

ORNITHOLIDAYS TO BRAZIL
Atlantic Forest Special

13 - 22 September 2016



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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) once again provided us with a perfect base from which to explore the area. Our flight to Rio was direct. REGUA is just 90 minutes from the airport and, this being a one-centre holiday, we only had to unpack once, a real treat on a long haul trip! There was so much to see close to our base that we spent several days simply enjoying the lodge gardens, exploring the trails on the reserve and marvelling at the newly created wetlands, and birding the lowland pastures and sections of primary and secondary rainforest in the foothills. In between, we made three rewarding day-trips to special habitats: coastal Restinga, Atlantic dry forest near Carmo and the lush montane forest of Pico de Caledonia. We were fortunate to experience relatively little rain, but it was very hot initially, becoming cooler as the weather changed after a few days. We were delighted to record 300 species including those only heard!

The local guide, Adilei Carvalho da Cunha, was with us throughout the week, and was always on top form and sharing his intimate knowledge of the area. He was incredibly sharp at picking out bird calls in the forest. We saw 44 endemics and generally managed to find a high proportion of the 'most-wanted' species, including Giant Snipe in the wetlands, Frilled Coquette on the Waldenor Trail, a glimpse of a Green-crowned Plovercrest, several Black-and-gold Cotingas, a pair of Swallow-tailed Cotingas and the elusive Serro do Mar Tyrant-manakin at Pico de Caledonia, Three-toed Jacamar near Carmo and Restinga Antwren near Cabo Frio. From the gaudy toucans, through brightly coloured tanagers, manakins and hummingbirds, to the secretive antbirds of the forest, furtive crakes, roosting owls and the spectacle of roosting herons and egrets, there really was something for everyone. As well as seeing wonderful birds, we also enjoyed sloths, marmosets and Capybaras, not to mention the colourful butterflies and a confusion of moths!

REGUA is an inspiring place, a real success story in the world of conservation, and we enjoyed finding out about their work on reforestation, research and education in a presentation from Nicholas Locke, REGUA's owner. We were splendidly looked after with lovely home-cooked food and were plied with the local cocktail before dinner each evening! The new field guide published by Wildlife Conservation Society, and the relatively new photographic guide to the birds of the region, added greatly to the enjoyment of the tour.

Tuesday 13 September

It was a fine and warm September morning as the 2016 Ornitholidays' party assembled at Heathrow's Terminal 5 for the British Airways flight to Rio de Janeiro that left on time at 12:20. Also on the flight were a number of Team GB paralympians heading for the Paralympic Games currently being staged in Rio.

The flight went smoothly and we arrived at 19:45. Having cleared the formalities and collected our luggage we met with Alceni, the REGUA driver, in the arrivals hall and were soon aboard and heading out through the city's suburbs, with the distant floodlit iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer being pointed out. In truth it was merely a faint light above the glow from the city below.

Just 90 minutes after leaving the airport we arrived at REGUA, having stopped briefly for the first bird of the trip, better than that – the first owl of the trip, a Burrowing Owl perched on a fence post above its nesting burrow. Once at the lodge rooms were allocated, sandwiches produced from the fridge as well as a jug of delicious mango juice. We were met by Thomas, son of Nicholas Locke, who ran through a few things before bed beckoned – it had been a long day!

Wednesday 14 September

Hot 35-40°C.

It was light before 05:30 and by 06:00 several of the party were already out watching the dominant male Swallow-tailed Hummingbird seeing off the smaller, but smarter, Black Jacobin. Violet-capped Woodnymph and Glittering-throated Emerald also tried to feed, but in turn they were chased away by the jacobins. Soon after the feeding trays across the lawn had been resupplied with bananas a troupe of White-tufted Marmosets arrived much to the delight of the photographers. Today there were few moths on the moth wall, so the comings and goings of nest building Picazuro

Pigeons beyond the swimming pool attracted our attention. Also seen before breakfast at 07:00 were Sayaca Tanager, Social Flycatcher and Southern House Wren, the latter considered by some authorities as a species-in-waiting and already accepted by others.

