JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE

JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE’S
27TH ANNUAL TROPICAL ADVENTURE
TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
May 30-JUNE 6, 2015

Based at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200-acre wildlife sanctuary in Trindad’s rainforested Northern range, Mt. Plasir Estate Lodge beachfront Hotel, the second largest Leatherback Turtle nesting site in the world, and at the charming Blue Waters Inn in Tobago, participants will travel with expert local guides visiting several unique natural areas throughout both islands.

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 the study of flora and fauna of the New World tropics. This experience, Trinidad paired with beach time and birding time in neighboring Tobago, makes this nature and birding tour a prime one to plan on for a great learning experience!

Join Professor Nelda Hinckley to spend three nights at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200-acre wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad’s rainforested Northern range and one night at Mt. Plasir Estate Lodge with a field trip to see endemic Trinidad Piping Guan. Enjoy three nights on Tobago at our small hotel on a pristine beach. We will observe tropicbirds and boobies on their nest island, Little Tobago, just a quick ride away by glass bottomed boat.

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

LAND COST: $1495 (with 10 participants, includes all meals, lodging, and field trips with local naturalist guides)
STUDENTS: Register for Biology 241

For info and current air fare, contact:
Prof. Nelda W. Hinckley at (618) 549-5588 or JALC office number: C238H
Email: 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.
Trinidad & Tobago Guided Group Tour Itinerary

MAY 30 Arrive at Piarco International Airport in Port-of-Spain (POS) and transfer to Asa Wright Nature Center in time for afternoon tea while viewing colorful tropical birds from the Centre’s feeders.

MAY 31 Awake to raucous oropendula, the signature “bonk” of bellbirds, and the energetic motion of dozens of hummingbirds. It is possible to see forty different bird species from the Veranda while sipping your morning coffee before breakfast. Spend the day walking Centre trails in search of all forms of flora and fauna. Observe White-bearded Manakins and Golden-headed Manakins undergoing their courtship dances at their leks. Land crabs, Agoutis, and Golden Tegu Lizards can be seen while identifying the array of tropical plants on the trails.

JUNE 1 Today we take a short hike to the world’s most accessible Oilbird cave. Oilbirds rank high (#1!) on the evolutionary distinctiveness scale, being a nocturnal, fruit-eating species. Our Asa Wright Nature Centre grand final is a visit to the legendary Caroni Marsh, where we witness the roosting of scarlet Ibis, one of the Earth’s most dramatic natural moments. We will also observe the Silky Anteater, Four-eyed Fish, and a Cook’s Tree Boa.

JUNE 2 We depart AWNC for Grande Riviere and our beachfront ecododge, the Mt. Plasir Estate Hotel. We will have a morning walk and birding at the Aripo Atricultural Station en route where we learn the ecology of Trinidad’s once extensive savanna region. When we reach the hotel, there will be opportunity to see hatching Leatherback Turtles from earlier nestings. As the sun sets, we will watch the sea as colossal Leatherback Turtles come ashore to lay their eggs on the beach.

JUNE 3 We will arise early to search for the Trinidad Piping Guan, one of the rarest birds on Earth. After breakfast, we will pack up and head for the airport in Port of Spain to catch our short flight (35 minutes) to Tobago. It is a scenic drive of an hour and a half to Blue Waters Inn at Speyside from Tobago’s Crowne Point Airport. After lunch, we will have time for a swim or snorkle from the beach of our hotel. The hotel has an eternity pool for a quick swim.

JUNE 4 Today we will explore the mountains of Tobago, driving up to Tobago’s Main Ridge Forest Reserve, the oldest legally-protected forest reserve in our hemisphere. We will learn how hurricanes have structured this forest over many years. We will look for White-tailed Saberwing, Blue-backed Manakin, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Yellow-legged Thrush, both Fuscous and Venezuelan flycatchers, White-throated Spadebills, and Plain Antivereos on a winding trail that descends into the forest.

JUNE 5 Travel across the bay from Speyside by glass bottomed boat (20-30 minutes) to Little Tobago island, where we climb up to a lookout for a view of nesting cliffs that are the nesting ground of Red-billed tropicbirds, Red-footed and Brown boobies, and Sooty and Noddy terns. We will have the afternoon devoted to snorkeling from the boat which lets us see an excellent array of fish and study all life of the reefs in more detail. We will also explore the rocky coast and tide pools. There should be some local steel-drum music at Blue Waters Inn to enjoy on our last evening in this tropical paradise.

JUNE 6 We will take a short flight back to Trinidad timed for check-in for our International flights home.

photos: Nelda Hinckley and John Schweigman