

GUYANA AND ST. LUCIA
NOVEMBER 10TH - 24TH 2025



Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th: man down early doors

Five of the Oriole Birding group met at Gatwick airport check-in, with two others having flown out a couple of days ago. The plane took off more or less on time and after an uneventful flight we met our driver in Georgetown who whisked us to our central hotel. We arrived at about 8.15pm. Here, we met Colin who joined us for a late supper in the lounge.

After a decent night's rest, we were all up nice and early to be picked up at 5.45am. Kevin, our bird guide for the day, and Shamir, our driver soon had us in the Georgetown Botanic Gardens as the sun came up. We drove to the far gates so the light would be behind us for our early morning stroll. And what superb light it was, too!

Almost the first bird we saw - in a tree above where our van was parked - was one of our target species of the whole trip: Blood-coloured Woodpecker. This near-endemic was idly preening in the tree. The light wasn't brilliant but we could still see the colour that gives this species its name. And then another joined our original bird and they began displaying!

Orange-winged Parrots and Mealy Amazons were perched around us and a pair of Red-shouldered Macaws joined the noisy throng. We saw many Snail Kites, egrets and Striated Herons, and Wattled Jacanas showed well (one with a couple of hyper-cute, leggy chicks). Black-collared and Grey-lined Hawks were impressive bonus birds in the perfect early sunshine. The Blood-coloured Woodpecker pair even followed us down the road, showing better and better out in the open! Rather aptly for this Oriole Birding tour group, a Yellow Oriole came to visit us while we were watching the woodpeckers.

In total, we only walked about 400 yards from the bus but racked up 50 species during our very gentle two-hour stroll. Just as we were boarding the bus to head for breakfast, Ali softly announced: "I've got an owl". Sure enough, there was a Great Horned Owl staring at us from a huge tree covered in pink blossom. It had certainly chosen the most picturesque tree in which to pose.

We returned to the hotel and went straight into the dining room for a tasty breakfast. Shanette, from our trusty ground agents, arrived to run through our exciting itinerary with us. Following that, we returned to our rooms to pack a second bag, which we stuffed with excess clothes and gear that we could leave in storage while we headed for the jungle on a small plane with limited luggage allowance.

Just before we were due to leave for the local airport, Jake developed a nasty nosebleed that just wouldn't stop. Shanette sped him to the hospital while the rest of the group drove to the airport hoping to see Jake again later.

It wasn't to be. As we squeezed into the plane, news came through that Jake had been advised by doctors not to travel into the wilderness and would not be rejoining the rest of the gang in the jungle. We were truly gutted for him.

The small plane flew for 45mins, 40 of which were over continuous rainforest as far as the eye could see. Awesome! We landed at a small airfield next to Kaieteur Falls, with a couple of circuits to give us an aerial view.

It was hot as we walked along a trail through the forest to three viewpoints of the highest single drop waterfall in the world. What an amazing sight. A rainbow regularly formed in the spray of the thundering waterfall.

Being early afternoon in the heat, birdlife was at a minimum but three Cliff Flycatchers showed beautifully with the falls as a backdrop. A fleeting Long-billed Hermit was a nice surprise, and a couple of graceful Greater Yellow-headed Vultures drifted over.

On the walk back to the airstrip, a short diversion up a narrow forest track brought us to a wonderful sight: 6 Guianan Cocks-of-the-Rock lekking among the thin trees and vines. The orange plumage of these amazing birds glowed in the poor light in the understory. What an amazing experience!

However, it was time to reboard our small plane for the onward journey. On board, we ate a huge picnic lunch as the seemingly never-ending rainforest slipped by below.

Just twenty minutes later, we were bouncing into land down another narrow airstrip. We were met by the bird guide who would be with us throughout our jungle adventure: Delon. We transferred to a couple of 4x4s for the short drive to Iwokrama Lodge. A cooling drink of fruit punch was waiting for us before being led to our spacious cabins overlooking the River Essequibo.

As we flopped down for a rest, the heavens opened and we sat on our veranda watching everything unfold before our eyes. Thunder boomed out and regular flashes of lightning lit up the sky.

We reconvened in the main building for dinner at 7.00pm. The long day wasn't over yet, though; there was an exciting night boat trip to look forward to. As well as the human inhabitants, the huge dining room also hosted a few bats flying around and roosting (not *roasting!*), Palm Tanagers and a Red-capped Cardinal.

While eating and chatting, it was decided to cancel the boat trip being as our meal was regularly interrupted by bright lightning flashes. Two delicate Crab-eating Foxes spotlighted on the lawn below the dining room was some consolation.

We returned to our cabins for a relatively early night accompanied by the sound of rain hammering down on our corrugated iron roofs.



Kaieteur Falls by Neil Glenn

Wednesday November 12th: starry, starry night

No sound of rain on our roofs in the morning, so we were all looking forward to a bit of a boat ride and a walk along a forested trail up Turtle Mountain. After breakfast in the lodge at 5.30am, we boarded the motorised canoe and set off along the Essequibo River.

Birds included typical jungle boating birds such as Large-billed Tern. Pied Lapwing, Black Skimmer and Anhinga. Raptors included Great Black Hawk and Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture. White-winged Swallows were our constant companions. Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers showed well along with numerous heron species. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the sighting of two Giant Otters feeding on fish, partially hidden under a fallen branch in the water.

We finally disembarked at a small jetty and left our life jackets behind. We stocked up with water before setting off along the trail. After being warned about 'some steep bits', it was surprisingly flat for the first kilometre or so. Birds included perched Grey-headed Kite and Bat Falcon, elusive White-crested Spadebills and gorgeous White-plumed Antbirds. And then the trail began to rise...

We slowly ascended the mountain, pausing at several benches for a breather and to take on fluids. A troupe of Guianan Red Howler Monkeys kept up our spirits, especially when they started a chorus of their awesome calls, which echoed through the thick jungle.

Several tricky bits of the trail meant we were concentrating on footing rather than birds but we all made it safely to the top and flopped down on the benches. The view over the never-ending rainforest was truly wonderful.

A Red-faced Black Spider Monkey was showing off in a tree below us (no Harpy Eagle to put an end to its 'monkeying around') and then a stunning King Vulture drifted closer and closer. Eventually we could see its large nostrils through our binoculars! As we got up to leave the viewpoint, a pair of Red-and-green Macaws flew across in front of us perfectly highlighted against the trees below us. What a stunning finish before our slippery descent.

