

## THE LESSER ANTILLES

### Including Trinidad

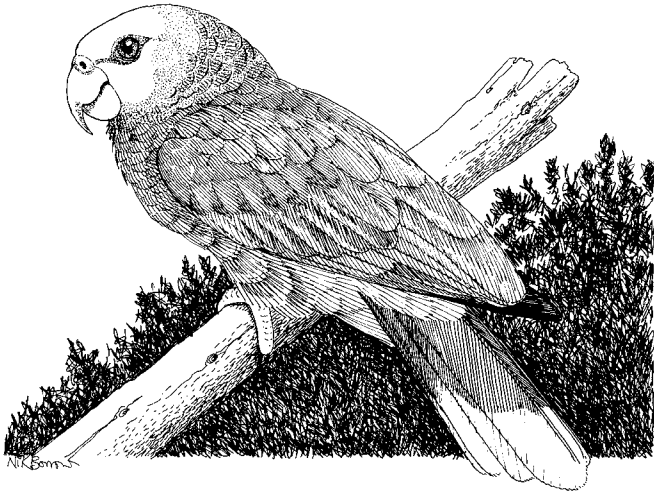
**Saturday 1st June – Sunday 16th June 2013 (16 days)**

**Trinidad Post-Tour Extension to Friday 21st June (5 days)**

**Leader: To be confirmed**

**Group Size Limit: 10**

**Tour Category: Easy for the most part, occasionally Moderate**



*Saint Vincent Parrot (Nik Borrow)*

Of all the bird-rich regions of the Americas, the Caribbean stands out as amongst the most endemic-rich in the entire Neotropical faunal region. Although the largest islands tend to be the best known amongst birders, collectively the many small islands that make up the remainder of the Caribbean hold a treasure trove of avian riches.

One area stands far above the others in this regard, the Lesser Antilles, which between them hold no less than 36 surviving endemic species (or a few less if one takes a conservative view on taxonomic issues) as well as plenty of more widespread Caribbean specialities. The Lesser Antilles are a long arc of islands connecting Puerto Rico and the rest of the Greater Antilles to Trinidad and the South American mainland.

Settled by the Caribs (an Amerindian people originally from South America) at the

time European explorers and invaders reached the islands, little remains of their influence and nowadays the Lesser Antilles are an eclectic mixture of English, French, Dutch and West African influences, both as regards the ethnic origins of the people and culture, and as regards the local political dispensation, for here are independent nations, British crown colonies, *départements* of France and even an affiliated state of the Netherlands! One island may have croissants and baguettes, the next English meat pies and reggae, contrasts which hugely add to the fascination of travelling through the isles. Many of the islands changed hands during the turbulent history of the Caribbean, where every European war had its distant echo, or became pirate bases for a time. Slaves were shipped from Africa to work the plantations of sugar and tobacco, owned by Europeans who lived in style in imposing

plantation houses, and even now, approaching two centuries after emancipation, most Afro-Caribbeans are still waiting for economic opportunity to come their way.

With one of the richest concentrations of endemic bird species in the Caribbean, the Lesser Antilles are a very attractive venue for anyone with an interest in the avifauna of this beautiful part of the world. Good standards of accommodation and food, and mostly easy travelling and birding conditions, make for a highly rewarding journey.

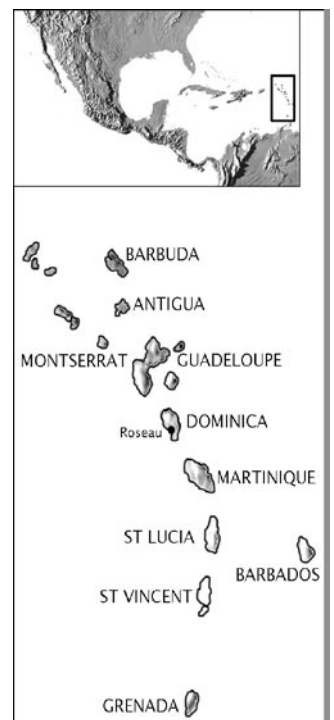
We will commence our Lesser Antillean explorations in Antigua and work our way south via Barbuda, Montserrat, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenada to Barbados, visiting ten of the islands in total. This beautiful, verdant and mountainous chain of islands has long attracted people who wanted 'to get away from it all' and it nowadays has a well-developed tourism infrastructure. Here amongst splendid mountains and forests filled with tree-ferns we will look for no less than four endemic *Amazona* parrots, the critically endangered Grenada Dove, the strange tremblers (aberrant thrashers that live up to their name), the delightful Whistling Warbler and strikingly plumaged endemic orioles amongst many others. We will also travel offshore in search of tropical seabirds and the huge Sperm Whale. After all these idyllic islands and so much sun and sea, never mind such relaxing and enjoyable birding, it is going to be hard to drag ourselves away!

