

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO BRAZIL
Atlantic Rainforest Special

Tour 1: 03 – 12 September 2010

Tour 2: 11 – 20 September 2010



Leader: Colin Bushell

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO BRAZIL

Atlantic Rainforest Special

Tour 1: 03 – 12 September 2010

A Personal Diary

“One Stop” birding tours are growing in popularity and the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge at REGUA is an ideal base for a week birding in Brazil. I have been travelling to REGUA for several years now. Indeed my first stay here was a post-tour extension reconnaissance after leading one of the Ornitholidays Itatiaia / Pantanal / Iguacu departures. At that time I could see the potential for birding tourism at REGUA but the project has moved on with a superb network of trails through wetlands and forests led by local guides who know their patch intimately. REGUA is not just a reserve with a comfortable lodge though. REGUA is an ongoing conservation project; purchasing and protecting Atlantic Rainforest, planting trees and creating habitats for birds such as the superb “wetland on your doorstep” outside the lodge.

During these, the first ever, Ornitholidays tours to the Atlantic Forests in eastern Brazil we experienced a wide range of endemic Brazilian birds, many restricted to this most endangered of ecosystems. But our birding wasn't exclusively in the tall forests. We explored wetlands, coastal Restinga (another threatened habitat) and dry forests in search of some of the rarest birds South America has to offer as well as enjoying penguins, boobies, terns and waders in coastal Rio de Janeiro state.

3 – 4 September

Our first Ornitholidays group to REGUA meets at London Heathrow Terminal One on a fine late summer afternoon for the first of two departures to this Atlantic Forest locality. Fortunately our chosen airline TAM permits early check-in for our late evening flight to Rio de Janeiro via Sao Paulo, allowing us plenty of time to meet up again in the departure lounge prior to our flight of little more than 11 hours.

Take-off is slightly delayed and apart from an unscheduled landing at Recife in the north-east of Brazil we still have time to connect with our flight to Rio at Sao Paulo. Arriving in Rio everything goes smoothly including baggage collection and we meet Steve who's arrived in Rio a few days prior to the tour for some sightseeing. Our driver Alcenir is also there to meet us with that smile that breaks open so easily and we're soon on the road out of Rio de Janeiro with Great and Snowy Egrets in the coastal wetlands alongside many Southern Lapwings, a few Brazilian Teals and a White-necked Heron.

Passing through Guapimirim and onwards through to Guapiacu we arrive at the lodge after a drive of approximately two hours. After room allocation we settle down to the first of many good meals at REGUA. Black Jacobin, Rufous-breasted Hermit, Glittering-throated Emerald, Violet-capped Woodnymph and Swallow-tailed Hummingbirds tussle for supremacy at the feeders outside the lodge as we eat, but surprisingly little else is attracted despite a healthy supply of fruit. After a chance to rest we take our first birding walk at REGUA accompanied by Adelei, one of REGUA's top bird guides. It's still quite hot but the nearby wetland is always a good starting point when familiarising oneself with the REGUA avifauna and we are soon watching Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher (a bird restricted to the Atlantic Forests), Purple-throated Euphonia and the stunning Green-headed Tanager. On recent visits here I have seen Tropical Screech-Owls at a regular roost site and Adelei shows us one at its latest spot in shady vine-covered branches, before we take the path between the lagoons. This marvellous wetland was once just a damp field several years ago and has seen various stages of development over my last few visits here, now supporting a very healthy population of Neotropical waterfowl. White-faced Whistling-Ducks, Brazilian Teal, Least Grebes and Common and Purple Gallinules grace the pools and marsh fringes but the star bird is undoubtedly the Masked Duck. This rare duck prefers still lagoons with floating vegetation and the REGUA wetland suits its requirements perfectly as they sit low in the water making them difficult to locate. Three ducks and a handsome drake are scoped but our attention is constantly diverted to the movements of Capped Herons, Wattled Jacanas and hordes of Cattle Egrets arriving to form their island roosts. Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Wing-banded Horneros, Masked Water-Tyrants and White-headed Marsh-Tyrants pop up on islands as Southern and Yellow-headed Caracaras pass overhead and Blackish Rails squeal from the damp vegetation.

A Common Potoo calls eerily as we return to the lodge and Pauraques sing from the distant forest borders as we sit drinking our first caiparihnas (a powerful Brazilian cocktail courtesy of the lodge) of the tour.

5 September

We take a 5.30 am breakfast this morning as we are travelling off-site from REGUA. Alcenir arrives to take us to the Carmo and Sumidouro area meeting Leonardo, our local bird expert for the day en route. A few birds in the damp pastures like Limpkin, Whistling Heron and Savanna Hawks delay us a little. Climbing the road crossing the Serra dos Orgaos we stop for a comfort break, a photo op' (the "Finger of God" outcrop is spectacular indeed) and a spot of birding with endemic Golden-chevroned Tanager and Plain Parakeet seen before we board the bus once again. Descending after the pass the "rain-shadow" effect of the Orgaos range sees a transition from lush green humid forest to dry tropical forest and dusty roads and cleared grasslands. These dry forests near Carmo, their very existence threatened by deforestation, are the home of two rare endemics we hope to see. No sooner have we disembarked from the bus than Leonardo manages to entice a pair of Three-toed Jacamars to the tops of the trees above us, swiftly followed by a pair of Serra Antwrens. The jacamars may not be the most gaudy of their group (basically "oily" brown and buff) and lack the metallic greens, blues and chestnut of their rainforest counterparts, but we are fortunate indeed that this globally rare species is locally common in this area at least. The antwren eventually shows very well, the male mainly black with his contrasting white supercilium and wing and tail spots accompanied by the female. She is so different with her pale underparts, fawn uppers and blackish mask set off by a white supercilium, almost a negative version of her partner. Other birds seen at Carmo along the road include a Yellow-browed Tyrant and a Hangnest Tody-Tyrant. Finding a shady spot to stop for lunch our "break" is interrupted by some very interesting species indeed, including Black-necked Aracari, Yellow-eared Woodpecker and two Atlantic Forest endemics in the form of a handsome Crescent-chested Puffbird and a skulking Rufous Gnateater. Sapphire-spangled Emerald is the hummingbird of the open areas here and is also seen at our next stop at the Sumidouro Road. By now it is very hot but we do manage to add a few good birds to the day list like Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Purple-throated Euphonia and Plumbeous Kite before deciding to head back to REGUA. Crossing the Serra dos Orgaos is a totally different experience on the way back as the range is engulfed in thick cloud with fine drizzle. This weather persists nearly all the way back to REGUA but thankfully clears as we arrive back at the lodge for dinner and caiparinhas (of course!).

6 September

Today is spent birding the REGUA property and the Waldenoor Trail is the choice this morning, as it should allow us to see a few birds not present near the lodge. The thick layer of cloud hanging over the forested hillsides is a little worrying but thankfully comes to nothing, giving us an overcast but pleasant morning, perhaps helping the prolonged bird activity noted later. The jeep takes us as far up the hill as possible before Adelei jumps out just as a White-necked Hawk banks along the ridge below us, showing us its almost completely white tail. A good start and the promising omens continue as Grey-hooded Attila, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager and White-necked Thrush show in the rather dark forest. A small clearing is very productive though with Crested Becards, Black-goggled Tanagers, Star-throated Antwrens and Euler's Flycatcher in the borders as Scaly-headed Parrots and White-collared Swifts pass noisily overhead. The clanging song of a Bare-throated Bellbird gives away its presence thanks to Adelei's sharp eyes, sitting on top of a big Cecropia tree on a distant ridge. Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Golden-chevroned Tanager and Chestnut-crowned Becard show before one of the star birds of the day appears in the form of a tiny Frilled Coquette. This diminutive hummingbird shows his red ruff with black and white scales well, and through the scope we can see the black-tipped red bill too. A real stunner!

As we climb higher we find White-barred Piculet, Blond-crested Woodpecker, White-shouldered Fire-eye and Sepia-capped Flycatcher before our attention turns to the distant ridges once more, where several Channel-billed Toucans and two Mantled Hawks are perched. Once again the scope is invaluable here but descending back down the hill flocks passing close by call for other skills, as Lesser Woodcreeper, Scaled Woodcreeper and Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner pass in the understory. But these are to be just a "taster" of what was to come as a big mixed flock enters our "theatre" with four Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers and a Yellow-throated Woodpecker in the trees above us, closely followed by Rufous-headed Tanagers and many species already noted this morning. Three Crescent-chested Puffbirds and a nice male Blue-headed Manakin perform for us before we leave the forest but birding doesn't end there. Driving down the hill a smart White-eared Puffbird perches right by the road and poses for us as we pass. A good morning indeed.

After a leisurely lunch and a rest most of the group gather for a late afternoon stroll across the wetland ending the day on the Sao Jose Trail. Masked Ducks, Black-capped Donacobius and Masked Yellowthroat are noted as we pass the pools. We pause for a while to study a Rusty-margined Flycatcher, to compare it with the similar Social Flycatchers seen in the morning, before entering the forest. White-flanked Antwrens and a super Long-billed Wren, belting out his powerful song as he clambers through the overhead vines, are most welcome in the quite dark forest conditions. Grey-hooded Attila and White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner keep us busy but the amazingly close Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher perched for all to see surpasses tantalising glimpses of a Rufous-capped Antthrush. A Giant Antshrike calls briefly but by now it's all but dark and we have to leave for dinner at the lodge with several hundred Cattle Egrets gathering on the wetland islands as we pass.

7 September

Time to take a trip away from REGUA for most of the day again and head towards the coast. It's unusual to visit a coastal site when in this part of the world as most tours concentrate on humid forest but we are in search of a very rare bird in a very threatened habitat today. We'll be birding in the coastal scrub and dry woodland known as Restinga and appropriately in search of the rare Restinga Antwren. Once again the weather fits our birding perfectly being calm and dry as we arrive at our coastal birding site near Cabo Frio. Leonardo wastes no time at all as we leave the bus and immediately plays the song of the Restinga Antwren. It sounds almost identical to the Serra Antwren we saw near Carmo just a few days previously and responds right away, just like that species too! In no time at all we are enjoying good views of one of our target birds; the virtually all-black male with just a few white spots on the wings and tail and the quite different, ornately patterned female. Bran-coloured Flycatcher and the endemic Hangnest Tody-Tyrant are the next species to be lured into view by Leonardo and his trusty iPod, before some Sooretama Slaty-Antshrikes give us a bit of a run-around, finally capitulating and singing and tail pumping near to us. Most of our birding is done in the scrub-like Restinga habitat but every so often we enter more wooded areas with small copses of larger trees. It's here that we really strike lucky when a female Black-backed Tanager is located. Yet another Restinga Brazilian endemic species and a new bird for everyone; Leonardo included!

Leonardo guides at Carbo Frio frequently (in fact he was here only the previous day) and has seen Magellanic Penguins in the bay of late. This is an unusual occurrence with over five hundred penguins being found dead recently, presumably dispersed from their colonies further south in Argentina in search of food. A quick scan from the dunes produces Brown Booby, some South American Terns and no less than four Magellanic Penguins. The flat sea conditions are ideal for viewing and good scope views of the penguins are enjoyed by all. Unfortunately we also find a few casualties on the beach and subsequently find out that all birds recovered have in fact starved to death. At this time Brazilian scientists are unsure as to the cause of this "penguin wreck" but strong sea currents and colder sea temperatures are thought to be defining factors.

Heading back through the Restinga with Magnificent Frigatebirds overhead, a Lemon-chested Greenlet makes life difficult for us, showing only briefly before flying from perch to perch. A pair of amorous Giant Amevia Lizards are not quite so shy though as we head for the bus and a lunch break! Keeping variety as the theme of the day we drive to some nearby saltpans after lunch. There's plenty of water in the pans and Lesser Yellowlegs are dotted everywhere with several Grey Plovers and Black-necked Stilts. A couple of Roseate Spoonbills manage to make themselves virtually invisible amongst the bushes on a causeway and some smart White-cheeked Pintails are a welcome addition to our trip list. Wader variety is surprisingly low here though and apart from two Semipalmated Plovers we find little else to add. Heading back we noted many Little Blue Herons until we lose sight of the coastal stretch and being a bank holiday in Brazil soon encounter some busy traffic on the way to Rio. Luckily this queue doesn't delay us too much and we even get time for some late afternoon birding on the wetland back at REGUA. The undoubted highlight of the excursion is the appearance of four Rufous-sided Crakes shown to us by Adelei who has just returned from highland birding at Pico Caledonia! The crakes wander into a small clearing in a patch of dense reeds right near the footpath allowing everybody present at least one chance to see them. A superb ending to a memorable day.

