

Trip Report — Trinidad & Tobago 2024

December 5-14, 2024 with Marcelo Barreiros

Trinidad and Tobago is perhaps the best introductory tour for birds in South America, with a great number of families found on the continent present on both islands. It's very interesting to see how Trinidad has lots of birds from South America and Tobago Island has species from the Caribbean region, even though the islands are so close together. With nice weather during the tour, we managed to visit all the bird spots and see things like Ornate Hawk-Eagle, White-tailed Nightjar, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Tufted Coquette, Red-billed Tropicbird, Trinidad Motmot and Trinidad Piping-Guan.



Rufous Crab Hawk by participant Len Sander

The fantastic Asa Wright Nature Centre is back in business after a couple of years closed, and it was great to be back where the facilities have been remodeled and the staff still do a very good job taking care of us. When they closed, the birds stopped visiting, but the feeders and gardens are back, so the birds are coming back too. We spent a few days enjoying the famous veranda with the gorgeous Tufted Coquette, Purple Honeycreeper, White Hawk, Grey-headed Kite and more. We also explored the trails to see other great birds like the male Bearded Bellbird displaying, all three Trogons (Collared, Green-backed and Guianan), Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Golden-headed Manakin and Gray-throated Leaf-tosser.

Still in Trinidad, we did the Blanchisseuse road to the north, where we saw Blue-headed Parrot, a pair of Ornate Hawk-Eagles, Red-rumped Woodpecker, a nice White-bellied Antbird, Chestnut Woodpecker, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Great Antshrike, and Green Kingfisher. In the lowlands, we also did a good job looking for rare birds in Trinidad like the endemic Trinidad Euphonia, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Rufous Crab Hawk, Scrub Greenlet, Long-winged Harrier, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Green-throated Mango, and Pearl Kite. One of the highlights for Trinidad is the majestic Caroni Swamp with lots of American Flamingos, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, and thousands of Scarlet Ibis coming to roost. We had a chance to have dinner watching the birds coming to roost.



Honeycreeper tree. Great picture by participant Sam Hodges.

After great days in Trinidad, we flew to the tourist island of Tobago, the Caribbean part of the country, land of beautiful beaches and more birds for the group. We arrived and went straight to birding near the airport, where we had Red-crowned Woodpecker, Black-faced Grassquit, White-cheeked Pintail, and Green-winged Teal. On the way to our hotel, we made a very nice stop at Hummingbird House and their nice feeders, where we had fantastic looks at Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Black-throated Mango, the rare White-tailed Sabrewing, and a Merlin chasing hummers by the feeders. The next morning was the day to visit the Main Ridge Forest Reserve, maybe the best place for birding in the forest in Tobago and it was very productive. In a few hundred meters, we had the endemic Trinidad Motmot, Violaceous Woodcreeper, Streaked Xenops, Venezuelan Flycatcher, and later along the road, we saw a few individuals of Blue-backed Manakin feeding in a fruiting tree by the road. The weather was not so great and it rained for almost two hours, so we decided to go straight to Shurland James's Hummingbird Heaven where the owner keeps fruit feeders and the incredible Trinidad

Motmot is coming. After a nice local lunch, we drove back to our hotel and along the entrance road and still had time to see the Northern White-fringed Antwren. The last morning in Tobago was the day to visit Little Tobago island to see the gorgeous cliff on the other side of the island, to see both Brown and Red-footed boobies, thousands of Magnificent Frigatebird and the gorgeous Red-billed Tropicbird.

Back in Trinidad, we spent two more nights on the eastern part of the island to see on the rarest species around, the Trinidad Piping-Guan. In our first attempt after a storm, we saw four individuals of our target bird feeding in a fruiting tree right behind the Pauwi Lodge. The birds remained feeding and resting for several minutes before disappearing into the woods. We went back in the next morning and two birds were sunning themselves in the first light. The place also has hummingbird feeders where the clients have more chances to photograph the Ruby-topaz Hummingbird and a few other species. Besides those, we also saw Plain Antvireo, White-winged Becard, and White-flanked Antwren.