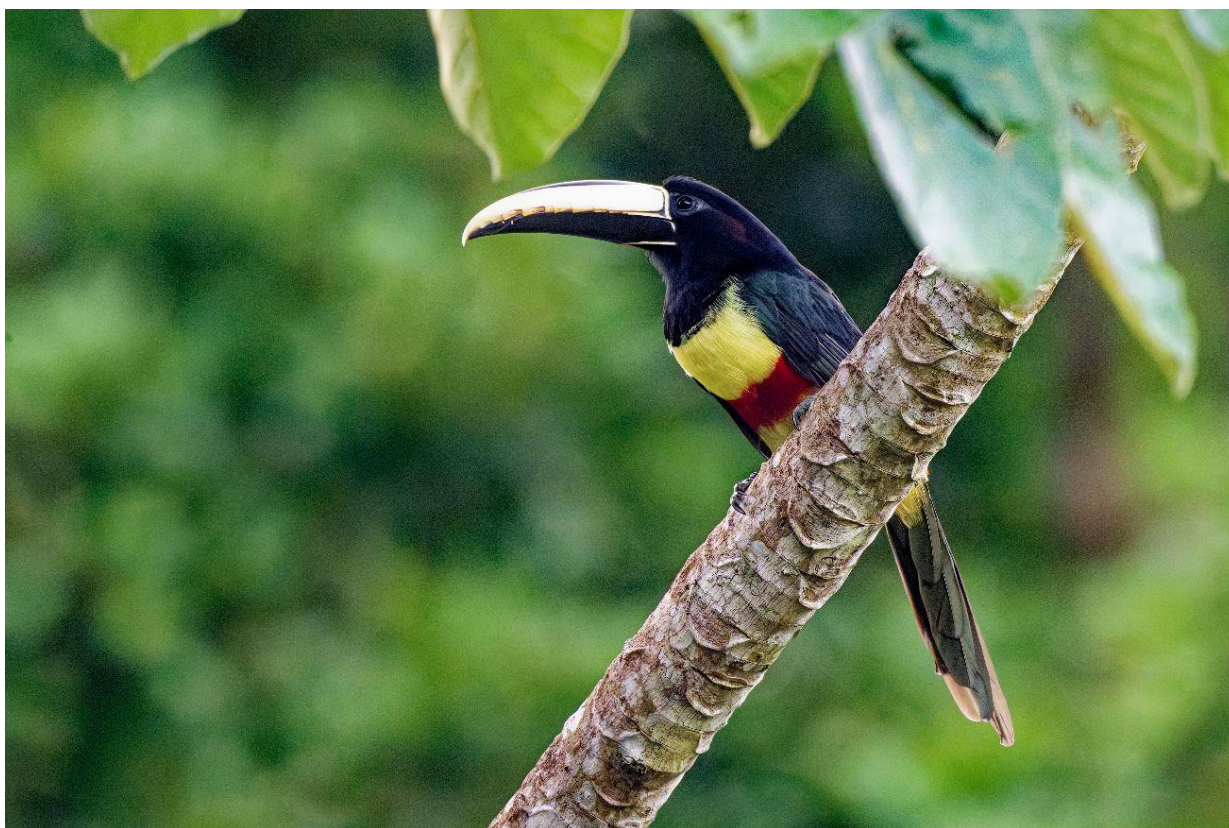
The sun was beating down as we finally reached our boat. The sit down and stiff breeze as we sped along the river was extremely welcome. It was a weary, sweaty but gratified gaggle of birders who reached Iwokrama for a late lunch at 2.15pm!

After a leisurely two hour siesta, we again met Everard and Delon, our guides, at 4.30pm for a gentle stroll along a *flat* trail around the forest at the lodge. Most of the birds seemed to be at neck-breaking height and not exactly 'playing the game'.

A Yellow-throated Woodpecker refused to show for us, as did a noisy Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (although we eventually had good views of another one). Fortunately, Green and Black-throated Araçaris posed nicely for telescope views. The mile long trail proved to be a nice wind down before dinner at 7.00pm.

After our evening meal, we donned life jackets and boarded the boat once more. It was a wonderfully clear night with millions of stars twinkling above us as we slowly set off along the river.

Skillful manoeuvring by the boatman bought us extremely close views of a Black Caiman as it sat in the shallow water beneath us. A Ladder-tailed Nightjar gave superb views sat on a nest, with others flitting across our bow. Joining the nightjars were several Greater Bulldog (fish-eating) Bats. A few Spectacled Caimen were also spotlighted. It was a wonderful, relaxing end to a very long day.



Black-throated Araçari by Wady Gedroyc

Thursday November 13th: Atta calmer

One or two of the group made it to the early morning bird walk at 5.30am around Iwokrama Lodge. Highlights included a showy White-throated Toucan and good views of Green-backed Trogon.

After breakfast, we loaded up the 4x4s and said goodbye to Iwokrama Lodge. We headed out onto the main 'highway' hoping to stop for some birding along the way to Atta Rainforest Lodge.

We soon drew to a halt when we heard a 'terrible racket' from the tall trees by the roadside. We found two pairs of very noisy Red-and Green Macaws by their nest trees. They showed superbly well for us.

Further along the track, we hit upon a very 'birdy' area. Both Purple-throated and Spangled Cotingas were seen well in the 'scopes, as were Paradise Jacamas and Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers.

We next pulled up by a small river, a known hotspot for Crimson Topaz hummingbird. Sure enough, after giving us the runaround for a few minutes, the male perched nicely for a bit of digiscoping.

A last stop involved a brief stroll along a forest track where everyone had good views (and sounds) of a weird and wonderful Capuchinbird, sounding like a cow mooing in the rainforest!

We reached Atta Lodge and settled into our rooms. Delon gave us an introductory talk over some cooling juice. A tasty lunch followed in the open dining area - briefly joined by a Long-billed Hermit on the feeders - before a siesta during the intense heat of the middle of the day. It was all very relaxing.

It was a pretty warm siesta but the temperature was already dropping when we met at 4.00pm for the afternoon walk. Local guide, Lewis, joined with Delon to escort us along the

Canopy Trail. It was pretty quiet until we reached the first of the 200 wooden steps up to the canopy walkway. An Amazonian Pygmy Owl called continuously but refused to show for us.

We crossed a short, metal footbridge (“one at a time and hold onto the ropes”), followed by a longer, more swaying walkway to a central platform built around a huge tree. Hidden Scarlet Macaws screeched above us while Mealy, Red Fan and Blue-headed Parrots flew over. A Guianan Puffbird and a Guianan Toucanet showed distantly in the telescope.

As the sunset over the forest, it was time to make our descent. We reached the lodge as darkness fell but our birdwatching wasn't over just yet. Delon and Lewis led us for about 300 yards along the access track and then let out a long, mournful whistle. Within seconds, we were enjoying spotlight views of a White-winged Potoo high on a dead trunk. It stayed for everyone to enjoy prolonged views of this iconic bird. Now we could head for the shower and a sit down! Dinner was at 7.30pm and very tasty it was too.

Friday 14th November: dawn in the canopy

Coffee and superb shortbread greeted us when we met in the dining room at 5.30am. Davis and Delon led us back into the forest, retracing our steps to the canopy walkway.

Seventy five minutes of intense scanning produced four species of Woodpecker, two species of toucan, Scarlet Macaws, a Black-faced Fairy hummingbird and a delightful group of displaying Black-spotted Barbets.

As we made our way back across the metal walkways, it was obvious we were getting better at the technique. Back at the lodge, breakfast tables had been laid out on the lawn. A Black-and-white Hawk Eagle soared above us as we sat down to eat. And then it was time for a rest on this very humid morning.

10.00am was the scheduled start of our next walk. We followed Delon along an easy forest trail. It wasn't long before our sharp-eyed guide had spotted a majestic Black-faced Hawk sat among the leaves and branches. In the same area as the hawk, a quick-moving feeding flock zapped through the jungle, but the Marail Guans were much easier to see perched out in the open.



