

ORNITHOLIDAYS TO BRAZIL
Atlantic Forest Special

26 July – 04 August 2014



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A Personal Diary

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil is one of the richest areas on earth for endemic birds and other wildlife, and the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge at REGUA (Reserva Ecologica de Guapiacu) provided us with an ideal base from which to explore it. Our flight to Rio was direct, and it was wonderful being able to travel just 90 minutes from the airport and unpack just once for the whole trip! We spent around half our time exploring the trails on the reserve close to the lodge, marvelling at the newly created wetlands as well as the lowland pastures and sections of primary and secondary rainforest in the foothills. In between, we made four thoroughly rewarding day-trips to special habitats: coastal Restinga, Atlantic dry forest and the hills inside the Tres Picos National Park. Late July proved to be a superb time to visit the area, with largely sunny and warm weather and low humidity.

Our two local guides were truly outstanding, helping us to record an astonishing 315 species of bird during the holiday, certainly the most I have ever encountered on a one-centre tour of this length. We managed to find a high proportion of the 'key' species, including Giant Snipe in the wetlands, Shrike-like Cotinga on the Waterfall Trail, Grey-winged Cotinga and Plovercrest at Pico da Caledonia, Black-and-gold Cotinga at Macae de Cima, Three-toed Jacamar and Blue-winged Macaw at Carmo and Restinga Antwren near Cabo Frio. Most unusually in my experience, there was virtually no overlap between the 'top five birds' of each of us! The brightly coloured tanagers, manakins and hummingbirds, the special raptors, those hard-to-find antbirds of the forest, roosting potoos and the daily spectacle of roosting egrets all got votes. This is an indication of the variety of wonderful birds we encountered, and we also enjoyed the Sloths, Marmosets, Cabybaras and Caimans as well as the plethora of colourful butterflies.

On the last evening, Nicholas Locke, the owner of REGUA, gave us a truly inspiring talk about the work being done there, from reforestation to research and educating local children. The knowledge that we were somewhere at the forefront of conservation added to a splendidly enjoyable trip from which each of us have taken so many happy memories.

Saturday 26th July

Heathrow's Terminal 5 was particularly busy this morning; nevertheless, we all met up at the gate in plenty of time for our early afternoon British Airways flight to Rio de Janeiro. We arrived on time at 8pm and 45 minutes later we were setting off in the REGUA minibus; Sam, our host for the week, was on hand to answer our many and varied questions. It took a while to exit the airport car park, but the journey itself took just 90 minutes. On arrival at our lodge we were warmly welcomed, sandwiches and juice available for those still peckish, and before 11pm we were settling in to our spacious rooms and eagerly anticipating the day ahead.

Sunday 27th July

We met for breakfast at 6.30am with the fresh papaya, mango and melon especially popular alongside the more traditional fare. Birds had started to appear at the feeders in the half-light at 6.15am and it was great fun trying to identify them! The hummingbirds were relatively straightforward: a Swallow-tailed Hummingbird was clearly 'in charge', with the smaller Violet-capped Woodnymphs and Glittering-throated Emeralds taking their chances by zooming in and out at regular intervals. The bird tables, positioned on the edge of the trees at the far side of the lawn, were filled with bananas. The Marmosets came and went quite early before most birds had appeared; we enjoyed watching them. Palm and Sayaca Tanagers seemed drab alongside the colourful Violaceous and Orange-bellied Euphonias, the latter identified in retrospect by the amount of yellow on the head. Pride of place went to the stunning Brazilian Tanager: what an amazing bird to have in the garden!

At 7.30am we tore ourselves away from the grounds of the lodge and strolled down the hill towards the wonderful wetland which has been created in the last few years. Completed as recently as 2010, it comprises small lakes, marshland and replanted tapebaia trees. We didn't have a guide this morning but Nicholas, the owner of the reserve and inspiration behind the REGUA project, accompanied us for the first couple of hours. He was invaluable, not only helping us with the birds but also giving us a first insight into the history of the area. There was so much to see that in our morning walk we only reached the 1,100 metre mark on the trail!

In total we saw over 70 species, all of which we were able to identify ourselves, a real triumph. Getting to grips with the commoner species was important and Picazuro Pigeon, House Wren, Saffron Finch, Blue Dacnis, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Social Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, Masked Water-Tyrant and Smooth-billed Ani were ten in this category. Turning away from the open area for a moment to look into the canopy, we spotted a stunning Rufous-tailed Jacamar which had obviously just caught a large dragonfly; then our attention was drawn to the smaller birds in a feeding flock. Nicholas alerted us to a female Black-legged Dacnis, one of the rarest birds we were to see all holiday; we also located a male. Channel-billed Toucans called and were glimpsed in the distant trees and we photographed a Bran-coloured Flycatcher. A great start!

In the bushes and reeds around the lakes we admired the colourful butterflies and, back on the birds, noted Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Chestnut-capped Blackbird, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, a photogenic Black-capped Donacobius and both male and female White-headed Marsh-Tyrant. It wasn't just identifying the birds that was the issue, it was getting to grips with their long names! The water birds were not only bigger, they were more familiar, providing a break from the passerines. Brazilian Teal, White-faced Whistling-Duck, (wild!) Muscovy Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Pied-billed Grebe, Purple Gallinule and Wattled Jacana all showed well; the ubiquitous Common Gallinule's call provided some justification for it having been split from our Moorhen! A Rufescent Tiger-Heron gave a super display but was trumped by Capped Heron, an early candidate for 'Bird of the Day'! Capybaras and Caimans provided alternative entertainment. Our scopes were in more or less constant use and we studied an Amazon Kingfisher on the far side before concentrating once more on the trees. A White-browed Piculet preened close by, oblivious to our presence, whilst male and female White-bearded Manakins eventually gave themselves up and showed well.

At midday we headed back, anxious not to be late, but were delayed first by a Yellow-headed Caracara and then by a Grey-headed Kite, both perched up nicely giving opportunities for digiscoping. Our 12.30pm lunch was ready when we arrived, the first of many lovely home-cooked meals prepared at the lodge. We decided to relax until 3pm, some having a siesta, others remaining glued to the feeders! A Rufous-breasted Hermit was an addition to the hummingbird list, whilst a Squirrel Cuckoo and our only Green-barred Woodpecker of the trip were found in the trees.

Heavy rain put paid to our plan of returning to the wetland with a guide, but this was the only time during the tour that the weather proved disruptive; instead we spent the time reading up on the species we had seen in the morning. Eventually, we braved the drizzle to marvel at a superbly camouflaged Common Potoo on top of a tree just down the hill, before heading for the shelter of the tower to watch the Cattle Egrets, perhaps numbering over a thousand, flying in to roost in the bushes by the lake. We also located Snowy and Great Egrets, Cooi and Black-crowned Night-Herons, but it was the spectacle rather than the individual species which stayed in the memory. Our first round of complimentary caipirinhas, the Brazilian national cocktail, was well received as we did the bird list before dinner. We had had a very productive and enjoyable first full day at REGUA and headed to bed at 9pm hoping that the weather would be kind for our first excursion tomorrow.

Monday 28th July

Breakfast was ready for us at 6am and we met up with Leo, our bird guide, and Alcenir, our driver, for a 6.35am departure. It was still raining, but our plan involved heading to the coast where we suspected it would be dry. We broke the journey for a quick comfort stop before, with leaden skies but mercifully no precipitation, beginning our birding at 8.40am by a coastal lagoon near the town of Cabo Frio. A Southern Lapwing was nesting nearby and we admired its fine plumage before leaving it in peace and turning our attention to the islands. Royal and 'Cayenne' Terns allowed close comparison; the latter is considered by some to be a race of Sandwich Tern but, with its yellow beak, it reminded us more of Lesser Crested. Kelp and Grey-hooded Gulls were present as expected but we gave them only the merest glance, transfixed by our first looks at the Magnificent Frigatebirds cruising overhead. After 15 minutes we moved on, making a longer stop just down the road. There were so many birds that we were able to ignore the traffic behind us! The small pools close by held good numbers of 'White-backed' Stilts, including several juveniles. White-cheeked Pintails, Little Blue Herons and Roseate Spoonbills were much enjoyed, the latter actually much more beautiful in flight than when studied close up! We decided that Guira Cuckoos and Burrowing Owls were birds with real character! A Yellowish Pipit was in song-flight overhead, but we were more impressed by the Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture on the ground and the aptly named Long-winged Harrier, a proper 'write-in' for our list. Here, as elsewhere, the number of Black Vultures was truly enormous. Given it was July, most migrant shorebirds were

of course still much further north, but careful scanning did at least produce a single Hudsonian Godwit and two Semipalmated Plovers. Cattle Tyrants were studied as they fed on the ground before, reluctantly, we left this amazingly bird-rich area.