Some of the other critters we saw included:

- 1) Brown Capuchin
- 2) Yucatan Howler Monkey
- 3) Yucatan Spider Monkey
- 4) Jaguar
- 5) Black-tailed Indigo Snake
- 6) Red-tailed Boa
- 7) Striped Basilisk
- 8) Common House Gecko
- 9) Rose-bellied Lizard
- 10) Green Iguana
- 11) Black Spiny-tailed Iguana
- 12) Tayra
- 13) White-nosed Coati
- 14) Paca

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link:

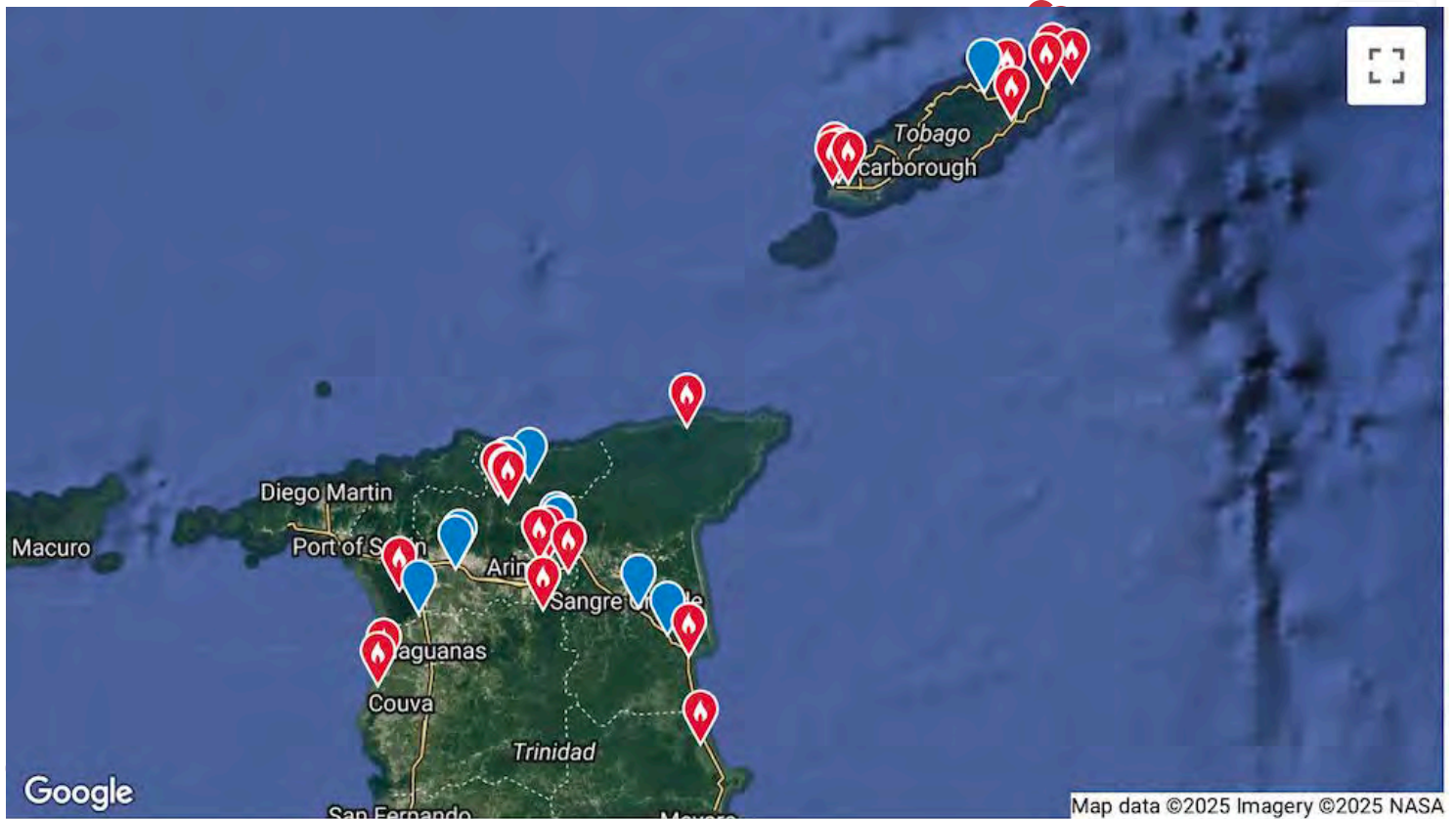
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/348965>

Marcelo Barreiros

Field Guides Birding tours -- TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 2024 (Marcelo Barreiros, with Lester Nanan (local guide))



4 – 15 Dec 2024 (12 days) Link-only



Trinidad and Tobago

Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo | Rio Claro-Mayaro | San Juan-Laventille | Sangre Grande | Tobago |
Tunapuna-Piarco

 Marcelo Barreiros



For a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip report, visit:...