Black-faced Hawk by Wady Gedroyc

The circular trail led us back to the lodge. On the way, we had superb views of a Chestnut-billed Toucan feeding on ripe fruit, a posing Great Jacamar, a giant damselfly called a Lemon-tipped Helicopter and a Green-backed Trogon.

We had about an hour to relax and cool down before dinner, but the gorgeous dragonflies in the gardens of the lodge kept us suitably occupied. After lunch, the traditional afternoon siesta was very welcome.

We gathered in the dining area at 4.00pm for coffee and cheese scones. Birding in the garden produced Green Oropendolas and Scarlet Macaws. We then set off down the access track to the main Georgetown to Brazil 'highway'. Maybe because of the short, sharp shower, birds were few and far between.

Birding picked up when we reached the highway, despite one or two trucks thundering by. Blue and Black-faced Dacnis could be seen in a bare tree, while Band-rumped Swifts were overhead. A Black Nunbird posed well, though a Golden-collared Woodpecker was very active. A flock of Cayenne Jay's showed well for us

As we reached a creek, we disturbed a Sunbittern, which glided out of view never to be seen again! Light was beginning to fade, with noisy parrots and macaws flying to roost at regular intervals. We returned to the access track to the lodge and settled down to wait.

It wasn't long before a Spectacled Owl began to hoot. It soon showed well in a spotlight directly above us. What a wonderful bird! After prolonged views, we continued back towards the lodge. Delon stopped us in our tracks when he spotted a Tawny-breasted Screech Owl on a branch right next to the track. We watched the bird for ages as it tore up and devoured a Vine Snake. The last twelve inches or so looked a real struggle to get down!



Tawny-bellied Screech Owl by Wady Gedroyc

And with that spectacular end to the birdwatching, we were back at the lodge in time for a shower under the stars before dinner. The meal was barbecue style: delicious, if a little on the dark side out in the garden.

Saturday, November 15th: a moody Scarlet Macaw

A nice, leisurely spot of birdwatching to start the day at Atta Rainforest Lodge. We met in the garden to scan the surrounding trees with a mug of coffee in hand. The usual Black Vultures were hanging around high in the bare branches, though got a shock when a Scarlet Macaw took offence at their presence and harassed them off the tree one at a time. The macaw repeated the process at least twice more before we had our breakfast at 7.30am. High entertainment. Other than the macaw in a bad mood, five species of parrot were noted, as were Pompadour Cotingas, a Spangled Cotinga and Green Oropendolas.

After breakfast, we loaded up the van and bade a sad farewell to Atta and its Canopy Walkway. Our minibus was headed to Surama Lodge, our accommodation for the next two nights. Ravi, the bird guide from Surama was accompanying us on the journey.

We broke the short distance by taking a short forest trail to a crop of huge boulders where we settled down to await some special visitors. An Amazonian Motmot was the first bird to show followed by a female Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. After teasing us for quite a while, two male Cocks-of-the-Rock appeared, though were mostly obscured.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock by Wady Gedroyc

It was 11.15am when we reached Surama. We stopped along the access track to admire a young Ornate Hawk Eagle tearing an unfortunate creature to pieces on a high nest. Thankfully, cold juice awaited our arrival at the lodge followed very quickly by a tasty lunch. Siesta time!

We were all in the dining room way before the meeting time of 4.00pm. Everyone had their chairs pointing outwards overlooking the savanna and mountains. A gorgeous Savanna

Hawk flew in and posed atop a tree by the rooms. Apparently, it paid regular visits, attracted by the lizards scuttling around the decking!



Savanna Hawk by Wady Gedroyc

A young Amerindian lad accompanied us on our walk through thick forest on a loop trail. Talk about laser-sharp eyes! Birding wasn't easy in this habitat, though plenty of birds were calling around us. A White-browed Antbird wouldn't come out of cover for us and an Amazon Barred Woodcreeper played hide and seek with us. A Green-backed Trogon posed nicely by the trail, though.

We eventually looped back to Surama Lodge, where several Black Vultures were waiting for us. Surely, we didn't look that knackered?! The Savanna Hawk hadn't moved either. Patricia was also waiting for us with a jug of refreshing juice! As we sat looking out of the dining room, the hawk flew into view and caught a lizard or a frog. Two Lesser Nighthawks drifted over as the light faded. Time for a shower.

We returned to the dining room for dinner at 7.00pm. Several beers were downed with the very tasty meal.

Sunday, November 16th: take me to the river

An early breakfast meant we could set off along the river trail while the morning temperature was still relatively cool. The minibus took us as far as the 'Great Potoo corner' - about a mile along the main trail. The amazing potoo was roosting on a dead trunk, asleep to the world. But where did trunk end and bird begin, we asked?!

With that good start, we walked along the flat forest trail crunching through dead leaves as we went. A familiar mooing sound meant a Capuchinbird was in the vicinity but we couldn't find it. A couple of woodpeckers and woodcreepers didn't want to show themselves well, either.

However, the tiny female Long-winged Antwren flitted among the leaves hanging over the trail, occasionally pausing to let us admire it.

We eventually reached the river and sat on the benches for a rest. Two Paradise Jacamars were seen very well through the telescope, while Lesser Yellow-headed and King Vultures effortlessly soared overhead. White-banded Swallows were a nice addition to the bird list.

We slowly retraced our steps towards Surama Lodge. Red Howler Monkeys were feeding on fruit high in the trees above us while the highlight for many was the delightful pair of Yellow-throated Woodpeckers excavating a nest hole in a tree just a few yards from the trail. We also had another look at the potoo, which (unsurprisingly) hadn't moved an inch.

We got back to the lodge at 10.15am and emptied the large jug of juice in double quick time. Time for a brief rest before dinner at 12.00pm. After dinner, it was siesta time to let the stiflingly hot afternoon cool down. We reconvened at 4.30pm to jump in the bus for some birding along the access track of Surama.

The temperature was dropping for our evening excursion. The minivan arrived to take us to the access track. To our delight/shock, the interior was very plush: we were using the vehicle that had transported a birthday party of ladies to the lodge!

The afternoon started well when we saw a Fasciated Tiger Heron posing in a ditch by the road. Two Grey-cowled Wood Rails followed, and then we disturbed a Crane Hawk from its evening perch.

The rest of the birding was pretty quiet apart from some showy Black-tailed Tityras being mobbed by Turquoise Tanagers. We returned to the lodge at 6.00pm to be ready for dinner at 7.00pm.

Monday, November 17th: car trouble

We took a pre-breakfast excursion to a newly created hummingbird garden in Surama village. We arrived at 6.30am and settled down to watch the feeders. The garden had only been open a month and it seemed that we were the first visitors!

Birds were still getting used to visiting the new facilities, and the native plants hadn't yet matured. Because of this, bird activity was slow. However, a female Glittering-throated Emerald kept perching on a branch above our heads and the male paid regular visits to one of the sugar feeders.

Other species included a Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Pale-breasted Thrush, Forest Elaenia, Southern-beardless Tyrannulet and White-tipped Dove. It will be interesting to return in a few years once the garden had matured.