It was only a short drive to our main birding spot. We parked up, donned insect repellent and sunhats (it was brightening up) and prepared for a couple of hours strolling through the special habitat. Restinga comprises bushes, ferns and palms rich in bromeliads, all growing on sand dunes. Found only in this corner of Brazil, there is very little left due to development, which is why the star bird, Restinga Antwren, is classed as 'Endangered' by BirdLife International. At our location, however, it was clearly quite numerous and it wasn't long before we found a pair which were prepared to show themselves. Sooretama Slaty Antshrike and Hangnest Tody-Tyrant vied for bird name of the morning, whilst Short-crested Flycatcher, Lemon-chested Greenlet and Blue-black Grassquit were well-watched additions to the list. Those who had previously visited Texas were delighted to recognise Tropical Parula, a wonderfully colourful and obliging bird; the Red-eyed Vireo was also familiar if considerably less gaudy. Leo had one more specific target in mind and was thrilled when he found us a pair of Black-backed Tanagers, the rarest of the 24 species of tanager we were to see during the tour. We eventually reached the beach, American Oystercatcher a new wader and Brown Boobies fishing like Gannets offshore.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Bananaquit, Ruddy Ground-Dove and Rufous Hornero were among the birds trying to distract us from our picnic before it was time to head off. At first we drove just 200 metres! A Chalk-browed Mockingbird was easy to see on the wires, and those in the front of the bus were able to watch Creamy-bellied Thrushes bathing in a puddle. However, given the difficult viewing conditions we didn't linger, heading instead to an expanse of marsh near the town of Buzios. Birds are often harder to find in the afternoon, but that wasn't the case today. Masked Yellowthroat and Rusty-backed Antwren were both coaxed in by Leo along the main track, and an enormous Ringed Kingfisher was scoped, before, a little off the path, two Plain-breasted Ground-Doves showed well to some and both Capped and Rusty-collared Seedeaters obliged for all. We paused at an area with a wide vista over the marsh, and this proved highly productive. A Wedge-tailed Grass Finch was instructive, but we were after bigger fish here and weren't disappointed, a Snail Kite giving a super fly-past just before a Pinnated Bittern came out of the reeds, flew a short distance and went back in. We all saw it, if only just!

A Savanna Hawk was seen perched on a post and also in flight before we made for our last destination, an area of mangroves. We didn't manage to locate any Clapper Rails, but very much enjoyed a cryptic Striated Heron and, in any case, it was good to see somewhere totally 'different'. Then we boarded the minibus for the long drive home. We arrived back shortly after 6pm, the hills still in cloud. The decision to head to the sea had been a masterstroke and we were buoyant as we tucked into the caipirinhas in the lounge. We completed the bird list after another enjoyable dinner before heading off for another early night, very happy with our wonderful day at the coast.

Tuesday 29th July

With the weather in the hills still looking iffy this morning, but with the forecast good for later in the week, we decided to head inland to the dry forest, despite that meaning we would be doing our two longest drives on consecutive days. As a one-off we started half an hour earlier than usual, so were on the road shortly after 6am, the group's punctuality impressive as ever. An hour into the journey we made a comfort stop at what was effectively a forest service station. Unexpectedly, being without a guide at this stage, we added four species to our list: Cliff Flycatcher, Blue-billed Black Tyrant, Ruby-crowned Tanager and Rufous-bellied Thrush; the latter is the Brazilian national bird. Feeling rather pleased with ourselves we pressed on and picked up Leo in his home town of Teresopolis. It was high in the hills, just 9 degrees, and drizzling. Fortunately we weren't stopping here; the poor weather was, as we hoped, confined to the uplands and as we descended it dried up nicely.

In the next hour or so we made four roadside stops, all unplanned, simply looking out for birds as we drove along and stopping if we saw something. All of them were spectacularly successful! At the first, a male Hepatic Tanager disappeared all too quickly but we saw both Burnished-buff and Golden-chevrons Tanagers. A fine Dusky-legged Guan sat up in a tree across the valley and was resplendent in the telescope. The highlight at this stop was the male Black Jacobin. Trips to REGUA later in the year would expect to find this species residing in the lodge garden, but it is a migrant and only begins to return in late July, so we were lucky to find

one. Just down the road, we heard parrots calling so paused again. They headed off, but instead we found Long-tailed Tyrant, Brassy-breasted Tanager and White-crested Tyrannulet. A little further on, a Shiny Cowbird perched on a roadside wire. We debated momentarily whether to stop, and decided to do so as it was our first. Good decision! A Streaked Xenops was found tree-creeping on the other side of the road alongside a Chestnut-vented Conebill and the first of several Yellow-olive Flycatchers. Meanwhile a Yellow-browed Tyrant on the grassy verge reminded us of Yellow Wagtail. More Scaly-headed Parrots down the road were, this time, obligingly perched up, so we stopped to scope them and enjoyed a Crested Oropendola as a bonus, our final new bird of an amazing hour.

Our first planned stop, for raptors, was actually totally unproductive so we headed on into the town of Alem Paraiba for a welcome cup of coffee. Then it was time to head through Carmo and up a rough track to the top of a hill for our main morning walk. By now the sun was shining! Our main target, Three-toed Jacamar, was found sitting in the open before we had all disembarked! This species is listed as 'Vulnerable' by BirdLife due to habitat loss and is clearly localised in the degraded remnants of Atlantic dry forest. We were privileged to be able to watch it for ages before heading slowly along the track. New species appeared at appropriate intervals, with flycatchers well-represented: Sepia-capped, Grey-hooded, Brown-crested and Euler's were all noted. Serra Antwren showed surprisingly well, but there was no doubt as to the star bird on this walk. A Crescent-chested Puffbird sat out for a long time: it's always a relief for the leader when the group sees the species on the front of the bird list! Tropical Pewee, Golden-throated Warbler, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Grey-eyed Greenlet and Sapphire-spangled Emerald were all seen well, the latter being particularly welcome; it's always special to see a hummingbird feeding on flowers in the forest as well as noting them on feeders. Eventually we reached the minibus, which had gone on ahead to an area with a wonderful panoramic view over the dry forest, but the picnic would have to wait for five more minutes! The nests of Rufous-fronted Thornbirds were very distinctive, and it wasn't long before we were watching the birds themselves. A male Pileated Finch raised its red crown feathers to greet us before our first Boat-billed Flycatchers and a Glittering-bellied Emerald rounded off a superb morning.

In the afternoon we drove along a track on the other side of the town, with open grassland and scattered bushes on both sides. Leo had very specific targets for us and at first there was no sign of any of them, but we enjoyed good looks at White-collared Swifts and were pleased to pick out a Tawny-headed Swallow among the numerous Blue-and-white Swallows. Then we scored, three out of three, at one spot! A pair of Streamer-tailed Tyrants came and landed on top of the nearest tree, giving us an astonishing display for several minutes. At the back of the same tree, a Firewood-gatherer posed nicely; we really wanted to see this species, if only for the name, and had already marvelled at its nest. Finally, a White-eared Puffbird was called in to order: Leo's powers were remarkable!

Our final stop in a forest patch near Sumidouro produced a feeding flock which included Hooded and Gilt-edged Tanagers and a tiny Eared Pygmy-Tyrant. Then we did an about turn and headed back to the main road. Our journey home was delayed twice, each time for very special birds! First, a White-tailed Hawk showed splendidly, then a pair of Blue-winged Macaws were located on a treetop. We scoped them for ages, not quite believing the views they were giving us. White-eyed Parakeets and a Pale-vented Pigeon also showed splendidly before it really was time to head back to base, dropping off Leo in Teresopolis on the way. We arrived shortly after 6pm: it had been another long day, but a thoroughly worthwhile one. We met up with John and Erica who had chosen to have a day exploring the trails behind the wetland. They had seen many excellent birds including Green Kingfisher and Great Black-Hawk which were to elude the rest of us all week.