We joined our guide for the tour, Adilei and slowly headed down the hill. We had only reached the lower cottages when he earned his first gold medal – a Tropical Screech-owl at its daytime roost and nearby a Rufous-breasted Hermit visited flowers by the path. Beyond was an excellent wetland, only completed as recently as 2010. The series of small lakes and marsh was dotted with Common Gallinules, whilst on sandy banks stood White-faced Whistling-ducks along with a few of their Black-bellied cousins and a few Brazilian Ducks. Our cameras had their second outing when Adilei called in a singing male Chestnut-backed Antshrike and nearby a Ferruginous Pygmy-owl was heard and seen - the third owl of the tour seen in the first 24-hours! As we walked along there was a steady stream of new birds, especially for anyone with little or no previous Neotropical birding experience. New species and new families included Silvery-flanked and Unicolored Antwrens, Wing-banded Hornero, Yellow-lored and Common Tody-flycatchers, White-bearded Manakin, Masked Water Tyrant, White-Headed Marsh Tyrant, Brazilian Tanager and the diminutive woodpecker White-barred Piculet. There were mammals too including Capybara, which looks like an enormous aquatic guinea pig, and a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth. No wonder past groups and their leaders have raved about REGUA.

By the time we returned to the lodge the temperature was hitting 40°C and ahead of lunch there was time to enjoy a cooling beer or soft drink as we watched the comings and goings of the hummingbirds and talked over the morning's moments of excitement, a theme that continued after lunch for those choosing not to have a sleepy siesta or a swim.

Flexibility is the keyword on this tour. Given the weather and taking Thomas's advice we decided to make the most of the hot afternoon and headed to the marshy fields and pasture a short drive away. We were soon watching Rufous Hornero and admiring their oven-shaped nests made of dried mud. Further on we came across a confiding Limpkin in a roadside field, but alas it flew as soon as the engine was switched off. We turned off the tarmac onto a dirt road where we stayed until after sunset. New birds appeared frequently including Ash-throated Crake, South American Snipe, Guira and Striped Cuckoos and a wonderful pair of displaying Streamer-tailed Tyrants. From the distant forested hills Bare-throated Bellbird called, but we couldn't see it although whilst scanning two more Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths were found.

Adilei's *pièce de resistance* was yet to come and almost by taking the bull by the horns he led us down across a rough field of cattle, which thankfully wasn't a field of rough cattle, to the lower area, where shortly after 18:00 (as predicted) he pointed out the calls of Giant Snipe responding to playback. With a name like that we expected a large snipe, but when we saw it in flight, thanks to his powerful torch, we realised it was more the size of a Woodcock! A giant Snipe indeed! Having seen it in flight quite well a couple of times we were quite happy, but not so Adilei who succeeded in finding it on the ground and by the light of his torch we watched and photographed it for several minutes at three to four metres range before it decided enough was enough and flew away into the darkness. As we retraced our steps back up to the road a Common Potoo was calling, but all we could see was its eyes shining in the beam of the torch.

The run back to the lodge was uneventful and after freshening up with hot showers we celebrated a most successful day with our first round of complimentary *Caipirinha* cocktails before dinner. After the meal we completed the checklist before heading to bed shortly afterwards.

Thursday 15 September

Hot and humid with more in the way of cloud. 35°C

Brian and John were first up and out this morning and from the tower overlooking the wetlands saw 20+ Capped Herons dispersing from their wetland roost below. There were few moths for Hazel and Pam to photograph on the moth wall, although one was almost as big as the palm of one's hand. During breakfast a mixed bird party passed through the trees beyond the swimming pool and included Black-legged Dacnis, Chestnut-vented Conebill and Yellow-backed Tanager.

This morning's excursion took us by 4 x 4 Land Cruiser along tracks passing through cultivated fields and pastures where Guira Cuckoos, Burrowing Owls and Chopi Blackbirds were found. As the dirt road started to climb into forest (the Green Trail) we stopped when Adilei heard a Bare-throated Bellbird nearby. Some, if not all, had good views

before it flew and try as we may we were unable to relocate it, although an immature male was found in the process. A noisy Gray-headed Atilla was seen well and a feeding flock passing through the area included a pair of Green-headed and several Burnished-buff Tanagers.