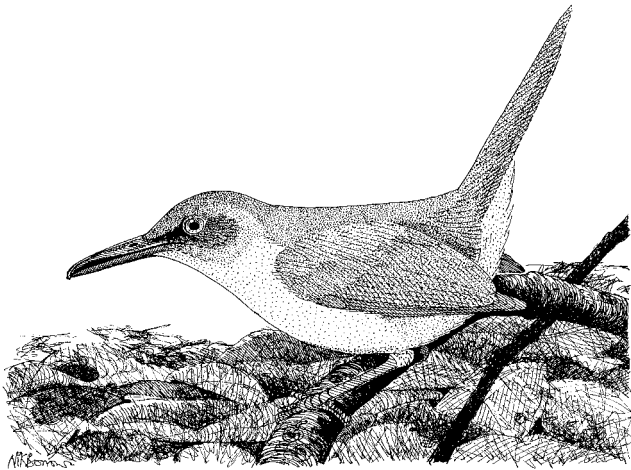
Famous internationally for carnival, calypso and cricket, Trinidad's mixed-race human population are a friendly, warm-hearted, fun-loving people who demonstrate one of the world's most admirable examples of integration and racial harmony. Situated at the far southeastern corner of the Caribbean Sea, the island lies on the continental shelf close to Venezuela; indeed,

Trinidad's northwestern peninsula extends to within 10 miles (16 kilometres) of the Venezuelan coast, and a few thousand years ago the island was joined to the mainland. The island's Northern Range, which rises to almost 3300ft (1000m), in fact represents the farthest extremity of the Andes!

Accordingly, the islands' avifauna is dominated by the continental, rather than the oceanic, elements of the region. Trinidad, about the size of an English county, has a bird list of over 400 species, comprising no less than 68 families, of which a remarkable 247 species breed on the island. This amazing diversity for such relatively small island reflects the luxuriant tropical conditions, with habitats ranging from montane and lowland rainforests, cultivated areas, savannas and scrub to freshwater and brackish swamps, marshes, sea coasts and offshore seabird islands.

Trinidad has long been considered to offer exciting Neotropical birding in a compact area and with very easy birding conditions. What with idyllic accommodation at Asa Wright), a relaxed





*Southern Brown Tumbler (Nik Borrow)*

atmosphere and great birding often starting right at the doorstep, what more could one want? The famous Asa Wright sanctuary is home to what must surely be the most amazing bird feeding station in the world and a paradise for birders and photographers. While based here we will also experience the strange, nocturnal, cave-dwelling Oilbirds that feed on fruit and navigate by echo-location, search out the island's prime speciality, the endemic Trinidad Piping-Guan, hear the deafening call of the Bearded Bellbird, admiring the incredible antics of two different species of manakins as they perform their amazing displays to an accompaniment of grunts, buzzes, snaps and wheezes, and enjoy the mind-blowing sight of hundreds of Scarlet Ibises speeding over the mangroves to their roost. And this is before even mentioning the parrots, trogons, motmots, jacamars, toucans, ant-thrushes and many other exciting birds!

Birdquest has operated tours to the Lesser Antilles since 2004 and to Trinidad since 1996.

### Itinerary

**Day 1** The tour begins in the afternoon at Antigua, where we will stay for three nights.

**Day 2** A short morning flight will take us to the low-lying island of Barbuda, some 45 kilometres to the north of Antigua. Ornithologically, the prime interest here is the attractive Barbuda Warbler (a split from Adelaide's, and only found on this one small island), and as the species is quite common it will not take us long to find some. As the only flight home is in the late afternoon, a relaxing day enjoying this pleasant island is in prospect, and in true Caribbean style we can linger over a long lunch complete with fresh-caught fish and of course cold beer! Some widespread Lesser Antillean birds can be seen on the island and, in addition to Lesser Antillean Bullfinch and Green-throated Carib (endemic and near-endemic to the Lesser Antilles respectively), we should see Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Zenaida Dove (another Caribbean speciality), Grey Kingbird, Black-whiskered Vireo, Golden Warbler (split from Yellow), Bananaquit, Black-faced Grassquit and Carib Grackle.