Wednesday 30th July

Breakfast returned to its normal time of 6am and we were ready to go birding a little before 6.45am, but not before we had confirmed the Sloth was still in residence in the tree across the valley! We needed a local day today with minimal driving, and boarded our truck for the short 20 minute journey to the start of the Waterfall Trail. It was dry and warm, but not hot: ideal conditions for a walk. The trail took us about 2.5 km to a waterfall, climbing from 170 metres to 530 metres altitude in the process. Obviously it would be uphill virtually all the way, but it wasn't too steep, and everyone was absolutely fine because we went at a sensible pace, taking four hours for the journey up.

Having spent three days in relatively open areas, our first birding in pristine forest came as a bit of a shock: it's not easy! Much of the morning was spent trying to lure out hard-to-see species which Leo had located on

call. He would tell me what he had heard, I would show the group the relevant picture in the book, then we would stand still, look and hope. Some birds were more obliging than others. We got off to a cracking start as a Southern Antpipit behaved very well indeed, singing from an exposed perch. From time to time we would come across a feeding flock; Leo would whistle the call of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, or 'pish', and we would do our best to get onto as many of the birds as possible as they moved through the canopy. Greyish Mourner and both Surucua and Black-throated Trogons were amongst the highlights along the first part of the trail, all showing well to all. Manakins are clearly inquisitive birds with 'attitude' and we were thrilled to get super views of both Blue and Pin-tailed. Some of the other species were rather less co-operative. Yellow-legged and White-eyed Thrushes, Ochre-breasted, Black-capped and Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and the diminutive White-throated Spadebill all came into the category of BVD (better view desired), at least for some of us! Nevertheless, with perseverance and concentration most species were, eventually, seen by most people. Later in the week, Nicholas would explain to us the role of ants in South American forests where there are no earthworms, and there were certainly lots of birds with 'ant' in the name in this forest! We did well for antwrens seeing Unicoloured, Streak-capped, Rufous-winged and 'Silvery-flanked', some at eye level, and others in the canopy. The champagne moment of the morning was witnessing a superb male Rufous-capped Antthrush strolling across the trail in front of us. We were also chuffed to find the Long-tailed Potoo roosting on its favourite perch: it was hard to see where the tree stopped and the potoo started!

The first of several Yellow-eared Woodpeckers and Flame-crested Tanagers showed well just before we arrived at the wonderful waterfall, bathed in sunshine. We watched the Grey-rumped Swifts overhead and Chestnut-crowned Becards in the trees opposite, and listened to the aptly named Bare-throated Bellbirds singing. Then it was time to sit down to a well-earned picnic, pleased to have made it to the falls and to have seen so many new birds despite Leo pronouncing that the forest was 'quiet'. There was, inevitably, less bird activity on our journey down, but the lack of quantity was made up for in quality. We started with a Black-cheeked Gnateater perched close by: how had Leo managed to see it?! Olive-green and Black-goggled Tanagers were relatively plentiful, often in small flocks. We enjoyed Scaled Antbird, Plain Antwren and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, with Crested Becard, Plain Xenops and Star-throated Antwren proving trickier. Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Whiskered Flycatcher and Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant were well-watched and we had an impressive haul of Woodcreepers, relatively easy to identify once we got the different sizes sorted. Lesser and Olivaceous were small, Plain-winged middle-sized and Planalto pretty huge! The best was left until just before we arrived back at our vehicle. A male Shrike-like Cotinga was coaxed in and sat out in full view for ages. One of the rarest and most sought-after species seen brilliantly, and we were thrilled, as was Leo on this, his last day of guiding at REGUA prior to starting another job.

We arrived back at base and did the bird list for the trail before strolling down for a second look at the wetlands. Greater Ani was new for most of us but we also enjoyed revising species seen earlier in the week. At 5pm we met up with both Nicholas and Adilei, who was to be our guide for the rest of the tour, excited at the prospect of one of the trip's highlights. It was just a short ride to the site, an area of marsh and pasture on the edge of the forest. We watched White-rumped Swallows and had second looks at a number of interesting species before I urged everyone to remain quiet and simply listen to the sounds. Ash-throated Crake, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail and Giant Snipe were all heard to our left, Tawny-browed Owl grunted from the wood opposite, and another Striped Cuckoo called off to the right; the Common Pauraque were all around us. We moved into position A and it wasn't long before Adilei spotted our quarry, a Giant Snipe. We watched it, then another, displaying for several minutes overhead: marvellous! As it got dark, a South American Snipe started drumming, a really wonderful sound. We didn't manage to find any snipe on the ground but, as we strolled back to the truck, we could see the eye-shine of two Scissor-tailed Nightjars as they hunted insects. We returned for our 7pm dinner in very good spirits, smugly admiring the photo of Shrike-like Cotinga next to our table, and had lots of super birds to talk through before it was time to declare.

Thursday 31st July

Today's excursion was to Pico da Caledonia, at 2,219 metres one of the highest mountains in the Serra dos Orgaos range. We travelled in the minibus, but the guides followed in the truck as we would need it for the last part of our journey up the mountain. We left shortly before 6.45am and stopped after three quarters of an hour at a roadside stall where the owner had traditionally put out bananas for the birds. Despite the lack of new fruit there were plenty of birds, and great photo opportunities. The gorgeous Blue-naped Chlorophonias were numerous and confiding, and we had much better views of Green-headed Tanager and Chestnut-bellied

Euphonia than had been the case along the Waterfall Trail. Planalto Tyrannulet, Azure-shouldered Tanager and Green-chinned Euphonia were trip ticks; we could have stayed longer but, having used the facilities, it was time to move on shortly after 8am.

We drove through a town and parked up, transferring to the truck. The track was steep making for an interesting journey for those on the back: suffice to say that we all arrived at the top intact. Having put on suncream and hats – it was cool at this altitude, but wonderfully sunny – we set up the scopes to scan the trees on the hillside. At first this proved frustrating, with Velvety Black-Tyrant, Thick-billed Saltator and Cinnamon Tanagers all seen but only distantly so difficult to locate. We were after Grey-winged Cotinga, another ‘Vulnerable’ species, at one of its two accessible sites. One was calling at close range and, eventually, it flew. Not good views, but we were relieved to have glimpsed it (having promised ourselves we wouldn’t spend too long waiting for it to appear.....).

We spent the rest of the morning moving slowly down the track, with the truck always nearby to help those who had done enough walking. Rufous-collared Sparrow, Pallid Spinetail, Diademed Tanager and Bay-chested Warbling-Finch were seen regularly, and most of us managed to see the Rufous-tailed Antthrush which lurked in the bushes. White-throated Hummingbirds were much enjoyed as they fed on the flowers, but the star of the show this morning was the Plovercrest, another stunning hummer: we had several sightings. Further on we found Highland Elaenia, Rufous-tailed Antbird and Variable Antshrike but were perhaps more impressed by the Black Hawk-Eagle calling and soaring overhead. We watched an Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher and a Rufous Gnateater before it was time to pause for our picnic. For the afternoon we explored a track at mid-altitude. We had been disappointed to miss Red-legged Seriema near Carmo but were in luck today with two extraordinarily inquisitive birds giving us an Oscar-winning performance! It was scarcely believable. Next we set up the scopes overlooking a garden in the forest and had a very productive and enjoyable half an hour. Scaled Woodcreeper and Green-winged Saltator were well-watched, an Aplomado Falcon sped by at high speed and a Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail ventured out into the open on the lawn, albeit briefly.

Back at the minibus we decided to make one final stop by the stream before heading off. Another excellent decision. René, our bonus guide, pointed out a Rusty-margined Flycatcher which we might have overlooked before, on a rock along the stream, we found our target, a Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper. A great species, especially for those of us fixated on dippers! Hooded Siskins and Maroon-bellied Parakeets were found feeding on roadside flowers and Spix’s Spinetail was coaxed out. René impressed us by telling us that, in Portuguese, the name of this species is onomatopoeic as it calls ‘Jonny has a baby’ (in Portuguese – or so he told us!). We stopped for a welcome cup of coffee in Nova Friburgo, to the amusement of the locals, before making the journey home, arriving shortly before 5.30pm. This meant that for those who never know when to stop (!) there was time to pop down to the wetland to witness the evening roost of egrets once again. It had been another super day, with marvellous weather to savour the beauty of the hills.

