

# Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife Species List | January 4 -13, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by host James P. Smith with contributions from a wonderful group; George and Kay, Russ and Deb, Jeremiah, Gene, Tom and Mark and our main local guides Dave Ramlal and Jason Radix.**

Despite the travel disruptions of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the tour eventually began in earnest at Hacienda Jacana, a delightful private lodge quaintly nestled deep within its own bird-rich grounds. Between here and the recently renovated Asa Wright Nature Centre in the Northern Range we enjoyed a thorough exploration of the fields, swamps, coast and forest of Trinidad before heading over to Tobago for a further three nights amid the tranquil delights of the Cuffie River Nature Retreat. Highlights were many and included visits to Bajnath Estate hummingbird sanctuary, the Dunston Oilbird cave, Little Tobago Island and of course, the mesmerizing spectacle of hundreds of Scarlet Ibis streaming into roost at Caroni Swamp Nature Sanctuary.

Nesting tropicbirds, boobies and frigatebirds highlighted our visit to Little Tobago Island, we did especially well to see all the 'hoped-for' hummingbirds including Green-throated Mango, Blue-chinned Sapphire, Ruby-Topaz, Tufted Coquette, and White-tailed Sabrewing. Some 209 bird species were recorded on the tour along with a variety of reptiles and amphibians although mammals were notably scarce. Two key endemic bird species, the Trinidad Piping-Guan and the Trinidad Motmot, were both seen well while the iconic Oilbirds and Bellbirds at the Asa Wright Centre were viewed successfully after a fair bit of hiking through the rain soaked forest.

Special thanks go to our awesome local guide Dave Ramlal and his ever-reliable driver, Paul. Together they delivered a safe and most enjoyable tour in Trinidad. And, thanks to Martyn Kenefick, the author of the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, for his guest appearance on a couple of the days in Trinidad when he generously shared his in depth knowledge of Trinidad's avian riches. On Tobago, gracious thanks go to Jason Radix, Desmond and Zolani (Z) all of whom shared their knowledge with boundless enthusiasm and patience, not just on the birds but on Tobago's island life in general.

The ebird species report link below details at least 209 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;

[Trinidad & Tobago: Incredible Birds and Wildlife | January 4 -13, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

In addition, some of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and butterfly/moth species are listed below.

Finally, a special word of thanks must go to all the participants on this tour. Without their gentle humor and positive spirit this trip could not have been the huge success that it was.

### **MAMMALS (5)**

**Guianan Red Howler** *Alouatta macconnelli* – apparently heard ‘howling’ by some of group in the forest below Pawi Lodge on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-rumped Agouti** *Dasyprocta leporine*- brief views of one or two from the verandah at the Asa Wright Centre.

**Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* – scarce with only a handful of sightings at Hacienda Jacana, Blanchisuesse Road, Asa Wright Centre and Cuffie River Retreat.

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

**Common Tent-making Bat** *Uroderma bilobatum* – Josh showed us a small group of these ‘cuties’ roosting under a palm leaf near the feeders at Bajnath Estate on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7)**

**Trinidad Gold Tegu** *Tupinambis teguixin* – brief but unmistakable views of this beast in the mangroves of Nariva Swamp, the largest of the lizards seen on the tour.

**Grenada Tree Anole** *Anolis richardii* – close views of one on the side of the house at the Adventure Farm on Tobago.

**Trinidad Ameiva** *Ameiva atrigularis* – nice views of this beauty at Bajnath Estate and along the entrance road to Cuffie River Nature Retreat.

**Tobago Racer** *Mastigodryas boddaerti dunni* – one was disturbed ‘sunning’ on a grassy roadside bank during the morning walk with Desmond at Cuffie River Retreat.

**Spectacled Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus* – sightings from Hacienda Jacana and especially in the shallows on the Caroni Swamp tour.

**Cane Toad** *Rhinella marina* – most commonly heard and sometimes seen at Hacienda Jacana in the evenings.

**Trinidad Stream Frog** *Mannophryne trinitatis* – especially vocal on the hike down to the Dunstan Oilbird Cave. Endemic to Trinidad and Tobago.

### **LEPIDOPTERA (just a small sample of the species seen, many butterflies were left unidentified);**

**Ghost Yellow** *Abaeis albula*

**Red Peacock** *Anartia amathea*

**Great Southern White** *Ascia monuste*

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*

**Banded Yellow** *Eurema elathea*

**Red Postman** *Heliconius erato*

**Malachite** (*Siproeta stelenes*)

**Polymnia Tigerwing** *Mechanitis polymnia*

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

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

**One-spotted Preponia** (*Archaeoprepona Demophon*)

**Moths:**

**Green-banded Urania** *Urania leilus* – a large, day flying species seen along the Blanchisette Road