said to resemble the sound of a hammer striking an anvil, rang throughout the forest, but these birds proved to be more of a challenge to actually see. Eventually, we spotted one, and then another, high in the forest canopy. Later in the week, we hiked the trail to Dunston Cave, the most well-known Oilbird roosting location on the island. Listening to the otherworldly calls of these strange nocturnal birds as we entered the cave was an unforgettable experience. In addition to the Oilbirds, we also found a Chestnut-collared Swift on a nest at the cave entrance.

Asa Wright’s half-mile paved driveway, covered either while driving to or from the nature center or while on foot, added several species to our trip list, including Common Black-Hawk, Trinidad Motmot, Gray-throated Leafloesser, Streaked Xenops, White-flanked Antwren, Golden-fronted Greenlet and Long-billed Antwren. Many more were added along Blanchisseuse Road, which bisects the Northern Range and leads to higher elevations north of Asa Wright. Species tallied during roadside stops included Little Tinamou (heard only), Swallow-tailed Kite, Short-tailed, Zone-tailed and Gray-lined Hawk (the latter a recent AOU split from Gray Hawk), Squirrel Cuckoo, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Short-tailed Swift, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, Golden-Olive Woodpecker, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Silvered (heard only) and White-bellied Antbird, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Euler’s Flycatcher, Tropical Pewee, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Rufous-breasted Wren, Speckled and Swallow Tanagers, Red-legged Honeygriever, Sooty and Blue-black Grassquits, Tropical Parula, Golden-crowned Warbler, Grayish Saltator, Yellow-rumped Cacique and Trinidad Euphonia.

The tour included several day trips with Roodal and Dave to other parts of Trinidad. One evening, we drove to Matura Beach, on the island’s east coast and one of the world’s largest leatherback turtle nesting sites. It was an unforgettable experience: not only did we witness nesting by several leatherbacks, but we also had the good fortune to find a nest where tiny hatchlings were just emerging from the sand! Another day, we left Asa Wright pre-dawn and headed to Grand Riviere, on the north coast and the most reliable location to see Trinidad Piping Guan. Not long after we arrived, a piping gua was spotted at the top of a distant tree. It was eventually joined by two more of these critically endangered birds. Other birds found here included Plumbeous Kite and Crimson-crested Woodpecker. Grand Riviere is also a major nesting location for leatherback turtles; sadly, we learned soon after we returned to Florida that many of the turtle nests on that beach were inadvertently destroyed by heavy equipment being used to prevent beach erosion.

Several of our day trips were devoted to lowland areas south of the Northern Range. One morning was spent at Aripo Agriculture Research Station, where water buffalo are raised. Birds seen here included Striated Heron, Pinnated Bittern, Long-winged Harrier, Savannah Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Southern Lapwing, Wilson’s Snipe, Wattled Jacana, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Smooth-billed Ani, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Pied Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Grassland Yellow-Finch, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater and Yellow-hooded and Red-breasted Blackbirds. On another morning, we covered areas north of the research station, where we found Striped and Little Cuckoo, Bran-colored Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike and Masked Yellowthroat. At Aripo Savannah, we added White-winged Becard. We returned to the research station yet another night for some after-dark birding. Both vans saw **Tropical Screech-Owl**
and Common Pauraque, but only one van spotted a White-tailed Nightjar. That van also witnessed Roodal’s rescue of a fledgling screech-owl that was stuck in a fence. A torrential rainstorm, complete with thunder and lightning, cut short our birding for the evening.

Other areas visited included Manzanilla Beach and Nariva Swamp, on the east coast, where we found Yellow-headed and Crested Caracara, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Black-crested Antshrike and Lesson’s Seedoeater. Red-shouldered Macaw, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Sulphury Flycatcher and Moriche Oriole were all seen in Moriche Palm habitat at Wallerfield, an abandoned US military airfield. A boat trip at Caroni Swamp, home to Trinidad’s national bird, the Scarlet Ibis, was scheduled for our last evening in Trinidad. On the way, we stopped at Yerette, the home of Gloria and Theo Ferguson, where up to thirteen species of hummingbirds visit their feeders. We quickly added two new hummers to our trip list: Green-breasted Mango and the spectacular Ruby-topaz Hummingbird. We were also treated to a presentation of Theo’s breathtaking hummingbird photographs. The highlight at Caroni, of course, was the seemingly endless parade of Scarlet Ibis coming in to roost for the night. Other sightings during our boat ride included Ringed Kingfisher, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Bicolored Conebill and Masked Cardinal, plus a few each of Cook’s Tree Boa, Silky Anteater and Four-eyed Fish.