Friday 1st August

Another ‘local’ day. At the usual time we set off in the truck for the 20 minute journey to what is known as the 4x4 trail. We drove up the track, stopping by a derelict house named Casa Anibal, at an altitude of 352 metres, and explored the forest above it for an hour or so before walking down through the well-established secondary forest and being picked up at the bottom in time for lunch back at the lodge. On the way up we spotted not one but two Sloths, the second of which was actually active allowing us to see its three toes!

The area at the start of the main trail, and above it, turned out to be the most productive. It was relatively open, allowing reasonable viewing into the canopy. A Plain Parakeet perched up obligingly, closely followed by a Sharpbill and a Blond-crested Woodpecker: what a superb haircut! Grey-fronted Dove and Brown Timamou called constantly but remained ‘heard-only’ before we turned our attention to another of those hard-to-see ground dwelling birds. After an eternity, perseverance was rewarded as we all had super views of a Slaty Bristlefront: result! Some glimpsed a Planalto Hermit and we all saw Large-headed Flatbill and Spot-breasted Antvireo before our attention was drawn to the ‘double-bass’ call from up the hill. Adilei urged us to concentrate on the open treetops and it wasn’t long before we scored, as two fine Spot-billed Toucanets appeared on cue. Some species are soon consigned to simply the ‘tick on the list’ category, whilst others are ‘must-see’. The toucanet was most certainly one of the latter, and we were thrilled to see it so well. We strolled on, contented, and enjoyed excellent looks at both Mantled Hawk and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle. Vultures and caracaras notwithstanding, raptors generally seemed few and far between but, each day, we found some

real stunners. Another roving flock appeared, with super views of Boat-billed Flycatcher, Surucua Trogon, Rufous-headed Tanager and White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner. I asked Adilei which species were the 'leaders of the pack'; he considered this carefully before telling me that Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers were perhaps the focus for many of the flocks. A Rufous-capped Motmot disappointingly failed to show despite being extremely close, then a Brazilian Squirrel raced up its tree to hide from us. The truck appeared at noon, as requested, and we headed back for a hot lunch and a well-earned siesta.

Being in the lowlands, the middle part of the day was quiet bird-wise, and it was warm, with the temperature up to 27 degrees. But it certainly wasn't hot, so we were up for more birding a little after 3.15pm. I had spent part of the break compiling a list of things we hadn't yet seen around the lodge and wetland, and talking it through with Adilei. This was time well spent. Before we had left the garden, he'd pulled the first of the rabbits out of the hat with a Long-billed Wren found in the understorey. Down by the reserve centre, he casually pointed out two Tropical Screech-Owls roosting in the canopy. We gave these the time and attention they deserved, so weren't too receptive to the volunteer desperately wanting to lecture us about the dragonflies! That would have to wait for another time. A Band-tailed Hornero was located strutting across the football pitch before we headed into the bushes where both Yellow Tyrannulet and Moustached Wren obliged to order. A White-tipped Dove showed well on its nest, and we found a stunning Fawn-breasted Tanager as well as Pale-breasted Thrush, Purple-throated Euphonia and White-winged Becard. Could we keep up this strike-rate?!

With dusk approaching it was time to head round to the back of the lake and turn our attention to the wetlands. Before we had looked on the water there was time for one more new species, a huge Lineated Woodpecker climbing up a dead tree on the far side: wonderful! Seeing, as opposed to hearing, crakes and rails seems to require the use of playback in this part of the world and, in a magic half an hour, we managed superb views of both Rufous-sided Crake and Blackish Rail. The former was perhaps expected, the latter not, so we felt both fortunate and privileged. There was time to simply 'enjoy the moment' as the egrets passed by in great numbers; we also confirmed that the bat-catching raptor was actually an Aplomado Falcon. Common Pauragues were discovered on a side track, sitting on the ground at point blank range, before we took the shortcut up to the lodge for a shower, a caiparinha or two and another super dinner. It was good to feel that we had begun to get a real feel for the birds of our local area as well as those further afield and we were so chuffed with the warm, sunny, calm, non-humid weather. July/August was proving a great time to visit for most species, although perhaps not for owls, our after dinner foray drawing a blank, although we were rewarded with a Common Opossum.

Saturday 2nd August

Our last full day excursion took us back to the hills. As on Thursday, we travelled in the minibus with the truck following, and we made the same pit stop at the 'tanager feeders'. Stocks had been replenished and we had a super half hour watching and videoing proceedings. It was great to see Red-necked Tanager at point blank range, one of many gorgeous birds on offer.

Having made the transfer from minibus to truck, we continued gently up a track with a splendid view over a forested valley on the right hand side. At our first stop we had repeat scope views of Dusky-legged Guan; at the next one we found what we really wanted. Bare-faced Bellbird moved from 'heard-only' to 'seen' with at least three birds perched in the open; it's not a species where we had to worry about camouflage! We had close views of Grey-capped Tyrannulet and enjoyed another Mantled Hawk before continuing on up the mountain. We stopped about 400 metres before the end of the road and walked the rest of the way, taking the morning to do so. Our second main target obliged straightaway, a calling male Black-and-gold Cotinga allowing prolonged scope views despite doing its best to hide behind large leaves. We had both Adilei and René to guide us today along with Nicholas to keep order, and generally this worked to our advantage, particularly as I began to have a 'free role' to scan and listen. Berti's and Ochre-rumped Antbirds were coaxed out of the vegetation on the right, a Plumbeous Pigeon was located in the canopy and a White-throated Woodcreeper was discovered on the left. Despite the numerous pairs of eyes, a disproportionate number of species remained 'heard-only' today, the most disappointing being Hooded Berryeater. We persevered, and added Rufous-capped Spinetail, Rufous-backed Antwren and Rufous-capped Greenlet to our list (spot the rufous connection!). Further views of Spot-billed Toucanet went down well before we concentrated on hummingbirds, Scale-throated Hermit feeding on the flowers and both Plovercrest and Brazilian Ruby attracted to the feeders in the garden where we picnicked. This was a well-known spot, the former home of David Miller who had made a study of orchids in particular.

After our break we drifted back down. Our eagle-eyed observers added Amethyst Woodstar to the list (hummers do perch from time to time!) as well as the bizarrely named Rough-legged Tyrannulet. A Barred Forest-Falcon called from afar. We concentrated on the bamboo specialists of the secondary forest, but most were thoroughly unco-operative; at least some of us managed to glimpse the White-collared Foliage-Gleaner. The early afternoon birding proved to be hard work as we strolled down, but we added Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser and Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant to the list, the latter perching up very nicely. White-rimmed Warblers had been heard calling since our arrival and, finally, we got superb views of one right back by the vehicle. We mounted up and headed down the hill, Orange-eyed Thornbirds performing admirably but Dusky-tailed Antbird misbehaving and Mouse-coloured Tapaculo not showing at all.

It was hot, and we resisted the temptation to compare notes with another tour group, instead choosing to head back to REGUA. Here we concentrated on two open area species, White-browed Blackbird and Red-cowled Cardinal, and had good views of both. There was just time for one final whizz to the roost before bad light stopped play. The evening rituals of caipirinhas, bird list and dinner were savoured on this our last evening, and we retired determined to make the most of the remaining hours.

Sunday 3rd August

We enjoyed our last REGUA breakfast before setting out in the truck with Adilei a little before 6.45am on another crisp and sunny morning. We had only got as far as the reserve centre at the bottom of the hill when he stopped. A moment later we were watching our first new bird of the day, a Grey-hooded Attila, calling loudly from one of the tall trees. Adilei had heard the bird whilst driving along and, not for the first time, we marvelled at his skills.