 **219**

Species Observed

 **42**





















Checklists





















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Species Observed





















[Show all details](#)





















3	Little Tinamou <i>Crypturellus soui</i>	  2
47	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck <i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	  2
3	Blue-winged Teal <i>Spatula discors</i>	  1
28	White-cheeked Pintail <i>Anas bahamensis</i>	  2
1	Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> 	  1
2	Rufous-vented Chachalaca <i>Ortalis ruficauda</i> 	  1
9	Trinidad Piping-Guan <i>Pipile pipile</i> 	  3
60	Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> *	  3
6	Pale-vented Pigeon <i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	  3





















82	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	▶  8
1	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	▶  1
7	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	▶  6
7	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	▶  3
2	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	▶  1
40	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	▶  4
2	Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	▶  2
1	Little Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzua minuta</i>	▶  1
4	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	▶  2
5	Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	▶  1
4	White-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis cayennensis</i>	▶  1
1	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>	▶  1
2	Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	▶  2
10	Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>	▶  3
14	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>	▶  2
2	Fork-tailed Palm Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>	▶  1
7	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	▶  6
6	Rufous-breasted Hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>	▶  6
3	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i> ✓	▶  3
5	Little Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i> ✓	▶  5





















X	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	▶  3
1	White-tailed Goldenthrroat	<i>Polytmus guainumbi</i>	▶  1
6	Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitus</i>	▶  5
8	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>	▶  6
1	Green-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridigula</i>	▶  1
5	Tufted Coquette	<i>Lophornis ornatus</i> ✓	▶  4
5	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	▶  4
6	White-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus ensipennis</i> ✓	▶  2
81	Copper-rumped Hummingbird	<i>Saucerottia tobaci</i> ✓	▶  14
9	White-chested Emerald	<i>Chrysuronia brevirostris</i> ✓	▶  6
16	Blue-chinned Sapphire	<i>Chlorestes notata</i>	▶  5
3	Gray-cowled Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>	▶  1
15	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	▶  2
1	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	▶  1
3	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	▶  1
1	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	▶  1
89	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	▶  6
40	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	▶  5
3	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	▶  2
34	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	▶  5





















4	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	▶  2
2	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	▶  1
2	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	▶  1
1	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	▶  1
28	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	▶  3
1	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	▶  1
6	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	▶  1
4	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	▶  2
4	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	▶  1
40	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	▶  2
2	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> ✓	▶  1
10	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▶  4
12	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	▶  3
50	American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> ✓	▶  1
3	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	▶  1
1	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	▶  1
40	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i> ✓	▶  2
84	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	▶  7
60	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i> ✓	▶  1
6	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	▶  1





















5	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	▶  2
6	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	▶  2
3007	Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	▶  3
2	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	▶  1
4	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	▶  2
65	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	▶  3
153	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	▶  3
261	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	▶  6
7	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	▶  4
1	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	▶  1
120	Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	▶  7
47	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	▶  7
2	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	▶  1
1	Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	▶  1
80	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	▶  7
337	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	▶  16
24	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	▶  8
3	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	▶  2
1	Pearl Kite	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>	▶  1
6	Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	▶  5





















1	Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	▶  1
1	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	▶  1
1	Long-winged Harrier	<i>Circus buffoni</i>	▶  1
1	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	▶  1
11	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i> ✓	▶  9
1	Rufous Crab Hawk	<i>Buteogallus aequinoctialis</i>	▶  1
5	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	▶  3
1	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	▶  1
4	Gray-lined Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>	▶  3
2	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i> ✓	▶  2
3	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	▶  3
3	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	▶  2
2	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	▶  1
3	Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>	▶  2
4	Guianan Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	▶  2
6	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	▶  4
10	Trinidad Motmot	<i>Momotus bahamensis</i> ✓	▶  4
1	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	▶  1
1	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	▶  1
4	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	▶  2