**Day 3** We will take another short flight to the small volcanic island of Montserrat. The island was discovered by Christopher Columbus in

November 1493 during his second voyage to the New World. He named it after the Santa María de Montserrat monastery near Barcelona as the island's peaks reminded him of the mountains behind the monastery. Montserrat, which usually successfully avoids imposing itself on the world's stage, briefly hit the international headlines in 1995 when the Soufrière Hills Volcano erupted violently after 400 years of dormancy, later (in 1997) destroying Montserrat's capital, Plymouth. The eruptions rendered a large part of the island uninhabitable, with large areas lying under a dense blanket of grey volcanic ash. Nowadays only about a third of the island is inhabited, although much more than this remains undamaged by volcanic activity (an environmental bonus for the avifauna, if not for the island's human inhabitants!), but life goes on and the infrastructure has been largely reorganized, although the airport is still to reopen and links with the outside world are by ferry or helicopter. Many of the island's inhabitants have left to seek a new life on other Caribbean islands, but for those that remain the slow, rural pace of the island seems largely unchanged. Our prime target here is, of course, the endemic Montserrat Oriole, which is still found in good numbers in the remaining forests. We will visit the Centre Hills in the north of the island to search for this striking black-and-yellow species, which is not difficult to find. Other specialities we are likely to come across include three more Lesser Antillean endemics: Purple-throated Carib, the secretive Forest Thrush and the strange Northern Brown Tumbler (an aberrant thrasher that flutters its wings and trembles all over as it moves through the forest; the form inhabiting the northern islands is now treated as specifically distinct). Two Lesser Antillean near-endemics are also likely: the

near-endemic Bridled Quail-Dove is not uncommon on the island, although we are unlikely to get the kind of views we will achieve on Guadeloupe, and we should also see our first Antillean Crested Hummingbirds. Other species restricted to the Caribbean, or virtually so, include Scaly-naped Pigeon and the restricted-range Pearly-eyed Thrasher, while more widespread species include Brown Booby, American Kestrel, Common Ground-Dove and Mangrove Cuckoo.

**Day 4** This morning we will visit a series of lagoons and salt pans on Antigua which hold some exciting birds. Most notable among these is the rare, localized and endangered West Indian Whistling Duck, but other interesting species include White-cheeked Pintail, Caribbean Coot and Wilson's Plover. In addition we may well see Great, Snowy and Western Cattle Egrets, Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricoloured and Green Herons, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Common Moorhen, Black-necked Stilt, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Least Sandpiper, and Sandwich and Least Terns. White-crowned Pigeons reach the southern limits of their range on Antigua and we should see some during our explorations. Later we will take a flight southwards to the island of Dominica for a three nights stay at its tiny capital, Roseau.

**Days 5-6** Dominica (pronounced Domineeka), discovered by Columbus one Sunday in November 1493 (hence its name), deservedly styles itself the 'Nature Island of the Caribbean', for it is unusual in having preserved large tracts of its native forest. This beautiful island is known for mountain and rainforest scenery unsurpassed in the Lesser Antilles and the island has a rich fauna both above



*Whistling Warbler (Nik Borrow)*

and below water, making it a popular haunt of scuba divers as well as those interested in terrestrial natural history. This morning we will head up the western coast to the Northern Forest Reserve, situated on the flanks of Morne Diablotin, at 4747ft (1447m) both the island's highest peak and the highest mountain in the Lesser Antilles. Here, below dramatic peaks clothed in forest, we will walk to the edge of a deep ravine and wait at dawn at a small watchpoint that gives a good view over the area. The endemic Red-necked Parrot is easy to see as the birds leave their roosts on the higher ridges and descend to feed in the forest trees or in nearby plantations. We should soon obtain excellent views of these noisy birds in the canopy or squawking madly as they flight overhead. Imperial Parrot, the island's other endemic species, is much less numerous and we may have to be very patient before observing this large and impressive *Amazona* perched in a tree or making its way across the valley. (Indeed this is one of the toughest Lesser Antillean endemics, so we have allowed plenty of time for the pursuit. As well as spending time parrot watching (or rather, 'parrot waiting'), we will explore the adjacent rainforest, which is excellent for birds and a beautiful place to stroll on the excellent trail system. Here

