by an earlier downpour. Standing beneath it, surrounded by the sounds of the nocturnal forest, we reflected on a day filled with remarkable wildlife encounters and the quiet magic of Trinidad's untamed landscapes.





## **Tues., Feb. 18 Asa Wright Nature Center**

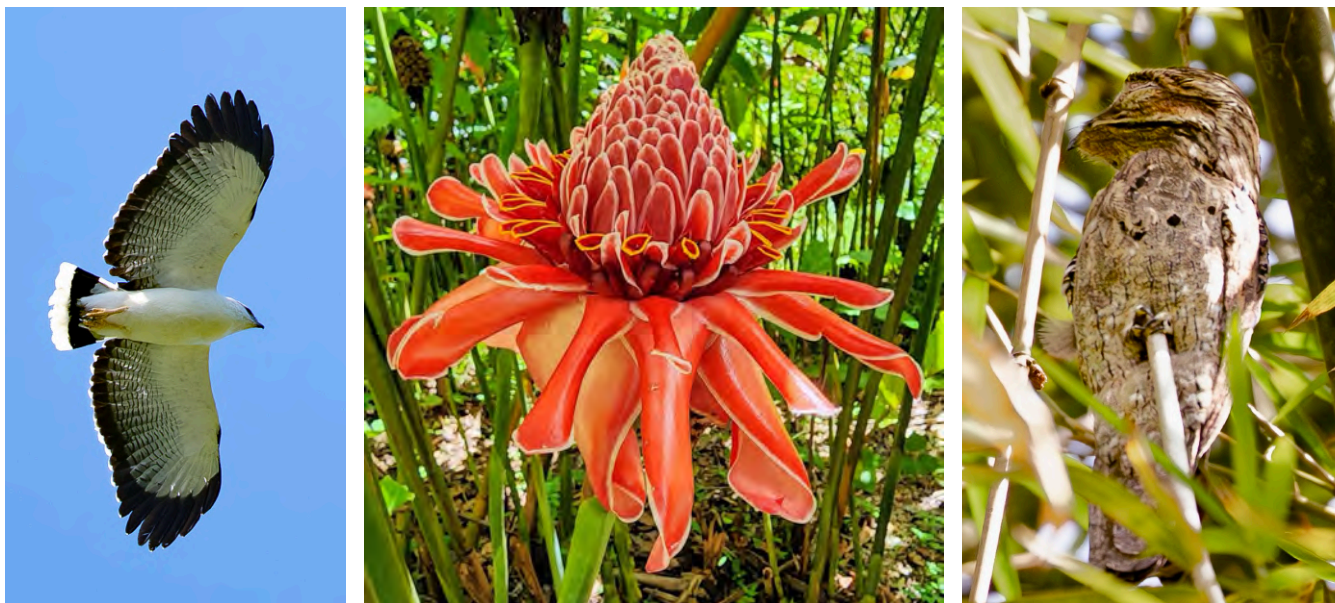
Today, our group immersed itself in the lush, life-filled grounds of the Asa Wright Nature Centre, where we were treated to some of the most remarkable encounters of our journey so far. The morning began with an extraordinary visit to Dunston Cave, where we were privileged to observe the Oilbirds. These nocturnal, echolocating frugivores had been absent in recent weeks, but today, under the dim glow of red light, we watched them roosting, their eerie vocalizations reverberating through the cavern. Recent rains had raised the creek's water level, requiring us to wade into the cave—a small price to pay for witnessing such a rare spectacle.

Later, we experienced one of the true marvels of the neotropics: the Bearded Bellbird. Its call, a metallic clang like a hammer striking an anvil, resounded through the forest. We watched, spellbound, as the male's long, wiry wattles quivered with each call, and we even saw steam blasting from his beak as he vocalized. This striking member of the cotinga family, with his gleaming white plumage and jet-black head, is not just a sight to behold but an essential player in the rainforest's ecology, dispersing seeds that help regenerate the forest.

On the trails, we encountered the energetic courtship displays of White-bearded Manakins at their lek. The males, dressed in crisp white and black, hopped and snapped their wings in a rhythmic dance—practicing their moves even without females present. Nearby, Golden-headed Manakins flitted through an Immortelle tree, their vivid plumage glowing against the verdant canopy. A Common Potoo, the master of disguise, perched motionless, perfectly mimicking a broken tree branch. On the forest floor, a Gray-throated Leaf-tosser lived up to its name, flipping leaves with quick, furtive movements in search of hidden insects.