Today we were heading into uncharted territory and exploring an area west of the lodge. We disembarked by an open expanse of pasture; it was only supposed to be a short stop, but we were there more than an hour, and this period was one of the real highlights of the tour with the scope once again in constant use. A group of Guira Cuckoos were sunning themselves on top of a bush, in perfect light. Behind them, a couple of Orange-winged Parrots were feeding happily. To the left, we discovered a pair of Campo Flickers nesting: at last a proper view of this colourful woodpecker. Behind them, a passerine on a fence turned out to be a White-rumped Monjita, another first. All this was simply the warm up as, finally, we located two Whistling Herons amongst the cattle in the distance: the species we had really been looking for. Two others flew in much closer, allowing us to see all the key features. We hadn't finished. To the right, a mystery raptor in a dead tree on the horizon was scoped: Laughing Falcon! It wasn't long before it started calling; it was loud enough for us to hear it clearly. Four small birds in the next tree proved to be Swallow Tanagers, but we would have to wait for another trip to see them properly. Red-rumped Cacique and Chopi Blackbirds were enjoyed as 'seconds' and by now we were confidently identifying the Southern Cacacaras from Yellow-headed, the Turkey Vultures from Black and the Grey-breasted Martins amongst the other hirundines. To round things off nicely, a small group of Channel-billed Toucans appeared; although they, too, were distant, the views were very respectable.

Eventually it was time to move on, and we enjoyed seeing the villagers in Matumbo as we drove through. A short stop and 'pish' produced super views of Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Double-collared Seedeater. We then headed up a valley and parked by a rather smart house. The Waldenoor Trail, in land bought by the reserve only four years ago, was a little steeper than the others we had tried but, as before, not problematic at a sensible pace. Some of the group ventured a fair way into the forest and were rewarded with Buff-throated Saltator and a family party of Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers as well as repeat looks at White-shouldered Fire-eye. Those who stayed closer to the forest edge enjoyed another Yellow-backed Tanager. We had agreed that we should aim to be back at base by 11am so reluctantly declared at 10.30am. At the lodge our packing was delayed by another handsome Rufous-tailed Jacamar, feeding in the trees behind the pool!

Just before lunch, the word got out that Adilei had found not one but two Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls roosting at the bottom of the garden. Our scopes were packed, so we used the lodge's one and enjoyed frame-filling views. Nicholas and Raquel joined us for lunch before we said proper farewells not only to them but to Sam, Adilei and our cooks. Then, just after 2pm, we hit the road with Jossue our driver, bound for Rio, enjoying our last Roadside Hawks and nesting Rufous Horneros along the way. We had carefully allowed enough time for a whistle stop tour of Rio, and it worked to perfection. We saw the exceptionally tall palm trees in the Botanical Gardens before driving along Ipanema Beach, in sunshine, and then Copacabana Beach, more famous perhaps

but in shade for our visit. We had photo stops there, and in front of Sugar Loaf Mountain, and it was great that the driver's family, who had travelled with us, were able to enjoy the tour too. The thousands of Magnificent Frigatebirds offshore added to the entertainment! Heading west, with further views of the imposing statue of Christ the Redeemer, we bade farewell to John and Erica who were travelling to pastures new, before arriving at the airport around 6pm as planned.

Having checked in, we refuelled at one of the umpteen restaurants on the second floor before passing through a virtually empty security check and onwards to our gate. The announcement of 'the flight time will be just 10 hours and 22 minutes due to a favourable wind' was well-received. After a spot of turbulence the flight was smooth, allowing most to sleep, and we arrived early at Terminal 5 before going our separate ways at the end of a tour which had gone like clockwork in virtually all respects. I will be hoping to make return visits to REGUA, somewhere I found hugely inspiring as well as wonderful for its bird life.

Acknowledgements

Our holiday was outstandingly successful, and a number of people played their part. At REGUA owners Nicholas and Raquel gave unstintingly of their time, and Sam was a thoroughly professional host. The ladies cooked us super meals and cleaned our rooms beautifully. Alcenir and Jossue not only drove carefully but attended to us courteously and, last but not least, Leo and Adilei were superb local guides, finding and showing us the birds and understanding what each of us were looking for. The other guests in the lodge also added to our tour; we enjoyed meeting Mike and Rose, and Jose's advice to 'savour the moment' was very sound. Thanks to all of you for being so punctual, keen and interested, and simply great company both when birding and over dinner: I look forward to travelling with you again. Special thanks to Colin and Nicholas for allowing us to use some of their photos in this report.

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September 2014



Serra dos Orgaos from REGUA

Itinerary and Weather

- 26th July Flight from London Heathrow to Rio de Janeiro; onward drive to REGUA.
- 27th July Morning along the Yellow Trail in REGUA wetlands; afternoon in and around the lodge gardens.
Cloudy am, rain pm, 17-22 °C
- 28th July Whole day visit to Cabo Frio (coastal lagoons, Restinga and mangroves) and Buzios (marsh).
Rain overnight, then dry but mainly cloudy, 18-26 °C
- 29th July Whole day visit to Carmo (dry forest) and Sumidouro (grasslands) via Teresopolis (forest).
Sunny am, cloudy pm, rain only in the hills, 18-26 °C in lowlands, cooler in the hills.
- 30th July Morning and early afternoon along the Waterfall Trail; late afternoon in the wetlands prior to the Giant Snipe fields at dusk.
Sunny, 14-25 °C.
- 31st July Whole day visit to Pico da Caledonia (high mountain forest and mid-altitude grasslands).
Mostly sunny, 14-25 °C, cooler in the hills.
- 1st August Morning walk down the 4 x 4 Trail from Casa Anibal; late afternoon in the wetlands; post-dinner 'owling'.
Sunny, 14-27 °C.
- 2nd August Whole day visit to Macae de Cima (mountain forest), returning via REGUA grasslands.
Sunny, 16-27 °C in lowlands, cooler in the hills.
- 3rd August Morning at the Malumbo fields then the Waldenoor Trail; afternoon tour of Rio de Janeiro prior to evening flight to London.
Sunny, 15-27 °C.
- 4th August Arrive at London Heathrow early afternoon.



REGUA Waterfall

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN

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, wetland & environs C = Cabo Frio and Buzios (coastal areas) T = Teresopolis, Carmo and Sumidouro P = Pico da Caledonia M = Macae de Cima	1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 99 4 = 100 - 999 5 = >1000

The order and nomenclature generally follows A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil by Ber van Perlo 2009 which was the book we used during the tour. See notes for species marked*. Alternative common names used are marked in italics.

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Brown Booby	2	C	3	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Magnificent Frigatebird	2	C	5	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	3	R	1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Anhinga	4	R	1	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	7	R C	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	1	C	2	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	4	R	1	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
Pinnated Bittern	1	C	1	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	6	R C	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	5	R C	1	<i>Butorides striata</i>
(Western) Cattle Egret*	8	R C T	5	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Cocoi Heron	3	R	1	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	8	R C	2	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Whistling Heron	1	R	1	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
Capped Heron	4	R	1	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
Snowy Egret	5	R C	2	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	1	C	1	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
White-faced Whistling-Duck	2	R C	3	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Muscovy Duck	4	R	1	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
White-cheeked Pintail	1	C	2	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
Brazilian Teal	6	R C	3	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
Turkey Vulture	5	R T	3	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	2	R C	2	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
Black Vulture	8	R C T P M	4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Grey-headed Kite	2	R P	1	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>
Snail Kite	1	C	1	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
Long-winged Harrier	1	C	1	<i>Circus buffoni</i>
Mantled Hawk	2	R M	1	<i>Leucopternis polionotus</i>
Savanna Hawk	4	R C T	1	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
Roadside Hawk	5	R C T P	2	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
White-tailed Hawk	1	T	1	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>
Black Hawk-Eagle	1	P	1	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle	1	R	1	<i>Spizaetus melanoleucus</i>
Southern Caracara	7	R C T P	2	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	8	R C T	3	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Laughing Falcon	1	R	1	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
Barred Forest-Falcon	-	1h	M	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>
Aplomado Falcon	3	R P	1	<i>Falco femoralis</i>
Brown Tinamou	-	2h R	M	<i>Crypturellus obsoletus</i>
Rusty-margined Guan	2	R C	1	<i>Penelope superciliaris</i>
Dusky-legged Guan	2	T M	1	<i>Penelope obscura</i>
Red-legged Seriema	1	P	1	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
Grey-necked Wood-Rail	-	1h R	1	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>
Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail	1	1h R P	1	<i>Aramides saracura</i>
Rufous-sided Crake	1	1h R	1	<i>Laterallus melanophaius</i>
Ash-throated Crake	-	3h R C	1	<i>Porzana albicollis</i>

