

FEATURES

# TT birders flock to Cuba

JESSICA ROZEK

THE 21st International BirdsCaribbean Conference was held in Topes de Collantes, Cuba from July 13-17. This event occurs once every two years and brings together researchers, students and other professionals who aspire to achieve a common goal: conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats.

Some 240 delegates representing 30 countries and islands participated in five fun and intense days of networking, learning and sharing.

The TT group of ten included members of the Field Naturalists' Club (TTFNC), its president Darshan Narang, and former BirdsCaribbean president Dr Howard Nelson. Seven TT delegates delivered oral presentations or posters detailing their recent research on birds, ecology, or human-wildlife interactions in TT.

The topics covered were diverse, from Sharmila Tolan's An assessment of heavy metal levels in the Brown Pelican, to Raqib Abdul's poster, Investigating the Bananaquit in the Aripo Savan-



THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

nas. The theme was Celebrating Caribbean Diversity. With this in mind, the first day was devoted to research and education in Cuba. Cuba Day was a great way for the hosts to introduce itself and share the many reasons why Cuba is so biodiverse and unique.

Cuba has 26 endemic bird species—which means they are found nowhere else on the planet. One, the Bee Hummingbird, is the smallest in the world. Cuba is home to several outstanding, contemporary ornithologists including Dr Lourdes Mugica Valdés and Dr Hiram González Alonso, who both gave keynote speeches and were presented with Lifetime Achievement Awards from BirdsCaribbean.

In the 150 sessions, workshops



Some of TT's bird watchers at the BirdsCaribbean Conference in Cuba. Photo:Aly Ollivierre

and round-table discussions, participants continued to explore themes that are unique to the Caribbean. There were sessions highlighting how migratory birds rely on the region, the fragility of Caribbean forest and wetland

ecosystems, marketing and ecotourism, and more. The conference also included immersive participatory workshops that ranged from enhancing writing techniques to capturing and banding wild birds. One of the

highlights was an announcement from author and conservationist Herbert Raffaele on his updating the Birds of the West Indies field guide.

BIRDS Continues on page 25A

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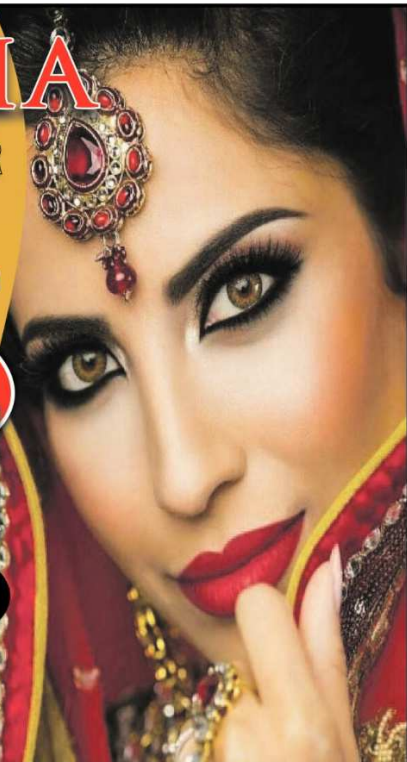
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FEATURES

# Update for West Indies bird field guide

BIRDS from page 24A

The new version will include revised information about ranges, changes in taxonomy, and some new illustrations. This announcement is especially exciting because the project is fully supported by Princeton University Press.

TT and BirdsCaribbean have a long history of collaborating. In 1997, Trinidad hosted the BirdsCaribbean Conference

and Tobago hosted in 2003. BirdsCaribbean has presented capacity-building programmes in TT such as the West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands Conservation Workshop and has financially supported Trinbagonian researchers with grants to conduct studies on local avian ecology.

TT is consistently highlighted by BirdsCaribbean for dominating Global Big Day, an effort to count as

many bird species as possible in one day. TT is also a participant in the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival and International Migratory Bird Day activities which are held annually.

The next BirdsCaribbean conference will be held in Guadeloupe in 2019 and is open to anyone interested in attending. We anticipate that Trinbagonians and TTFNC members will continue to be leaders in re-

searching our natural environment and once again share critical and new information about the regions avifauna and habitats with our neighbours.

To learn more visit [www.birdscaribbean.org](http://www.birdscaribbean.org) or visit BirdsCaribbean on Facebook or Twitter. For more

info on our natural environment, contact the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club at [admin@ttfnc.org](mailto:admin@ttfnc.org) or visit our website at [www.ttfnc.org](http://www.ttfnc.org) and our Facebook or YouTube pages. The club's next monthly meeting is on October 12 at St Mary's College, Port of Spain.



The Cuban Tody is another of the island's endemic species. Photo: David Southall



The Bee Hummingbird is the world's smallest bird. It is only found in Cuba. Photo: Jessica Rozek

## NOTICE



**The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) invites proposals from eligible respondents for the following:**

• Ref. No. W.T.C. – 77/2017

**TENDER FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THREE (3) 4X4 BACKHOES WITH EXTENDED STICK, HYDRAULIC SIDE SHIFT, ADDITIONAL BUCKETS AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL HAMMER.**

**ELIGIBILITY**

Invitation to Tender is open to firms that can demonstrate their ability to carry out the works according to the required specifications.

**TENDER DOCUMENTS**

Interested respondents will have the opportunity to view the tender documents at the Purchasing Department, Head Office, St. Joseph. Access to the site would only be provided upon presentation of a receipt showing a non-refundable fee of **Six Hundred T.T. Dollars (TT\$ 600.00)** or **(USDS 100.00)** for **W.T.C. 77/2017** has been paid to the Authority's Cashier, Farm Road, St. Joseph. Alternatively, the fee may be deposited or wire transferred to WASA's Account at RBC Royal Bank (Trinidad and Tobago) Limited, Account No. 1100 0000 2053 239.

Further, interested respondents are required to provide a valid email address when registering for the tender.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

WASA will not defray any cost incurred by bidders.

**SCHEDULED DATES**

Item	Date
ITT Publication	04 October, 2017
Pre-Submission Meeting	12 October, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m.
Submissions Due/Tender Opening	01 November, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.

**INFORMATION**

Further information may be obtained from the Purchasing Department, Head Office, St. Joseph. (Telephone No. **662-2302-07 Ext. 2870-79**).

800-4H20 (800-4420/4426) [wasa.gov.tt](http://wasa.gov.tt) 9272

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