Heading onwards and upwards the road became a track which became rougher and bumpier, so we decided to leave the vehicle and walk. It proved to be an excellent area with so many new birds to be had. Seeing them was a different matter although on balance we were on the winning side. We soon enjoyed views of the endemic Black-cheeked Gnateater and also Silvery-flanked and Unicolored Antwrens. An Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant showed somewhat better as did a Surucua Trogon eventually. Then came the black and white spotted Scaled Antbird followed by a small hummingbird, a Reddish Hermit. We reached an extensive stand of bamboo planted on the downward slope of the track to stabilise the ground and prevent erosion. It might have been planted but it contained some good birds including Temminck's Seedeater and a stunning Crescent-chested Puffbird. Eventually we reached more open country, finding and having good views of Blue Manakin, Flame-crested Tanager and telescope views of a female Yellow-throated Woodpecker. And Pat misheard Buff-fronted Foliage-cleaner!

As we returned to the lodge Burrowing Owl, Campo Flicker and Fork-tailed Flycatcher were seen. Lunch awaited us and afterwards we easily fell into the pattern for the siesta adopted yesterday. At 16:00 we met up again and had a relaxing wander down to the wetland in the hope of new birds and also of seeing the arrival of hundreds of Cattle Egrets returning to their roosting sites. We were not disappointed with great views of an immature Rufescent Tiger Heron, a party of three Black-capped Donacobius and a male Saffron Finch. Snowy Egret was the other addition to the list. During the walk we also had good views of a pair of Purple Gallinules and an adult Striated Heron tackling a fish that looked somewhat too large, but did it swallow it? It did.

One could easily get into the habit of partaking in the *Caipirinhas* long after the tour was over. Dinner followed and after a hurried checklist we piled into the Land Cruiser and set off on an owling expedition. Even with clouds passing across the full moon there was still significant moonshine so perhaps not an ideal night, but nevertheless it proved successful. We were led a merry dance across a field of yams by a Striped Owl that always managed to keep one jump ahead of us. A Common Pauraque sat in the road illuminated by our headlights, only to fly as we were getting focused. The highlight came near this morning's bellbird site as Adilei coaxed a Tawny-browed Owl to respond to his playback. After standing and listening to the exchange for some time we followed the calls up the road and into the grounds of a house, which just happened to be the home of Nicholas. Before long we were gazing up at the tour's most spectacular owl, Tawny-browed Owl, a slightly smaller but better coloured version of a Spectacled Owl. It was a splendid bird, so whilst on a high we headed back to the lodge and after a quick look at the moth wall we headed for bed.

Friday 16 September

Overcast throughout with light drizzle at times. Cooler 20-23°C

After an early breakfast we headed for the coast seeing things like Burrowing Owl and Fork-tailed Flycatcher along the way. Birding proper began on the edge of a coastal lagoon near the town of Cabo Frio, where we soon scanned a row of terns on posts out in the lagoon, where a very large Royal Tern dwarfed the commoner Cayenne Terns with their wholly yellow bills and the closely related Cabot's Tern with its yellow-tipped black bill. An offshore islet produced Kelp Gull, White-cheeked Pintail, Neotropic Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret and Cocoli Heron. A muddy pool behind the beach gave brief views of a Spotted Sandpiper and great ones of both Collared Plover and Masked Water Tyrant. We made a longer stop further on, but the rising tide pushed some of the birds, such as a Willet, from view. Being a leader-only bird it didn't make the list, but thanks to the scopes we enjoyed views of White-backed Stilts, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, (Hudsonian) Whimbrel, dozens of Semipalmated Plover and a handful of Black-bellied (our Grey) Plover. Offshore a single Yellow-billed Tern (the Neotropic equivalent of our Little Tern) patrolled the shallows. Amongst a row of resting Neotropic Cormorants was a lone Black Skimmer - a bird sufficiently unusual for the tour to warrant being a write-in to the checklist! There was even a Burrowing Owl on the edge of the marsh below the road and two smart male Chestnut-capped Blackbirds amongst the castor-oil plants growing wild across the busy road. Nearby at a gas station Ornitholidays treated us to a round of well-deserved coffees – thank you!