8 September

I stir with the usual early morning wake-up call from the local Slaty-breasted Wood-Rails this morning and although the sky appears a little grey it looks a perfect day for birding on the trails at REGUA. My favourite one here is the Waterfall, or Green Trail. Passing through some tall forest and clearings before climbing to the picturesque waterfall, this trail has the best potential for a wide variety of Brazilian and Atlantic Forest

endemic birds, including several not found readily elsewhere on the reserve. Post breakfast we jump on the Toyota truck, with both Leonardo and Adelei to help us find some of our most wanted species. We'll be out most of the day (although the Green Trail could be walked in a morning), taking our packed lunches and water (with refills delivered to us on the trail!). We start well with a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth wedged in a Cecropia tree fork but a Southern Antpipit is seen only briefly and by only a few. Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner, Blue Manakin, Unicolored Antwren, White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner and Surucua Trogon are seen in quick succession on the trail. Leonardo attracts a Rufous-capped Antthrush onto the trail with playback with Plain Antvireo making an appearance too. Then a clearing with a huge fig tree provides us with an opportunity to rest our aching necks ("Neotropical Neck" – a common complaint from gazing at the undersides of birds in the canopy) with Maroon-bellied and Plain Parakeets taking advantage of the ready fruit supply here. A few Sick's Swifts can be seen over the clearing, looking like "flying cigars", Channel-billed Toucans croak from the canopy on the ridges and re-entering the forest we find Greyish Mourner and a very smart Black-cheeked Gnateater. Ochre-bellied and Grey-hooded Flycatchers (the latter an Atlantic Forest endemic) are seen as we make our way up the switch-backs but just as we reach the trail levelling on the ridge the cloud descends upon us. A Pin-tailed Manakin looks positively drab in these conditions and seeing those Streak-capped Antwrens (always in the canopy) is virtually impossible. A sudden strong gust of wind is the forerunner of worsening weather confirmed by the first spots of rain. Despite the difficult conditions the team soldier on, negotiating a difficult "assault course" of mist nets erected by a team of ringers without damage to this expensive equipment. Well done everybody! Reaching the waterfall we take lunch but the heavy rain spoils the moment somewhat, to say the least.

It's now "decision time" with most opting for the return route to the lodge accompanied by Adelei (birding en route, naturally) with a small group continuing on the higher Red Trail in search of Shrike-like Cotinga. The weather does us no favours however and despite a supreme effort on Leonardo's part we fail to solicit a response from the rare cotinga. Black-throated Grosbeak, Black-capped Foliage-Gleaner and Star-throated Antwren feature on the Red Trail but in truth are little consolation for our efforts in such adverse conditions. Our return to the lodge is little better with just Red-necked Tanager (not bad though!) and Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant additions to our daylist. Tanagers feature on the Green Trail for both groups as Olive-green and White-bellied Tanagers are seen on the way back to the lodge where we enjoy a deserved rest after a testing day.

9 September

It's the highlands for us today as we head out to Nova Friburgo for Pico Caledonia. Unsurprisingly this involves an early breakfast but a stop en route in the Serra do Cachoeira is most welcome, especially as it involves some stunning birds at feeders. Green-headed Tanager, Violaceous Euphonia, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Ruby-crowned Tanager, Blue-naped Chlorophonia and the stunning Red-necked Tanager all drop out of the trees here in the Tres Picos National Park. The single feeder attracts the star bird though, even if it is the uninspiring Sombre Hummingbird but an endemic bird species to Brazil nevertheless!

Adelei meets us at the foot of the mountain where we leave the bus and Alcenir, as the road is cobbled and steep, so we need the 4x4 Toyota. Black Hawk-Eagle and Brassy-breasted Tanagers (the latter particularly appreciated by Steve) are seen before we even leave the car park, but we must press on. Conditions look favourable with some cloud cover to stifle the sun that can make this highland birding so difficult. Stopping around 1,900 metres above sea level we find our first Atlantic Forest upland birds, like the tiny Black-breasted Plovercrest, buzzing around the flowers like a busy insect. A shrill, high-pitched call rings around the elfin forest; the Grey-winged Cotinga sings frequently but is very difficult to see here. Discovered here only a few years ago and once only known from one or two virtually inaccessible sites, this little-known cotinga is a tricky endemic to see. And that's just how it remains with this individual singing infrequently, but Adelei tries very hard indeed to secure a glimpse for us at the very least. No joy just yet and with so much else to see our attentions turn to the other highland birds like the nearby Rufous-tailed Antbird, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet and Rufous-capped Spinetails foraging in the bamboo and elfin scrub below us. Green-winged Saltator, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Diademed Tanager, Pallid Spinetail and Blue-billed Black-Tyrant are all spotted as we wait patiently overlooking a gap in the forest and a welcome tactic given the gradient of the path above us! Montane species just keep on appearing as we make a very steady progress along the road with Bay-chested Warbling-Finches and two upland Atlantic Forest "hummers" appearing, like Brazilian Ruby and White-throated Hummingbird. It's been a marvellous start to the day and we continue with optimism as everyone is "up for it" – literally. Climbing the steps beyond the check post we

get amazing views of Rufus-capped Antshrikes, Variable Antshrikes and most surprisingly a Serra do Mar (Mouse-coloured) Tapaculo that scrambles through the undergrowth beneath the steps, allowing us to look down on this mouse-like bird! Our target at the highest point near the antennas (approximately 2,200 metres above sea-level) is the Itatiaia Thistletail though. Once known only from the Serra do Mantiqueira (wherein lies Brazil's oldest National Park, Itatiaia), this species has only recently been discovered on Caledonia and the reason for our efforts here. It's misty but the thistletail finally responds and amazingly approaches within a few metres of the onlookers at the bottom of a bush by the trail. An excellent reward for the group. Descending the six hundred or so steps back to the check post we can just about make out a Cinnamon Tanager in the mist before reaching the guards where White-crested Tyrannulet surrenders easily. The same cannot be said for the Giant Antshrike though, with the America's largest antbird winning that battle hands down!

Dropping back through the elfin forest and now amongst taller trees we "luck out" when two Grey-winged Cotingas fly across the road, perching briefly. A real coup indeed and undoubtedly an "Ornitholidays Lifer". Adelei makes a supreme effort to bring these birds back into view but typically these stubborn birds remain hidden. Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatchers show well before we reach a viewpoint to look for a bird that has been "singing" all day but typically remains hard to see unless a vista over the canopy is obtained. The Black-and-Gold Cotinga, belonging to the same genus as the Grey-winged (Tijuca) characteristically remains in, or just below the canopy, and Sue is the first to find one singing across the distant treetops. The telescope is handy once again as we home-in on this handsome black bird with its golden-yellow wing patch and orange bill. Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin is one of our last key birds as we reach the lower slopes of the mountain in time to drive back to the hotel where Alcenir is waiting. There's no time to relax though as even as we attempt to board the bus a Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper is located and we enjoy good views of this enigmatic species. We try very hard to leave but Adelei spots some Slaty-breasted Wood-Rails before we finally manage to vacate the Caledonia area, arriving back at REGUA tired but very satisfied with an excellent days birding in the highlands.

Today was a special day; not only did we enjoy a superb days birding but also a celebration of Val's birthday and an excuse to indulge in wine and cake. Mind you, with the size of the cake I believe many at REGUA may still be indulging as I write!

10 September

Night birding at REGUA has produced some spectacular results over the past few months with their recently acquired forest block at Onofre Cunha being particularly rewarding. With the chance of displaying Giant Snipe in the nearby grasslands we thought we'd give a pre-dawn owling session a try today and set off from the lodge before 4 am. Adelei drove us to the forest where we walked a short while in seemingly ideal conditions using our flashlights. Our first stop on the trail and a Mottled Owl immediately responds to Adelei's recording. It answers again; a strange eerie "who-ooo", not a vocalisation I commonly hear from Mottled Owl. Despite responding several times the Mottled Owl simply refuses to budge. A short walk along the trail and a Black-banded Owl responds. Adelei signals to a tree that the bird has been faithful to of late, indicating that it may "come in" there. No such luck! A Tawny-browed Owl utters its strange "hammering" song in the distance and not unsurprisingly is less than impressed with our attempt to lure it in. Long-tailed Potoo, another recent inhabitant of this forest patch at least has the decency to resist the urge to tease us by not calling at all! So there we have it. Night birding: "Get up early, play a few songs and calls in the dark, come back for breakfast". Who said that? As the sun begins to rise we head out to the grasslands where the Giant Snipes can be heard displaying but once again they are unimpressed by the sound of an iPod and remain in the next field. A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl is little reward for our efforts this morning so we head back to the lodge for breakfast where Adelei is very apologetic despite trying very hard. Don't worry Adelei – we all know about night birding!

After breakfast we jump on the Toyota once again and head out to the 4x4 Trail to Casa Anibal. The recent rain has made the trail quite slippery so we cannot get too far up in the vehicle and a fallen tree blocks our path anyway. Walking uphill with the sun already shining on the ridge, the forest seems unusually quiet this morning. We flush a Pauraque and then a Rufous-capped Motmot sings but fails to show. Maybe it's just not going to be our morning? Finally we are rewarded, first with a bird flock containing Black-capped Foliage-Gleaner, Lesser Woodcreeper, White-barred Piculet and Blond-crested Woodpecker. Then a few individuals respond to playback and Unicolored Antwren, Spot-breasted Antwren and Black-throated Trogon are seen

quickly. Best of all a Spot-billed Toucanet is eventually located in a decent space in the branches by Frank and we all get to see this handsome Atlantic Forest toucan. Streak-capped Antwren, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Black-capped Becard, Rufous-winged Antwren and Yellow-throated Woodpecker (the Atlantic Forest birds having a red throat!) are our just rewards for some real industry this morning.

With the tree fall cleared we make it up to Casa Anibal in the Toyota so we can try for another of those forest shulkers; the Slaty Bristlefront. Once again though Adelei's hard work is without reward but there's big compensation in the superb White-bibbed Antbirds that show by the side of the forest trail. These ornate little forest floor dwellers suddenly appear out of the leaf litter repeatedly for all to see and appreciate. Heading back to the vehicle a trio of White-thighed Swallows in a clearing, with some Brassy-breasted Tanagers, round off our morning before returning to the lodge for lunch.

This afternoon we take one of the higher trails once again in search of new birds. The Veludo is a new one to me; passing through more recently purchased properties on the REGUA reserve. Stopping the vehicle in a clearing we immediately pick up some new species, namely the less than inspiring (but new for the tour nevertheless) Sooty Grassquit. Blue-winged Parrotlets, Short-crested Flycatcher, Velvety-Black Tyrant and Grey-rumped Swifts are all easily seen but once on the trail life becomes a little more difficult. The narrow trail, and enclosed forest dropping away below us, dictates discipline in the group, but persistence pays and Tufted Antshrike and Hangnest Tody-Tyrant are seen after a while. Another Frilled Coquette perches but a Reddish Hermit isn't quite so cooperative and the Spotted Bamboo-Wren just will not show despite uttering its monotonous song constantly. A difficult end to a difficult day with a difficult start! But birding in the Neotropics throws up these challenges quite often.

11 September

Our final morning and a last opportunity to take a walk across the wetland towards the Sao Jose Trail. There's a slight chill in the air and a veil of mist covers the wetland with sunshine sandwiched between the cloud-enshrouded mountaintops. Yellow-eared Woodpecker drums from the trees bordering the garden and the "usual suspects" adorn the wetlands: Masked Duck, White-faced Whistling-Ducks, Brazilian Teal and hordes of Moorhens and a few Purple Gallinules. Yellow-chinned Spinetails "rattle" as they take flight low across the surface of the water and a Ringed Kingfisher perches high on an exposed tree over the lagoon. A small group of Masked Water-Tyrants and White-headed Marsh-Tyrants huddle together on a bush in the middle of a causeway, seemingly hardly awake yet. Entering the forest we find a nice Blond-crested Woodpecker and a Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail wanders across the trail from a small creek. Channel-billed Toucans make the most of the morning sunshine now the mist has cleared and yet another Yellow-eared Woodpecker calls loudly. A busy mixed flock passes just a little too far off but we manage to pick out White-winged Becard, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Flame-crested Tanagers and a Rufous-tailed Jacamar before they move off and leave the forest silent once again. Best sight of the morning is the Rufous-capped Motmot, as we've been chasing this species for the last few days to no avail. This individual isn't easy though, teasing us for sometime before showing on a perch with just enough time for all to see it.