Lunch was a feast of traditional Trinidadian flavors, with fragrant curries offering a delicious taste of the island's rich culinary heritage.

In the afternoon, a Red-crowned Ant-Tanager—a new addition to our growing bird list—caught our attention, its deep crimson cap glowing in the dappled light. A Streaked Xenops, behaving much like a nuthatch, clung upside down to branches, using its distinctive upturned bill to probe for insects in the bark.



As the day wound down, some of us relaxed on the veranda, while others took a refreshing dip in the natural pools fed by cool mountain streams. We closed the evening with our daily bird checklist, reflecting on the sheer abundance of life we had witnessed in this spectacular setting.

### **Wed., Feb. 19 Asa Wright Nature Center | Flight to Tobago | Bon Accord and Centre Street Ponds | Cuffie River Nature Retreat**

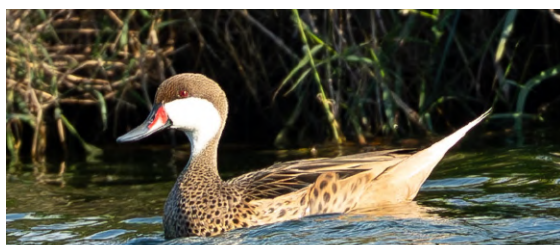
Our adventure began with a captivating morning walk at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, led by our expert guides, Mukesh and Giselle. Mukesh, Asa Wright's head guide with over four decades of experience, shared stories of his deep connection to the land. He spoke with pride about the greenhouse he established, his ongoing efforts in groundskeeping, and a remarkable conservation project—the towering palms he planted from seeds collected in Oilbird guano at Dunston Cave. These 40-foot palms now bear fruit that sustains the very Oilbirds from which they originated, creating a beautifully cyclical relationship within the ecosystem.

Giselle, weaving together Indigenous Carib heritage and Western science, shared her research on manakin molt phenology, offering us a fascinating glimpse into the rhythms of the forest.

Along the trail, a fruiting fig tree became a hub of activity, alive with the iridescent blues of Red-legged Honeycreepers, the rich chestnut and green hues of Bay-headed Tanagers, and the bold presence of Guianan Trogons. It was a moment so mesmerizing we could have spent the entire morning there, but more wonders awaited.

A perched Turkey Vulture drew our attention next. Unlike its North American counterparts, this tropical subspecies displayed a yellow nape, a subtle but striking difference. Overhead, two White Hawks soared, their brilliant plumage catching the golden morning light—an elegant farewell from the Trinidadian rainforest.





Leaving Trinidad's lush landscapes behind, we boarded a short flight to Tobago, where we were warmly greeted by Jason Radix, our local guide. With an encyclopedic knowledge of Tobago's avian life, natural history, and cultural heritage, Jason set the stage for the discoveries ahead.

Following a picnic lunch by the sea, we made our way to the Bon Accord Sewage Treatment Ponds, a fantastic birding hotspot, as so many sewage treatment ponds tend to be. Here, we encountered species unique to Tobago and mainland South America—absent from Trinidad—a reminder of the biogeographical distinctions between the islands. The Red-crowned Woodpecker, found only in Tobago and not Trinidad, was a standout. Roadside ditches teemed with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, providing an excellent opportunity to compare their subtle differences in size and bill length. Other species included Little Blue Heron, Anhinga, Blue-winged Teal, Tricolored Heron, Great Egret, and Green Heron—the latter common in Tobago but replaced by Striated Heron in Trinidad's wetlands.

Next, we visited the Centre Street Ponds, where more birding delights awaited. American Coots, Ring-necked Ducks, and Lesser Scaups, familiar to many of us from North America, were a rarity in these parts. A Spectacled Caiman surfaced near a Least Grebe, yet the tiny bird remained unfazed by its formidable neighbor. White-cheeked Pintails glided elegantly across the placid water, ducklings trailing behind, while White-winged and Barn Swallows skimmed the water's surface. In a nearby tree, two Yellow-headed Caracaras perched, a striking sight in a landscape devoid of vultures. Unlike in Trinidad, Tobago has no vultures. Caracaras, though in the falcon family, seem to play a similar scavenger role on the island.