Further inland some more pools surrounded by buildings and roads held more stilts and Lesser Yellowlegs and Adilei found a sleeping immature Roseate Spoonbill. But it was the endangered Restinga habitat near that we were heading for somewhat nearer the coast than the encroaching suburban sprawl. Restinga is an area of stabilised sandhills, now

covered with scrub and trees. Here the Brazilian Pepper is at home, unlike Florida where as an introduction it is an invasive menace. The Restinga habitat is a hot-spot and before long we were seeing good birds – Restinga Antwren, Hangnest Tody-Flycatcher, Tawny-crowned Tody-Tyrant, Sooretama Slaty Antshrike and Black-backed Tanager. Adilei was particularly pleased to have found us the latter. All this and a supporting cast of Tropical Parula, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Brazilian Tanager and several more tyrant flycatchers including Short-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Southern Beardless Tyrannulet.

The air was full of Black Vultures, but patience paid off when a Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture came circling over and several Magnificent Frigatebirds passed over singly. The only raptor was a Roadside Hawk that having flown by decided to park up so we could see it properly through the scope.

Eventually we reached the beach, where a pair of fine Brown Boobies was diving for fish offshore. As we walked along to where Alcení waited with the minibus (and our lunch) the smell of fries came wafting across from the beachside cafes. We refrained from the local delicacies, opting instead for a cold beer or two in exchange for being allowed to eat our picnic on proper chairs and tables. The view was great although we could see that drizzle would be heading our way soon. Several more Brown Boobies passed close inshore giving excellent views, and the final addition to the trip list today was the South American Tern that also flew by.

Having had a late picnic it was time to return to the lodge for more *Caipirinhas*, delicious home cooking, the checklist and bed!

Saturday 17 September

A cloudy start after overnight thunderstorm, soon becoming brighter and hotter again. 27°C

As we were setting out for the morning excursion to some higher elevation forest by Land Cruiser a Laughing Falcon was spotted through the trees and seen quite well through the scope. Our route took us to new country passing recently replanted forest on the way. After about 20 minutes driving we arrived at a small parking area beside the track that then led up into mainly pristine forest.

Every outing has produced a steady succession of new birds to watch and sometimes photograph. This morning's walk began with a soaring White-necked Hawk before starting to get to grips with the smaller birds beginning with three species of becard, namely Chestnut-crowned, Green-winged and finally a displaying male Crested Becard, which was a fabulous bird for in display he puffed up white tufts of feathers on his back. The car park area also produced Chevron-shouldered and colourful White-bellied Tanagers, the latter being treated as a full species in the Wildlife Conservation Society's field guides, but only as a race of Turquoise Tanager in the Handbook of Birds of the World.

As we walked on upwards a Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser was seen along with Boat-billed, Euler's, Ochre-bellied and Streaked Flycatchers, Lesser and Olivaceous Woodcreepers, Green-headed Tanager and Versicolored Emerald. Eventually we reached a couple of houses and a smallholding where, with the more open sky, we could see swifts. Earlier we recorded White-collared, but when we looked closely at the photographs of one from a swirling mass over the forest beyond the clearing it was a Biscutate Swift with a broken white neck collar. In trees above the path we found Maroon-bellied Parakeets and a Spot-billed Toucanet.

