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GUYANA BIRDING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Birding Tourism Operators and UK Media In Guyana for Product Familiarization Trip Report Many Ornithological Highlights

GEORGETOWN— The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) – United States Agency for International Development (USAID) / Guyana Trade and Investment Support (GTIS) Birding Tourism Program is excited to be hosting participants from all over the globe for a ten day product familiarization tour (FAM trip) from November 17 to 26. The group consists of seven representatives from niche birding tour companies in the UK, U.S., Canada, Ecuador and South Africa, and two journalists from UK birding publications. Reports sent in from the field offer a glimpse of many highlights from the first half of the jam-packed ten-day tour itinerary.

The trip began with a tour of Georgetown's Botanical Gardens, where Andy Narine and Luke Johnson, of the Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society (GATBS), led the group on an early morning tour. Participants were amazed to learn that more than 180 species have been recorded in the gardens, and were thrilled to see nearly 50 of them. The group's first ornithological highlight also came here with the spotting of three Blood-colored Woodpeckers, a beautiful bird found only in the Guianas.

The group eventually made their way to Baganara Island Resort for a tour of the resort's birding trails and lunch hosted by Abdoul Bah, Manager of Evergreen Adventures. It was then on to Shanklands for the night. Shanklands' owners Max and Joanne Jardim and Manager, Bernard Lee Yong, greeted the group before they set out exploring the grounds, nature trails, and nearby Macouria Creek. Species spotted, with the help of local guide Felix Leonard, included Channel-billed Toucans, Red-bellied Macaws, Black Aracari, Golden-handed Tamarins, and the elusive Painted Tody-Flycatcher.

From Shanklands, the group made their way to Arrowpoint Nature Resort where owners Gerry and Debbie Gouveia met them. Bird spottings there included several species of Tanagers, Black-headed Antbirds, and Green-tailed Goldenthrout and Crimson Topaz Hummingbirds.

From Arrowpoint, it was on to Kaieteur Falls. There the group was amazed with the birds they saw, including the coveted Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, the famous White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts, and the rare Orange-breasted Falcon.

The group then re-boarded the plane and headed to Annai, where they embarked vehicles bound for Surama. The trip took much longer than normal because the roadside birding was so fruitful. All tour members were thrilled to encounter the Spotted Puffbird and Finch's Euphonia, which were on the desired life list of birds for many of the most experienced participants.

The next morning, Surama guide Milner Captain and Iwokrama guide, Ron Allicock, led the group on a birding trip through the forest. Among the many species viewed were Brown-throated Parakeet, Golden-headed Manakin, Todd's Antwren, Rufous-throated Antbird and Red and Green Macaw.

From Surama, the group journeyed through the Iwokrama rainforest to the Iwokrama Field Station. Again, due to the diversity of bird life spotted along the road, the group stopped multiple times. Highlight species encountered included Giant Jacomars, Black Aracari, Guianan Red Cotinga and Gray-winged Trumpeters. Once at the Field Station, the group explored nearby trails and Turtle Mountain with local guides Dexter Torris and Ron Allicock. Some group members were delighted to see a Jaguar and an Ocelot, and all had good views of Red Howlers and Black Spider Monkeys.

From Iwokrama, the group will make stops at Wowetta Village, Rock View Lodge, and Karanambu Ranch before heading back to Georgetown.

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