JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE

JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE'S
30TH ANNUAL TROPICAL ADVENTURE
TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
May 19 - 26, 2018

Join Biology Professor Emeritus Nelda Hinckley and other naturalists for an eight-day tour of this two-island nation. Spend three days and three nights at a small resort on a pristine beach in Tobago, where visiting tropicbirds and boobies on their nest island is just a quick boat excursion away. Spend four nights at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200-acre wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad’s rainforested Northern range. Participants will travel with expert local guides visiting several unique natural areas throughout both islands.

The tour will be based at the charming Blue Waters Inn in Tobago, and the Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge in Trinidad. Beach time and birding in Tobago, paired with Trinidad, makes this nature and birding tour a prime one for a great learning experience! Avid naturalists have flocked to Asa Wright Nature Centre for over three decades, drawn by a magnetic combination of fascinating birds, talented naturalists, and time at a place that made history in study of flora and fauna of the New World tropics.

Local guides add in-depth knowledge of several unique natural areas throughout both islands.

LAND COST: $1695 (with 10 participants, includes all meals, lodging, and field trips)
For info and current air fare, contact:
Prof. Nelda W. Hinckley at (618) 549-5588 or neldahinckley@jalc.edu

Send $100 Deposit Check payable to Caligo Ventures, Inc. to Prof. Hinckley at John A. Logan, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, Illinois 62918.

photos: Nelda Hinckley and John Schwegman
Trinidad & Tobago Guided Group Tour Itinerary

- **DAY 1** Arrival at Piarco International Airport in Port of Spain and transfer to Trinidad’s sister island of Tobago. This island forms the final link in the chain of mountain ranges extending from the Venezuelan Coastal Range on the very edge of the South American Continental Shelf. Tobago’s climate and rainfall more closely resembles that of the Lesser Antilles; it is drier and windier than Trinidad. We will take a leisurely drive to our lovely beach side hotel, the Blue Waters Inn. After lunch, we will have a relaxing afternoon, where we can swim, snorkel, and explore the rocky coast. We will have dinner and the evening in the Blue Waters Inn.

- **DAY 2** This morning, weather permitting, we will depart by boat for Little Tobago Island, one of this nation’s most important wildlife sanctuaries. As we cross over to the island, we will watch for Leatherback and Hawksbill Sea Turtles and enjoy spectacular views of one of the Caribbean’s most beautiful, and pristine coral formations from the comfort of our glass-bottom boat. Once landing, depending on the time of the year, we will explore the nesting colonies of Red-billed Tropicbird, Red-footed and Brown Boobies, and Sooty and Noddy Terns. After lunch we will take a boat to snorkel the reefs off Goat Island. The reef flora and fauna found here are diverse and abundant, containing over 40 species of corals and 65 species of fish, along with other reef invertebrates such as sea urchins, brittle stars, and sponges. We will return to the Blue Waters Inn for the evening.

- **DAY 3** This morning we will visit the Rainforest Preserve, where Tobago’s best mountain forests are found at elevations over 2,000 feet. A walk in this lush forest of tree ferns, waterfalls, and lianas will yield sightings of birds such as White-tailed Sabrewing, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Blue-backed Manakin, Collared Trogon and other Tobago specialties such as Red-crowned Woodpecker and White-fringed Antwren. After a picnic lunch, we will continue touring Tobago, and enjoy a West Indian dinner and a cultural show at Blue Waters Inn.

- **DAY 4** The morning will leave time for more beach combing and further opportunity for observation of Rufous-Vented Chacalaca and Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird. After checking out of Blue Waters Inn, we will drive down the Carribean side of the island to the airport for our flight back to Trinidad and transfer to the Asa Wright Nature Center and Lodge in time for tea and bird watching on the veranda. Dinner will be at the Asa Wright Nature Center. The Centre is situated in a typical valley of Trinidad’s Northern Range. This site has been a traditional center of coffee, cocoa, and citrus plantation and many of these plants are still maintained at the Centre. Natural second-growth has taken over and festooned the abandoned plantation vegetation with vines and a host of epiphytes. The whole effect is one of being deep in a tropical rainforest.

- **DAY 5** Awaken this morning to the raucous sound of the Crested Oropendola and a host of other exotic sounds. Our day will start with a guided tour of the several trails that traverse this rich and diverse wildlife sanctuary. On our introductory walk we will see colorful birds such as the Bay-headed and Turquoise Tanager, numerous hummingbirds and secretive antbirds that will be spotted by their haunting calls. We will search for the elusive Bearded Bellbird whose “bonging” call can be heard constantly through the day. And we will delight in the antics of the White-bearded Manakins as we visit their courtship display grounds, or leks. The afternoon will be free to allow us to relax, enjoy the trails and adjust to the tropical sun and heat. Or one can sit on the world-famous verandah and enjoy the colorful array of tanagers, hummingbirds and honeycreepers attracted to the birdfeeders and flowers, as well as an occasional agouti. And for those who wish, there is the opportunity for a cooling dip in the natural pool.

- **DAY 6** This morning we will visit Dunstan Cave, a beautiful riparian grotto located on the sanctuary, to view the breeding colony of the fascinating nocturnal Oribird. In the late afternoon, we will take a picnic supper to Matura Beach to await the evening arrival of nesting Leatherback Turtles. These ancient giants come ashore between April and July, digging their nests and depositing their eggs. This 12-mile stretch of protected beach is one of the best spots in the Caribbean to experience this awe-inspiring event.

- **DAY 7** This morning we will explore more of the Centre and the tropical rainforest – perhaps observing leafcutter and army ants at work; searching the trees for orchids and bromeliads; observing a nesting colony of oropendola at work; or watching for special tropical birds such as trogons, toucans and parrots. We will depart before noon with picnic lunches for a visit to Wyrete Hummingbird Center. After our lunch, we will depart for Caroni Marsh, a very specialized mangrove forest that contains several genera and species of mangroves, showing classic examples of plant adaptation in this unique brackish water community. We will learn about this endangered habitat as we cruise the channels and lagoons, looking at both the marine and bird life that make this marsh their home. Our day will end with the spectacular flight of the Scarlet Ibis returning to their mangrove roosts at dusk, truly one of the world’s most dramatic natural moments. Returning to the boat dock we will search the channels for the mysterious sounding Common Potoo. We will return to the Centre for a late dinner.

- **DAY 8** This exciting trip ends this morning as we depart for our flight homeward.