amongst the huge trees and beautiful tree-ferns we have another good chance for the shy Forest Thrush, whilst other Lesser Antillean endemics include Lesser Antillean Swift, Blue-headed Hummingbird (otherwise only found on Martinique), the endearing Lesser Antillean Pewee, Lesser Antillean Flycatcher, Dominica Wren (treated as distinct from Southern House Wren and a Dominican endemic which lives deep in the rainforest, does not cock its tail and has a distinctive song), Scaly-breasted Thrasher, Southern Brown Tumbler and Plumbeous Warbler (shared only with Guadeloupe). Caribbean endemics include Caribbean Elaenia, Rufous-throated Solitaire with its hauntingly beautiful refrain, the stunning Red-legged Thrush and Antillean Euphonia (here of the green-backed form, which is likely to be split before long as another regional endemic, Lesser Antillean Euphonia). Although not a Caribbean endemic, we shall be keeping a close eye on the skies for Black Swift, a summer visitor here from its unknown winter quarters (presumed to be in South America) and probably easier to observe in Dominica than anywhere else in its peculiar breeding range that extends very patchily from California to the Lesser Antilles. Other species of wider distribution include Broad-winged Hawk,

Ruddy Quail-Dove and, with a bit of luck, the huge Ringed Kingfisher. On the way back to Roseau, where Eurasian Collared Doves have colonized the town (just another step towards world domination by this unstoppable species), we will make a stop or two along the coast where we should find Roseate Tern, Caribbean Martin and Tropical Mockingbird. On one afternoon we will make a pelagic trip off Roseau, primarily for cetaceans as seabirds are few and far between in these parts (although we should see Bridled and Sooty Terns, and Brown Noddy). We have a fair chance of coming across a large pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales and we may also encounter the huge Sperm Whale, numbers of which spend almost the entire year in Dominican waters. Getting up close to whales is always a fantastic experience, and the very clear water means that one can often see most of the animal rather than just a piece of its back.

**Day 7** After a further morning on Dominica to look for anything we might have missed, we will take a flight to Guadeloupe for an overnight stay, arriving in time for some initial exploration. Guadeloupe, to most visitor's amazement, is a fully-fledged department of France, sending a deputy to the French parliament, so is therefore treated as part of the European Union, with all that this implies for development funds. For this reason Guadeloupe and its sister Martinique have a level of economic activity unmatched by any other islands in the Lesser Antilles and indeed most of the Caribbean. The expressways, prosperous-looking towns, modern factories, gleaming airport, new cars and fancily-dressed locals give the impression one is visiting some strange Franco-African version of the Côte d'Azur rather than a

Caribbean island!

**Day 8** We will head off early this morning to a small river valley where, for a short time after dawn, the usually uncommon and secretive Bridled Quail-Dove is as bold as brass, even walking by the roadside and allowing a close approach! Nearby we will explore the tropical forest in search of Guadeloupe's sole endemic, the Guadeloupe Woodpecker. These blackish woodpeckers are noisy birds, so we should have little trouble finding one. In the afternoon we will take a flight to Martinique for an overnight stay at Tartane, a small village on the Presqu'île la Caravelle. As with Guadeloupe, the obvious prosperity of this distant part of the European Union seems staggering after impoverished Dominica.

**Day 9** There are two species of bird which are restricted to the islands of Martinique and St Lucia, Grey Tumbler and White-breasted Thrasher, but both are far easier to see on Martinique. This morning we will explore the Château Dubuc area of the Presqu'île la Caravelle, a low but hilly peninsula on the west coast of the island where the dry forest is home to a good population of the handsome White-breasted Thrasher, as well as the striking Martinique Oriole (endemic to Martinique) and Lesser Antillean Saltator (endemic to the Lesser Antilles in general). Another species likely to be seen here is Bare-eyed Thrush. Afterwards we will head up into the hills to look for Grey Tumbler and then, in the late afternoon, we will take a short flight south to St Lucia for a three nights stay.