En route to our lodge, we spotted our first Trinidad Motmot, one of only two Trinidad and Tobago endemic species (the other being the Trinidad Piping-Guan). Interestingly, though named for Trinidad, this motmot is far more common in Tobago.

As the day wound down, we arrived at Cuffie River Nature Retreat, a remarkable ecolodge founded by Regina Dumas, a passionate advocate for sustainable tourism and rural development. Regina has created a model that benefits both the environment and the local community, offering an immersive experience in nature for guests.





Our meals at the lodge were a true highlight—family-style dishes featuring local delicacies such as fish, chicken, lamb, pumpkin fritters, rice, twice-baked potatoes, and split pea soup. For those seeking a little extra heat, a fiery hot sauce was always on hand.

As we reflected on the day's adventures, we couldn't help but anticipate the natural wonders yet to come, knowing that we were in the hands of experts and warm-hearted hosts who would continue to deepen our connection to the island's incredible wildlife and people.

## **Thurs., Feb. 20 Cuffie River Nature Retreat | Adventure Farm**

Our day began with a spectacular sighting of the White-tailed Sabrewing Hummingbird, a species found only on Tobago and not on Trinidad. We were fortunate to observe both a male and female at the feeders, as well as perched nearby—a thrilling start to the day.

Afterward, we set off on a hike around the forest surrounding Cuffie River Nature retreat with Desmond, a local guide. Though the birding pace was slow, Desmond's friendly company and deep knowledge of the area's natural history made the experience all the more enjoyable. We did manage to get fleeting views of the elusive Northern White-fringed Antwren, a skulky species that we glimpsed through dense underbrush, and we enjoyed excellent views of Orange-winged Amazons stuffing their beaks with seed pods.

Next, we visited Adventure Farm, a photographer's paradise. The birds here were particularly cooperative, coming in close to the feeders. We had excellent views of hummingbirds, a Trinidad Motmot, Ruddy Doves, Red-crowned Woodpeckers, and Barred Antshrikes—all of which provided plenty of opportunities for both photography and admiration.

We continued our exploration by walking the paths with Jason, where we were treated to the sight of a Fuscous Flycatcher—this marked a new species for our tour, adding another exciting discovery to the list.



Our next stop was Fort James, where we took in panoramic sea views and scoped for birds. We observed Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls, and Brown Pelicans dove dramatically into the water, hunting for fish. As we scanned a grassy area, we were treated to good looks at both male and female Black-faced Grassquits, a member of the tanager family that is absent from Trinidad but found on Tobago.

While enjoying another delightful dinner at Cuffie River Nature Retreat, we celebrated another enriching day in Tobago, filled with vibrant birdlife, stunning landscapes, expert guidance of Desmond and Jason, and big-hearted hospitality of Regina and her remarkable team.

After dinner, we ventured out for some evening birding and were rewarded with two unforgettable sightings: a White-tailed Nightjar darting through the darkness, expertly hawking insects, and an American Barn Owl gliding past in eerie silence, its pale form ghostly against the night.

## **Fri., Feb. 21 Cuffie River Nature Retreat | Main Ridge Preserve | Little Tobago Island**

This day marked our grand finale, and it was a big one, starting with epic views of the Caribbean Sea and a hike in the Main Ridge Rainforest. Our first highlight was a Blue-backed Manakin lek, where the dazzling males were clearly seen. The forest was alive with the sounds of birds, but our attention was also caught by a veritable blizzard of Green-banded Urania moths—an unexpected sight that added an extra layer of excitement to the morning.

We ventured deeper into the rainforest along the Gilpin Trace, where we were rewarded with incredible bird sightings. A Yellow-legged Thrush posed on a branch, while a Collared Trogon perched nearby, its vibrant colors standing out against the green. We also spotted several elusive forest species, including Olivaceous and Cocoa Woodcreepers, White-throated Spadebill, and Plain Antvireo, all of which are typically difficult to find in such dense habitats.