Our target bird for the area was Frilled Coquette, but as the path became steeper and rockier Hazel decided to stop and enjoy the succession of birds coming to the berries of a fruiting tree. Amongst the first to arrive were the Maroon-bellied Parakeets which showed much better than those seen earlier. Other birds coming to feed included Green-winged Becard, Chivi Vireo, Green-headed Tanager and Blue Dacnis. Those who carried on were thrilled to see the male Frilled Coquette and also saw Black-goggled Tanager and Star-throated Antwren. As we all met up below the smallholding we watched several new birds in quick succession - Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, Streaked Xenops, Pale-browed Treehunter and Yellow-green Grosbeak. As happens the walk back to the vehicle seemed relatively uneventful by comparison.

We arrived back at the lodge for lunch and the afternoon followed the pattern of other days spent locally – a siesta period and then out in the late afternoon. We added Purple-throated Euphonia to the list and also had great views of Burnished-buff Tanager when it came to feed on bananas at one of the bird tables. With Adilei we walked down to the wetland and took a different trail that skirted one of the lagoons across which he spotted the back of an adult

roosting Boat-billed Heron with Black-crowned Night-Heron nearby for comparison. A good bird, even if distant, but especially good as it was yet another write-in on the checklist. Following that, Adilei's patience really paid off as he skilfully and carefully lured a Moustached Wren out onto more open branches from the depths of an extensive shrubby tangle near the track. And that was about it as far as good birds were concerned, so we made our way back to the lodge to shower before cocktails and another good dinner.

After dinner there seemed to be more moths at the moth wall, perhaps as a result of the recent rain.

Sunday 18 September

Hot and sunny after a misty start. Thunderstorm and rain after dinner. 30°C

Following an early breakfast we set off on the tour's longest excursion – the quest for the Three-toed Jacamar in the drier forest country near Carmo, a town some three hours drive away! There was of course some birding en route with the first stop as the road wound up through a series of hairpin bends beneath the spectacular rocky outcrops and forested mountains of Serra dos Órgãos. It was amongst that magnificent backdrop that some of the party saw a Plain Parakeet and heard and saw a Bare-throated Bellbird working its way through the forest above the road as others in the party answered a different call of nature!

Having passed through the toll plaza at Três Córregos we stopped to overlook a bend in the Rio Açungui river below. Immediately Orange-eyed Thornbird responded to playback, but always disappeared into cover as soon as it flew from one bush to another. Then almost simultaneously Pat and John spotted a Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail walking along the edge of a drying muddy puddle below us. Across the shallow river another rail appeared, this time Blackish Rail – first one and then a second further along the river. Soon in fairly quick succession we added Ruby-crowned Tanager and Double-collared Seedeater to the list and also saw both Rufous and Band-winged Horneros and Masked Water Tyrant.

Pressing on we made a stop at a service station where ice-creams were appreciated in the heat as we watched a pair of Plumbeous Kites fly over. Had we paid more attention to the two or three small swifts flying over the town we might have added Sick's Swift to the list for the books suggest that the alternative, Gray-rumped Swift, is more likely to be seen over forest!

Eventually we reached Carmo and after negotiating the maze of cobbled streets we reached an earthen track that led up hill passing rough pastures before levelling out and heading towards the scrubby margins of remnant dry forest. A padlocked gate prevented us continuing by minibus, but starting off on foot produced new birds immediately as a singing male Gray Pileated Finch posed in a bare tree, soon to be outshone colour-wise by the male of a pair of Rufous-headed Tanagers and a smart, but perhaps misnamed, Hooded Tanager. Nearby we found a Gray-eyed Greenlet and some of the party saw a Squirrel Cuckoo, perhaps the same bird that we all saw later as we retraced our steps. We were certainly not disappointed with the Three-toed Jacamar, our target for the day. We had excellent views and our total during the walk must have reached double figures - not bad for such a rare endemic species. Pat observed that they actually had six toes, something that might have been overlooked by the ornithologist who first described the species! With jacamars showing well on exposed branches, some of the area's other species were somewhat harder to see. Birds such as Serra Antwren and Rufous Gnateater put up more of a fight. Other species seen during the walk included Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, White-winged Becard, Euler's Flycatcher, Scaled Woodcreeper and Yellow-eared Woodpecker.