**Days 10-11** St Lucia (pronounced St Loosha) is not only one of the most scenic islands in the Lesser Antilles, epitomized by its spectacular conical volcanic peaks rising abruptly from the sea (Gros Piton and Petit Piton), but also the richest island for birds, holding no less than



*White-tailed Tropicbirds (Tony Disley)*

seven endemic species and a series of additional Lesser Antillean endemics. We will spend much of our time in the Edmund Forest Reserve in south-central St Lucia where we will be looking in particular for five St Lucia endemics: St Lucia Parrot, St Lucia Pewee (split from Lesser Antillean), St Lucia Warbler (split from Adelaide's), St Lucia Black Finch and St Lucia Oriole. Many other Caribbean birds can be found in these beautiful forests, but all are likely to have been seen on other islands. The sixth endemic, St Lucia Wren (split from Southern House Wren) is strikingly different from the wren on Dominica and, unlike its cousin, very localized and hard to find, but we have an excellent site for this rarity and can expect to see it during our stay. At dusk we will search for the seventh endemic, the St Lucia Nightjar (now treated as specifically distinct from the Rufous Nightjar of South America once more), which tends to sing and respond some nights and not on others, so may have to make two attempts to see this interesting bird. St Lucia once had an eighth endemic species, the ground-loving

Semper's Warbler, but with no confirmed sightings since 1961 this is now thought to be extinct (largely as a result of predation by introduced mongooses).

**Day 12** After spending a last morning on St Lucia we will take a late afternoon flight to St Vincent for a two nights stay.

**Day 13** The mountainous island of St Vincent still possesses extensive forests which we will explore in search of the island's two endemic species and several other specialities. Most of our time will be devoted to the beautiful forests of the Vermont Forest Reserve in the south-central part of the island. Here we should see noisy St Vincent Parrots and the island's other endemics, the perky St Vincent Wren (split from Southern House) and the delightful (and noisy) little Whistling Warbler, as well as Grenada Flycatcher and Lesser Antillean Tanager (both species otherwise found only on Grenada and, in the case of the former, the Grenadines). More widespread species we should encounter include Common Black-

Hawk, Eared Dove, Smooth-billed Ani and Cocoa Thrush, plus the strange-looking black morph of the Bananaquit (which predominates here and on Grenada). Along the rocky coastline we can expect to see the graceful White-tailed Tropicbird and Red-footed Booby.

**Day 14** We will take a short morning flight to Grenada for a two nights stay at the capital, St George's. Later we will begin our exploration of the island.

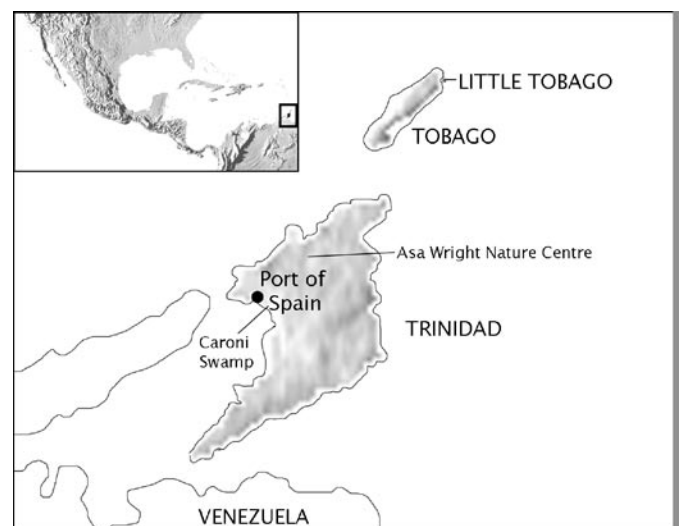
**Day 15** Grenada (pronounced Grenayda) is the most southerly of the Lesser Antilles and, as with all the larger islands, is largely rugged and mountainous. Our major target species here is the highly endangered endemic Grenada Dove, now restricted to a few areas in the low-lying southwest of the island and perhaps reduced to fewer than 70 individuals. We will concentrate on the Mount Hartman Estate, 480 hectares of dry scrub forest that now supports about 75% of the surviving Grenada Doves. With persistence, we have an excellent chance of seeing the species during our stay. Other new birds should include the endemic Grenada Wren (split from Southern House), Rufous-breasted Hermit, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Yellow-bellied Seedeater and Shiny Cowbird.