1	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	▶  1
5	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	▶  2
5	Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	▶  2
4	Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i> ✓	▶  2
1	Red-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates kirkii</i> ✓	▶  1
3	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>	▶  2
2	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	▶  2
2	Chestnut Woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>	▶  1
8	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>	▶  4
4	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	▶  3
9	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Daptrius chimachima</i>	▶  5
2	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	▶  2
12	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>	▶  1
2	Yellow-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>	▶  1
45	Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	▶  13
6	Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>	▶  2
2	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>	▶  2
3	Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>	▶  2
10	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	▶  8
1	Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	▶  1

- 5 **White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* ▶  3
- 3 **Northern White-fringed Antwren** *Formicivora intermedia* ✓ ▶  1
- 1 **Silvered Antbird** *Sclateria naevia* ▶  1
- 2 **White-bellied Antbird** *Myrmeciza longipes* ✓ ▶  2
- 2 **Gray-throated Leaf Tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* ✓ ▶  1
- 1 **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* ▶  1
- 1 **Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* ▶  1
- 4 **Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* ✓ ▶  3
- 4 **Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* ▶  1
- 2 **Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans* ▶  2
- 2 **Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* ▶  1
- 1 **Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* ▶  1
- 2 **Stripe-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis cinnamomea* ✓ ▶  2
- 4 **Blue-backed Manakin** *Chiroxiphia pareola* ▶  1
- 6 **White-bearded Manakin** *Manacus manacus* ▶  3
- 4 **Golden-headed Manakin** *Ceratopipra erythrocephala* ▶  3
- 5 **Bearded Bellbird** *Procnias averano* ▶  2
- 3 **Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* ▶  2
- 2 **White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* ▶  1
- 2 **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* ▶  2

1	Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis ecaudatus</i>	▶  1
3	Ochre-lored Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>	▶  2
2	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	▶  2
3	Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>	▶  3
4	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	▶  2
1	Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>	▶  1
1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	▶  1
2	Northern Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus bogotensis</i>	▶  2
3	Northern Scrub-Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i> ✓	▶  2
4	White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>	▶  2
9	Pied Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>	▶  5
1	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	▶  1
2	Venezuelan Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus venezuelensis</i> ✓	▶  1
2	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	▶  1
28	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	▶  6
1	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	▶  1
1	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	▶  1
1	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	▶  1
2	Variegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>	▶  2
2	Sulphury Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>	▶  1

26	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	▶  7
7	Gray Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	▶  3
4	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	▶  3
4	Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i> ✓	▶  2
13	Golden-fronted Greenlet	<i>Pachysylvia aurantiifrons</i> ✓	▶  6
39	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>	▶  5
102	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	▶  7
10	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	▶  4
3	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	▶  2
12	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	▶  9
5	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i> ✓	▶  5
11	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	▶  7
1	Cocoa Thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>	▶  1
7	Spectacled Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>	▶  6
9	Tricolored Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i> * ✓	▶  2
8	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i> *	▶  1
3	Trinidad Euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i> ✓	▶  1
17	Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	▶  8
1	Red-breasted Meadowlark	<i>Leistes militaris</i>	▶  1
24	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	▶  12

4	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>	▶  1
8	Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>	▶  3
1	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	▶  1
53	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	▶  8
3	Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>	▶  2
4	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	▶  4
3	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	▶  3
1	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	▶  1
8	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	▶  5
2	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	▶  1
1	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	▶  1
3	Masked Cardinal	<i>Paroaria nigrogenis</i> ✓	▶  1
1	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Loriotus luctuosus</i>	▶  1
30	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	▶  11
10	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	▶  6
16	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	▶  10
29	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	▶  10
1	Speckled Tanager	<i>Ixothraupis guttata</i>	▶  1
4	Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>	▶  3
6	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	▶  4

4	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	▶  3
4	Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	▶  4
8	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	▶  6
3	Bicolored Conebill	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>	▶  2
17	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	▶  2
5	Grassland Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>	▶  1
8	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	▶  3
83	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	▶  22
2	Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Melanospiza bicolor</i>	▶  1
1	Olive-gray Saltator	<i>Saltator olivascens</i>	▶  1