We were back for breakfast at the lodge by 8.30am - our last meal at this lovely place. We loaded the minibus and said a sad farewell to the lovely staff. Not a hundred yards down the track, our van spluttered to a halt and refused to move. Everyone out! We trudged back to the dining room much to the surprise of the ladies who thought they were rid of us!

Fresh orange juice was soon brought out for us, supped while watching a large flock of vultures thermalling above the forest. Several King dwarfed the yellow-headed and Black Vultures.

Our newly fixed vehicle screeched to a halt at Surama dining room and out got a smiling driver who had just changed the fuel pump and fan belt in an hour. Well, would you know how to do it? And would you have the spare parts in the van even if you did?!!

Anyway, we were off at 10.30am and within an hour pulled up by some boats on the River Rupununi at Ginep Landing. Colin jumped straight into the river to cool off, remembering to take his phone out of his pocket beforehand!

It was very hot on the open top boats, as we sped down the Rupununi River. Birding was extremely good, with an Osprey every half a mile or so, lots of Cocoli Herons flying about

and excellent views of many Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers. As we continued, a few Green Ibis and Pied Plovers began to be noted. Vultures were ever present. A few large Yellow-spotted Turtles plopped into the water as we passed.

We landed at Karanambu Dock at about 2.00pm and were shown to our rooms before a late lunch. Because of the breakdown, there was no time for the traditional siesta. Instead, we set off along a forested trail alongside a dried out creek. The highlight was a group of Guianan Squirrel Monkeys, though a couple of people glimpsed a sought-after Agami Heron. Amazon, American Pygmy and Green-and Rufous Kingfishers tried to steal the show.

The next part of our adventure started as we gingerly climbed aboard two canoes. The Amerindians from the lodge gently paddled us up a creek which opened out to a perfect view. There before us was a millpond like lagoon partially covered in Giant Amazon Lilies. The light was perfect as we slowly paddled along. Hundreds of herons, egrets, jacanas, gallinules and Anhingas ('Black Angels' as Hilarie called them, as they sat on dead branches with their wings out) went about their business on this stunning evening. Raptors included a couple of Great Black Hawks and a Black-collared Hawk.

After a circuit of the lagoon, the boats paddled close to the bank and settled down for the main event. Each boat picked a tightly closed lily to sit and watch while we broke out the rum punch (locally made rum) and shortbread. I don't know about 'Black Angels' but Neil couldn't help thinking that this was very close to Heaven!

As darkness fell, each lily slowly, slowly opened to reveal a huge white flower. While this was taking place, Band-tailed and Lesser Nighthawks fed around us and a Black Skimmer appeared out of the gloom and began hunting in its own unique way.

As the flower opened, large beetles dropped into the petals to feed on the nectar. When the flower closed again next morning, the beetles are trapped inside until dark! In this way, the flowers become pollinated and the process starts all over again. It was a truly magical experience.

We paddled back and then took a night walk back to the lodge. The definite highlight was an amazingly cute Guyanan Short-tailed Opossum clinging to the side of a narrow tree trunk acting like we hadn't seen it. It was tiny!

After a quick turnaround, we went for dinner in the dining room. Our table looked very posh indeed and we were joined by Ed and Melanie (Karanambu's owners) for the meal. They regaled us with many local tales. A Jaguarundi was a surprise visitor; this sleek beastie was a rescued animal recovering at the lodge until it was ready to return to the wild.

Tuesday, November 18th: in search of giants

This morning's pre-breakfast drive was to find one specific species and that species was a mammal. Of course, while scanning the vast savanna for a chunky beast, we should also find some birds.

After a quick tea and coffee at 5.15am, we boarded the 4x4s and headed out along the myriad tracks of the Karanambu estate. Most of the group chose to sit in the rear of the open trucks, safari stylee, for a higher vantage point. Hopes were high of seeing our sought-after target.

The pools we came across produced Jabiru Storks, Muscovy Ducks and White-faced Whistling Ducks. Fork-tailed Flycatchers were everywhere but no less smart for their abundance.

Ed, our driver and host, was receiving regular updates from his searchers out on the savanna: a motorbike rider and a more traditional horseback rider (vaquero). There was a crack team out there looking on our behalf for our target but having no luck.

With enthusiasm beginning to wane and the temperature beginning to rise, people in the front vehicle excitedly pointed to a rise in the distance. All eyes scanned the hill. And there it was, a moving termite mound: a Giant Anteater!

We headed that way and tried to guess which way the beast was going to go next. Ed guessed correctly; we were on the track that the anteater would bumble across very soon. And then circumstances worked against us...

A van came hurtling down the track in the other direction - late for work?! - and passed the anteater at a rate of knots. It spooked the animal, which turned tail and scuttled away from us! It occasionally turned side on to give the classic Giant Anteater profile view: marvellous!

We followed across the savanna on foot, hoping to find the anteater feeding over the rise. The expert team of local guides made sure we were quiet and downwind so as not to spook the animal. With careful manoeuvring, we were eventually able to stand stock still and allow the anteater to walk past us. It came to within a few yards as we held our breath.

The animal finally decided to run off up the hill in search of a shady tree under which to sleep during the day. And then we finally remembered to breath!!



Giant Anteater by Wady Gedroyc

We were back at the lodge for a very tasty breakfast by 8.30am, no doubt made all the scrummier by the morning's success! Soon after, the buoyant group opted for a short circuit of the compound grounds to do some local birdwatching. It was a slow walk, as the heat was really building up.

Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet and Ochre-bellied Flycatcher made for a good start, so good, in fact, that we decided to continue the stroll. This proved a wise decision because by the river we had superb views of a Spotted Puffbird, a male Blue-backed Manakin and a stunning Agami Heron.

Lunch was taken in the shade of a huge tree in the garden of the compound. And then it was siesta time!

We all met in the dining room for our much-anticipated boat trip down the river. However, the weather decided to play a part; the heavens opened and thunder rattled the roof! After a delay of around an hour, we finally boarded the boats and donned ponchos provided by the lodge.

As we rounded the first bend, the sun actually came out and the sunset just kept getting better and better. Wildlife included a few Black Caimans, several Capped Herons and dozens of kingfishers (including our first Green of the tour). A delightful Sungrebe up a tree seemed a tad incongruous.

Numerous Ospreys were out looking for a fish supper and a Great Black Hawk or two were on the lookout for a meal. Single Roadside and Grey-lined Hawks sat in tall trees. As the light dimmed, the boatmen and guides brought out the rum punches! We quietly drifted with the current, watching nighthawks and fishing bats flashing past.

There were many pairs of Caimen eyes keeping a close eye on us as we returned to the lodge. Spotlighting produced three Garden Tree Boas waiting for a meal to scuttle by in riverside trees.

We got back to the lodge and had a quick turnaround for dinner at 7.30pm. Once again, we were joined by our hosts Ed and Melanie followed by drinks in the seating area (regularly visited by the rehabilitating Jaguarundi: to tick or not to tick this sleek beastie?!).

Wednesday, November 19th: An excellent start

Neil was awoken at 4.00am by a Tropical Screech Owl calling outside his chalet. At coffee at 5.15am, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was also calling.