More than satisfied with our efforts we drove back to Carmo, where Alceni took us to the centre of town suggesting that we had our late picnic on tables in the shade at the town's verdant central plaza. Sunday strollers walked around enjoying the sunshine as we ate and watched Rufous-bellied Thrushes, Sayaca Tanagers and Chalk-browed Mockingbirds, and compared Plain-breasted and Ruddy Ground-doves as one after another they perched on a telegraph wire.

There was still more birding before we began the long haul back to REGUA. A country lane took us to the Sumidouro grasslands, an area known to Adilei for he soon produced a delightful pair of White-eared Puffbirds that were determined to see us off their territory, giving superb views in the process as a Sapphire-spangled Emerald looked on from an adjacent tree. Way across a valley we scoped a Red-legged Seriema standing on its nest on top of a large hedgerow bush; a view that would have been impossible without the scope and one that left us wanting more.

The rest of the journey back was uneventful with no birds of note being seen as the light began to fade by the time we passed through Serra dos Órgãos. We had dinner soon after we returned to base and as the checklist was brought up-to-date a thunderstorm and rain drowned out the usual noises of the night from the surrounding forest.

Monday 19 September

A fine morning, fresh after last night's thunderstorm, but clouded up during the afternoon with rain after dark. 28°C

Before breakfast the moth wall was inspected as usual, but no startling arrivals overnight. On the zigzag shortcut to the wetlands Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Sooretama Antshrike and Silvery-flanked Antwren were seen.

This morning we did the 4x4 trail, driving some distance from the lodge before walking the trail. On the way homage was paid to our usual Burrowing Owl and a White-browed Blackbird was added to the list as a White-eared Puffbird perched on a field fence nearby.

Soon after we passed through a wire and post gate we had really good views of a Blue Ground-Dove feeding and waddling along the track ahead of us. We also added White-tipped Dove as the track wound up into the forest before we parked and proceeded on foot. The quality of birding was excellent with a steady stream of new species to test our skills of observation! We were let down by Rufous-crowned Motmot yet again for we have heard it on several outings now and today was closer than most. Adilei glimpsed it when he went on ahead to try and nail it, but alas it flew before we arrived. From then on it steadfastly refused to emerge from the canopy of the tall trees on the slope way above us.

But there were so many goodies by way of compensation. Woodcreepers – Olivaceous, Plain-winged, Southern Lesser and White-throated; a kaleidoscope of tanagers – Black-goggled, Flame-crested, Gilt-edged, Golden-chevroned, Green-headed, Ruby-crowned and Yellow-backed; flycatchers – Ochre-bellied, Whiskered (aka Whiskered Myiobius) and Yellow-olive. And then there was the supporting cast of Brown Tinamou, Bare-throated Bellbird (*both only heard*), Buff-fronted and Black-capped Foliage-gleaners, Scaled Antbird, Spot-breasted Antwren, Rufous-winged and Streaked-capped Antwrens, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, Eared Pygmy Tyrant and Black-capped Becard. There was even time and the opportunity to admire a terrestrial orchid flowering by the track.

We were back at the lodge for a late lunch which was ready when we arrived. The afternoon siesta was shorter than previously as we went out with Adilei in the Land Cruiser in the hope of seeing Whistling Heron and other open country species. The heron obliged and we saw two with good views of one in particular. Ahead on a telegraph post an Aplomado Falcon was eating prey, but when it flew it was in the wrong direction. Further on Adilei pointed out a Toco Toucan at its nest hole on a dead palm tree, whilst soon after Pat found a distant White Woodpecker perched on another. Amongst the rank vegetation along the side of a ditch we spent sometime getting to grips with Southern Yellowthroat and Long-billed Wren, some of the last good birds of the day for there was little to be seen from the road in the area where snipe and a crane were seen the other day, although a Bran-colored Flycatcher there was a new one.

It had been another excellent day in the field, so we returned to the lodge anticipating another good dinner – we were not disappointed of course! After the meal Nicholas gave us the fascinating presentation on REGUA past and present that he had given as a lecture at the Rutland Water Bird Fair last month.