We retrace our steps into the forest in the hope of Giant Antshrike or Ringed Antpipit but no response from either of these birds this morning. A smart Crane Hawk perched on the canopy halts our progress on the way back to the lodge but with the morning becoming very hot bird activity is suppressed to say the least.

Back at Guapi Assu Bird Lodge the staff prepare a barbeque lunch as our last meal and Nicholas and Raquel visit the group for the last time. With our bar bills paid I head off to Rio de Janeiro Airport with everybody except Sue who's staying for the second week. On arrival at the airport, TAM makes the group wait one final time for just an hour before we can check-in for our flight to London via Sao Paulo. I bid everyone goodbye with over 260 species for a week in the Atlantic Rainforests and memories of a wonderful time during Ornitholidays inaugural "one stop" REGUA tour in Brazil. I hope everyone enjoyed their stay in one of the world's most threatened habitats; I know I did, but then I've just got to do it all over again next week!

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to all at REGUA, particularly Nicholas and Raquel, Alcenir, Adelei and Leonardo and of course all the REGUA staff “behind the scenes” who cook and clean up after us! Finally a special mention to John, Sue, Helen, Brian, Steve, Richard, Adrian and Frank and Val (the “team”) for making this first tour to REGUA so memorable and an absolute pleasure to lead. Thank you all!

Colin Bushell
Ornitholidays
29 Straight Mile
Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 9BB
01794 519445
email: info @ornitholidays.co.uk

November 2010

Weather and Itinerary

Our days at REGUA were mostly hot and sunny with temperatures usually in the region of 30° C by mid-morning. One day (8th on the Waterfall Trail) was particularly wet, with low cloud and heavy rain between 11.30 – 13.30 hrs.

We were fortunate with weather for our excursions with mainly overcast conditions apart from the first trip of the tour to Carmo and Sumidouro where it became very hot and sunny. By mid-morning temperatures had reached at least 32 and the wet and misty conditions in the Orgaos Mountains as we drove back were a great relief indeed!

The weather at coastal Cabo Frio began slightly overcast but soon became hot, although this did not affect our birding at all and bird activity remained at a good level throughout the morning. Overcast and misty conditions on 9th for our visit to the highlands seemed perfect, protecting us from the sun. Temperatures struggled to climb to 15° C on Pico Caledonia and maybe only 20° C lower down in Nova Friburgo.

Most of the tour involves birding in the lowlands (the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge is only around 30 metres above sea level) although we did climb to around 700 metres on the Red Trail. Birding in the highlands, above Nova Friburgo, took us up to 2,200 metres on Pico Caledonia although we were able to drive to above 1,900 metres into the elfin forest. The dry forest above Carmo is between 400 – 600 metres above sea level.

- 4 September** Arrival in Rio de Janeiro and transfer to REGUA. Local birding on wetland trails after lunch.
- 5 September** First excursion to Carmo and Sumidouro for Serra Antwren and Three-toed Jacamar stopping briefly in the Serra dos Orgaos en route.
- 6 September** REGUA trails. Waldenoor Trail all morning. Afternoon walking through the wetlands to the Sao Jose Trail.
- 7 September** Excursion to Praia Conchos near Cabo Frio for Restinga birding. Restinga Antwren, Black-backed Tanager and Magellanic Penguins all seen today with waders on salt pans on the way back to REGUA. Brief look at wetlands on return to REGUA.
- 8 September** Waterfall Trail and Red Trail (for some). Heavy rain late morning and early afternoon.
- 9 September** Excursion to Pico Caledonia above Nova Friburgo stopping in Serra Cachoeiras en route to visit feeders (Red-necked Tanager and Sombre Hummingbird). Birding between 1,700 – 2,200 metres on the mountain for Itatiaia Thistletail, Grey-winged and Black-and-Gold Cotingas and other upland species.
- 10 September** Pre-dawn owling at Onofre Cunha. Post breakfast visit to 4x4 Trail to Casa Anibal and Veludo Trail after lunch.
- 11 September** Morning walk to wetlands and start of Sao Jose Trail. Lunch at REGUA with departure in early afternoon for Rio de Janeiro airport. TAM flight to Sao Paulo with connection for overnight flight to London Heathrow.
- 12 September** Arrival in UK.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN – TOUR 1: 03 – 12 September 2010

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	R = REGUA trails and wetland F = Cabo Frio. P = Pico Caledonia C = Carmo and Sumidouro J = Journeys	1 = 1 – 4 individuals 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 99 4 = 100 - 999 5 = >1000
AF Atlantic Forest Endemic B Endemic to Brazil		

Sequence mainly follows *A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil* by Ber van Perlo 2009

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Gannets & Boobies				Sulidae
Brown Booby	1	F	2	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Frigatebirds				Fregatidae
Magnificent Frigatebird	2	F J	3	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Grebes				Podicipedidae
Least Grebe	6	R F	3	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	1	F	1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Penguins				Spheniscidae
Magellanic Penguin	1	F	1	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>
Cormorants & Shags				Phalacrocoracidae
Neotropic Cormorant	6	R F J	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Ibis & Spoonbills				Threskiornithidae
Roseate Spoonbill	1	F	1	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
Hérons, Bitterns & Egrets				Ardeidae
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	2	R	1	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3	R J	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	4	R F	1	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Cattle Egret	8	R F P C J	4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Cocoi (White-necked) Heron	1	J	1	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	7	R F C J	3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Whistling Heron	3	R J	1	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
Capped Heron	5	R J	2	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
Snowy Egret	7	R F J	3	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	1	F	3	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl				Anatidae
White-faced Whistling-Duck	6	R	4	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Muscovy Duck	3	R	1	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
White-cheeked Pintail	1	F	3	<i>Anas Bahamensis</i>
Brazilian Teal	7	R C	3	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
Masked Duck	6	R	3	<i>Nomonyx dominica</i>
New World Vultures				Cathartidae
Turkey Vulture	3	R J	2	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	4	R J	1	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
Black Vulture	8	R F P C J	4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Hawks, Eagles & Kites				Accipitridae
Plumbeous Kite	1	C	1	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	P	1	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Crane Hawk	1	R	1	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>
White-necked Hawk AF/B	1	R	1	<i>Leucopternis lacernulatus</i>
Mantled Hawk AF	1	R	1	<i>Leucopternis polionotus</i>
Savanna Hawk	6	R J	2	<i>Heterospizias meridionalis</i>
Roadside Hawk	5	R C J	2	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
White-tailed Hawk	2	R C	1	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>
Black Hawk-Eagle	1	P	1	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>
Falcons & Caracaras				Falconidae
Southern Caracara	7	R F P C J	3	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	8	R F P C J	3	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Laughing Falcon	- 1h	R	1	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>

American Kestrel	5		R			C	J	1	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	
Tinamous									Tinamidae	
Brown Tinamou	-	2h	R					1	<i>Crypturellus obsoletus</i>	
Tataupa Tinamou	-	1h	R					1	<i>Crypturellus tataupa</i>	
Limpkins									Aramidae	
Limpkin	1		R				J	1	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	
Guan									Cracidae	
Rusty-margined Guan	3		R					1	<i>Penelope superciliaris</i>	
Dusky-legged Guan	1		R					1	<i>Penelope obscura</i>	
Seriemas									Cariamidae	
Red-legged Seriema	-	1h				C		1	<i>Cariama cristata</i>	
Rails, Gallinules & Coots									Rallidae	
Grey-necked Wood-Rail			R				P	1	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>	
Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail AF	3	5h	R				P	1	<i>Aramides saracura</i>	
Rufous-sided Crake	3	2h	R					1	<i>Laterallus melanophaius</i>	
Ash-throated Crake	-	1h	R					1	<i>Porzana albicollis</i>	
Blackish Rail	1	4h	R					1	<i>Pardirallus nigricans</i>	
Common Gallinule (Moorhen)	6		R		F		J	3	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
American Purple Gallinule	6		R		F			3	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	
Plovers & Lapwings									Charadriidae	
Southern Lapwing	8		R		F	P	C	J	3	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Semipalmated Plover	1				F			1	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	
Grey Plover	1				F			2	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Jacanas									Jacanidae	
Wattled Jacana	6		R		F		J	3	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	
Sandpipers & allies									Scolopacidae	
Black-necked Stilt	1				F			3	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	
Giant Snipe	-	1h	R					1	<i>Gallinago undulata</i>	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1				F			3	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers									Laridae	
South American Tern	1				F			1	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	
Kelp Gull	1				F			3	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	
Pigeons & Doves									Columbidae	
Ruddy Ground-Dove	8		R		F		C	J	3	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	4				F		C	J	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Picazuro Pigeon	8		R		F	P	C	J	3	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	1	1h	R					1	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	
Plumbeous Pigeon	1	1h				P		1	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>	
White-tipped Dove	2	1h	R					1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	
Grey-fronted Dove	-	1h	R					1	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>	
Parrots & allies									Psittacidae	
White-eyed Parakeet	1					P		1	<i>Aratinga leucophthalma</i>	
Maroon-bellied Parakeet AF	3	1h	R			P		3	<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>	
Blue-winged Parrotlet	1		R					2	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>	
Plain Parakeet AF/B	3		R				J	3	<i>Brotogeris tirica</i>	
Scaly-headed Parrot	4		R			P		3	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>	
Cuckoos									Cuculidae	
Squirrel Cuckoo	6		R				C	1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	
Smooth-billed Ani	7		R		F	P	C	J	3	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Guira Cuckoo	4		R				C	J	3	<i>Guira guira</i>
Striped Cuckoo	1	4h	R		F			1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	
Owls									Strigidae	
Tropical Screech-Owl	3	1h	R					1	<i>Megascops choliba</i>	
Tawny-browed Owl AF	-	2h	R					1	<i>Pulsatrix koenigswaldiana</i>	
Mottled Owl	-	1h	R					1	<i>Strix virgata</i>	
Black-banded Owl	-	1h	R					1	<i>Strix huhula</i>	
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	2	2h	R				C	1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	
Burrowing Owl	7		R		F		J	2	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	
Potoos									Nyctibiidae	
Common Potoo	-	4h	R					1	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>	
Nightjars & allies									Caprimulgidae	
Common Pauraque	2	5h	R					1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	
Swifts									Apodidae	