We all boarded the motorised canoes for a dawn trip along the river. Amazingly, an Agami Heron was perched on overhanging branches right by the boat landing! Several Ospreys flew over us and we soon lost count of the number of kingfishers we saw of all shapes and sizes. The next stunning bird came in the form of a Sunbittern on the riverbank. It flew revealing its amazing wing 'suns' that give it its name. It landed for good views and then flew off into the trees in a dazzle of colour.

We slowly travelled down a very narrow channel, which opened out to a large lagoon. It was a lovely morning on which to take in all the birds flying around, diving or scuttling along the sandbanks. Amazing. We headed for breakfast at 7.15am back at the lodge before finishing packing to leave this idyllic place.

Our minibus arrived at 8.30am and we were away along some very bumpy tracks. The only birds we had to console ourselves with were three species of stork and Fork-tailed Flycatchers.

We pulled into Letham at 10.30am - a pretty horrible border town with all the character of Billingham on a Wednesday night. Trans Guyana Airlines had shunted our flight on an hour, which meant timings for eating were askew. We ended up trying to eat two hours after breakfast, though some of the group waited until we got to Georgetown in the late afternoon! We checked in for our flight and sat in a pokey departure lounge while hearing that our flight had been delayed once more.

We finally took off at 2.30pm and had a smooth flight to the capital. Here, bafflingly, we had to pass through immigration and have our baggage x-rayed. Bizarre for an internal flight an hour away. Anyway, we were met by Shamir, our driver, who told us our boat trip along the Demerara River had been put back a little due to our delayed departure from Letham. At least it was still going ahead and hadn't been cancelled altogether. After a quick stop to pick up our bird guide, Carlos, we checked into Cara Lodge and were reunited with the luggage we stored eight days (a lifetime) ago.

After the tedious travelling, we finally set off to do some birding. We were driven through a very busy market to an even busier harbour, where we boarded our boat. Carlos produced much-needed drinks and snacks to help things along!

Tricoloured Herons flew across the river while Magnificent Frigatebirds floated overhead. We inspected several roosts, with Scarlet Ibis almost glowing in the fading light among the Yellow-crowned Night Herons and egrets. The drinks flowed and a good time was had by all.

Back at the hotel at 7.30pm, we had another tedious experience at dinner. Service was incredibly slow and we almost gave up and went to bed without any food! Anyway, it was very tasty when it finally did turn up.

Thursday, November 20th: the National Bird

After the long day yesterday, it was an extra early start this morning, which was unfortunate. However, it would hopefully be worth it to be on site at first light for a boat trip along the Mahaica River.

Sogrum, our driver, picked us up at 4.30am, and we picked up Kevin, our bird guide, along the way to the landing. Even at this early hour, progress was slow and it took ninety minutes to travel the 30km. The final 20 minutes saw us driving through rice paddies; kiskadees and kingbirds, anis and egrets were everywhere.

We reached the dock at just before 6.00am and coffee or tea (and loos!) were laid on for us. We boarded the very quiet boat and headed inland up the river. Almost immediately, we came across our first Hoatzins - The National Bird of Guyana.



Hoatzins by Wady Gedroyc

Hoatzins are charismatic birds that stumble about in trees overhanging rivers and lakes. Locals call them Stinkbirds or Canje Pheasants. Hoatzin's digestive systems are more akin to that of cows due to their diet of nutrient-poor leaves.

Kevin then pointed out a beautiful, perched Green-tailed Jacamar followed by a Black-capped Donacobius. We nearly had our heads taken off by a noisy flock of Brown-throated Parakeets.

We saw many more charismatic Hoatzins and had our best views of Guianan Red Howlers. As we reached our turnaround point along the river, it started to rain very heavily and we battened down the hatches. By the time we docked, the sun was out! There, on the covered decking, was laid out a delicious, home-cooked breakfast made of local produce.



Guianan Red Howlers by Wady Gedroye

The journey back to Georgetown took even longer due to rush hour traffic. Even so, we took the opportunity to stop and check a couple of wader sites along the Demerara River. The tide was waaaay out (think the Humber Estuary) but we managed to see several Greater Yellowlegs, a Willet, Reddish Egrets and a few Dunlins. We got back the hotel at 10.30am and began a repack and freshen up in readiness for our onward journey to St. Lucia

Shanette from our superb ground agents took us out for a filling lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, we returned to our rooms to finish packing. We were collected at 3.15pm and whisked to the airport. I say whisked, but it was a hellish two hour, bumper-to-bumper horror show! Thankfully, we made it in time for our BA flight and a good job too: the exit through immigration was more complicated than necessary and took an age!

Anyway, our flight to St. Lucia took off more or less on time and we landed at Hewanorra airport at 9.40pm. We were met by our driver to take us to Bay Gardens Resort. The driver superbly negotiated the winding roads - much better surfaced than Guyana - to the east of the island. We passed a humungous cruise liner in dock at Castries.

We flopped out of the van at the resort at 10.40pm and checked in. Another long day: how many of us would make it for the 6.00am bird tour tomorrow?!

Friday, November 21st: Vision express

After two early starts and a lot of travelling in the past two days, only one lone birder made it to reception to meet up with our St. Lucia guide: Vision. Neil had been guided by Vision before - a really lovely Rastafarian and a superb bird guide. He also knew a heck of a lot about plants.

We drove to the forest in the northwest. Driving along with the windows open meant that birdsong could be heard. In this way, we stopped several times when a familiar call or song was caught the ear.

The early morning produced Green Carib and Antillean Crested Hummingbirds, an absolutely gorgeous St. Lucia Warbler, a Black-whiskered Vireo and a showy Yellow Warbler. We next pulled up at the top of a hill and slowly walked down along a wide track. St. Lucia Saltator, Lesser Antillean Flycatcher and a St. Lucia Wren all showed well, unlike the Grey Trembler which remained hidden but vocal. The final endemic/near endemic to perform was an extremely confiding St. Lucia Pewee.

Back at the resort, the other members of the group were refreshed and eager for a spot of birdwatching. After being picked up, we all drove to Pigeon Island, a sort of local park on a promontory.

A large flock of Collared and Zenaida Doves, Carib Grackles and Feral Pigeons greeted us in the car park. Out to sea (we were trying to avoid peering at the swimmers!), there were Brown Boobies, Royal Terns and a couple of Brown Pelicans. On the other side of the island, we saw a very flighty American Yellow Warbler and a Scaly-breasted Thrasher feeding on berries. After a quick tour of the town, we were back at the resort for a buffet dinner at 1.30pm. The rest of the afternoon was spent at leisure. Some dozed, some swam in the blue sea and Colin went out on a catamaran, failing miserably to persuade anyone else to join him!

We met for drinks and dinner at 6.30pm and retired early to be fresh for the 5.00am start tomorrow.

Saturday, November 22nd: a last forest trail

We were on the road at 5.15am with packed breakfasts in hand. Vision had planned a mixture of dry and tropical forest birding. It was a bit concerting that rain was falling quite heavily. Thankfully, as we pulled up by the road to take a little trail into a clearing, the sun was out and the birds were singing.

The main target here was the endemic St. Lucia Thrasher. Vision heard one calling straight away and within minutes we were watching three of these endemics feeding on the ground. A Mangrove Cuckoo was the next species to show well in the sunshine, though the Black Grass Finches could not be found.