After a tasty Caribbean lunch on the coast, we boarded a boat for an excursion to Little Tobago Island. Our guide, Zolani Frank—known as Z—shared the fascinating history of the island. He told us how Birds of Paradise were introduced there, flourished, and were extirpated by Hurricane Flora in 1963. Z also mentioned how Sir David Attenborough featured the island’s seabirds in his documentaries, highlighting its importance to the natural world.

Little Tobago is a dry tropical forest located in the rainshadow of Tobago's Main Ridge, and the island is covered in cacti, creating a fascinating landscape. As we walked, we spotted a beautiful Tobago Racer, this snake adding a touch of wonder to the walk.

The highlight of the day came when we reached the top of Little Tobago Island. From this viewpoint, we had the immense privilege of witnessing one of the world’s great seabird spectacles. Red-billed Tropicbirds, Brown Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, and Magnificent Frigatebirds soared effortlessly on the trade winds. Their graceful flight paths and striking silhouettes against the deep blue Caribbean sky were mesmerizing.

From our elevated vantage point, we watched as Tropicbirds glided with their long tail streamers trailing behind them, while Frigatebirds patrolled the skies, ever ready to engage in their kleptoparasitic behavior. These aerial pirates chase down other seabirds, forcing them to drop their catches, which they snatch midair.

Among the rocky outcrops and scrubby vegetation, we observed Red-footed Boobies nesting, some tending to fluffy white chicks. The sight of the thriving seabird colonies on Little Tobago Island, full of dynamic life and the constant struggle for survival, was truly unforgettable and provided a fitting end to our remarkable journey.

## **Sat., Feb. 22 Farewell to Trinidad and Tobago**

Our final morning began with a symphony of sights and sounds: the beautiful hues of a Trinidad Motmot, the loud calls of Rufous-vented Chachalacas, and Blue-gray Tanagers and Red-legged Honeycreepers flitting among the flame-colored flowers of Immortelle trees. Overhead, Orange-crowned Parrots commuted noisily, while





Barred Antshrikes vocalized with their distinctive, maniacal laughter from the bushes. Tropical Mockingbirds added their melodic tunes, as if singing us on our way.

After bidding farewell to Regina and her wonderful staff, we went our separate ways, each of us carrying cherished memories of the birds, the beauty of nature, and the warm hearts of our new friends in Trinidad and Tobago.

On the drive from Cuffie River, three of us made a final stop along the road for a last birding opportunity. There, we encountered the formidable Great Black Hawk. This sleek, black-plumed raptor is a versatile predator, thriving in forests, wetlands, and even urban landscapes. With its piercing eyes and broad wings, it commands attention as it scans for prey from a high perch. Spotting this magnificent hunter as the final highlight of our tour encapsulated the wild beauty and diversity of Trinidad and Tobago, leaving us with the lasting joy of an unforgettable journey.

*Photos: Group Photo (Stephen Grace - SG), Blue-gray Tanager (SG), Trinidad Motmot (SG), Scarlet Ibis (Art Cimento - AC), Northern Range of Trinidad (SG), Ruby-topaz Hummingbird (SG), Black-throated Mango (AC), Lineated Woodpecker (AC), Rufous-tailed Jacamar (AC), Tropical Screech-Owl (SG), American Flamingos (SG), Smooth-billed Ani (AC), Green-rumped Parrotlet (AC), Boat-billed Flycatcher (AC), Brown Violetear (SG), Trinidad Piping-Guan (SG), Tufted Coquette (SG), Gray-line Hawk (AC), Green Honeycreeper (AC), Asa Wright Nature Center (SG), Channel-billed Toucan (AC), Purple Honeycreeper (Ed Erickson - EE), Collared Trogon (SG), White-bearded Manakin (SG), Oilbird (AC), Common Potoo (AC), Torch Ginger (SG), White Hawk (AC), Group Photo at Asa Wright Nature Center (SG), White-cheeked Pintail (AC), Trinidad Motmot (AC), Barred Antshrike (AC), White-tailed Nightjar (AC), Ruby-topaz Hummingbird (SG), Tobago (SG), White-tailed Sabrewing (AC), Red-billed Tropicbird (AC), Bananaquit (SG), On Tobago looking toward Goat Island and Little Tobago Island (AC), Red-footed Boobies (White-tailed Morph) (SG)*