



Birds of a Feather

Amazon & Tropical Birding in Guyana

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Crowned Plover



The first known recording of birdlife in Guyana was made by the Schaumburg brothers who traveled to Guyana's interior in 1835 to 1839 and who also mapped Guyana's boundaries during 1841 to 1844. In 1956, the 'Zoo Quest to Guiana' was done by David Attenborough and others. Dorothy E. Snyder released 'The Birds of Guyana' in 1966 which contained 720 species. In 1994, Robert Fernandes and Balram Singh produced 'An Introduction to birds of Guyana' which gave a brief pictorial guide to some main birds in Guyana. An updated edition was released in 2004, containing 84 plates of birds in Guyana. In the 1980s, Guy and Ken conducted aerial surveys for shorebird along the entire South American coast. They also conducted Aerial surveys last year in Suriname and French Guiana.

The Tropenbos Foundation in 1996 listed 302 species recorded in Mabura Hill and surroundings. Iwokrama Rainforest reserve has also established a list of 450 species of birds within the reserve. The Smithsonian researchers Davis W. Finch, Michael J. Braun, Mark B. Robbins and Brian K. Schmidt released a new checklist in 2000 listing 786 species. Conservation International (Guyana) listed 264 species of birds in the Kanuku Mountains. In 2000 GATBS started its foster birds care programme. And in 2003, the Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society conducted and introduced the Annual Neotropic

and Austral Migrants Survey – this has been ongoing and its one of the main projects of the society. In 2004, the Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society (GATBS) released. 'A field checklist of Birds in Georgetown' listing 263 species by Gajendra Nauth Narine (Andy) called the City of Birds. In 2004, Guyana for the first time had official representation at the Ruthland Birdfair in London. Mr. Narine from GATBS and other personnel from the Ministry of Tourism and Guyana Tourism Authority were in fortunate to represent Guyana. In 2006, GATBS also did the first waterbird census in Guyana this project was in collaboration with Wetlands International. In 2007, Smithsonian

researchers Davis W. Finch, Michael J. Braun, Mark

B. Robbins and Brian K. Schmidt released a 2nd Edition of 'A field Checklist of Birds of Guyana' with a total of 814 species. The Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society in 2007 did a survey and initial identification on Important Bird

Areas in Guyana and has been able to identify 14 proposed protected areas for future conservation. With the Support from Birdlife International and Other involved organizations we were able to identify Members from the Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society (GATBS) is continuously updating information on bird data in Guyana to date; we have a total of 877 species recorded and more update bird information for many locations in the country.

The Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society in 2006 produced the first regional checklist on birds in Region # 4 containing 307 species by Andy Narine. In 2009, Narine along with Dr. Guy Morrison - Research Scientist, Shorebirds. Environment, Canada Science

& Technology, National Wildlife Research Centre – Canada and Ken Ross – Canadian Wildlife Service conducted an aerial survey and recordings of Shorebirds along the coast. In 2011, Members of GATBS produced and released a 'checklist for Birds in the Botanical Gardens' with a recording of 197 species. The Society is now supporting Region # 3, 9, and 10 to prepare their regional lists. The Essequibo River and surroundings has a total of 597 species of birds recorded and our Mangroves forest along the coastline inhabits over 320 species of Birds.

About GATBS.

The GATBS was founded in 2000 by Naturalist/Field Specialist and Bird Enthusiast Gajendra Nauth Narine (Andy).

Yellow Oriole



This is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit entity. Its main objectives are to protect the avifauna of Guyana, to prevent the extinction of any bird species, to maintain and improve where possible the conservation status of all bird species, and to undertake educational exercises and research projects throughout Guyana.

We assist students, as well as interested persons, societies and environmental clubs with bird information and data that they might need. We also collect and provide bird data from around Guyana. This is analyzed by the Society and used to determine way to manage

the local bird trade and the monitoring of migratory species during the migratory season. The Society also provides counseling on bird preservation. We are registered as a Specially Authorized Society under the Friendly Societies Act, to protect Guyana's flora and avifauna. GATBS has ongoing monitoring surveys which are done throughout the country. Surveys are done for conservation and monitoring is ongoing. Conservation works are also done in Georgetown. GATBS continue to conduct bird surveys throughout the country and our monitoring and educational awareness programmes are ongoing. Presently, proposing to have a field station to continue our programs and promoting bird conservation.

Why Birding in Guyana?

Guyana is truly birders and nature lover's paradise and its fast becoming recognized as one of South America's top birding and Wildlife tour destinations. The country is a natural museum for the eco-tourist, containing 275 waterfalls, four mountain ranges, eighteen lakes (some more easily accessible than others) and vast areas of untouched tropical rainforest. The Guianan Shield and the adjacent Amazon Basin form one of the largest equatorial forests in the world having a wide range of ecosystems. With this rich and unique flora and fauna, abundant wildlife and spectacular vegetation, and is one of the richest biodiversity locations in South America. Guyana occupies a significant percentage of the Guiana shield, which accounts not only for its rich biodiversity and captivating sceneries, but also the abundance and diversity in its beautiful bird species. To date Guyana has a total of 877 species recorded for the entire country these includes 27 Tepui Endemics, 48 Guianan Shield Endemics, 116 Wetland Birds, 26 Austral Migrants, 121 Neotropical Migrants, 1 Introduced Specie and 14 Proposed protected Important Bird Areas site for conservation. Due to the remoteness of many locations, there are many species yet to be identified and recorded!!!

