



Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys
Trinidad & Tobago: Birding & Nature
Species List – January 27-February 4, 2018
Guide Pat Lueders, with local experts and 8 participants

This group of avid birders and photographers thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Asa Wright Nature Center (AWNC), Trinidad, Tobago, Blue Waters Inn (BWI), and Tobago. Our Trinidad guide, Dave, called this group “one of his favorites” because of their interest in seeing the birds and learning about the nature and culture of the country. Our Tobago guide, Jason, also enjoyed sharing his birds and country with this enthusiastic group. What a treat it was for me, the guide, to share the birds and these two countries with this enjoyable collection of new and old friends, seeing 201 species of birds!

(HO)= heard only

(GO)= guide only

Birds (201 species, of which 8 were heard only):

Tinamidae: Tinamous (1)

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*—Heard & then good looks at this hard to see species along Brasso Seco Road after lunch

Cracidae: Guans & Chachalacas (1)

Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda*—Usually heard first, then seen daily on the grounds of BWI

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*—Five seen at the Tobago sewage ponds

Phaethontidae: Tropicbirds (1)

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*—Large numbers flying at Little Tobago Island & nesting adult with chick

Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*—Seen from BWI & large numbers at Little Tobago Island

Sulidae: Boobies (2)

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*—Seen feeding in the bay from BWI & nesting at Little Tobago Island

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*—Both plumages seen in good numbers nesting at Little Tobago Island

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—Seen flying at Caroni Swamp & perched at Tobago sewage ponds

Anhingidae: Anhinga (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*—Scope views of one at Millennium Golf Course & 8 at Tobago sewage ponds

Pelicanidae: Pelicans (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—Along the Atlantic Ocean at Manzilla Beach & flying over the bay at BWI

Ardeidae: Herons (10)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—Seen at Caroni Swamp & Tobago sewage ponds

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—Seen often in areas with ponds in Trinidad & Tobago

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*—Great find, standing in river at the Millennium Golf Course

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—Also in river at the Millennium stop for nice comparison with Little Egret; large numbers coming
In to roost with Scarlet Ibis at Caroni Swamp

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—Seen at various locations including Orange Grove Rd. & Magdalena ponds

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*—Large numbers seen coming in to roost at Caroni Swamp

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Seen often with livestock; largest number seen following tractor at Millennium Golf course

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—Adult & juvenile seen at Tobago sewage ponds

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*—One seen feeding at Nariva Swamp & one at Orange Grove Rd.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—One roosting in mangroves at Magdalena pond on Tobago

Cochleariidae: Boat-billed Heron (1)

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*—Seen roosting from the boat on Caroni Swamp trip

Threskiornithidae: Ibises & Spoonbills (1)

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber*—Always a trip highlight, enjoyed seeing thousands returning to roost at Caroni Swamp

Carthartidae: New World Vultures (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—Always seen in good numbers daily in Trinidad

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen in good numbers daily in Trinidad

Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—Saw 3 at Millennium pond; another at Caroni Swamp; others in Tobago

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, & Eagles (11)

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*—A real treat to see 1 on a nest at Orange Grove Road

Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*—Seen perched along the Blanchusseuse Road

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*—A highlight of the trip, found by Dave perched along Blanchusseuse Road

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*—Seen perched at Caroni Swamp & soaring from AWNC veranda

Rufous Crab Hawk *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*—Another exciting species, found by Dave at stop along Cocos Bay Rd.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*—In palm trees along Cocos Bay Road

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*—Two spotted by Jason on the Gilpen Trace Forest hike

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*—Two different times one spotted soaring from AWNC veranda

Gray-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus*—Seen often, including one on a nest at Waller Field

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*—One seen soaring from rest stop at Main Ridge Forest Reserve in Tobago

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*—Two sightings, one from AWNC veranda, two seen from rest stop at Main Ridge Forest

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, & Gallinules (2)

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*—Seen at Nariva Swamp, Orange Grove Rd., & Tobago sewage ponds

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*—Nice looks on ponds at Orange Grove Rd. & Tobago sewage ponds

Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

Limpkin *Aramus gurauna*—(HO) Heard twice at Caroni Swamp

Recurvirostridae: Stilts & Avocets (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—Seen in large numbers on sandbar in river at Millennium Golf Course

Charadriidae: Plovers (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—Two seen on sandbar in river at Millennium Golf Course

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*—Seen often, best looks at Nariva Swamp with spurs visible

Jacanidae: Jacanas (1)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*—Seen often including Nariva Swamp, Orange Grove Rd. & Tobago sewage ponds

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers & Snipe (8)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—Family of 10-20 individuals seen daily at BWI

Sanderling *Calidris alba*—Group of 20 seen at Nariva River mouth on Atlantic Ocean

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*—Two first spotted by Connie on sandbar on river at Millennium Golf Course

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*—On shore with other species on sandbar at river at Millennium Golf Course

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—Seen often including large number at Caroni Swamp boat launch area

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*—Seen only once, on log at Orange Grove Road

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—Standing with Lesser on sandbar for comparison in river at golf course

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—Standing on sandbar with other shorebirds at river at Millennium Golf Course

Columbidae: Pigeons & Doves (8)

Rock (Feral) Pigeon *Columbia livia*—Spotted in towns of Trinidad

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*—Seen all days on grounds of BWI

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*—Scope views daily on top of a tree from the AWNC veranda

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta*—(GO) Seen by Pat & Dave along road at Nariva Swamp

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*—Seen daily along the roads & on wires in Trinidad & Tobago

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—Seen at AWNC & BWI

Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*—Distinct vocalization heard often; seen at Nariva Swamp & Tobago sewage ponds

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*—Seen on wire at Tobago sewage pond

Cuculidae: Cuckoos (2)

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*—Seen often in good numbers including Nariva Swamp & Tobago sewage ponds

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*—Nice close looks at one at Nariva Swamp & one on Aripo Savannah

Strigidae: Owls (4)

Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*—One seen roosting at Caroni Swamp

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*—(HO) Heard two mornings at AWNC

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*—Heard daily in good numbers at AWNC; seen flying & being mobbed
on Blanchusseuse Road

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*—(HO) Heard two mornings at AWNC

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks & Nightjars (2)

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*—Seen in good numbers on the roads & scope views at Waller Field

White-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis cayennensis*—Scope views of one on road at Waller Field

Nyctibiidae: Potoos (1)

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*—Jason showed us a roosting bird on visit to Argoyle Falls

Steatornithidae: Oilbird (1)

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis*—This group will never forget the VERY wet hike to see an Oilbird at AWNC!

Apodidae: Swifts (4)

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*—Most common swift; seen at Caroni Swamp, Tobago sewage ponds, over Little
Tobago Island

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus*—Seen from AWNC veranda

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*—Seen at Nariva Swamp

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift *Tachornis squamata*—Seen flying over the palms at Waller Field

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (13)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*—Most aggressive hummingbird at AWNC feeders

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucois hirsutus*—Seen coming to AWNC feeders daily
Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*—Seen less often but came to AWNC feeders & flowers
Little Hermit *Phaethornis longuemareus*—Found at flowers around AWNC grounds
Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*—Seen daily at AWNC feeders; unusual visitor
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird *Chrysolampis mosquitus*—A group favorite, we found a favorite perch of a male by AWNC rooms
Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*—Seen daily, males & females, at AWNC feeders
Tufted Coquette *Lophornis ornatus*—Nice number of males & females seen at flowers from the AWNC veranda
Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*—Seen daily at AWNC feeders
Blue-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes notata*—This beautiful hummer was seen daily at AWNC feeders
White-tailed Saberwing *Campylopterus ensipennis*—After trying so hard for good looks, we found 8 interacting along the Main Forest Reserve road. Wow!
White-chested Emerald *Amazilia brevirostris*—Seen daily at AWNC feeders
Copper-rumped Hummingbird *Amazilia tobaci*—Seen daily at flowers at AWNC, Trinidad & Tobago

Trogonidae: Trogons (3)

