



# The Bellbird Newsletter

THE ASA WRIGHT NATURE CENTRE



www.asawright.org

September 2009



## UTC clears trails at Asa Wright

Staff of the Unit Trust Corporation (UTC), in a continuing effort to exercise their Corporate Social Responsibility, performed volunteer trail-clearing work on the Asa Wright Spring Hill Estate during the weekends from May 31 to July 25, 2009.

An estimated 250 UTC staff members (just under half of the company's entire staff) participated in this year's programme. All branch offices (except from Tobago) were represented, with most participants having visited before on private trips, some having made their first visit during the company's first volunteer programme in 2008.

During the clean-up sessions, groups averaging 30 persons were lead into the forest and overseen by Mr. Winston Rojas, who they all claimed was very informative, professional and helpful. His assistance was essential to the programme's overall success. Clearance of the Centre's ten-mile network of trails was



done with some volunteers commenting that it was their first time in the rainforest.

UTC's Marketing Assistant Ms. Denise Artherton, who coordinated the programme, was in high praise of the work conducted at the Centre and communicated that it was a rewarding experience for everyone involved. This exercise, she said, is just one of a series of UTC's Corporate Social programmes pursued around the country,

Management and Staff of the Asa Wright Nature Centre are exceedingly grateful to the Unit Trust Corporation and thank them for the tremendous volunteer work done over the programme's last two cycles, and look forward to hosting them again in the future.



The Bearded Bellbird  
(*Procnias averano*)

## Listen for the Bellbird

By far one of the loudest and most peculiar forest bird species one is likely to see, the Bearded Bellbird – also called the Mossy Throated Bellbird or Campanaro because of its beard-like wattles and metallic sound – can easily be heard and recognised during forest excursions.

These pigeon-sized Bellbirds are of a small group of four species which form part of the Cotinga family and are distributed throughout most of the American tropics. All Cotingas are adorned with strange appendages, colours and/or have odd behaviours. Unlike other Cotingas, Bellbird males are raucous birds (heard over great distances), performing explosively loud croaks or bell-like sounds used mainly to advertise their territories.

These forest birds can be heard and observed displaying within the sub-canopy regions of the forest (30-80 feet up). While the Bearded Bellbird is the only resident species in Trinidad, it is often heard rather than seen. Among the best places to see this special bird is along the nature trails of Asa Wright Nature Centre.

## CENTRE CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

The Asa Wright Nature Centre & Lodge will be closed to the visiting public for renovations from Thursday 3rd – Wednesday 16th September 2009.