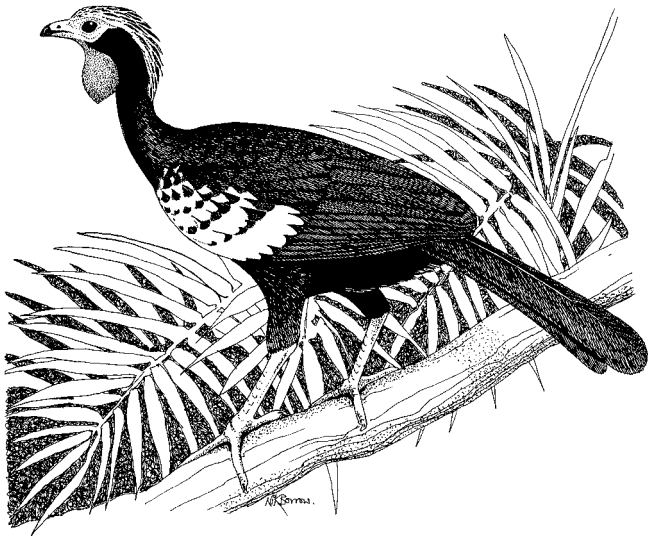
**Day 16** This morning we will catch a short flight to Barbados where our final Lesser Antillean endemic will be the Barbados Bullfinch. Recently split from Lesser Antillean, this interesting form, restricted to Barbados, only exhibits the brown, female-type plumage. The tour ends in the early afternoon.

#### **Trinidad Post-Tour Extension Itinerary**

**Day 16** From Barbados we will take a flight to Port of Spain on Trinidad. From the airport we will transfer to the Asa Wright Nature Centre, where we will be staying for the next five nights.

**Days 17-20** The Asa Wright Nature Centre is idyllically situated at about 1300ft (400m) in the Arima Valley amidst the lower montane rainforest of the Northern Range. The Centre was formerly a cocoa, coffee and citrus plantation, owned by an eccentric Icelander, Mrs Asa Wright, and her English husband, but since 1967 it has operated under a non-profit trust set up to preserve its wildlife in perpetuity. A favourite place for naturalists from all over the world, it has frequently provided facilities for television wildlife features, including some top BBC productions. Surrounded by primary forest, and criss-crossed by well-kept trails,





*Trinidad Piping-Guan (Nik Borrow)*

the Centre's grounds of 400 acres (160 hectares) include the now largely abandoned cultivated areas, as well as rainforest, and are bisected by the Arima River and several mountain torrents.

The star attraction at Asa Wright is undoubtedly the extraordinary feeding station, which must surely rank as the best feeding station of any tropical lodge anywhere on the planet! Indeed, this one remarkable feature alone would be enough to propel Asa Wright into the top league of great wildlife spots, even without its many other attractions. Not only are there hummingbird feeders here in abundance, but also a series of bird tables where bread, fruit and other foods are put out in order to lure in an extraordinary diversity of birds, mammals and even reptiles. Many colourful birds can be seen at close quarters from the Centre's wide veranda overlooking the gardens, where photographers will delight at the opportunity to shoot away at the hummingbirds and honeycreepers only a metre or so away at the various feeders. Regular visitors to the feeders (or the nearby flower

banks) include a spectacular collection of hummingbirds, including Rufous-breasted, Green and Little Hermits, White-necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, the miniscule Tufted Coquette, Blue-chinned Sapphire, White-chested Emerald, Copper-rumped Hummingbird and Long-billed Starthroat, plus Ruddy Ground-Dove, Grey-fronted Dove, Bananaquit, Green and Purple Honeycreepers, Blue-grey, Palm, Silver-beaked and White-lined Tanagers, and Crested Oropendola (there is an adjacent colony with enormous, stocking-like hanging nests which is sometimes attended by parasitic Giant Cowbirds). Even Red-rumped Agoutis are frequently seen scavenging tit-bits below the bird-feeders, where another regular visitor is the metre-long carnivorous Golden Tegu lizard.

In the grounds of Asa Wright we are likely to encounter Little Tinamou (only likely to be heard), Scaled Pigeon, Blue-headed Parrot, Squirrel Cuckoo, the diurnal Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, the beautiful Amazonian Violaceous Trogon, the gorgeous Blue-crowned Motmot, the impressive

Channel-billed Toucan, Golden-olive, Chestnut, Lineated and Red-rumped Woodpeckers, Cocoa Woodcreeper (split from Buff-throated), Great and Barred Antshrikes, Forest Elaenia, Tropical Kingbird, Streaked and Ochre-bellied Flycatchers, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Pewee, Southern House and Rufous-breasted Wrens, White-necked Thrush, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Violaceous Euphonia, Turquoise Tanager and Greyish Saltator. Within the more enclosed forested sections we will look for the leks of White-bearded and Golden-headed Manakins (enjoying the amazing antics of the White-bearded as it whirrs and buzzes amongst the undergrowth like an animated fire-cracker and the bewildering flight-display of the Golden-headed underneath the canopy) and scour the canopy and mid-level vegetation for the bizarrely-adorned Bearded Bellbird. With luck we will come across one of the rarer and more elusive species, such as a Grey-throated Leaf-tosser. Overhead we should see Grey-headed Kite, the superb White Hawk (and perhaps the magnificent Ornate Hawk-Eagle) and Chestnut-collared, Grey-rumped and Band-rumped Swifts.