White-collared Swift	4		R		P		3	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Grey-rumped Swift	1				P		3	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Sick's Swift	3		R		P		2	<i>Chaetura meridionalis</i>
Hummingbirds								
Saw-billed Hermit AF/B	2	1h	R				1	<i>Ramphodon naevius</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	6		R				1	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Reddish Hermit	1		R				1	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	7		R				1	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>
Sombre Hummingbird AF/B	1				P	J	1	<i>Aphantochroa cirrochloris</i>
Black Jacobin AF	7		R		P	J	1	<i>Florisuga fusca</i>
Black-breasted Plovercrest AF/B	1				P		1	<i>Stephanoxis lalandi</i>
Frilled Coquette B	2		R				1	<i>Lophornis magnificus</i>
Violet-capped Woodnymph AF	7		R		P	J	1	<i>Thalurania glaucopis</i>
White-chinned Sapphire	1		R				1	<i>Hylocharis cyanus</i>
White-throated Hummingbird AF	1				P		1	<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>
Glittering-throated Emerald	6		R	F			1	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
Sapphire-spangled Emerald	1					C	1	<i>Amazilia lactea</i>
Brazilian Ruby AF/B	1				P		1	<i>Clytolaema rubricauda</i>
Trogons								
Surucua Trogon AF	1		R			C	1	<i>Trogon surrucura</i>
Black-throated Trogon	1		R				1	<i>Trogon rufus</i>
Motmots								
Rufous-capped Motmot AF	1	3h	R				1	<i>Baryphthengus ruficapillus</i>
Kingfishers								
Ringed Kingfisher	5		R	F		J	1	<i>Ceryle torquatus</i>
Green Kingfisher	2		R				1	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Jacamars								
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	2		R				1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
Three-toed Jacamar AF/B	1					C	3	<i>Jacamaralcyon tridactyla</i>
Puffbirds								
White-eared Puffbird	1		R				1	<i>Nystalus chacuru</i>
Crescent-chested Puffbird AF/B	3	1h	R			C	1	<i>Malacoptila striata</i>
Toucans & Barbets								
Channel-billed Toucan	4	1h	R				1	<i>Ramphastidae</i>
Spot-billed Toucanet AF	1		R				1	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>
Black-necked Aracari	1					C	1	<i>Selenidera maculirostris</i>
Woodpeckers								
White-barred Piculet	3	3h	R			C	1	<i>Pteroglossus aracari</i>
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker AF	1		R				1	Picidae
Yellow-eared Woodpecker AF/B	3	1h	R			C	1	<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	3		R				1	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>
Campo Flicker	7		R		P	C J	1	<i>Veniliornis maculifrons</i>
Blond-crested Woodpecker	2	2h	R				1	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>
Woodcreepers								
Thrush-like (Plain-winged) Woodcreeper AF	1		R				1	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	3		R				1	<i>Celeus flavescens</i>
Lesser Woodcreeper AF	3	1h	R				1	Dendrocolaptidae
Scaled Woodcreeper AF	1		R				1	<i>Dendrocincla turdina</i>
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	1					C	1	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
Ovenbirds								
Wing-banded (Tail-banded) Hornero B	6		R				3	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus</i>
Rufous Hornero	1		R				1	<i>Lepidocolaptes squamatus</i>
Rufous-capped Spinetail AF	1					C	1	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>
Pallid Spinetail AF/B	1				P		1	Furnariidae
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	4		R	F			3	<i>Furnarius figulus</i>
Itatiaia Thistletail (Spinetail) AF/B	1				P		1	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner AF	1		R				1	<i>Synallaxis ruficapilla</i>
Black-capped Foliage-gleaner AF	1		R				1	<i>Cranioleuca pallida</i>
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	4		R				1	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomea</i>
Pale-browed Treehunter AF/B	-	1h	R				1	<i>Oreophylax moreirae</i>
White-eyed Foliage-gleaner AF	3	1h	R				1	<i>Philydor lichtensteini</i>
Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser AF	1		R				1	<i>Philydor atricapillus</i>
Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper	1				P		1	<i>Philydor rufum</i>
							1	<i>Cichlocolaptes leucophrus</i>
							1	<i>Automolus leucophthalmus</i>
							1	<i>Sclerurus scansor</i>
							1	<i>Lochmias nematura</i>

Streaked Xenops	6		R		C	1	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>	
Antbirds							Thamnophilidae	
Large-tailed Antshrike AF	-	1			P	1	<i>Mackenziaena leachii</i>	
Giant Antshrike	-	2h	R		P	1	<i>Batara cinerea</i>	
Tufted Antshrike AF	1		R			1	<i>Mackenziaena severa</i>	
Rufous-capped Antshrike	1				P	1	<i>Thamnophilus ruficapillus</i>	
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	5	1h	R	F	C	1	<i>Thamnophilus palliatus</i>	
Sooretama Slaty Antshrike B	1			F		1	<i>Thamnophilus ambiguus</i>	
Variable Antshrike	1	1h	R		P	1	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens</i>	
Spot-breasted Antvireo AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>	
Plain Antvireo	1		R			1	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	
Star-throated Antwren AF/B	2		R			2	<i>Myrmotherula gularis</i>	
White-flanked Antwren	2	1h	R			1	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>	
Unicoloured Antwren AF/B	2	1h	R			1	<i>Myrmotherula unicolor</i>	
Rufous-winged Antwren	1	1h	R			1	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>	
Restinga Antwren B	1			F		2	<i>Formicivora littoralis</i>	
Serra Antwren B	1				C	1	<i>Formicivora serrana</i>	
Rufous-tailed Antbird AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Drymophila genei</i>	
Scaled Antbird AF/B	1	2h	R			1	<i>Drymophila squamata</i>	
Streak-capped Antwren AF	2		R			1	<i>Terenura maculata</i>	
White-shouldered Fire-eye AF	1		R			1	<i>Pyriglena leucoptera</i>	
White-bibbed Antbird AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Myrmeciza loricata</i>	
Antthrushes & Antpittas							Formicariidae	
Rufous-capped Antthrush	2		R			1	<i>Formicarius colma</i>	
Rufous-tailed (Brazilian) Antthrush AF	-	1h			P	1	<i>Chamaeza ruficauda</i>	
Gnateaters							Conopophagidae	
Rufous Gnateater AF	1	1h			P	C	1	<i>Conopophaga lineata</i>
Black-cheeked Gnateater AF/B	2	1h	R			1	<i>Conopophaga melanops</i>	
Tapaculos							Rhinocryptidae	
Spotted Bamboowren AF	-	1h	R			1	<i>Psilorhamphus guttatus</i>	
Mouse-coloured Tapaculo AF/B					P	1	<i>Scytalopus speluncae</i>	
Cotingas							Cotingidae	
Black-crowned Tityra	1		R			1	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	
Black-tailed Tityra	1		R			1	<i>Tityra cayana</i>	
Green-backed Becard	1	1h	R			1	<i>Pachyramphus viridis</i>	
Chestnut-crowned Becard	3		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus castaneus</i>	
White-winged Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	
Black-capped Becard	3		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>	
Crested Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>	
Bare-throated Bellbird AF	1	3h	R		P	1	<i>Procnias nudicollis</i>	
Black-and-gold Cotinga AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Tijuca atra</i>	
Grey-winged Cotinga AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Tijuca condita</i>	
Manakins							Pipridae	
Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Neopelma chrysolophum</i>	
Pin-tailed Manakin AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Ilicura militaris</i>	
White-bearded Manakin	5		R	F		2	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	
Blue Manakin AF	3		R			1	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>	
Wagtails & Pipits							Motacillidae	
Yellowish Pipit	1		R			1	<i>Anthus lutescens</i>	
Tyrant Flycatchers							Tyrannidae	
Southern Antpipit	-	1h	R			1	<i>Corythopsis delalandi</i>	
Planalto Tyrannulet	5		R		C	1	<i>Phyllomyias fasciatus</i>	
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	4		R	F		2	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	
Olivaceous Elaenia	1				P	1	<i>Elaenia mesoleuca</i>	
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	2	1h	R	F	C	1	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	
Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	1				P	1	<i>Phylloscarta ventralis</i>	
Serra do Mar Tyrannulet AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Phylloscarta difficilis</i>	
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	3	1h	R			1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	
Grey-hooded Flycatcher AF	1	2h	R			1	<i>Mionectes rufiventris</i>	
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	2	1h	R			1	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Hemitriccus orbitatus</i>	
Hangnest Tody-Tyrant AF/B	3		R	F	C	2	<i>Hemitriccus nidipendulus</i>	
Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher	1				P	1	<i>Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps</i>	

Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher AF/B	4		R				1	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	1	2h	R				1	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
Bran-coloured Flycatcher	3		R	F		C	1	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Cliff Flycatcher	1		R				1	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>
Euler's Flycatcher	2	1h	R	F			1	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>
Fuscous Flycatcher	1			F			1	<i>Cnemotriccus fuscatus</i>
Blue-billed Black-Tyrant	1					P	1	<i>Knipolegus cyanirostris</i>
Velvety Black-Tyrant AF/B	2		R			P	1	<i>Knipolegus nigerrimus</i>
Yellow-browed Tyrant	1						1	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>
Masked Water-Tyrant	6		R				2	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	5		R				2	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	4		R				1	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	1	1h	R				1	<i>Legatus leucophauius</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	2		R				1	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Social Flycatcher	7		R	F		C J	3	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Great Kiskadee	7		R	F		C J	3	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	1		R				1	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	7		R			C	1	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>
Variiegated Flycatcher	1		R				1	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
Tropical Kingbird	7		R	F		C J	3	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	4		R			C J	3	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Greyish Mourner	1	1h	R				1	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	2		R			C	1	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Grey-hooded Attila AF/B	1	3h	R				1	<i>Attila rufus</i>
New World Warblers								
Tropical Parula	2	1h	R	F			1	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Masked Yellowthroat	2		R				1	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler	1	1h	R			C	1	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
Vireos & Greenlets								
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	1	3h	R			C	1	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo	3		R				2	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Grey-eyed Greenlet AF/B	1					C	1	<i>Hylophilus amaurocephalus</i>
Lemon-chested Greenlet	1			F			1	<i>Hylophilus thoracicus</i>
Swallows & Martins								
Blue-and-white Swallow	6		R	F	P	C J	3	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
White-thighed Swallow	1		R				1	<i>Neochelidon tibialis</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	7		R	F		C J	3	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Grey-breasted Martin	3		R	F		J	2	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
White-rumped Swallow	2		R	F			1	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>
Donacobius								
Black-capped Donacobius	3		R				1	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
Wrens								
Southern House Wren	7	1h	R	F	P	C	1	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>
Long-billed Wren B	1	2h	R				1	<i>Thryothorus longirostris</i>
Thrushes & allies								
Yellow-legged Thrush	1		R				2	<i>Platycichla flavipes</i>
Rufous-bellied Thrush	5		R			P C	2	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>
Pale-breasted Thrush	3	3h	R	F	P	C	2	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>
White-necked Thrush	1	1h	R				1	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>
Mockingbirds & Thrashers								
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	4		R	F		C	2	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds								
Crested Oropendola	1					C	1	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Red-rumped Cacique	5		R				3	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>
Chopi Blackbird	1					C	3	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
Chestnut-capped Blackbird	5		R				3	<i>Chrysomus ruficapillus</i>
Shiny Cowbird	2			F	P		1	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Tanagers & allies								
Cinnamon Tanager	1					P	1	<i>Schistochlamys ruficapillus</i>
Hooded Tanager	2		R				1	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>
Olive-green Tanager AF/B	1		R				1	<i>Orthogonys chloricterus</i>
Black-goggled Tanager	3		R				2	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	3		R				1	<i>Habia rubica</i>

Flame-crested Tanager	4	R				3	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>	
Ruby-crowned Tanager AF	6	R			C	3	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>	
Brazilian Tanager AF/B	5	R	F	P		2	<i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>	
Sayaca Tanager	7	R	F	P	C	J	3	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>
Golden-chevrons Tanager AF/B	4	R			C		2	<i>Thraupis ornata</i>
Palm Tanager	3	R	F				2	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Diademed Tanager AF	1			P			2	<i>Stephanophorus diadematus</i>
Fawn-breasted Tanager	2	R		P			1	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
Turquoise (White-bellied) Tanager	1	R					1	<i>Tangara mexicana (brasiliensis)</i>
Green-headed Tanager AF	6	R		P			3	<i>Tangara seledon</i>
Red-necked Tanager AF	2	R				J	2	<i>Tangara cyanocephala</i>
Brassy-breasted Tanager AF/B	2	R		P			3	<i>Tangara desmaresti</i>
Burnished-buff Tanager	3	R				J	1	<i>Tangara cayana</i>
Black-backed Tanager AF/B	1		F				1	<i>Tangara peruviana</i>
Blue Dacnis	6	R	F	P	C		3	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Rufous-headed Tanager AF/B	3	R			C		1	<i>Hemithraupis ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-backed Tanager	6	R	F		C		1	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>
Chestnut-vented Conebill	6	R	F				3	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>
Bananaquits								Coerebidae
Bananaquit	6	R	F		C		3	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Saltators & Grosbeaks								Cardinalidae
Yellow-green Grosbeak	1	1h	R				1	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>
Black-throated Grosbeak AF	1	1h	R				1	<i>Saltator fuliginosus</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	2		R				1	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Green-winged Saltator	2		R		P		1	<i>Saltator similis</i>
Old World Sparrows								Passeridae
House Sparrow	3					J	2	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Finches								Fringillidae
Purple-throated Euphonia	4		R		C		1	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>
Violaceous Euphonia	3		R		P		1	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	3		R		P		1	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia AF	3		R			J	1	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	2		R			J	1	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>
Sparrows, Seed eaters & allies								Emberizidae
Rufous-collared Sparrow	2		R		P		3	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Uniform Finch AF	1		R				1	<i>Haplospiza unicolor</i>
Bay-chested Warbling-Finch AF/B	1				P		3	<i>Poospiza thoracica</i>
Saffron Finch	6		R	F			3	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	5		R	F			3	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Double-collared Seed eater	6		R	F		C	3	<i>Sporophila caerulea</i>
Sooty Grassquit	1		R				1	<i>Tiaris fuliginosa</i>
Pileated Finch	1		R				1	<i>Coryphospingus pileatus</i>
MAMMALS								
Nine-banded Armadillo	1		R				1	<i>Dasybus novemcinctus</i>
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	3		R				1	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
Azara's Agouti	1		R				1	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>
Capybara	5		R				3	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
Leaf-nosed Bat sp.	5		R				2	<i>Phyllostomidae</i>
White-tufted (Common) Marmoset	1		R				1	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>
Brown Howler Monkey	1					C	1	<i>Aloatta guariba</i>
Brown Capuchin Monkey	-	1h	R				1	<i>Cebus apella</i>

This list represents those birds and other animals as seen by party members of this tour.