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*—Nice looks on introductory walk on Discovery Trail
Guianan Trogon *Trogon violaceus*—Scope views on Discovery Trail walk
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*—Finally good looks on Blanchiusseuse Road & seen again on Gilpen Trace trail

Momotidae: Motmots (1)

Trinidad Motmot *Momotus bahamensis*—Our first looks on Blanchiusseuse Rd.; seen daily at BWI

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (4)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—Scope looks & pictures along river at Millennium Golf course
Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Seen only by Margy flying across bay at BWI
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—Seen along river at golf course & at Caroni Swamp
American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—Dave worked hard for all to see this little kingfisher at Cocos Bay Road

Galbulidae: Jacamars (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*—What a treat to see this species often & well; including Brasso Seco Rd., Main Ridge Forest Reserve & walk at BWI

Ramphastidae: Toucans (1)

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*—A pair sighted first by Phil, then by the group, from the AWNC veranda

Picidae: Woodpeckers (4)

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*—We found pairs of this species on walks at BWI
Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii*—Seen on Blanchiusseuse Rd. & at Nariva Swamp
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*—First sighted by Margy on tree close to the veranda; seen again for Tina on Gilpen Trace hike
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—Two seen on Blanchiusseuse Road

Falconidae: Caracaras & Falcons (5)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—Three seen around palms on Cocos Bay Road
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*—Seen often, in good numbers among palm trees on Cocos Bay Road
Merlin *Falco columbarius*—Seen twice, at Nariva Swamp & Arena Forest
Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*—Good looks, one perched on Via Morne La Croix Rd. & one above the AWNC veranda
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—Seen twice, perched at Nariva Swamp on a tower & 2 chasing a Great Blue Heron at Tobago sewage ponds

Psittacidae: Macaws, Parrots, & Parakeets (3)

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*—Many seen on wires on visit to Via Morne La Croix, seen eating flowers from AWNC
Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*—Seen daily flying & from AWNC veranda
Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerines*—Seen in pairs on Aripo Savannah road

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (6)

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*—Great open looks at 3, including male & female, on Brasso Seco Road

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis*—We saw a male & female on road at Manzanilla

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*—Heard often at AWNC & seen on the grounds

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*—Seen on the hike at Gilpen Trace

White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora grisea*—Saw males & females at Argoyle Falls, others on BWI hike

White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes*—Nice looks on the Discovery Trail introductory hike

Formicariidae: Ground Antbirds (1)

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*—We saw this vocal, hard-to see species well on the Discovery Trail hike

Dendrocolaptinae: Woodcreepers (6)

Gray-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis*—We watched this species tossing leaves on a hike off the Blanchiusseuse Rd

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*—(HO) We heard this species clearly on the Gilpen Trace trail

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincia fuliginosa*—Three seen interacting along the Discovery Trail

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*—Seen often; on the Discovery Trail & Gilpen Trace in Tobago

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus*—Finally good, close looks after hearing it at Caroni Swamp

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*—(HO) We heard, but couldn't find, this bird on Manzanilla Rd.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds (3)

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*—We saw this bird only once, on the Discovery Trail introductory hike

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*—Close enough looks at 2 to see the yellow chin at Nariva Swamp

Stripe-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis cinnamomea*—We saw 1 on the Blanchiusseuse Rd & 2 on Gilpen Trace trail

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (21)

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*—This diminutive species with a big name was seen 3 times, best on the Blanchiusseuse Rd.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*—Seen almost daily, nesting pair at BWI in motmot tree

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*—Seen on Blanchiusseuse Road & Gilpen Trace trail

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher *Tolmomyias flaviventris*—Pair seen on the road near Manzanilla

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*—Surprisingly good looks on the Gilpen Trace trail

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*—Close looks at this species on the road at the Aripo Savannah

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri*—Seen twice, spotted by Pat near the Motmot Trail, seen by all at Arena Forest

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*—Scope views at a perched bird from the AWNC veranda

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*—Seen best on the Blanchiusseuse Road

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*—Pointed out by Pat on the BWI hike & seen at Gilpen Trace

Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica*—Good looks at 2 at Nariva Swamp, Aripo Savannah & one nest building at Orange Grove

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*—Two seen along the road at Nariva Swamp

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*—Some of the group got fleeting looks at this bird on the Discovery Trail hike

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—Jason & Z both worked hard for us to get quick glimpses of this flycatcher

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—Seen daily at many locations including the AWNC veranda

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*—(HO) Heard only on the Discovery Trail walk

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*—Three of this species seen interacting on the Blanchiusseuse Road

Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*—We found a male & female on the road at Manzanilla

Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*—While watching for the Epaulet Oriole, we had a pair in the same tree

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—Seen daily at most locations

Gray Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis*—Seen 3 times; road at Manzanilla, Orange Grove Rd., & Tobago sewage ponds

Cotingidae: Cotingas (1)

Bearded Bellbird *Procnias averano*—Seen or heard daily from the AWNC veranda

Pipridae: Manakins (3)

Blue-backed Manakin *Chiroxiphia pareola*—Five of these birds were seen; best looks with the White-tailed Saberwings along the Main Ridge Forest Reserve road

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*—Seen almost daily, often around the AWNC veranda

Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopira erythrocephala*—What a beauty! Seen on the Discovery Trail near the old lek location

Vireonidae: Vireos & Peppershrikes (4)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*—Wow, what a surprise to actually see this bird on Blanchiusseuse Rd

Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes*—We saw 2 of this species on our BWI morning hike

Golden-fronted Greenlet *Pachysylvia aurantiifrons*—Seen 3 times; best looks at 3 on the Discovery Trail hike

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus (chivi)*—(HO) This bird was heard 3 times on the Little Tobago hike

Hirundinidae: Swallows (6)

Blue-and-white-Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—Dave spotted this bird at the Millennium Golf course on a wire

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*—Seen often at various locations

Caribbean Martin *Progne dominicensis*—Pointed out by Jason at the Tobago sewage ponds

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—Seen in large flocks at Via Morne La Croix, many perched on wires in Tobago

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*—This attractive swallow was seen at Nariva Swamp & Tobago sewage ponds

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Pointed out by Dave at Nariva Swamp

Troglodytidae: Wrens (2)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—Seen or heard daily at most locations including AWNC

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus*—Best looks on the Blanchiusseuse Rd

Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*—Heard & then seen on Blanchiusseuse Road

Turdidae: Thrushes (4)

Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes*—(HO) We looked hard for this bird but only heard it vocalize

Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus*—Seen daily including at the AWNC feeders

Spectacled Thrush *Turdus nudigenis*—Seen daily at the AWNC feeders

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*—Seen on the Discovery Trail & Blanchiusseuse Road

Mimidae: Mockingbirds (1)

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*—Seen daily, family at the AWNC feeders

Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (6)

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—Seen often especially around water at AWNC

Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*—One perched up & sang for us on Aripo Savannah trip

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*—A few saw this species on the Gilpen Trace trail

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*—Good looks on the Blanchiusseuse Road

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—Seen twice, best on Main Ridge Forest Reserve road

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*—(HO) Heard by Dave at Aripo Savannah

Thraupidae: Tanagers & Allies (18)

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*—Two seen in Brasso Seco at the tinamou spot

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*—Daily visitor, males & females, to AWNC feeders

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*—This beautiful bird seen daily including AWNC feeders

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*—Seen daily at AWNC & at BWI grounds

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*—Another common tanager seen at most locations

Speckled Tanager *Ixothraupis guttata*—We found a fruiting tree on Blanchiusseuse Road & 3 were seen by all

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana*—Seen often visiting a tree near the AWNC veranda

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*—The tropical version of “painted bunting”, seen often with feeding tanager flocks

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*—Males & females at AWNC feeders

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—Seen our last Day at AWNC in a flowering tree

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*—Large numbers seen at the AWNC feeders

Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor*—Two seen along the Cocos Bay Road after the pygmy kingfisher

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*—What fun to find 2 adults & a juvenile on a pole at the Millennium Golf Course

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*—Two seen at the Aripo Savannah & two along the BWI road

