



Trinidad March 28-April 2, 2010

Birding at Finest, with a Tropical British Flair!

Sunday, March 28 – Trinidad Here We Come

1:30 p.m.

Arrival at Piarco Airport and one hour transfer to the Asa Wright Nature Center. Flight leaves Miami at 9:50 a.m.-arrives 1:30 p.m. All meals are included during our stay at one of the top Ecolodges in the world and also include a daily British style afternoon tea and rum punch happy hour.

Afternoon Tea Time

Meet on the veranda after check in and bring your binoculars to relax among Asa Wright's famous feeders. Check the fruit feeders for Blue-crowned Motmot, Cocoa and Bare-eyed Thrushes. Hummingbirds will be buzzing among the flowers and feeders including Rufous-breasted Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, White-crested Emerald, Blue-chinned Sapphire and Copper-rumped Hummingbirds. If we are lucky we might get a flash of a Tufted Coquette in it's finery. Purple and Green Honeycreepers in their neon iridescences can be seen among the feisty Bananaquits. Calling out for our attention will be Great Kiskadees and the clacking of Crested Oropendolas. The feeders and veranda will be a focus each morning early and during afternoon tea in that more than 20 species can be seen easily will relaxing on this legendary porch. Also keep an eye out for various mammals.



Monday, March 29– Orientation, Centre Grounds, Savannah and Night Birding

A.M.

Join the early morning on the veranda to search for a dawn view of Short-tailed Nighthawk and as the sun rises so will the activity at the feeders. After breakfast and we will have an Orientation to this amazing natural wonderland. A guided walk on the grounds along the entrance road we will look for Violaceous Trogons and a slew of Tanagers such as Turquoise, Bay-Headed, and White-lined. Other possibilities could include Black-tailed Tityra, Red-rumped Woodpecker and Rufous-browed Peppershrike. Always looking up for raptors could bring a Ornate Hawk-eagle.



Bearded Bellbird

© Keith Grant/Nature Portfolio

March 29 P.M.

An afternoon walk on a forest trail we hope to hear the loud “bok” of a Bearded Bellbird and see its long, black wattles. If luck will find us, we might be able to see a lek group of White-bearded Manakins who bounce from limb to limb making characteristic cracking sounds to attract females. Other possibilities could include Channel-billed Toucans, Chestnut Woodpecker, White-tailed and Collared Trogons. Off to afternoon tea.

Night Birding

With a picnic supper in hand we will visit Aripo Savanna for sunset birding. Red bellied Macaws will screeched across the sky on their way to the night roost. Our target birds will include White-tailed Nightjar, Common Potoo, Common Pauraque, Tropical Screech Owl and Barn Owl. Back by 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29-Blanchisseuse Road and Northern Range

Full day trip

The higher elevations should bring new habitats and new species of birds. The Trinidad Piping Guan, an endemic will be a difficult target bird. Birds found in this area could include Scaled Pigeon, Blue-headed Parrots and Barred Antshrikes. With everybody spotting we will search for Golden-olive Woodpeckers, Cocoa and Plain-brown Woodcreepers. Brilliant colors might greet us with Speckled Tanagers, Blue Dacnis and Tropical Parulas. Along the road we will look for a variety of birds such as Rufous-tailed Jacamars and Yellow-legged, White-necked and Cocoa Thrushes. Back for afternoon tea.

Wednesday, March 30-Nariva Swamp and Agriculture Station

Full day trip

At the Aripo Agricultural Station we hope to find White-headed March Tyrants and Pied Water-Tyrants. The crimson flash of a Red-breasted Blackbirds along with Cocoi Herons who look similar to a Great Blue Heron might be seen. We have lunch at Manzanilla beach and drive along the east coastline of the island searching for Savannah Hawk and Yellow-headed Caracara. At the Nariva Sanctuary, which is a mangrove habitat a tiny American Pygmy Kingfisher may fly by. Along the way marshy habitats might produce a Azure Gallinule, wading birds and possible Wattled Jacanas. Tea time.

Thursday, April 1-Oilbird Caves and Caroni Swamp

A.M.

After an early morning feeder watch and breakfast we will hike down to the Oilbird Caves. No April Fools this will be one of the ugliest and unique birds you may ever see. The Oilbirds will be very noisy and shriek loudly. Other birds we might see are Golden-headed Manakins who also dance.

P.M.

A boat tour of the Caroni mangrove estuary will be an amazing way to end our trip. Birding at it's best, with a rum punch happy hour, we will be amazed with the brilliant flashes of crimson of the Scarlet Ibis. Flock after flock will fly in along with thousands of other common wading birds. A few other stops.



Friday, April 2-A Quick goodbye to our tropical paradise

Just enough time for feeder watching and breakfast. Be packed and ready to go for return to Miami.



Trinidad Tropical Adventure

Birding at Best with a British Tropical Flair!

Sunday, March 28-Friday, April 2, 2010

Six days of Expert Birding in the Tropics of Trinidad

Expert Leader and Instructor-Paddy Cunningham

Daily field trips co-lead by Asa Wright Naturalists

5 nights in one of the top Ecolodges in the World (dbl. occup)

Three Meals per day while at the lodge

*Boat trip to Caroni Marsh for Scarlet Ibis * *Night birding field trip*

Field trips to Oilbird Cave, Blanchisseuse/Northern Range, Nariva Swamp, Savannah Birding, and Agricultural Station

Afternoon Tea *Complimentary Rum Punch* *Airport Transfer in Trinidad*

Service charges, tax, local guide and driver tips

Pre-trip orientation dinner and tropical birding workshop-3/25/09-Hollywood, Fl.

FLIGHT NOT Included--\$259- American Air out of Miami-9:50 am #1647-return-#1664

Cost-\$1650 double occupancy. Single supplement-\$325.

\$150 deposit due immediately to hold your spot (4 spots still available) .

\$750 due-by Dec. 20, 2009 Final payment-\$750-Feb 1, 2010.

Contact Paddy Cunningham, birdpaddy@yahoo.com (954) 805-6810