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# GUYANA BIRDING

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **American Birding Association Silent Auction Winners Say Trip to Guyana Exceeded Expectations**



**GEORGETOWN**—Last June, representatives from the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) / Guyana Trade and Investment Support (GTIS) birding tourism project attended the American Birding Association’s (ABA) annual convention in Maine. To garner excitement and interest for Guyana as a birding destination, a birding trip for two to Guyana was donated. Cara Lodge, Rock View Lodge, Karanambu, Surama, Shanklands, Baganara, Community and Tourism Services (CATS), Trans Guyana Aviation, Wilderness Explorers, and GTIS sponsored the trip. The couple that won the birding trip (the most coveted prize at the ABA silent auction), Joelle Buffa and Clyde Morris, recently completed their travels, saying that, “Guyana is like no place we have ever been.”



Joelle and Clyde, both employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in California, consider themselves avid birders. They have traveled extensively in pursuit of their hobby, including throughout Africa and Central and South America. Needless to say, they arrived in Guyana with plenty of experience to compare the local birding offerings to; they said the trip exceeded their expectations.

On their two-week trip, the birders visited Georgetown, Karanambu Ranch, Rock View Lodge, Wowetta Village, Surama Village, Iwokrama Canopy Walkway and the Atta Rainforest Lodge, Shanklands, and Baganara Island Resort. Joelle said that, “every place we visited had something really special, something unique.”

Overall, the couple said they, “were very impressed with the bird life in Guyana...and loved all of the local guides.” On the guides, their comments ranged from, “excellent birder” to “wonderful.”

On the variety of accommodation they experienced, they were very pleased, adding that, “we have never been treated so well.” In their feedback, they said Rock View Lodge was, “ideally situated for birding”; Shanklands had, “great birding from the hotel grounds”; Surama was described as, “The most comfortable ‘rustic’ I’ve experienced. This is the most peaceful, beautiful village I’ve ever visited.” They also enjoyed being treated like family at Karanambu Ranch, and said their stay there was, “The highlight in a very wonderful trip.”



In the end, Joelle and Clyde felt so privileged to be in Guyana, and so thankful for the great trip, that they plan on writing two articles—one for submission to the ABA publication, *Birding*, and one for the *San Francisco Observer*. The couple also plans on returning to Guyana with friends.

The ABA trip would not have been possible if tourism suppliers were not pledging their full support through the generous donations of accommodations and in-kind and reduced cost services. The Guyana birding tourism sector is thankful to the tourism suppliers who supported this trip and allowed Guyana to achieve a high profile at the ABA Convention.

The Birding Tourism Program is receiving support from GTIS, a joint project of the Government of Guyana and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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