**Habitats
Mangrove and Coastal Habitat Birding**

Our coastline is a 284 miles stretch

Caracaras



Rufous-crowned Tanager



and inhabits three (3) main species of Mangroves namely Black, Red and White Mangrove. The coast inhabits 121 Neotropical Migrant as well as a few species of Austral Migrants. There are over 320 species of birds recorded here including mangrove endemics. Some of the most popular birding sites on the coast are: Shell Beach, Pomeroon River mouth, Essequibo River Mouth, Demerara River, Hope Beach, Mahaica River, Abary River, Garden of Eden and Botanical Gardens.

Rupununi Savannas (including gallery forest, rivers and bush Island) and the Berbice Savannas Habitat Birding

The Rupununi Savannas inhabits over 350 species of birds likewise the Berbice Savannas. Most of these species fluctuates according to season and at some points mini pantanal are created. Some birding sites are: Surama Eco-Lodge, Rockview Lodge, Karasabai Village, Karanambu Ranch, Yupukari Village, Ireng and Takutu Gallery Forest, Moco Moco Settlement, Kanuku Mountains, Shulinab Village and the Dadanauwa Ranch.

Inland Dacama Forest, Rivers, Mountains, Mixed Forest and Mixed-flooded forests habitat Birding

There are over 560 species inhabiting these habitats. These include Tepui endemics, Guianan Shield endemics, highland and lowland species and fresh water species. Some Birding Sites are: The Kaieteur National Park, Hurukabra River Resort, Sloth Island Resort, Baganara Resort, Marshall Falls, North West, Gluck

Woodpecker



Silver Beak Tanager



Striated Heron



Wood Creepers



Island, Atta Lodge, Iwokrama Reserve, Surama, Wowetta, Rewa Eco-Lodge and Kanuku Mountains, Mapaima Eco-Lodge and the Wai-Wai Land Reserve. The capital city, Georgetown, is a small area of approximately 6 sq. miles and has a total of 284 species recorded. The habitat is structured by public places, parks, cultivated lands and coast lands. 263 species are recorded that inhabit Georgetown, and in one session over 50 species can be spotted from one location. The Botanical Gardens is the first official Birding Sanctuary in Guyana and it inhabits over 199 species which fluctuates according to season. It is 174 hectares' in size and is located almost in the heart of the capital. In 2011, The Botanical Gardens was officially declared the first Birding Sanctuary in Guyana. Caribbean Manatees, Two-toed Sloth, Brown Capuchin, Squirrel monkeys, Spectacled Caiman, Iguanas and Tegu Lizards are some of the wildlife known to inhabit the gardens. There are lots of specialties of birds that can be easily seen and it is one of the areas that can accommodate differently abled persons.

A sneak peak ... Blood-coloured Woodpecker

This is one out of seventeen species

of woodpeckers recorded for Guyana and it is the smallest specie. It is only found along the North Eastern shoulder of South America known as the Guianan Shield. There are sightings of large number of individuals spotted in Guyana and be found along the Coast between the mouth of the Essequibo River to the Corentyne River, over 140 miles stretch or half of the entire coastline here. Their habitats are mostly of Mangroves and cultivated lands and can be commonly seen in some areas. The Blood-coloured Woodpecker shares habitat with other woodpeckers, Woodcreepers and Piculets. The features of the handsome woodpecker obviously stands out from all the other species of woodpeckers since it's blood red colour is always stunning. This woodpecker is somewhat a very shy bird since most times when in search for sightings it is first heard than seen and if you are not careful to look you can pass by without even noticing since it is only 13cm in body length like the size of a regular lighter. It is also recorded as a Mangrove Endemic

Belted King Fisher



or known as restricted range specie. One of the areas which provides great chances of sightings and a suitable area for differently abled birders or nature lovers is the well-known Guyana's Birding Sanctuary – the Botanical Gardens. This is almost in the Heart of the Capital City - Georgetown. Tours to the Botanical Gardens for Blood-coloured woodpecker sightings are done by professional guides from Guyana Feather Friends. Visit www.birdingguyana.gy for more information. This specie of Woodpecker inhabits the coast also known to inhabit one of the most rare species of Woodpecker-the White Woodpecker which was only been seen for 5 times in one decade.

Fortunately, four of the five times the White-woodpecker were seen and recorded by yours truly Andy Narine and Julia a nature lover from Canada was fortunate to have the only photos of this specie while visiting to Guyana. We invite you to visit our beautiful country to witness and explore into our many habitats including pristine forests which entertain large number of birds and wildlife. Witness Mother Nature in her full glory and chances are great for seeing wildlife and birds in their natural habitat including Globally, Near-threatened and vulnerable species of the World. Welcome to the North Amazon Rainforest - Guyana!

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