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO BRAZIL

Atlantic Rainforest Special

Tour 2: 11 - 20 September 2010

A Personal Diary

“One Stop” birding tours are growing in popularity and the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge at REGUA is an ideal base for a week’s birding in Brazil. I have been travelling to REGUA for several years now. Indeed my first stay here was a post-tour extension reconnaissance after leading one of the Ornitholidays Itatiaia / Pantanal / Iguacu departures. At that time I could see the potential for birding tourism at REGUA but the project has moved on with a superb network of trails through wetlands and forests led by local guides who know their patch intimately. REGUA is not just a reserve with a comfortable lodge though. REGUA is an ongoing conservation project; purchasing and protecting Atlantic Rainforest, planting trees and creating habitats for birds such as the superb “wetland on your doorstep” outside the lodge.

During these, the first ever, Ornitholidays tours to the Atlantic Forests in eastern Brazil we experienced a wide range of endemic Brazilian birds, many restricted to this most endangered of ecosystems. But our birding wasn’t exclusively in the tall forests. We explored wetlands, coastal Restinga (another threatened habitat) and dry forests in search of some of the rarest birds South America has on offer as well as enjoying penguins, boobies, terns and waders in coastal Rio de Janeiro state.

This tour followed on from the previous tour and I was privileged to lead both departures staying on after the first to meet the new group. It is indeed encouraging to compare both tour reports and see that despite a similar number of species seen, such is the diversity of bird life at REGUA there were still plenty of new ones in the second week (and some missed from the first).

12 September

Another beautiful REGUA morning as I wake at a late hour (compared to our recent trend) and join Alcenir for the two-hour journey into Rio to collect the group at the airport. Our new “team” has already arrived ahead of schedule so in no time at all we are making the return journey to REGUA with the day already hot by 11 am. Magnificent Frigatebirds glide across the bridge on the way back from the airport and the sky soon fills with Black and Turkey Vultures taking advantage of the rising thermals. Leaving the tarmac just after Guapimirim we chance upon a slightly better variety of birds in the pastures with distant forested hillsides like White-collared Swift, Southern Rough-winged Swallow and an Amazon Kingfisher perched on cables by a small pool. Savanna Hawks perch on dead trees in the grazed areas and the odd Fork-tailed Flycatcher sallies out into the road from roadside fence wires. Thankfully we arrive at REGUA in good time with a chance to check the feeders where Black Jacobins, Swallow-tailed Hummingbirds, Glittering-throated Emeralds, Rufous-breasted Hermits and both male and female Violet-crowned Woodnymph are very much in evidence.

In the afternoon we head down to the wetland with Chestnut-backed Antshrikes, Blue Dacnis, Planalto Tyrannulet and Blue-winged Parrotlets stopping us from leaving the clearing. Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher is in its usual spot as we near the new wetland but a slight diversion takes us by way of a pair of roosting Tropical Screech-Owls. Scope views of this delightful bird are enjoyed by all; the two tiny owls huddled together on a branch behind a curtain of vines.

Neotropical Cormorant, Purple Gallinule, Masked Water-Tyrants and a White-headed Marsh-Tyrant are seen from the bank, with Picazuro Pigeons on exposed perches on islands. Ian spots a Rufous Hornero walking amongst the rubble on a path when we are expecting to find the more common Wing-banded Hornero here. The first of many Yellow-chinned Spinetails show as we stroll along the trail towards the main wetland where gatherings of White-faced Whistling-Ducks and Brazilian Teal are a common sight, as are the large flocks of Cattle Egrets make their way in to roost for the night. A Blackish Rail pops out onto one of the edges of the vegetation briefly; yet another species not seen the previous week despite many visits to the wetland throughout the last tour. The Masked Duck, one of the star birds of REGUA’s wetland is here and

we find a few females, with Steve finding a male before we move on. As the evening draws in and the sun sets a Striped Cuckoo sings his monotonous tones from the forest edge but alas he's not going to show today but the cacophony of trills from the wetland margins means that rails and crakes are becoming active. Positioning ourselves overlooking a small gap in the reeds surrounding a pool we wait patiently, playing the vocalisation of Rufous-sided Crake and hey presto, one walks across the gap! Another gives everyone an opportunity to see this retiring species before we head back to the lodge for dinner. Caipirinhas are waiting at the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge when we arrive to celebrate our first day birding at REGUA and we complete our first bird list and retire to bed after dinner.

13 September

It is a superb early spring Brazilian morning today with birds up early in the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge clearing at breakfast time. Blond-crested Woodpecker, Hooded Tanager and a tiny Blue-winged Parrotlet are all noted before returning to our rooms after breakfast to gather our daypacks for the day. REGUA has many trails and the Green (or Waterfall) Trail is one of my favourites. After a good breakfast we board the open top Toyota truck converted to REGUA's "safari bus" for the short journey to the trailhead. Burrowing Owls and Fork-tailed Flycatchers are seen in the open country before entering the forest where we are dropped with packed lunch and plenty of water to last the day. We are fortunate to have both Adelei and Leonardo with us once again today (as we did for this walk on the first departure last week), allowing us plenty of flexibility for the day's activities and double the expertise!

Our walk starts quietly but slowly the birding pace gathers with a singing Grey-hooded Attila, a Greyish Mourner, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and a very smart Atlantic Forest endemic species in the form of a male Scaled Antbird. A "croaking" Spot-billed Toucanet (yet another bird restricted to the Atlantic Forests) is located in the canopy and eventually gives splendid views as it perches above the trail for all to see. A gaudy Rufous-tailed Jacamar, more widespread but no less appreciated, is found further along the trail. However birds take a momentary back seat when Adelei finds us an Orange-spined Hairy Dwarf Porcupine on a branch at head height and gives us all a marvellous photo-op! Streak-capped Antwren can be heard in the canopy (where they spend the majority of their time) and eventually shows with some members of the group even managing a view of their chestnut upperparts! Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant calls from the understory and there are just so many levels of this forest where birds claim their niche, and even the clearings are busy with Spix's Spinetail in the forest borders and Golden-chevroned Tanagers on the fruiting fig tree. Grey-rumped Swifts are overhead as we enter the forest once again, progressing along the Green Trail where a slight climb starts and White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner shows briefly. Plain Parakeets "explode" from the canopy and Bare-throated Bellbirds "clang" from a hidden perch just below the canopy, as we walk further into the hill forest.

One of REGUA's star attractions – the handsome Black-cheeked Gnateater, shows very well indeed just off the forest trail, but even better are the male Pin-tailed Manakins displaying their bright crimson rumps in the dark forest in one of their favourite spots in this forest. The birds come at regular intervals, although like all tropical forests, there are quiet periods. Another Black-cheeked Gnateater shows for those who missed the first; Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Unicolored Antwren and Blue Manakins soon follow and all are Atlantic Forest endemics! Chestnut-crowned Becards, Yellow-backed Tanagers and a party of Yellow-legged Thrushes forage in the canopy and sub-canopy along the trail and we finally reach our lunch-stop at the picturesque waterfall. Eating our packed lunch and taking the newly arrived bottled water, brought to us by one of the ever helpful REGUA staff, we chance upon views of a White-shouldered Fire-eye foraging near some ants on the track as we recharge our batteries for a while.

It's time to head back after lunch but a few hardy souls decide to take the "Red Trail Cotinga Challenge" and Sue, Richard, Steve, Geoff and Ron follow Leonardo and myself for an extra few hundred metres while the rest of the group are led by Adelei back towards the vehicle. Their trip is not without incident though and Olive-green Tanager and Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner are seen but a Swallow-tailed Cotinga is narrowly missed as Adelei picks one out with his sharp eyes.

Meanwhile back on the Red Trail the "Cotinga Challenge" is already in its latter stages with as many as three immature male Bare-throated Bellbirds seen in the canopy of tall trees above the trail. Another of REGUA's main attractions is the next target though. The Shrike-like Cotinga (or Elegant Mourner as it is also known) is perhaps seen at REGUA more frequently than any other popular birding destination. This rare cotinga has an Andean population as well but is incredibly difficult to find anywhere as it undertakes altitudinal

migrations from its lowland winter haunts into the foothills. Spending much of the austral winter in the lower part of the forests, Shrike-like Cotinga is now frequenting the foothill forests around 900 metres above sea level at this time of year. Leonardo plays the “song” (a high pitched “undulating” shrill whistle) of the cotinga to no avail and after a while we decide that it’s just not going to be our day and begin our decent. Incredibly the Shrike-like Cotinga responds after a brief moment of inactivity but we only get fleeting glimpses of this shy bird as it crosses the trail through the canopy above us. When he does finally perch only the guides manage to get a view with binoculars and it’s off again to another perch before any directions of the bird’s whereabouts can be announced. Apart from a few glimpses nobody gets great views of the Shrike-like Cotinga and it is decided that we won’t disturb the bird further and begin our walk back towards the Green Trail. The bellbirds are still “clanging” as we descend and a pair of Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers chase each other around the tall bare branches above the canopy as we reach the trail junction. We’re back on familiar territory now and making headway along the Green Trail once again when the best bird flock of the day halts our progress. Surucua Trogon, Green-headed Tanager, Grey-hooded Flycatcher and Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher are just a few of the range-restricted birds in this group alongside Black-capped Becard and Yellow-olive Flatbill. Best of all a cracking Spot-backed Antshrike arrives in his favourite vine-tangle part of the tree. After all this excitement it’s still reassuring to see that the vehicle is not too far as Nicholas meets us in the clearing for the short walk back to clamber onto the truck for the last time today. Burrowing Owls and Fork-tailed Flycatchers are seen in the open areas as we drive back to Guapi Assu Bird Lodge and meet the rest of the group for an hour or so relaxation before dinner.

14 September

We have an early breakfast at 05.30 am to avoid traffic travelling to Rio, as we’re taking our first excursion of the week away from REGUA. Capped Heron graces the sky as it flies across our path before we meet the main road to Rio and onwards to Cabo Frio, our destination on Brazil’s Atlantic coastline. One of Brazil’s most threatened habitats – Restinga, an arid scrubby forest with a few cacti is our birding venue for today. We’ll search for a bird endangered due to the degradation of this coastal habitat, mainly through development for housing along this narrow coastal belt of south-east Brazil. The Restinga Antwren is locally common here though (we know from the previous week’s outing here) and it’s with some confidence we enter the Restinga where Leonardo immediately locates another endemic, the tiny Hangnest Tody-Tyrant (so named because of its pendulous nest construction). It’s not long before we find a pair of Restinga Antwrens and although the strong wind must be stifling a lot of bird song this morning, we encounter them almost by accident whilst watching Sooretama Slaty-Antshrikes. The jet-black male with tiny white wing spots and larger crescent-shaped ones on the undertail flits through the bushes, closely followed by the female; with her brown, fawn and black markings she could be a different species entirely.