Tuesday, 20 September

A wet one all day at REGUA, but just mist and drifting low cloud at times on Pico de Caledonia. Cooler 14°-20°C

It was not an auspicious start to the day for steady rain fell while we had an early breakfast prior to departing for Pico de Caledonia. By the time we arrived at Nova Friburgo, the small town below the montane forest of Pico de Caledonia, Nicholas and another guest from REGUA had joined us with the Land Cruiser, the vehicle that was to be an essential part of the day. With the track too steep (and narrow) for the minibus the Land Cruiser took us to a higher elevation, where we parked by a stream and began our walk onwards and upwards eventually reaching a height of just over 2,000 metres above sea level.

We were scarcely out of the Land Cruiser when a Sharp-tailed Streamhaunter was heard from the rocky walled streambed and before long we had seen the diminutive *Furnarid* as it darted from the mossy side to disappear amongst

overhanging bushes and back again. Then, at the first of many hairpins, several good birds appeared beginning with a smart Bay-chested Warbling-finch soon to be followed by Green-winged Saltator and Pallid Spinetail with brief glimpses of Brassy-breasted and Diademed Tanagers. Looking back down the hill to the minibus we could see a Surucua Trogon perched right beside it!

Onwards and upwards just hearing Variable Antshrike but having good views of an inquisitive Rufous-tailed Antbird. Then Serra do Mar Tapaculo (a recent split from Mouse-colored) was heard at close range, but not seen which is par for the course with this arch-skulker. An aberrant tapaculo, Slaty Bristlefront, was heard well a little further on, but seen only briefly by some of the party. We fared much better with Grey-winged Cotinga, Blue-billed and Velvety Black Tyrants, Rufous-collared Sparrow and Rufous-capped Antshrike, although a Yellow-browed Woodpecker flew as soon as the scope was brought to bear.

We reached some gates at just over 2,000m and before turning round we eventually had reasonable views of Black-billed Scythebill, a large Woodcreeper with a long curved bill, but could only manage a glimpse of the Green Plovercrest called by Adilei and Nicholas as it sped past. On the way down the only bird of note was a distant Black-and-gold Cotinga and soon after, as we left for our picnic spot, a Dusky-legged Guan was noted.

There seemed few birds around as we ate our picnics, but once set to go we had good views of another *Myiarchus* flycatcher, this time Swainson's. The tracksides were shrubbier in places so afforded views across to distant ridges and hills at times. Rufous-crowned Greenlet and Rufous-capped Spinetails soon appeared, followed by a hovering White-tailed Hawk that was joined by an immature for a while as vultures soared above them. A Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant showed well through the scope as it perched on trees lining one of the visible ridges.

Continuing along the track we again had good views of White-shouldered Fire-eye, followed by Dusky-tailed Antbird, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-browed Pepper-shrike and heard another Tapaculo – this time Serro de Mar Tapaculo, which was just as secretive as this morning's individual. Then we hit a purple patch with the elusive Serro do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, considered by our guides as being one of the day's best birds in spite of the fact that it was small and green! On the other hand the distant pair of Swallow-tailed Cotingas spotted by Nicholas was appreciated by us as a greater prize for this elegant cotinga is one of those species in the books that prompts comments such as "*I'd like to see that*" or "*What a cracker!*". We were warned to avoid sudden movements for even at the viewing range of several hundred metres they can be easily spooked. Thank goodness for the telescope! After playing Large-tailed Antshrike calls for some time we eventually saw the bird lurking in the bushes by the track.

The time came when we had to return to the minibus, but Adilei and Nicholas had one last rabbit to pull out of the hat – a stunning Red-legged Seriema that had no fear of man nor beast! It responded to playback and was quite clearly wanting us off its territory as its mate was on a nest in a pine tree nearby. By threatening us only feet away he was a great subject for the cameras, but we decided to leave him in peace after a few minutes, although he had other ideas and chased the Land Cruiser down the road for at least a kilometre!