We continued into the forested hills along ever worsening roads but Vision expertly manoeuvred the non-4x4 van to our destination: the Descartier Forest Trail. We ate our breakfasts at the picnic table before birding the access track.

A couple of busy St. Lucia Warblers showed well, if a little high in the trees for photographs, as did a Purple-throated Carib hummingbird.

We set off slowly along the slippery trail through the thick forest. We could hear fruit dropping from a very tall tree, which could mean only one thing: a wasteful parrot. However, we couldn't see the pesky Psittid however hard we contorted ourselves, so we moved on.

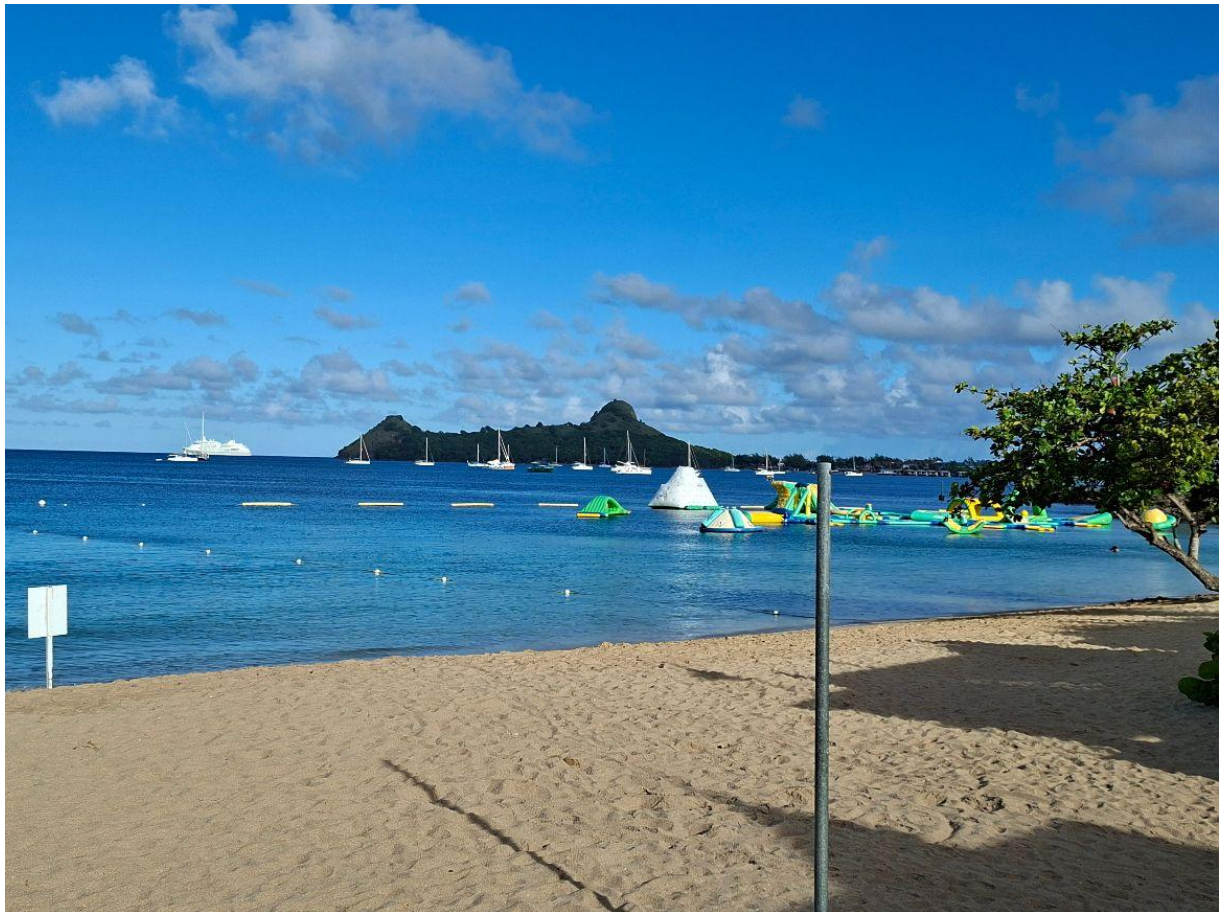
Vision heard a Rufous-throated Solitaire singing a little way away but it refused to come closer. Most of the group then decided to return down the trail at a very slow speed, while Colin and Vision decided to reach the viewpoint.

On their return, the plucky adventurers told tales of views of St. Lucia Amazon, Rufous-throated Solitaire and Black Finch. Just as they reached the van, three St. Lucia Parrots flew over us!

We returned to the resort at 1.30pm, stopping at Dennery fishing town on the way. One boat was landing a catch of two huge Yellow-finned Tuna. The boat looked like a general touristy speed boat type of vessel but these men sometimes went out eighty miles to sea in them!!

As Vision dropped us off at the resort, he presented each of us with a present: a calabash grown in his garden to use as a cup/bowl/trinket dish.

The group opted for a liquid lunch - mainly of the soft kind - before splitting up for various activities until dinner. The evening meal - our last together as a group - was an enormous BBQ. Neil seemed especially pleased with his corn on the cob.



Dining area view looking towards Pigeon Island, St. Lucia, by Neil Glenn

Sunday, November 23rd: home time

Everyone had a very leisurely start to the day. We ambled down for breakfast in the dining area overlooking the beach and azure blue sea. The rest of the morning was spent lazing about, swimming, reading or packing.

We had a late lunch at 1.30pm before being picked up at 4.00pm for the journey back to the airport. It was a good job we had arranged an earlier pick-up than planned because there were several political rallies along the route that looked like they were about to close the road!

We boarded the full, overnight flight back to London Gatwick and landed on Monday morning without incident. What an adventure it had been!

BIRD SPECIES SEEN IN GUYANA (in order of Avilist v2025)

RED = ENDEMIC SPECIES

BLUE = HEARD ONLY

PURPLE = LEADER ONLY

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major major</i>	LC
Cinereous Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus cinereus</i>	LC
Red-legged Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus erythropus erythropus</i>	LC
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	LC
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	LC
Marail Guan	<i>Penelope marail</i>	LC
Black Curassow	<i>Crax alector alector</i>	LC
Little Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis motmot</i>	LC
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	LC
Common Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana cayana</i>	LC
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina griseola</i>	LC
Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti talpacoti</i>	LC
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi brasiliensis</i>	LC
Grey-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla rufaxilla</i>	LC
Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita aurita</i>	LC
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata stenura</i>	LC
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis cayennensis</i>	LC
Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	LC
Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea wallacei</i>	LC
Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea purpureotincta</i>	LC
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC
Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>	LC
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna guarauna</i>	LC
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>	LC
Grey-cowled Wood Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus cajaneus</i>	LC
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	LC
Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Hesperoburhinus bistriatus vocifer</i>	LC
Pied Plover	<i>Hoploxypterus cayanus</i>	LC
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis cayennensis</i>	LC
Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana jacana</i>	LC
Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>	NE
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	LC
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata (ssp?)</i>	LC
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	NT
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	VU
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger cinerascens</i>	LC
Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	LC
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla (megalopecterus?)</i>	LC
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias helias</i>	LC
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	LC
Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	LC
Maguari Stork	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>	LC
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	LC
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	LC
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum brasilianum</i>	LC
Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	LC
Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus caudatus</i>	LC
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	LC
Rufescent Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum lineatum</i>	LC
Fasciated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum salmoni</i>	LC
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius cochlearius</i>	LC
Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>	NT
Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>	LC
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	LC

Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor tricolor</i>	LC
Reddish Egret (dark & pale morph)	<i>Egretta rufescens rufescens</i>	NT
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula thula</i>	LC
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea cayennensis</i>	LC
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli</i>	LC
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	NE
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba egretta</i>	LC
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	LC
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	LC
Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga leucopyga</i>	LC
Ladder-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis climacocerca schomburgki</i>	LC
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis acutipennis</i>	LC
Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>	LC
White-winged Potoo	<i>Nyctibius leucopterus</i>	LC
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris albicincta</i>	LC
Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus spinicaudus</i>	LC
Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyyura brachyura</i>	LC
Fork-tailed Palm Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata squamata</i>	LC
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora mellivora</i>	LC
Crimson Topaz	<i>Topaza pella pella</i>	LC
Long-tailed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis superciliosus superciliosus</i>	LC
Black-eared Fairy	<i>Heliothryx auritus auritus</i>	LC
Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis nigricollis</i>	LC
Grey-breasted Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus largipennis largipennis</i>	LC
White-chested Emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris brevirostris</i>	LC
Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Chionomesa fimbriata fimbriata</i>	LC
Rufous-throated Sapphire	<i>Hylocharis sapphirina</i>	LC
Amazonian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium hardyi</i>	LC
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum phaloenoides</i>	LC
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus nacurutu</i>	LC
Tropical Screech Owl	<i>Megascops choliba criciger</i>	LC
Tawny-bellied Screech Owl	<i>Megascops watsonii watsonii</i>	LC
Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata perspicillata</i>	LC
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	LC
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	LC
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura ruficollis</i>	LC
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus urubitinga</i>	LC
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>	LC
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus carolinensis</i>	LC
Grey-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayenensis cayenensis</i>	LC
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus melanoleucus</i>	LC
Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus ornatus</i>	NT
Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	LC
Crane Hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens caerulescens</i>	LC
Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis nigricollis</i>	LC
Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis sociabilis</i>	LC
Rufous Crab Hawk	<i>Buteogallus aequinoctialis</i>	NT
Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	LC
Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga urubitinga</i>	LC
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris magnirostris</i>	LC
White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis albicollis</i>	LC
Black-faced Hawk	<i>Leucopternis melanops</i>	LC
Grey-lined Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus nitidus</i>	LC
Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>	LC
Guianan Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	LC
Amazonian Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>	NE
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris collaris</i>	LC
Amazonian Motmot	<i>Momotus momota momota</i>	LC
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata torquata</i>	LC
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	LC

American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea aenea</i>	LC
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana americana</i>	LC
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>	LC
Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus aureus</i>	LC
Green-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula galbula</i>	LC
Paradise Jacamar	<i>Galbula dea dea</i>	LC
Spotted Puffbird	<i>Bucco tamatia tamatia</i>	LC
Swallow-winged Puffbird	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa tenebrosa</i>	LC
Black Nunbird	<i>Monasa atra</i>	LC
Guianan Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>	LC
Black-spotted Barbet	<i>Capito niger</i>	LC
White-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus tucanus</i>	VU
Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus vitellinus</i>	LC
Green Araçari	<i>Pteroglossus viridis</i>	LC
Black-necked Araçari	<i>Pteroglossus aracari atricollis</i>	LC
Guianan Toucanet	<i>Selenidera piperivora</i>	LC
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus lineatus</i>	LC
Ringed Woodpecker	<i>Celeus torquatus torquatus</i>	LC
Variable Woodpecker	<i>Celeus undatus undatus</i>	LC
Cream-coloured Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus flavus</i>	LC
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	<i>Piculus flavigula flavigula</i>	LC
Golden-green Woodpecker	<i>Piculus chrysochloros capistratus</i>	LC
Red-necked Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus rubricollis rubricollis</i>	LC
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>	LC
Golden-collared Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis cassini</i>	LC
Blood-coloured Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis sanguineus</i>	LC
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus cheriway</i>	LC
Red-throated Caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>	LC
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Daptriuschimachima cordatus</i>	LC
Black Caracara	<i>Daptrius ater</i>	LC
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius isabellinus</i>	LC
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis rufigularis</i>	LC
Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis femoralis</i>	LC
Caica Parrot	<i>Pyrilia caica</i>	LC
Dusky Parrot	<i>Pionus fuscus</i>	LC
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus menstruus</i>	LC
Blue-cheeked Amazon	<i>Amazona dufresniana</i>	NT
Yellow-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala ochrocephala</i>	LC
Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona farinosa farinosa</i>	NT
Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	LC
Red Fan Parrot	<i>Derophtus accipitrinus accipitrinus</i>	LC
Black-headed Parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephalus melanocephalus</i>	LC
Painted Parakeet	<i>Pyrhura picta</i>	LC
Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao macao</i>	LC
Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>	LC
Brown-throated Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula pertinax surinama</i>	LC
Red-shouldered Macaw	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis nobilis</i>	LC
Tiny Tyrant-Manakin	<i>Tyrannetes virescens</i>	LC
Blue-backed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphi pareola pareola</i>	LC
White-crowned Manakin	<i>Pseudopipra pipra pipra</i>	LC
Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Ceratopipra erythrocephala erythrocephala</i>	LC
Guianan Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola rupicola</i>	LC
Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>	LC
Capuchinbird	<i>Perissocephalus tricolor</i>	LC
Pompadour Cotinga	<i>Xipholena punicea</i>	LC
Purple-breasted Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cotinga</i>	LC
Spangled Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cayana</i>	LC
Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>	LC
Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana cayana</i>	LC
Cinereous Becard	<i>Pachyramphus rufus rufus</i>	LC