Short-crested Flycatcher and Tropical Parula are seen in the bushes flanking the trail as we make our way to the beach to look for Magellanic Penguins. Correspondence received since seeing the birds here last week, reveals that some 550 Magellanic Penguins have been “wrecked” on the shores of southern Brazil of late and although the reasons for this catastrophe are not yet clear, all birds analysed have died of starvation. Speculation is that colder water temperatures (birds migrate north to feed in warmer waters), strong currents and a consequent lack of food have resulted in the death of unusually large numbers of these birds. The sea is very rough today with the strong onshore wind and not a single penguin can be seen initially, although a Sea Turtle causes a false alarm. Plenty of South American Terns, a pair of Cayenne Terns, Kelp Gulls, Brown Boobies and a few Magnificent Frigatebirds are over the tall waves and a pair of American Oystercatchers find refuge from the crushing waters on a rocky outcrop. One last bay to check and we are in luck as we look down on a Magellanic Penguin in a sheltered area before it swims further out to sea.

After a picnic lunch we drive back through Cabo Frio to check some saltpans and shore for waders, with some staggering results. Over 900 Lesser Yellowlegs congregate, and one sandy bar has a single Greater Yellowlegs with Grey-headed Gulls. Pied-billed Grebes loaf in the channels with White-cheeked Pintails roosting nearby. Several Grey Plovers, more than a dozen Semipalmated Plovers and a couple of Whimbrel feed on the shore, many of the wader flocks wheeling around in front of us before settling only to be disturbed again. Roadside pools are full of Black-necked Stilts, very dapper in their pied plumage and Little Blue Herons grace the shallow margins too. We just have time to see our first White-rumped Swallows of this tour before boarding the bus again and heading back towards Rio and on to REGUA.

By the time we arrive back at the lodge the afternoon is very hot so it's time for tea, coffee, something stronger or just a swim for some. A few fill the time before dinner by heading down to see the Tropical Screech-Owls near the office once again with a short walk to the wetland to round off a day with great variety. Finishing the day with "flotillas" of White-faced Whistling-Ducks and a party of nine Masked Ducks is a fitting finalé to a day birding in one of South America's most threatened environments.

15 September

It is another fine start to the day with our departure delayed yet again due to some Chestnut-vented Conebills in the garden with a dazzling Brazilian Tanager. Once on the road we start heading up into the hill forests to the Waldenoor Trail hoping to repeat last week's success. A good start is made with Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle causing the truck to grind to an abrupt halt, with superb views of this scarce raptor in the clear blue sky above the mountain. A White-eared Puffbird sings, apparently just around the corner, and pulling up Adelei is the first to locate this open country puffbird on a bush on the hillside. Chalk-browed Mockingbirds scramble about in the undergrowth and a pair of Cliff Flycatchers fly across but it's time to head up into the forest where our first stop is a little clearing, so busy with bird activity during our last visit on the first REGUA tour last week. What a difference a week makes! Uniform Finch, Black-goggled Tanager and Ruby-crowned Tanager greet us but hardly any movement in the trees at all, so we start our walk up the trail but the strong wind and fierce sunlight keep activity down. Apart from the odd Pale-breasted Thrush in the undergrowth, and fly over Plain Parakeet, there's very little excuse to lift our binoculars. Frantic searching by the leader using the scope for any cotingas perched on the tree tops proves fruitless but at least the Red-rumped Caciques and White-collared Swifts can be relied upon to put on a good show. With the wind still strong we begin our decent but little improves until we reach the shade of the forest where Green-barred Woodpecker, Euler's Flycatcher and some Maroon-bellied Parakeets are noted. Best of all, the male Frilled Coquette is perched in his "usual" spot (from last week, at least!). What a great bird; so tiny but with a ruff of black and white crescents and a needle-thin black-tipped red bill. A Mantled Hawk overhead found by Geoff means things are really starting to happen and Adelei amazes us all once again (and not for the last time) by finding a Saw-billed Hermit in a dark bush. It's not too long before Yellow-green Grosbeak, Grey-hooded Attila, Crested and Chestnut-crowned Becards, Scaled Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner and Rufous-tailed Jacamar are all seen in quick succession. Although the Green-chinned Euphonia fails to appear and remains hidden we are still enjoying a purple patch when a Black-capped Becard appears but the group are momentarily distracted by a Common Whipsnake *Chironius exoletus* in the undergrowth while Richard and I are busy with a superb Crescent-chested Puffbird. The puffbird typically stays around for everyone to appreciate at leisure (especially the leader!). We're nearly at the truck but with still time to see yet another male Frilled Coquette, Yellow-olive Flycatchers, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, White-barred Piculet and a Variegated Flycatcher before boarding for our bumpy trip back down the hill to Guapi Assu Bird Lodge.

With the temperatures soaring as a Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture passes lazily over the lodge, lunch is a leisurely affair with an afternoon of free time planned prior to an evening's owling session. Burnish-buff Tanager, Short-crested Flycatcher and the usual hummingbirds use the lodge garden as we relax away from the strong sunshine and Guira Cuckoos make their strange call below the lodge near the wetland. A few brave the wetland but most enjoy the facilities at the lodge.

After an early dinner and bird list most take to the safari truck once again for the short trip to the Onofre Cunha. The drizzle starts as we pull away and turns to a shower on arrival at the trailhead. Fortunately this is short-lived but so is the night bird vocalisation as only the Mottled Owl responds to playback. Just as the previous week, it's a brief response and nothing more. A Nine-banded Armadillo is our only worthwhile sighting of the night unfortunately.

16 September.

We have another excursion today and with the weather at REGUA looking ominous to say the least, it's with some relief that we're travelling to the dry forests of Carmo. Driving across the Serra dos Orgaos mountain range there's no sign of the "Finger of God" outcrop as we near the pass, in fact the peaks are completely enshrouded in cloud. The rain-shadow effect of the mountains can be seen quite markedly as we cross the pass, with the tall humid forest turning to shorter semi-arid forest on our decent. Progress is slow this morning but this has nothing to do with traffic and Curl-crested Jays, Crested Black-Tyrants, Swallow

Tanagers, Burnish-buff Tanager and a White-tailed Hawk with a snake in its talons delay us from our arrival at Carmo. Even as we get close to town a superb Toco Toucan stops us once again!

Once through Carmo we disembark from the bus in the same place as the previous week only to be greeted once more by the mechanical sound of the song of Serra Antwren. This scarce endemic is one of our targets this morning and the other, the Three-toed Jacamar, is not far off either. A pair of these rare jacamars perch close to the bus, the first of several seen this morning. Many open-country and dry-forest species follow including White Woodpeckers and Pileated Finches, before a raucous cry indicates that a pair of Blue-winged Macaws are close. Suddenly there's a burst of colour and more calls as a pair emerges from the forest edge, one perching in the open. Common Waxbills, a recent colonist of Brazil fly by calling but work really starts once a mixed flock appears. White-barred Piculet, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Rufous-headed Tanager, Hooded Tanager, Streaked Xenops and Golden-crowned Warblers have us looking in different directions each time a bird's name is called!

Despite the rather overcast conditions it's still quite warm. All that birding has given us an appetite and we settle for lunch before starting again on the next patch of forest. This section is quieter than the previous week's visit though until a Grey-eyed Greenlet appears from nowhere. After watching a pair of Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatchers at their nest, it's time to board the bus once again, stopping at the Serra Antwrens for one last look on the way. What a great place!

One last surprise awaits us on the return journey to REGUA when we spot a Nacunda Nighthawk from the bus. These huge harrier-like birds frequent open country and can often be seen in grasslands before dusk. We find four and Alcenir stops the bus so we can spend some time watching these impressive birds take moths right overhead. What a fabulous end to a most enjoyable day.

17 September

We have another full day at REGUA today and we try some "local birding" starting on the wetland and ending on the Sao Jose Trail in the late morning. Once again the trees at the edge of the garden are alive with birds, mainly Chestnut-vented Conebills but also Creamy-bellied Thrush, Blond-crested Woodpecker and Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatchers. Yellow Tyrannulets appear as we try to tempt some White-bearded Manakins into view before walking down the trail to the wetland. White-winged Becard, Long-billed Wren, Chestnut-backed Antshrike and Brazilian Tanager have us looking in different direction before a Lemon-chested Greenlet focuses the whole team on a new bird for the week. Most of the wetland residents are on show this morning with Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Muscovy Ducks, and a Broad-snouted Caiman worthy of mention. A few White-rumped Swallows hawk over the surface of the water and high on the ridges a pair of Channel-billed Toucans call loudly from an exposed perch. Yellow-breasted Flycatcher is located in the first belt of trees between the marshes and the Sao Jose Trail where Steve manages to capture great scope views of a Long-billed Wren in a tree. Buff-throated Saltators and Yellow-backed Tanagers accompany us into the forest, where Adelei finds a White-chinned Sapphire perched in the open branches of a dead tree. Southern Antpipit and Sooty Grassquit are the first of many species seen on the trail before a bird flock passes with male White-flanked Antwrens displaying their fluffy white flank feathers in a threat display to one another. Lesser Woodcreeper, Violaceous and Orange-bellied Euphonias and Ochre-bellied Flycatchers dart in and out of view and as we climb slightly an Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant appears. Adelei locates a White-bibbed Antbird for us and everyone is able to see this bird as he walks the forest floor between stumps and logs, singing as he goes. This is only bettered by "full-on" views of a cracking Crescent-chested Puffbird back on the wetland trail and another Black-and-white Hawk Eagle overhead before the heat beats us and we retreat to the lodge.

We try something a little different once the afternoon cools a little after lunch and a siesta. The open country around REGUA is somewhat neglected by birding groups (though who can blame us with all that fabulous forest!) so a walk along the tracks and roads bordering the reserve is called for. Whistling Heron and Versicolored Hummingbird are our rewards this afternoon, but still no Pinnated Bittern for the leader. A dusk visit for Giant Snipe is once again unsuccessful unfortunately.

18 September

Our final full day in the field takes us into the highlands near Nova Friburgo. The weather looks most uncompromising this morning but spirits are lifted by our stop in the Serra Cachoeiras on the way with Red-necked and Green-headed Tanagers, Chestnut-bellied Euphonias and a very brief Sombre Hummingbird.

Incredibly, as if by magic, the weather clears as we near Nova Friburgo with the high tops of Pico Caledonia on the distant horizon. Alcenir drops us at the hotel where Leonardo is waiting and we transfer to the “Safari Toyota” for the climb uphill. Nothing to report from the car park today like last week's Brassy-breasted Tanagers but a fine White-eared Puffbird on a fencepost makes up for that. On reaching the elfin forest we leave the bus and Serra do Mar Tyrannulet begins calling immediately. This handsome little flycatcher with its sharp eye-ring performs very well but a pair of Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrants treat us to a mere fly-over and nothing more, despite efforts with playback. Black-breasted Plovercrest, Diademed Tanager and Blue-billed Black-Tyrant appear in the roadside bushes and the first of many Grey-winged Cotingas call from the slopes above us. Leonardo tries very hard indeed to help us see one of these rare birds but they remain hidden despite his efforts. Not so with the Rufous-tailed Antbirds, Highland Elaenias and especially the Rufous-backed Antvireos though that show so well. Many species unrecorded last week on our first tour here, such as the Rufous-crowned Greenlet, are seen today and as we descend we add others such as the Orange-eyed Thornbirds and most satisfyingly (given our efforts last week) at least three Giant Antshrikes! Highland hummingbirds like Brazilian Ruby and White-throated Hummingbirds buzz through the undergrowth and a party of ornate Bay-chested Warbling-Finches pass through reminiscent of a flock of Long-tailed Tits back home.

One species that does a “repeat performance” from the last tour is the mouse-like Serra do Mar Tapaculo; perching up and singing in full view and very “scopable” indeed who says tapaculos don't show?

Nearing the lower switchbacks we scan the canopy and once again find Black-and-Gold Cotingas from the same viewpoint where we enjoyed success the previous week. It's just one Atlantic Forest endemic after another as Spix's and Pallid Spinetails, White-rimmed Warblers and Rufous Gnateaters are added to the day list before we reach the hotel and the reliable Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper by the rocky stream there. It's thanks and goodbye to Leonardo as we won't see him again this tour, and back on the bus through Nova Friburgo and onto REGUA as the weather deteriorates in the mountains on our way.