Blackish Rail	1	1h	R					1	<i>Pardirallus nigricans</i>		
Common Gallinule*	6		R	C				3	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>		
Purple Gallinule	4		R					2	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>		
Southern Lapwing	7		R	C	T			3	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>		
Semipalmated Plover	1			C				1	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>		
Wattled Jacana	6		R	C				3	<i>Jacana jacana</i>		
American Oystercatcher	1			C				1	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>		
South American Snipe	1		R					1	<i>Gallinago paraguaiae</i>		
Giant Snipe	1		R					1	<i>Gallinago undulata</i>		
Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt*	1			C				3	<i>Himantopus (mexicanus) melanurus</i>		
Hudsonian Godwit	1			C				1	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>		
Royal Tern	1			C				3	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		
Sandwich (Cayenne) Tern*	1			C				3	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnatha</i>		
Kelp Gull	2			C				3	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>		
Grey-hooded Gull	1			C				2	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>		
Plain-breasted Ground Dove	1			C				1	<i>Columbina minuta</i>		
Ruddy Ground-Dove	7		R	C	T	P		3	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		
Rock Dove	5			C	T	P		3	<i>Columba livia</i>		
Picazuro Pigeon	8		R	C	T	P		3	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>		
Pale-vented Pigeon	2				T	P		1	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>		
Plumbeous Pigeon	1						M	1	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>		
White-tipped Dove	4		R				P	1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		
Grey-fronted Dove	-	2h	R					M	1	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>	
Blue-winged Macaw	1						T	1	<i>Primolius maracana</i>		
White-eyed Parakeet	2						T	P	3	<i>Aratinga leucophthalma</i>	
Maroon-bellied Parakeet	3		R					P	M	3	<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>
Blue-winged Parrotlet	1		R							2	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>
Plain Parakeet	2		R						M	1	<i>Brotogeris tirica</i>
Scaly-headed Parrot	2	1h	R				T		M	2	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
Orange-winged Parrot	2		R	C						1	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>
Squirrel Cuckoo	3		R							1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Greater Ani	2		R							1	<i>Crotophaga major</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	8		R	C	T					3	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Guira Cuckoo	6		R	C	T					3	<i>Guira guira</i>
Striped Cuckoo	-	4h	R	C	T					1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
Tropical Screech-Owl	1		R							1	<i>Megascops choliba</i>
Tawny-browed Owl	-	1h	R							1	<i>Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	1	1h	R							1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Burrowing Owl	3		R	C						2	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Long-tailed Potoo	1		R							1	<i>Nyctibius aethereus</i>
Common Potoo	1		R							1	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
Common Pauraque	1	5h	R							2	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Scissor-tailed Nightjar	1		R							1	<i>Hydropsalis torquata</i>
White-collared Swift	4		R			T	P			3	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Grey-rumped Swift	1		R							2	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	2		R							1	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Planalto Hermit	1		R							1	<i>Phaethornis pretrei</i>
Scale-throated Hermit	1								M	1	<i>Phaethornis eurynome</i>
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	7		R				T			1	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>
Black Jacobin	1						T			1	<i>Florisuga fusca</i>
(Black-breasted) Plovercrest*	2							P	M	1	<i>Stephanoxis lalandi lalandi</i>
Violet-capped Woodnymph	7		R				T	P		1	<i>Thalurania glaucopis</i>
White-throated Hummingbird	2							P	M	1	<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>
Glittering-throated Emerald	3		R							1	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
Sapphire-spangled Emerald	1						T			1	<i>Amazilia lactea</i>
Glittering-bellied Emerald	2						T	P		1	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>
Brazilian Ruby	2							P	M	1	<i>Clytolaema rubricauda</i>
Amethyst Woodstar	1								M	1	<i>Calliphlox amethystina</i>
Surucua Trogon	3		R						M	1	<i>Trogon surrucura</i>
Black-throated Trogon	2		R							1	<i>Trogon rufus</i>
Rufous-capped Motmot	-	2h	R							1	<i>Baryphthengus ruficapillus</i>
Ringed Kingfisher	3		R	C						1	<i>Ceryle torquatus</i>
Amazon Kingfisher	1		R							1	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>

Rufous-tailed Jacamar	2	R				1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>		
Three-toed Jacamar	1				T	2	<i>Jacamaralcyon tridactyla</i>		
White-eared Puffbird	1				T	1	<i>Nystalus chacuru</i>		
Crescent-chested Puffbird	1	1h	R		T	1	<i>Malacoptila striata</i>		
Channel-billed Toucan	2	R				1	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>		
Spot-billed Toucanet	2	R				M	1	<i>Selenidera maculirostris</i>	
White-barred Piculet	4	R				M	1	<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>	
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker	1	R					1	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>	
Yellow-eared Woodpecker	5	R			P	M	1	<i>Veniliornis maculifrons</i>	
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	1	R					1	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>	
Green-barred Woodpecker	1	R					1	<i>Colaptes melanochloros</i>	
Campo Flicker	3	R			T		2	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>	
Blond-crested Woodpecker	1	R					1	<i>Celeus flavescens</i>	
Lineated Woodpecker	1	R					1	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	
Plain-winged Woodcreeper	2	R					1	<i>Dendrocincla turdina</i>	
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	3	R				M	2	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	
White-throated Woodcreeper	1					M	1	<i>Xiphocolaptes albicollis</i>	
Planalto Woodcreeper	2	R				M	1	<i>Dendrocolaptes platyrostris</i>	
Lesser Woodcreeper	2	R					1	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus</i>	
Scaled Woodcreeper	1				P		1	<i>Lepidocolaptes squamatus</i>	
Wing-banded (Band-tailed) Hornero*	1	R					1	<i>Furnarius figulus</i>	
Rufous Hornero	6	R	C	T	P		2	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>	
Rufous-capped Spinetail	1					M	1	<i>Synallaxis ruficapilla</i>	
Spix's Spinetail	1	1h				P	M	1	<i>Synallaxis spixi</i>
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	3	R	C				2	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>	
Pallid Spinetail	2					P	M	2	<i>Cranioleuca pallida</i>
Rufous-fronted Thornbird	1				T		2	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons</i>	
Orange-eyed Thornbird*	1					M	1	<i>Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus</i>	
Firewood-gatherer	1				T		1	<i>Anumbius annumbi</i>	
White-collared Foliage-gleaner	1					M	1	<i>Anabazenops fuscus</i>	
Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner	1	R					1	<i>Philydor lichtensteini</i>	
Black-capped Foliage-gleaner	1	R					1	<i>Philydor atricapillus</i>	
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	1	R					1	<i>Philydor rufum</i>	
White-eyed Foliage-gleaner	1	R					1	<i>Automolus leucophthalmus</i>	
Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper	1					P	1	<i>Lochmias nematura</i>	
Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser	1	1h	R			M	1	<i>Sclerurus scansor</i>	
Plain Xenops	2	R					1	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	
Streaked Xenops	1				T		1	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>	
Spot-backed Antshrike	-	1h	R				1	<i>Hypoedaleus guttatus</i>	
Large-tailed Antshrike	-	1h				P	1	<i>Mackenziaena leachii</i>	
White-bearded Antshrike	-	1h				M	1	<i>Biatas nigropectus</i>	
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	3	R			T		1	<i>Thamnophilus palliatus</i>	
Sooretama Slaty Antshrike	1	1h	R	C			2	<i>Thamnophilus ambiguus</i>	
Variable Antshrike	2					P	M	1	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens</i>
Spot-breasted Antwren	1	R					1	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>	
Plain Antwren	3	R				M	1	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	
Rufous-backed Antwren	1					M	1	<i>Dysithamnus xanthopterus</i>	
Star-throated Antwren	1	R					1	<i>Myrmotherula gularis</i>	
White-flanked (Silvery-flanked) Antwren*	1	R					1	<i>Myrmotherula (axillaris) luctuosa</i>	
Unicolored Antwren	2	R					1	<i>Myrmotherula unicolor</i>	
Streak-capped Antwren	2	R					1	<i>Terenura maculata</i>	
Rufous-winged Antwren	2	R					1	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>	
Restinga Antwren	1			C			3	<i>Formicivora littoralis</i>	
Serra Antwren	1				T		1	<i>Formicivora serrana</i>	
Rusty-backed Antwren	1			C			1	<i>Formicivora rufa</i>	
Bertoni's Antbird	1					M	1	<i>Drymophila rubricollis</i>	
Rufous-tailed Antbird	1					P	1	<i>Drymophila genei</i>	
Ochre-rumped Antbird	1					M	1	<i>Drymophila ochropyga</i>	
Dusky-tailed Antbird	1					M	1	<i>Drymophila malura</i>	
Scaled Antbird	2	R					1	<i>Drymophila squamata</i>	
White-shouldered Fire-eye	2	R					1	<i>Pyriglena leucoptera</i>	
Rufous-capped Antthrush	1	R					1	<i>Formicarius colma</i>	
Rufous-tailed Antthrush	1					P	1	<i>Chamaeza ruficauda</i>	