White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyrhamphus polychopterus tristis</i>	LC
White-crested Spadebill	<i>Platyrrhynchus platyrhynchus platyrhynchus</i>	LC
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus oleagineus</i>	LC
Spotted Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum maculatum amacurense</i>	LC
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum cinereum</i>	LC
Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea ferruginea</i>	LC
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum napaeum</i>	LC
Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii guianensis</i>	LC
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster flavogaster</i>	LC
Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet	<i>Nesotriccus murinus incomtus</i>	LC
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox ferox</i>	LC
Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor lictor</i>	LC
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus sulphuratus</i>	LC
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis cayanensis</i>	LC
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Miodynastes maculatus tobagensis</i>	LC
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua pitangua</i>	LC
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana monachus</i>	LC
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus melancholicus</i>	LC
Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis</i>	LC
White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>	LC
Pied Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>	LC
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus saturates</i>	LC
Ash-winged Antwren	<i>Euchrepornis spodioptila spodioptila</i>	LC
Guianan Streaked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula surinamensis</i>	LC
White-browed Antbird	<i>Myrmoborus leucophrys angustirostris</i>	LC
Long-winged Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula longipennis longipennis</i>	LC
Grey Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula menetriesii cinereiventris</i>	LC
Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus lineatus</i>	LC
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major semifasciatus</i>	LC
Todd's Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus stictocephalus</i>	LC
Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis trinitatis</i>	LC
Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus doliatus</i>	LC
Mouse-coloured Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus murinus murinus</i>	LC
White-plumed Antbird	<i>Pithys albifrons albifrons</i>	LC
Rufous-throated Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys rufigula rufigula</i>	LC
Grey Antbird	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens immaculata</i>	LC
Guianan Warbling Antbird	<i>Hypocnemis cantator</i>	LC
Dusky Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus obscurior macconnelli</i>	LC
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus spirurus</i>	LC
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>	LC
Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes certhia certhia</i>	LC
Black-banded Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes picumnus picumnus</i>	LC
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus polystictus</i>	LC
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii littoralis</i>	LC
Guianan Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes albolineatus</i>	LC
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus cinnamomeus</i>	LC
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis gujanensis</i>	LC
Cayenne Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cayanus</i>	LC
Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla atricapilla</i>	LC
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>	LC
Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea chalybea</i>	LC
Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera tapera</i>	LC
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis ruficollis</i>	LC
White-banded Swallow	<i>Atticora fasciata</i>	LC
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica erythrogaster</i>	LC
Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus clarus</i>	LC
Coraya Wren	<i>Pheugopedius coraya ridgwayi</i>	LC
Buff-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus leucotis albipectus</i>	LC
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus melanopterus</i>	LC
White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis phaeopygus</i>	LC

Pale-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas albiventer</i>	LC
Purple-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chlorotica chlorotica</i>	LC
Finsch's Euphonia	<i>Euphonia finschi</i>	LC
Grassland Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus humeralis humeralis</i>	LC
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna praticola</i>	NT
Green Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>	LC
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus decumanus</i>	LC
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela cela</i>	LC
Red-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous haemorrhous</i>	LC
Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis nigrogularis</i>	LC
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis minimus</i>	LC
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus oryzivorus</i>	LC
Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus icterocephalus</i>	LC
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus cyaneus</i>	LC
Black-faced Dacnis	<i>Dacnis lineata lineata</i>	LC
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana cayana</i>	LC
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza spiza</i>	LC
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina splendens</i>	LC
Fulvous-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus surinamus surinamus</i>	LC
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo carbo</i>	LC
Slate-coloured Grosbeak	<i>Saltator grossus grossus</i>	LC
Chestnut-bellied Seed eater	<i>Sporophila castaneiventris</i>	LC
Ruddy-breasted Seed eater	<i>Sporophila minuta minuta</i>	LC
Wing-barred Seed eater	<i>Sporophila americana americana</i>	LC
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola minima (& Guianensis?)</i>	LC
Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis gularis</i>	LC
Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana mexicana</i>	LC
Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola gyrola</i>	LC
Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus episcopus</i>	LC
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum melanopectera</i>	LC

BIRD SPECIES SEEN IN ST. LUCIA (in order of Avilist v2025)

RED = ENDEMIC SPECIES

BLUE = HEARD ONLY

PURPLE = LEADER ONLY

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS
Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	LC
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina antillarum</i>	LC
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	LC
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis acuflavidus</i>	LC
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	LC
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	LC
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster leucogaster</i>	NE
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis</i>	LC
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	LC
Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyyura praevelox</i>	LC
Purple-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>	LC
Green-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis holosericeus holosericeus</i>	LC
Antillean Crested Hummingbird	<i>Orthorhynchus cristatus exilis</i>	LC
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus rivieri</i>	LC
St. Lucia Amazon	<i>Amazona versicolor</i>	VU
Caribbean Elaenia	<i>Elaenia martinica martinica</i>	LC
Lesser Antillean Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus oberi sanctaeluciae</i>	LC
Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis vorax</i>	LC
Lesser Antillean Pewee	<i>Contopus latirostris latirostris</i>	LC
Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altiloquus barbadensis</i>	LC
St. Lucia Wren	<i>Troglodytes mesoleucus</i>	NE

Rufous-throated Solitaire	<i>Myadestes genibarbis santaeluciae</i>	LC
St. Lucia Thrasher	<i>Ramphocinclus santaeluciae</i>	NE
Scaly-breasted Thrasher	<i>Allenia fusca schwartzi</i>	LC
Grey Trembler	<i>Cinclocerthia gutturalis macrorhyncha</i>	LC
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus antillarum</i>	LC
Lesser Antillean Euphonia	<i>Chlorophonia flavifrons</i>	LC
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis minimus</i>	LC
Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris inflexirostris</i>	LC
American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva (ssp?)</i>	LC
St. Lucia Warbler	<i>Setophaga delicata</i>	LC
Lesser Antillean Saltator	<i>Saltator albicollis albicollis</i>	LC
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola martinicana</i>	LC
Lesser Antillean Bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla noctis sclateri</i>	LC
St. Lucia Black Finch	<i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i>	EN
Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Melanospiza bicolor omissa</i>	LC

MAMMAL SPECIES SEEN (in order of *Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World* by Lynx 2020)

Guyanese Short-tailed Opossum	<i>Monodelphis brevicaudata</i>	LC
Giant Anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla tridactyla</i>	VU
Guianan Squirrel Monkey	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	LC
Brown Capuchin	<i>Sapajus apella apella</i>	LC
White-faced Saki	<i>Pithecia pithecia</i>	LC
Guianan Red Howler	<i>Alouatta macconnelli</i>	LC
Red-faced Black Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles paniscus</i>	VU
Greater Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus leporinus</i>	LC
Lesser Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris albiventris</i>	LC
Jaguarundi (iron-grey morph)	<i>Herpailurus yagouaroundi</i>	LC

REPTILE SPECIES SEEN (nomenclature as per iNaturalist)

Black Caiman	<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>	LC
Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus crocodilus</i>	LC
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	LC
Giant Ameiva	<i>Ameiva ameiva</i>	LC
Garden Tree Boa	<i>Corallus hortulana</i>	LC
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>	LC
St. Lucia Anole	<i>Anolis luciae</i>	EN
Arrau Turtle????	<i>Podocnemis expansa</i>	CD
Yellow-headed Sideneck	<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>	VU

BUTTERFLY SPECIES SEEN

South American Tropical Buckeye	<i>Junonia evarete</i>
Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia</i>
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae jatrophae</i>
Blue Morpho	

https://pbase.com/tmurray74/guyana_butterflies

MISCELLANEOUS CRITTERS

Caribbean Orange-horned Tarantula Hawk	<i>Pepsis ruficornis</i>	NE
'Bulldog Ant'		
Bullet Ant	<i>Paraponera clavata</i>	
Carpenter Bee sp		
Lemon-tipped Helicopter	<i>Mercistogaster ornata</i>	LC
'Katydid' species		

IUCN Classifications:

CD = Low Risk but Conservation Dependent

NR = Not Recognised

LC = Least Concern

NT = Near Threatened

VU = Vulnerable

EN = Endangered

CR = Critically Endangered

EW = Extinct in the Wild

EX = Extinct

NE = Not Evaluated



Oriole Birding group with Vision, St. Lucia by Neil Glenn