Our last three nights were spent on Trinidad’s sister island, Tobago, reached by a quick fifteen-minute flight from Port of Spain. We were met at the airport by Gladwin James, our Tobago driver and guide, who drove us by bus to Blue Waters Inn, at the opposite end of the island. Along the way, we visited wetland areas where we added a number of new birds, including Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, Masked Duck, Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Least Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Eared and White-tipped Dove, Mangrove Cuckoo, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Caribbean Martin, Black-faced Grassquit and Giant Cowbird. The Blue Waters Inn, located right on the beach in a beautiful secluded cove on Tyrrels Bay, has added many new amenities, including an infinity pool, since my last visit. The birding around the grounds was also quite good. Rufous-vented Chachalaca roamed the grounds in search of fallen mangoes, and Trinidad Motmot and Rufous-tailed Jacamar were common sights along nearby roads. Other birds found in the vicinity of the lodge included Rufous-breasted Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Yellow-breasted and Fuscous Flycatchers and Scrub Greenlet. Magnificent Frigatebirds were a constant presence overhead.

A visit to Little Tobago Island was the highlight of our first morning’s itinerary. The island was once home to a population of Greater Bird of Paradise, introduced in 1909 in an attempt to save it from extinction in its native New Guinea; the population survived until the early 1960’s. Little Tobago is accessed via a glass-bottomed boat that leaves from the Blue Waters dock. Common Terns were seen near the dock; a pass by Goat Island added Brown Booby, Bridled, Sooty and Roseate Tern and Brown Noddy, plus Laughing Gulls with chicks. Two Scaly-naped Pigeons, recent colonizers to the island, flew over us as we approached the Little Tobago dock. Once on the island, our guide Frank led us up a trail leading to overlooks on the opposite side. We enjoyed up-close looks at White-tailed Nightjar and Trinidad Motmot along the way. The view from the overlook was spectacular: Red-billed Tropicbirds soared along the cliffs before
us, many at eye level, while Red-footed and Brown Boobies gathered on the rocks below. On the return ride, the boat slowed down as we passed over coral formations, including a massive brain coral that we could view through the boat’s glass bottom.

Our last full day was spent searching for Tobago’s higher elevation birds that inhabit the Main Ridge Forest Reserve. Gladwin led us to Gilpin Trace, a trail on the Roxborough-Bloody Bay Road. Rain showers prevented us from doing any roadside birding along the way, but the rains subsided by the time we reached the trailhead. As we hiked the muddy trail, we quickly found two of our target species: first a **White-tailed Sabrewing**, a hummingbird once thought extinct on Tobago, then a Yellow-legged Thrush. As we continued down the trail, the rain re-intensified and soon, we were forced to retreat, but not before getting distant views of a Venezuelan Flycatcher. After lunch at the trailhead, we drove to an area along the road where Blue-backed Manakin, another target species, is reliably seen. The rain eventually ended, providing Gladwin with an opportunity to call in a manakin. Eventually, everyone was rewarded with great looks at this stunning little bird. We also had even better looks at another White-tailed Sabrewing. Yet another target bird, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, was found a little farther down the road.

By the trip’s conclusion, the group and its various leaders had found and identified, by my tally, exactly 200 species of birds. Mammals seen included the aforementioned agouti and anteater, **Red-tailed Squirrel** and a few unidentified bats, including one that Joe Barros discovered one evening in our shower at Asa Wright. Uncounted were the assorted lizards, butterflies, spiders and other creepy-crawlies we encountered along the way. Thanks go out to our amazing guides and the top-notch staffs at Asa Wright and Blue Waters, all of whom helped to make this a fantastic trip. Special thanks go to Mark Hedden and Larry Lebowitz of Caligo Ventures, through which we arranged this outstanding tour.