Rufous Gnateater	1				P	1	<i>Conopophaga lineata</i>
Black-cheeked Gnateater	1	R				1	<i>Conopophaga melanops</i>
Slaty Bristlefront	1	R				1	<i>Merulaxis ater</i>
Mouse-coloured Tapaculo	-	1h			M	1	<i>Scytalopus speluncae</i>
Bare-throated Bellbird	1	2h	R		M	2	<i>Procnias nudicollis</i>
Black-and-gold Cotinga	1	1h			P M	1	<i>Tijuca atra</i>
Grey-winged Cotinga	1				P	1	<i>Tijuca condita</i>
Sharpbill	2	R			M	1	<i>Oxyruncus cristatus</i>
Hooded Berryeater	1				M	1	<i>Carpornis cucullata</i>
Greenish Schiffornis	-	1h			M	1	<i>Schiffornis virescens</i>
Shrike-like Cotinga (Brazilian Laniisoma)*	1	R				1	<i>Laniisoma elegans</i>
Chestnut-crowned Becard	3	R			P	1	<i>Pachyramphus castaneus</i>
White-winged Becard	2	R				1	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>
Crested Becard	1	R				1	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>
Pin-tailed Manakin	2	R			M	1	<i>Ilicura militaris</i>
White-bearded Manakin	5	R		T		1	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
Blue Manakin	3	R				2	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>
Yellowish Pipit	2	R	C			1	<i>Anthus lutescens</i>
Southern Antpipit	1	R				1	<i>Corythopsis delalandi</i>
Rough-legged Tyrannulet	1				M	1	<i>Phyllomyias burmeisteri</i>
Planalto Tyrannulet	2				P M	3	<i>Phyllomyias fasciatus</i>
Grey-capped Tyrannulet	1				M	1	<i>Phyllomyias griseocapilla</i>
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	5	R	C		P	1	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
Highland Elaenia	1				P	1	<i>Elaenia obscura</i>
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	5	R	C	T		1	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
White-crested Tyrannulet	2			T	P	1	<i>Serpophaga subcristata</i>
Yellow Tyrannulet	1	R				1	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>
Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	1				M	1	<i>Phylloscartes ventralis</i>
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	2	R				1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Grey-hooded Flycatcher	3	R		T		1	<i>Mionectes rufiventris</i>
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	4	R		T		1	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>
Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant (Bamboo-Tyrant)	-	1h			M	1	<i>Hemitriccus diops</i>
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant	2	R				1	<i>Hemitriccus orbitatus</i>
Hangnest Tody-Tyrant	2		C	T		1	<i>Hemitriccus nidipendulus</i>
Eared Pygmy-Tyrant	1			T		1	<i>Myiornis auricularis</i>
Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher	2				P M	1	<i>Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps</i>
Grey-headed (Yellow-lored) Tody-Flycatcher	4	R		T		1	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>
Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Yellow-olive Flatbill)*	2	R		T		2	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
White-throated Spadebill	1	1h	R		T	1	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>
Bran-coloured Flycatcher	3	R		T		1	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Whiskered Flycatcher (Whiskered Myiobius)*	1	R				1	<i>Myiobius barbatus mastacalis</i>
Cliff Flycatcher	2			T	P	1	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>
Euler's Flycatcher	2	R		T		1	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>
Tropical Pewee*	2	R		T		1	<i>Contopus cinereus cinereus</i>
Blue-billed Black-Tyrant	2			T	P	1	<i>Knipolegus cyanirostris</i>
Velvety Black-Tyrant	1				P	1	<i>Knipolegus nigerrimus</i>
Yellow-browed Tyrant	3	R		T		1	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>
White-rumped Monjita	1	R				1	<i>Xolmis velatus</i>
Streamer-tailed Tyrant	2	R		T		1	<i>Gubernetes yetapa</i>
Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant	1				M	1	<i>Muscipipra vetula</i>
Masked Water-Tyrant	6	R		T		2	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	3	R	C			2	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	2	R		T		1	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Cattle Tyrant	5	R	C	T	P M	3	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	1				P	1	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Social Flycatcher	8	R	C	T	P M	3	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Great Kiskadee	8	R	C	T	P M	3	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	2	R		T		1	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>
Tropical Kingbird	7	R	C			3	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Greyish Mourner	2	R				1	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1			T		1	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	3	R	C			1	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Large-headed Flatbill	1	R				1	<i>Ramphotrigon megacephalum</i>

Grey-hooded Attila	1	R					1	<i>Attila rufus</i>
Tropical Parula	2		C		P		1	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Masked (Southern) Yellowthroat*	1		C				1	<i>Geothlypis (aequinoctialis) velata</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler	3	R		T	P		1	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
White-browed (White-rimmed) Warbler	1					M	1	<i>Basileuterus leucoblepharus</i>
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	4	R		T	P	M	1	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
Red-eyed Vireo*	4	R	C	T			1	<i>Vireo olivaceus (diversus)</i>
Rufous-crowned Greenlet	1					M	1	<i>Hylophilus poicilotis</i>
Lemon-chested Greenlet	1		C				1	<i>Hylophilus thoracicus</i>
Grey-eyed Greenlet	1			T			1	<i>Hylophilus amaurocephalus</i>
Blue-and-white Swallow	6	R	C	T	P	M	2	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	7	R	C	T			3	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Tawny-headed Swallow	1			T			1	<i>Alopochelidon fucata</i>
Grey-breasted Martin	3	R	C				3	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
White-rumped Swallow	2	R					1	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>
Black-capped Donacobius	4	R					1	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
(Southern) House Wren*	7	R	C	T			2	<i>Troglodytes (aedon) musculus</i>
Moustached Wren	1	R					1	<i>Thryothorus genibarbis</i>
Long-billed Wren	1	R					1	<i>Thryothorus longirostris</i>
Yellow-legged Thrush	2	R					1	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>
Rufous-bellied Thrush	5	R		T	P	M	2	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>
Pale-breasted Thrush	4	R					1	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>
Creamy-bellied Thrush	3	R	C	T			2	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>
White-necked Thrush	1	R					1	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	5	R	C		P		2	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
Crested Oropendola	3			T	P	M	1	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Red-rumped Cacique	3	R					1	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>
Chopi Blackbird	3	R		T			1	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
Chestnut-capped Blackbird	3	R	C				3	<i>Chrysomus ruficapillus</i>
Shiny Cowbird	4	R		T			3	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
White-browed Blackbird	2	R					1	<i>Sturnella superciliaris</i>
Cinnamon Tanager	2				P	M	1	<i>Schistochlamys ruficapillus</i>
Hooded Tanager	2	R		T			1	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>
Olive-green Tanager	1	R					3	<i>Orthogonys chloricterus</i>
Black-goggled Tanager	5	R			P	M	3	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	3	R					1	<i>Habia rubica</i>
Flame-crested Tanager	3	R					1	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>
Ruby-crowned Tanager	5	R	C	T	P	M	2	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>
Brazilian Tanager	6	R	C		P	M	1	<i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>
Sayaca Tanager	7	R	C	T	P		1	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>
Azure-shouldered Tanager	4	R			P	M	1	<i>Thraupis cyanoptera</i>
Golden-chevroned Tanager	4	R		T	P		1	<i>Thraupis ornata</i>
Palm Tanager	6	R	C	T			1	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Diademed Tanager	1				P		3	<i>Stephanophorus diadematus</i>
Fawn-breasted Tanager	3	R			P		1	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
Green-headed Tanager	4	R			P	M	2	<i>Tangara seledon</i>
Red-necked Tanager	2	R				M	2	<i>Tangara cyanocephala</i>
Brassy-breasted Tanager	4	R		T	P		3	<i>Tangara desmaresti</i>
Gilt-edged Tanager	1			T			1	<i>Tangara cyanoventris</i>
Burnished-buff Tanager	3	R		T		M	2	<i>Tangara cayana</i>
Black-backed Tanager	1		C				1	<i>Tangara peruviana</i>
Swallow Tanager	1	R					1	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
Black-legged Dacnis	1	R					1	<i>Dacnis nigripes</i>
Blue Dacnis	7	R		T	P	M	3	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Rufous-headed Tanager	3	R		T			1	<i>Hemithraupis ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-backed Tanager	2	R					1	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>
(Lowland) Hepatic Tanager*	1			T			1	<i>Piranga flava</i>
Chestnut-vented Conebill	3	R		T			1	<i>Controstrum speciosum</i>
Bananaquit	6	R	C	T	P	M	2	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	1	R					1	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Green-winged Saltator	2				P	M	1	<i>Saltator similis</i>
Thick-billed Saltator	1				P		1	<i>Saltator maxillosus</i>
House Sparrow	4		C	T	P		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