A real highlight will be a visit to the Oilbird cave, where perhaps a hundred individuals of this unique species, the sole member of the family, spend their days in the semi-gloom. We should be able to get wonderful close-up views of these strange nocturnal creatures, a fruit-eating species resembling an enormous nightjar.

We will also explore the main ridge of Trinidad's Northern Range at about 600m altitude and the northern slopes en route to the village of Blanchisseuse on Trinidad's north coast. We will stop at intervals to look for such species as Black and Turkey

Vultures, Collared Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, the ground-dwelling, bantam-like Black-faced Anthrush, Pale-breasted and Stripe-breasted Spinetails, Grey-breasted Martin, Tropical Parula, Golden-crowned Warbler, Blue Dacnis, Bay-headed and Speckled Tanagers, and Blue-black Grassquit. With a bit of luck we will see Sooty Grassquit, which occurs in small open areas at the roadside, and Highland Hepatic-Tanager.

No birding visit to Trinidad would be complete without a visit to the freshwater marshes and brackish mangroves of the Caroni Swamp and its environs. At a small sewage treatment plant en route we shall look for Least Grebe, Purple Gallinule, Wattled Jacana, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Pied Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant and Yellow-hooded Blackbird. After we reach the edge of the swamp we will be boarding a flat-bottomed boat for our trip into the interior. Amongst the mangroves we can expect to find Large-billed Tern, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Yellow Oriole, Bicolored Conebill, Red-capped Cardinal and Spectacled Caiman. We will very likely come across a Common Potoo roosting high in the mangroves and looking very much like a strange broken off branch, and with luck we will encounter Straight-billed Woodcreeper. The highlight of the trip will undoubtedly be the evening arrival of hundreds of Scarlet Ibis at their mangrove roosts and we will enjoy watching the flocks undulating past, the birds an impossibly deep scarlet colour that must be unique in the avian world!

During our time in Trinidad we will also visit a remote part of the Northern Range in order to see the endemic Trinidad Piping-Guan (now treated as a species distinct from Common or Blue-throated Piping-Guan). This rare and



*Oilbirds (Nik Borrow)*

endangered species still occurs in small numbers in this area and we have a high chance of encountering this attractive and interesting bird. Indeed, we may well obtain spectacular views as the birds sun themselves in the treetops in the early morning. Other species we should see in this habitat include Grey Hawk,

White-tipped Dove, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet, Short-tailed Swift, Amazonian White-tailed Trogon, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, White-flanked Antwren, Silvered and White-bellied Antbirds, Boat-billed and Yellow-olive Flycatchers, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Black-tailed Tityra, White-winged Swallow, the

extraordinary Long-billed Gnatwren, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yellow-rumped Cacique and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager.

In addition, we will visit the east coast of Trinidad, where we will search the mangroves for Black-crested Antshrike before spending the late afternoon on the edge of the freshwater Nariva Swamp.

Here, amongst the sedge and rice-fields, we are likely to see Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Savanna Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara, Southern Lapwing, Sulphury Flycatcher and, if we are in luck, Pinnated Bittern. As dusk approaches, we will wait for the incoming flocks of Red-bellied Macaws and Orange-winged and Yellow-crowned Parrots arriving at their roost in the Royal Palms.

**Day 21** After some final

birding on Trinidad we will drive back to Port of Spain airport where the extension ends in the early afternoon.

**Accommodation & Road**

**Transport:** The hotels are of normal Birdquest standard throughout. Road Transport is by minibus, car or 4x4 vehicle and roads are variable in quality.

**Walking:** The walking effort is mostly easy, but there are several moderate grade walks.

**Climate:** Almost always warm or hot at this season, with dry and sunny weather interspersed with overcast and rainy intervals (not usually of long duration).

**Bird Photography:**

Opportunities are worthwhile in the Lesser Antilles and good on Trinidad.