Finally, thanks to Nancy and Bruce Moreland for the wonderful photographs that accompany this report. More of their Trinidad and Tobago photos can be found at [http://www.beehappygraphics.com/Trinidad.html](http://www.beehappygraphics.com/Trinidad.html)

**Bird list:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Tinamou (heard only)</td>
<td>Cattle Egret</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</td>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
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<td>White-cheeked Pintail</td>
<td>Great Egret</td>
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<td>Masked Duck</td>
<td>Tricolored Heron</td>
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<td>Rufous-vented Chachalaca</td>
<td>Snowy Egret</td>
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<td>Trinidad Piping-Guan</td>
<td>Little Blue Heron</td>
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<td>Least Grebe</td>
<td>Scarlet Ibis</td>
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<td>Ruddy Ground-Dove</td>
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<td>Rock Pigeon</td>
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Scaled Pigeon
Scaly-naped Pigeon
Pale-vented Pigeon
Eared Dove
White-tipped Dove
Gray-fronted Dove
Red-bellied Macaw
Green-rumped Parrotlet
Orange-winged Parrot
Mangrove Cuckoo
Squirrel Cuckoo
Little Cuckoo
Smooth-billed Ani
Striped Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Tropical Screech-Owl
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
Oilbird
Common Potoo
Common Pauraque
White-tailed Nightjar
Chestnut-collared Swift
Gray-rumped Swift
Short-tailed Swift
Fork-tailed Palm-Swift
Rufous-breasted Hermit
Little Hermit
Green Hermit
White-tailed Sabrewing
White-necked Jacobin
Green-throated Mango
Black-throated Mango
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird
Tufted Coquette
Blue-chinned Sapphire
White-chested Emerald
Copper-rumped Hummingbird
Green-backed Trogon
Guianan Trogon
Collared Trogon
Ringed Kingfisher
American Pygmy Kingfisher
Trinidad Motmot
Rufous-tailed Jacamar
Channel-billed Toucan
Red-crowned Woodpecker
Red-rumped Woodpecker
Golden-olive Woodpecker
Lineated Woodpecker
Crimson-crested Woodpecker
Stripe-breasted Spinetail
Yellow-chinned Spinetail
Gray-throated Leaffoasser
Streaked Xenops
Plain-brown Woodcreeper
Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Straight-billed Woodcreeper
Cocoa Woodcreeper
Great Antshrike
Black-crested Antshrike
Barred Antshrike
White-flanked Antwren
White-fringed Antwren
Silvered Antbird (heard only)
White-bellied Antbird
Forest Elaenia
Yellow-bellied Elaenia
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher
Northern Scrub-Flycatcher
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher
Bran-colored Flycatcher
Euler’s Flycatcher
Fuscoius Flycatcher
Tropical Pewee
Pied Water-Tyrant
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant
Piratic Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Streaked Flycatcher
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Sulphury Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Gray Kingbird
Venezuelan Flycatcher
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Bearded Bellbird
White-bearded Manakin
Blue-backed Manakin
Golden-headed Manakin
Black-tailed Tityra
White-winged Becard
Rufous-browed Peppershrike
Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo
Golden-fronted Greenlet
Scrub Greenlet
White-winged Swallow
Crimson-crested Woodpecker
Gray-breasted Martin
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
House Wren
Rufous-breasted Wren
Long-billed Gnatwren
Yellow-legged Thrush
Cocoa Thrush
Spectacled Thrush
White-necked Thrush
Tropical Mockingbird
White-lined Tanager
Silver-beaked Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Palm Tanager
Turquoise Tanager
Speckled Tanager
Bay-headed Tanager
Swallow Tanager
Blue Dacnis
Green Honeycreeper
Purple Honeycreeper
Red-legged Honeycreeper
Bicolored Conebill
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager
Bananaquit
Sooty Grasquisk
Black-faced Grassquit
Grassland Yellow-Finch
Blue-black Grasquisk
Lesson’s Seedeater
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater
Masked Cardinal
Grayish Saltator
Tropical Parula
Masked Yellowthroat
Golden-crowned Warbler
Crested Oropendola
Yellow-rumped Cacique
Moriche Oriole
Yellow Oriole
Yellow-hooded Blackbird
Giant Cowbird
Shiny Cowbird
Carib Grackle
Red-breasted Blackbird
Trinidad Euphonia
Violaceous Euphonia