19 September

It's our last morning at REGUA and the wet weather from the previous night continues into the early morning so watching the garden and clearing from the lodge is our best chance of birding. White-bellied Tanagers and Red-legged Honeycreeper are good examples of just now many species visit the garden as they are new this morning but with the rain stopping mid-morning we have a chance to stroll along the approach road to the reserve. New birds will be difficult to find at this late stage but Sue finds a Red-cowled Cardinal while we look for seedeaters in a weedy field. The Tropical Screech-Owls are still in their traditional roosting site and the fence wires are handy perches for at least eight Fork-tailed Flycatchers. Time passes quickly on final mornings and it's soon time to head back to the lodge for lunch, packing and bill payment before departure to Rio airport. We say goodbyes to Nicholas, Raquel and the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge staff before Alcenir takes us to the airport.

We have to say our farewells to Val who is staying on a few days once we arrive at the airport. TAM allow us to check-in early in Rio for our flight to Sao Paulo where we connect with our late departure to London.

20 September

After a long flight we arrive in London where the weather is somewhat better than expected. Thankfully everyone's luggage arrives and the end of a very successful tour to REGUA in Brazil's Atlantic Rainforests.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to all at REGUA, particularly Nicholas and Raquel, Alcenir, Adelei and Leonardo and of course all the REGUA staff “behind the scenes” who cook and clean up after us! Finally a special mention to Geoff, Kay, Val, Sue, Dave, Iain, Ron, Stephen and Richard (the “team”) for making this tour to REGUA so memorable and an absolute pleasure to lead. Thank you all!

Colin Bushell
Ornitholidays
29 Straight Mile
Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 9BB
01794 519445
email: info @ornitholidays.co.uk

November 2010

Weather and Itinerary

Our days at REGUA were mostly not and sunny with temperatures usually in the region of 30°C by mid-morning. One morning on the Waldenoor Trail was quite windy making birding difficult at first, but soon calmed later in the morning. We experienced some rain but avoided most of this by travelling to Carmo where drier weather prevails. Only on our final morning did the rain prevent us from venturing from the lodge.

We were fortunate with weather for our excursions away from REGUA. Cabo Frio was warm (32°C) but the strong breeze in the morning kept us cool. Carmo was as usual warm (sitting at 400 – 600 metres) but the overcast conditions while we were there helped maintain bird activity throughout.

Despite a very wet start to the day the weather improved drastically for our visit to the highlands and we enjoyed cool, clear weather at Pico Caldonia from 1,900 metres down to 1,500 metres above sea level. Some drizzle set in late in the afternoon but temperatures here remained comfortable around 25°C.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 12 September | Arrival in Rio and transfer to REGUA. Local birding after lunch on the wetland. |
| 13 September | REGUA – Waterfall Trail and Red Trail. |
| 14 September | Excursion to Cabo Frio and Praia Conchos for Restinga Antwren. |
| 15 September | REGUA – Waldenoor Trail in the morning (300 metres). Afternoon around the lodge clearing and wetland. Evening search for owls at Onofre Cunha. |
| 16 September | Excursion to Carmo for Serra Antwren and Three-toed Jacamars. |
| 17 September | REGUA – Wetlands and Sao Jose Trail with evening attempt for Giant Snipe at Onofre Cunha. |
| 18 September | Day trip to Pico Caledonia for highland birds stopping at feeders in Serra Cachoeiras en route. |
| 19 September | Morning birding near REGUA with post lunch departure to Rio de Janeiro airport. TAM flight to Sao Paulo for London connection later same evening. |
| 20 September | Arrival at London Heathrow. |

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN TOUR 2: 11 - 20 September 2010

No of days recorded

1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days

AF Atlantic Forest Endemic

B Endemic to Brazil

Locations

R = REGUA trails and wetland

F = Cabo Frio.

P = Pico Caledonia

C = Carmo and Sumidouro

J = Journeys

Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day)

1 = 1 – 4 individuals

2 = 5 - 9

3 = 10 - 99

4 = 100 - 999

5 = >1000

Sequence mainly follows *A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil* by Ber van Perlo 2009

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Locations						Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Gannets & Boobies									
Brown Booby	1		F					2	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Frigatebirds									
Magnificent Frigatebird	2		F			J		3	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Grebes									
Least Grebe	4	R	F					3	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	3	R	F					1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Penguins									
Magellanic Penguin	1		F					1	<i>Spenicus magellanicus</i>
Cormorants & Shags									
Neotropic Cormorant	4	R	F			J		3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Hérons, Bitterns & Egrets									
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	3	R						1	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3	R				J		1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	2	R	F					1	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Cattle Egret	8	R	F	P	C	J		4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Great Egret	6	R	F		C	J		3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Whistling Heron	1	R				J		1	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
Capped Heron	3	R				J		1	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
Snowy Egret	6	R	F			J		3	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	1		F					3	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl									
White-faced Whistling-Duck	5	R						4	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Muscovy Duck	3	R						1	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
White-cheeked Pintail	1		F					3	<i>Anas Bahamensis</i>
Brazilian Teal	5	R			C			3	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
Masked Duck	4	R						3	<i>Nomonyx dominica</i>
New World Vultures									
Turkey Vulture	7	R				J		2	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	2	R				J		1	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
Black Vulture	8	R	F	P	C	J		4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Hawks, Eagles & Kites									
Plumbeous Kite	1					C		1	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2		F	P				1	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Crane Hawk	- 1h	R						1	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>
White-necked Hawk AF/B	1	R						1	<i>Leucopternis lacernulatus</i>
Mantled Hawk AF	1	R						1	<i>Leucopternis polionotus</i>
Savanna Hawk	3	R				J		2	<i>Heterospizias meridionalis</i>
Roadside Hawk	7	R			C	J		2	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
White-tailed Hawk	1	R			C			1	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle	2	R						1	<i>Spizaetus melanoleucus</i>
Falcons & Caracaras									
Southern Caracara	7	R	F	P	C	J		3	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	8	R	F	P	C	J		3	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
American Kestrel	1					J		1	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Tinamous									
Brown Tinamou	- 1h	R						1	<i>Crypturellus obsoletus</i>

Tataupa Tinamou	-	1h	R						1	<i>Crypturellus tataupa</i>
Limpkins										Aramidae
Limpkin	2		R					J	1	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
Guan										Cracidae
Rusty-margined Guan	1		R						1	<i>Penelope superciliaris</i>
Seriemas										Cariamidae
Red-legged Seriema	-	1h						C	1	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
Rails, Gallinules & Coots										Rallidae
Grey-necked Wood-Rail			R						1	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>
Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail AF	-	5h	R					P	1	<i>Aramides saracura</i>
Rufous-sided Crake	1	2h	R					F	1	<i>Laterallus melanophaius</i>
Ash-throated Crake	-	1h	R						1	<i>Porzana albicollis</i>
Blackish Rail	1	2h	R						1	<i>Pardirallus nigricans</i>
Common Gallinule (Moorhen)	5	1h	R					F	3	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
American Purple Gallinule	4		R					F	3	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>
Plovers & Lapwings										Charadriidae
Southern Lapwing	8		R					F	3	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Semipalmated Plover	1							F	3	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Grey Plover	1							F	2	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Whimbrel	1							F	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Jacanas										Jacanidae
Wattled Jacana	4		R					F	3	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
Sandpipers & allies										Scolopacidae
American Oystercatcher	1							F	1	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>
Black-necked Stilt	1							F	3	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
Giant Snipe	-	1h	R						1	<i>Gallinago undulata</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	1							F	1	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	1							F	4	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers										Laridae
South American Tern	1							F	1	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>
Sandwich (Cayenne) Tern	1							F	1	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Grey-headed Gull	1							F	3	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Kelp Gull	1							F	3	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Pigeons & Doves										Columbidae
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	3		R					F	1	<i>Colombina minuta</i>
Ruddy Ground-Dove	8		R					F	3	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	4							F	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Picazuro Pigeon	8		R					F	3	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	1		R						1	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
Plumbeous Pigeon	1							P	1	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>
White-tipped Dove	1		R						1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Grey-fronted Dove	1		R						1	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
Ruddy Quail-Dove	1		R						1	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>
Parrots & allies										Psittacidae
Blue-winged Macaw	1								1	<i>Primolius maracana</i>
White-eyed Parakeet	2							P	1	<i>Aratinga leucophthalma</i>
Maroon-bellied Parakeet AF	1	1h	R						3	<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>
Blue-winged Parrotlet	3		R						2	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>
Plain Parakeet AF/B	2		R						3	<i>Brotogeris tirica</i>
Scaly-headed Parrot	4		R					P	3	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
Blue-bellied Parrot AF/B	-	1h	R						1	<i>Triclaria malachitacea</i>
Cuckoos										Cuculidae
Squirrel Cuckoo	6		R						1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	7		R					F	3	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Guira Cuckoo	4		R						3	<i>Guira guira</i>
Striped Cuckoo	1	6h	R					F	1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
Owls										Strigidae
Tropical Screech-Owl	3		R						1	<i>Megascops choliba</i>
Tawny-browed Owl AF	-	1h	R						1	<i>Pulsatrix koenigswaldiana</i>
Mottled Owl	-	2h	R						1	<i>Strix virgata</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	2	2h	R						1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Burrowing Owl	7		R					F	2	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Potoos										Nyctibiidae

Common Potoo	-	7h	R					1	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
Nightjars & allies									Caprimulgidae
Common Pauraque	-	7h	R					1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Nacunda Nighthawk	1						J	1	<i>Podager nacunda</i>
Swifts									Apodidae
White-collared Swift	7		R	F	P	C	J	3	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Grey-rumped Swift	3		R			C		3	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Sick's Swift	6		R		P	C	J	2	<i>Chaetura meridionalis</i>
Hummingbirds									Trochilidae
Saw-billed Hermit AF/B	1		R					1	<i>Ramphodon naevius</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	6		R					1	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	7		R					1	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>
Sombre Hummingbird AF/B	1				P		J	1	<i>Aphantochroa cirrochloris</i>
Black Jacobin AF	7		R		P		J	1	<i>Florisuga fusca</i>
Black-breasted Plovercrest AF/B	1				P			1	<i>Stephanoxis lalandi</i>
Frilled Coquette B	1		R					1	<i>Lophornis magnificus</i>
Violet-capped Woodnymph AF	5		R		P		J	1	<i>Thalurania glaucopsis</i>
White-chinned Sapphire	1		R					1	<i>Hylocharis cyanus</i>
White-throated Hummingbird AF	1				P			1	<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>
Versicolored Emerald	1		R					1	<i>Amazilia versicolor</i>
Glittering-throated Emerald	5		R	F				1	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
Sapphire-spangled Emerald	1					C		1	<i>Amazilia lactea</i>
Brazilian Ruby AF/B	1				P			1	<i>Clytolaema rubricauda</i>
Trogons									Trogonidae
Surucua Trogon AF	2		R				C	1	<i>Trogon surrucura</i>
Black-throated Trogon	1		R					1	<i>Trogon rufus</i>
Motmots									Momotidae
Rufous-capped Motmot AF	1	2h	R					1	<i>Baryphthengus ruficapillus</i>
Kingfishers									Alcedinidae
Ringed Kingfisher	3		R	F			J	1	<i>Ceryle torquatus</i>
Amazon Kingfisher	3		R				J	1	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
Green Kingfisher	1		R					1	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Jacamars									Galbulidae
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	2		R					1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
Three-toed Jacamar AF/B	1						C	3	<i>Jacamaralcyon tridactyla</i>
Puffbirds									Bucconidae
White-eared Puffbird	2		R		P			1	<i>Nystalus chacuru</i>
Crescent-chested Puffbird AF/B	2		R					1	<i>Malacoptila striata</i>
Toucans & Barbets									Ramphastidae
Channel-billed Toucan	4	1h	R					1	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>
Toco Toucan	1						C	1	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
Spot-billed Toucanet AF	1		R					1	<i>Selenidera maculirostris</i>
Woodpeckers									Picidae
White-barred Piculet	3		R				C	1	<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>
White Woodpecker	1						C	2	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker AF	1		R					1	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>
Yellow-eared Woodpecker AF/B	3		R				C	1	<i>Veniliornis maculifrons</i>
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	1	1h	R					1	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>
Green-barred Woodpecker	1		R					1	<i>Colaptes melanochloros</i>
Campo Flicker	3		R				C	J	1
Blond-crested Woodpecker	3	2h	R					1	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>
Woodcreepers									Celeus flavescens
Thrush-like (Plain-winged) Woodcreeper AF	-	2h	R					1	Dendrocolaptidae
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	1		R					1	<i>Dendrocincla turdina</i>
Lesser Woodcreeper AF	1		R					1	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
Scaled Woodcreeper AF	2		R					1	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus</i>
Ovenbirds									<i>Lepidocolaptes squamatus</i>
Wing-banded (Tail-banded) Hornero B	4		R					3	Furnariidae
Rufous Hornero	3		R					1	<i>Furnarius figulus</i>
Spix's Spinetail	2		R		P			1	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
Pallid Spinetail AF/B	1				P			1	<i>Synallaxis spixi</i>
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	5		R	F				3	<i>Cranioleuca pallida</i>
Orange-eyed Thornbird AF/B	1				P			1	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomea</i>
									<i>Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus</i>

Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner AF	1		R			1	<i>Philydor lichtensteini</i>
Black-capped Foliage-gleaner AF	-	1h	R			1	<i>Philydor atricapillus</i>
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	1	1h	R			1	<i>Philydor rufum</i>
White-eyed Foliage-gleaner AF	1		R			1	<i>Automolus leucophthalmus</i>
Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper	1				P	1	<i>Lochmias nematura</i>
Streaked Xenops	3		R			1	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
Antbirds							Thamnophilidae
Spot-backed Antshrike AF	1		R			1	<i>Hypoedaleus guttatus</i>
Large-tailed Antshrike AF	-	1h			P	1	<i>Mackenziaena leachii</i>
Giant Antshrike	1		R		P	1	<i>Batara cinerea</i>
Rufous-capped Antshrike	1				P	1	<i>Thamnophilus ruficapillus</i>
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	2	1h	R			1	<i>Thamnophilus palliatus</i>
Sooretama Slaty Antshrike B	1	1h	R	F		1	<i>Thamnophilus ambiguus</i>
Variable Antshrike	1				P	1	<i>Thamnophilus caeruleus</i>
Spot-breasted Antwren AF/B	1	1h	R			1	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>
Rufous-backed Antwren AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Dysithamnus xanthopterus</i>
White-flanked Antwren	1		R			1	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>
Unicoloured Antwren AF/B	3		R			1	<i>Myrmotherula unicolor</i>
Restinga Antwren B	1			F		2	<i>Formicivora littoralis</i>
Serra Antwren B	1					1	<i>Formicivora serrana</i>
Rufous-tailed Antbird AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Drymophila genei</i>
Scaled Antbird AF/B	1	1h	R			1	<i>Drymophila squamata</i>
Streak-capped Antwren AF	1		R			1	<i>Terenura maculata</i>
White-shouldered Fire-eye AF	1		R			1	<i>Pyriglena leucoptera</i>
White-bibbed Antbird AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Myrmeciza loricata</i>
Antthrushes & Antpittas							Formicariidae
Rufous-capped Antthrush	-	1h	R			1	<i>Formicarius colma</i>
Short-tailed Antthrush	-	1h			P	1	<i>Chamaeza campanisona</i>
Variegated Antpitta	-	1h	E			1	
Gnateaters							Conopophagidae
Rufous Gnateater AF	1				P	1	<i>Conopophaga lineata</i>
Black-cheeked Gnateater AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Conopophaga melanops</i>
Tapaculos							Rhinocryptidae
Mouse-coloured Tapaculo AF/B					P	1	<i>Scytalopus speluncae</i>
Cotingas							Cotingidae
Shrike-like Cotinga	1		R			1	<i>Laniisoma elegans</i>
Chestnut-crowned Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus castaneus</i>
White-winged Becard	1	1h	R			1	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>
Black-capped Becard	3		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>
Crested Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>
Bare-throated Bellbird AF	2		R		P	1	<i>Procnias nudicollis</i>
Black-and-gold Cotinga AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Tijuca atra</i>
Grey-winged Cotinga AF/B	-	1h			P	1	<i>Tijuca condita</i>
Manakins							Pipridae
Pin-tailed Manakin AF/B	1		R			1	<i>Illicura militaris</i>
White-bearded Manakin	3		R			2	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
Blue Manakin AF	1		R			3	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>
Tyrant Flycatchers							Tyrannidae
Southern Antpipit	1		R			1	<i>Corythopsis delalandi</i>
Planalto Tyrannulet	4		R	F		1	<i>Phyllomyias fasciatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	4		R	F		2	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
Highland Elaenia	1				P	1	<i>Elaenia mesoleuca</i>
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	2	1h	R	F		1	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
Yellow Tyrannulet	1		R			1	<i>Capsiempis flaveolus</i>
Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	1				P	1	<i>Phylloscartes ventralis</i>
Serra do Mar Tyrannulet AF/B	1				P	1	<i>Phylloscartes difficilis</i>
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	3	1h	R			1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Grey-hooded Flycatcher AF	2		R			1	<i>Mionectes rufiventris</i>
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	4		R			1	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant AF/B	1	1h	R			1	<i>Hemitriccus orbitatus</i>
Hangnest Tody-Tyrant AF/B	2		R	F		2	<i>Hemitriccus nidipendulus</i>
Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher AF/B	4		R			1	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	3		R			1	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	1	R					1	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	1	R					1	<i>Myiobius barbatus</i>
Cliff Flycatcher	2	R		P			1	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>
Euler's Flycatcher	2	R					1	<i>Lathrotriccus eulerei</i>
Blue-billed Black-Tyrant	1			P			1	<i>Knipolegus cyanirostris</i>
Crested Black-Tyrant	1					J	2	<i>Knipolegus lophotes</i>
Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant AF	1			P			1	<i>Muscipipra vetula</i>
Masked Water-Tyrant	6	R					2	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	5	R					2	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	1	R					1	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	2	R					1	<i>Legatus leucophauius</i>
Social Flycatcher	7	R	F		C	J	3	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Great Kiskadee	7	R	F		C	J	3	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	3	R					1	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	5	R			C		1	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>
Variegated Flycatcher	1	R					1	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
Tropical Kingbird	7	R	F		C	J	3	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	4	R			C	J	3	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Greyish Mourner	1	R					1	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1				C		1	
Short-crested Flycatcher	4	R			C		1	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Grey-hooded Attila AF/B	2	1h	R				1	<i>Attila rufus</i>
New World Warblers								Parulidae
Tropical Parula	1		F				1	<i>Parula pitaiayumi</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler	1				C		1	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
White-browed Warbler	1				P		1	<i>Basileuterus leucoblepharus</i>
Vireos & Greenlets								Vireonidae
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	1	1h	R		C		1	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo	1	1h	R				2	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Rufous-crowned Greenlet AF	1				P		1	<i>Hylophilus poicilotis</i>
Grey-eyed Greenlet AF/B	1					C	1	<i>Hylophilus amaurocephalus</i>
Lemon-chested Greenlet	1		R				1	<i>Hylophilus thraocicus</i>
Swallows & Martins								Hirundinidae
Blue-and-white Swallow	6	R	F	P	C	J	3	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
White-thighed Swallow	1	R					1	<i>Neochelidon tibialis</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	7	R	F		C	J	3	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Brown-chested Martin	1				C		1	<i>Progne tapera</i>
White-rumped Swallow	2	R	F				1	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>
Donacobius								Donacobidae
Black-capped Donacobius	2	R					1	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
Wrens								Troglodytidae
Southern House Wren	7	1h	R	F	P	C	1	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>
Long-billed Wren B	1		R				1	<i>Thryothorus longirostris</i>
Thrushes & allies								Turdidae
Yellow-legged Thrush	1	R					2	<i>Platycichla flavipes</i>
Rufous-bellied Thrush	3	R			P		2	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>
Pale-breasted Thrush	3	3h	R	F	P	C	2	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>
Creamy-bellied Thrush	1	R					1	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>
Mockingbirds & Thrashers								Mimidae
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	2	R				C	2	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds								Icteridae
Crested Oropendola	1					C	1	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Red-rumped Cacique	5	R					3	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>
Chopi Blackbird	-	1h				C	1	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
Chestnut-capped Blackbird	1	R					3	<i>Chrysomus ruficapillus</i>
Shiny Cowbird	4			F	P		1	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Tanagers & allies								Thraupidae
Hooded Tanager	2	R				C	1	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>
Olive-green Tanager AF/B	1	R					1	<i>Orthogonys chloricterus</i>
Black-goggled Tanager	2	R					2	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	2	R					2	<i>Habia rubica</i>
Flame-crested Tanager	1	R					3	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>
Ruby-crowned Tanager AF	4	R				C	3	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>

Brazilian Tanager AF/B	5	R	F	P			2	<i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>
Sayaca Tanager	7	R	F	P	C	J	3	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>
Golden-chevrons Tanager AF/B	2	R			C		2	<i>Thraupis ornata</i>
Palm Tanager	3	R	F				2	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Diademed Tanager AF	1			P			2	<i>Stephanophorus diadematus</i>
Fawn-breasted Tanager	2	R		P			1	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
Turquoise (White-bellied) Tanager	1	R					1	<i>Tangara mexicana (brasiliensis)</i>
Green-headed Tanager AF	3	R		P			3	<i>Tangara seledon</i>
Red-necked Tanager AF	2	R				J	2	<i>Tangara cyanocephala</i>
Brassy-breasted Tanager AF/B	1			P			1	<i>Tangara desmaresti</i>
Burnished-buff Tanager	3	R				J	1	<i>Tangara cayana</i>
Swallow Tanager	1					J	1	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
Blue Dacnis	6	R	F	P	C		3	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Rufous-headed Tanager AF/B	1				C		1	<i>Hemithraupis ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-backed Tanager	5	R	F		C		1	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>
Chestnut-vented Conebill	6	R	F				3	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>
Bananaquits								Coerebidae
Bananaquit	6	R	F		C		3	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Saltators & Grosbeaks								Cardinalidae
Yellow-green Grosbeak	1	1h	R				1	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	1		R				1	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Green-winged Saltator	1			P			1	<i>Saltator similis</i>
Old World Sparrows								Passeridae
House Sparrow	3					J	2	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Finches								Fringillidae
Purple-throated Euphonia	5	R	F				1	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>
Violaceous Euphonia	2	R		P			1	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>
Green-chinned Euphonia AF	-	1h	R				1	<i>Euphonia chalybea</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	2	R		P			1	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia AF	2	R				J	1	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>
Sparrows, Seedeaters & allies								Emberizidae
Rufous-collared Sparrow	1			P			3	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Uniform Finch AF	1	R					1	<i>Haplospiza unicolor</i>
Bay-chested Warbling-Finch AF/B	1			P			3	<i>Poospiza thoracica</i>
Saffron Finch	6	R	F				3	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	2	R	F				3	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Double-collared Seedeater	4	R	F		C		3	<i>Sporophila caerulea</i>
Sooty Grassquit	1	R					1	<i>Tiaris fuliginosa</i>
Pileated Finch	1				C		1	<i>Coryphospingus pileatus</i>
Red-cowled Cardinal B	1	R					1	<i>Paroaria dominicana</i>
MAMMALS								
Nine-banded Armadillo	1	R					1	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
Guianan Squirrel	1	R					1	<i>Sciurus aestuans</i>
Orange-spined Hairy Dwarf Porcupine	1	R					1	<i>Coendou spinosus</i>
Capybara	5	R					3	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
Leaf-nosed Bat sp.	5	R					2	<i>Phyllostomidae</i>
White-tufted (Common) Marmoset	1	R					1	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>

This list represents those birds and other animals as seen by party members of this tour.



Blue-naped Chlorophonia



Pallid Spinetail



Three-toed Jacamar



Frisled Coquette



White-throated Hummingbird



Golden-chevrons Tanager



Swallow-tailed Hummingbird



Crescent-chested Puffbird



Burrowing Owl



Tropical Screech-Owl



Striated Heron



Magellanic Penguin



White-faced Whistling-Ducks



Brazilian Teal



Toco Toucan



Southern Lapwing

Cover photograph: Masked Ducks

All photographs: © Colin Bushell