Hooded Siskin	2				P	M	1	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>
Purple-throated Euphonia	3	R	C				1	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>
Violaceous Euphonia	6	R			P	M	2	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>
Green-throated (Green-chinned) Euphonia	1				P		1	<i>Euphonia chalybea</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	4	R			P		1	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia	3	R			P	M	1	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	2				P	M	2	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	2				P	M	3	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Bay-chested Warbling-Finch	1				P		2	<i>Poospiza thoracica</i>
Saffron Finch	8	R	C	T	P	M	3	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch	2	R	C				1	<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	3	R	C		P		1	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Rusty-collared Seedeater	1		C				1	<i>Sporophila collaris</i>
Double-collared Seedeater	2	R		T			1	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>
Capped Seedeater	1		C				1	<i>Sporophila bouvreuil</i>
Pileated Finch	2	R		T			1	<i>Coryphospingus pileatus</i>
Red-cowled Cardinal	2	R					2	<i>Paroaria dominicana</i>

Notes on the Bird List

Cattle Egret

Most authorities now split Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* from Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus*. The former is found from southern Europe to Iran as well as in Africa, the Indian Ocean Islands and North and Latin America; the latter is found in south and east Asia and Australasia.

Common Gallinule

It is generally recognised that Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* of the Western Hemisphere is now split as a distinct species from Common Moorhen *G. chloropus* on the basis of morphological, genetic and vocal differences. This split is followed by the South American Classification Committee (SACC) as well as the International Ornithological Committee (IOC).

Black-necked Stilt

Many authorities, including the IOC, split White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*, found in south-east Brazil and Argentina, from the Black-necked Stilt *H. mexicanus* of western and southern USA to Peru and eastern Brazil as well as the Hawaiian Islands. Others, including the SACC, are awaiting the outcome of further study.

Sandwich Tern

The taxonomy of Cayenne Tern, found on the islands off Venezuela as well as in the Guianas, north and east South America is complex. The SACC consider it a subspecies of Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, and this is followed in van Perlo as *T. s. eurygathna*. The IOC, however, split Sandwich and Cabot's Tern *T. acuflavidus*, with Cabot's the species of the New World and Sandwich the one in Europe, north Africa, the Persian Gulf and India. Consequently they list Cayenne as a subspecies of Cabot's, ie *T. a. eurygathna*.

Plovercrest

The full name Black-breasted Plovercrest is used simply to refer to the nominate race *Stephanoxis lalandi lalandi* found in eastern Brazil as opposed to the race *loddigesii* found further south. Both are illustrated in van Perlo.

Wing-banded (Band-tailed) Hornero

Furnarius figulus appears to have a variety of English names, the SACC using Wing-banded Hornero and the IOC using Band-tailed Hornero.

Orange-eyed Thornbird

On Macae de Cima we saw Orange-eyed Thornbird *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus* as opposed to Orange-breasted Thornbird *P. ferrugineigula* which occurs further south. Previously both were lumped as Red-eyed Thornbird, and Orange-breasted is still called Red-eyed in van Perlo, which may perhaps have been the source of confusion amongst our guides, compounded by the fact that *erythrophthalmus* actually translates as 'red-eyed'!

White-flanked Antwren

Ridgely/Tudor follows the IOC, splitting Silvery-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula luctuosa* of eastern Brazil from White-flanked Antwren *M. axillaris* of Columbia/Venezuela/Amazonia/the Guianas. Van Perlo illustrates both: 'Silvery-flanked', which we saw, is shown as 107.3b. The book follows the SACC in listing *luctuosa* as a race of White-flanked.

Shrike-like Cotinga

Ridgely/Tudor follows the IOC, splitting this into two species, Brazilian Laniisoma *Laniisoma elegans* of eastern Brazil and Andean Laniisoma *L. buckleyi* of Venezuela to Bolivia. The SACC still lumps the two together as *L. elegans*.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher

Ridgely/Tudor follows the IOC in using the same scientific name *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* as van Perlo and the SACC, but they use the English name Yellow-olive Flatbill.

Whiskered Flycatcher

The taxonomy and nomenclature of this is very confusing. We saw Whiskered Flycatcher, *Myiobius barbatus mastacalis*; this subspecies is found only in south-eastern Brazil and is illustrated as 142.6a in van Perlo.

The IOC splits Whiskered *M. barbatus* (Amazonia/the Guianas/south-eastern Brazil), to include *mastacalis*, from Sulphur-rumped *M. sulphureipygius* (Columbia/Ecuador). Ridgely/Tudor go further, splitting *barbatus* into Yellow-rumped *mastacalis* (south-eastern Brazil) and Whiskered *barbatus* (Amazonia/the Guianas). In addition, Ridgely/Tudor and the IOC both use the name *Myiobius* rather than Flycatcher for this group.

The SACC lump all two/three into one species, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *M. barbatus*.

Tropical Pewee

The nominate subspecies *Contopus cinereus cinereus* which occurs in south-east Brazil, south-east Paraguay and north-east Argentina is darker/greyer than the ones in the rest of its range. It is illustrated in Ridgely/Tudor but not in van Perlo.

Masked Yellowthroat

Ridgely/Tudor and the IOC split Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata* from Masked Yellowthroat *G. aequinoctialis*, but the SACC requires further documentation so continues to lump the two as Masked Yellowthroat, and this is followed in van Perlo. We saw the former (sub)species, with the latter occurring much further north, from northern Columbia and Venezuela to lower Amazonian Brazil.

Red-eyed Vireo

Van Perlo mentions two forms, the nominate subspecies which is a migrant from North America (with red eyes and white vent) and the 'chivi' group (with brown eyes and yellow vent) which is a resident/local migrant. We saw the latter. The IOC actually splits Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* into ten subspecies, with *V.o.diversus* the resident one in south-east Brazil.

House Wren

Ridgely/Tudor splits Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus* from the House Wren of North America *T. aedon*. However, the IOC and SACC continue to consider them conspecific, the IOC listing *T. a. musculus* of south-eastern Brazil as one of 33 subspecies of House Wren!

Hepatic Tanager

Ridgely/Tudor splits Lowland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* from Highland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga lutea*. These are lumped as one species by the SACC and this is followed in van Perlo. We saw the former, which is the one illustrated/mapped in van Perlo. The IOC splits the two, but calls *flava* Red Tanager and *lutea* Tooth-billed Tanager.

References:

- A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil by Ber Van Perlo (Oxford University Press, 2009)
- The Birds of South America *Passerines* by Robert S. Ridgely and Guy Tudor (Christopher Helm, 2009)
- The online species list of the South American Classification Committee (SACC)
- The online World Bird List version 4.3 of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC)

OTHER SPECIES

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
Brazilian Squirrel
Common Opossum
Capybara
Common Marmoset
South American Coati
Broad-snouted Caiman

Bradypus variegatus
Sciurus aestuans
Didelphis marsupialis
Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris
Callithrix jacchus
Nasua nasua
Caiman latirostris

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

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Blue Dacnis



Black-capped Donacobius



Blue-naped Chlorophonia



Brazilian Ruby



Capped Heron



Grey-headed Kite



Orange-eyed Thornbird



Plovercrest



Red-legged Seriema



Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper



Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant



Three-toed Jacamar



Yellow-headed Caracara



Bare-throated Bellbird



White-faced Whistling-Ducks



Clymena Eighty-eight

Front cover: Blue-winged Macaw

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