At the bottom of the hill Alceni was waiting to take us back to the lodge. He had to wait a wee bit longer as there were yet more good birds to be seen starting with Rusty-margined and Variegated Flycatchers, then a flock of half a dozen Hooded Siskins and a pair of colourful Brassy-breasted Tanagers. Overhead the wheeling swifts were expected to be White-collared. Maybe some were, but those identified from photos were all Biscutate Swifts.

As dusk fell we returned to the lodge, driving into rain and discovering on our return that there it had rained all day! We had been lucky weather-wise and perhaps even luckier bird-wise!

Dinner soon followed and after checking the moth wall we retired early to pack, sleep or both.

Wednesday, 21 September

An overcast morning, but brighter near the coast during the afternoon. 20°C

After yesterday's early start we had breakfast at 7 a.m. before which Brian and John found Rusty-margined Guan, Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Sooretama Slaty Antshrike around the lower car park.

We made a shorter excursion to the area near Nicholas's house with birding in the pasture along the way. As always more pictures of the Burrowing Owl seemed to be required. A party of Guira Cuckoos crossed the track as we were

watching a flock of some 20 Grassland Yellow Finches perched on the telegraph wires. Out in one of the fields a pair of Yellowish Pipits responded and later one in particular gave excellent views when it landed in the road just ahead of the Land Cruiser. Another new bird appeared in a roadside bush, the hoped for Red-cowled Cardinal. Nearby we had good views of a Yellow-browed Tyrant. Three Blue-winged Parrotlets flew in and came to investigate Adilei's playback but unfortunately for the photographers they always remained rather distant. Also seen before we entered the forest area were White-rumped Swallows, Brown-chested Martins, Campo Flicker and Plain Parakeet.

We heard Bare-throated Bellbird and Long-billed Wren before we entered the forest area and watched Double-collared Seedeaters feeding in a wild field. On reaching Nicholas's house we disembarked and started birding. An Azure-shouldered Tanager was the first addition of the walk with a mixed bird party consisting mainly of Blue Dacnis appearing soon after. As we scanned the active group of small birds in the canopy above Green and Red-legged Honeycreepers were found, both new for the trip. Further on a Brazilian Ruby was seen, but rather briefly compared with the sustained views we enjoyed of a Saw-billed Hermit, the last addition to the trip list. When Brian and I ran through the list at the airport later in the day we discovered that we had reached the magical total of 300 species seen or heard in seven and a half days - a terrific feat for a one-centre holiday.

We returned to the Lodge with adequate time to change, freshen up and pack the last things before lunch, after which Thomas produced a farewell jug of *Caipirinha*. Having paid our mess bills and bade our farewells we headed off in the minibus with Alcení at the wheel for Rio. The drive went smoothly and as we passed the bays and lagoons on the approach to the airport large numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen along with a few unidentified terns and Neotropic Cormorants.

At the airport, Terminal 1 was the first stop to drop John, Hazel and Pam for their domestic flight to São Paulo for they were joining the Pantanal tour led by David Walsh tomorrow. For the rest of us our British Airways flight left from Terminal 2, but we had to wait a while before the check-in opened. Amongst our fellow passengers were several film crews and volunteers returning home from the Paralympics. Elsewhere we saw competitors from Egypt and the Ukraine checking-in for their flights. Our British Airways 777 left on time for London.

Thursday, 22 September

After a relatively smooth overnight flight of just under 11 hours we arrived at Heathrow more or less on time and we were soon through immigration and collecting our bags from the carousel. As Brian, Pat and I were waiting for our National Express coaches we decided to pass the time in a café - it was lunchtime by then. Jean-Pierre was overnighing in a nearby hotel before his flight to Lyon tomorrow, so it was a particularly pleasant and unhurried way of ending the tour.

Acknowledgments

First and foremost I should like to thank you all for coming and being such good company (as I knew you would be), for your camaraderie and help in various ways during a wonderful tour of an area and part of the world we had heard so much about. With Adilei, our superb birding guide, and contributions from Nicholas, we certainly saw and learned a tremendous amount in a short space of time about the REGUA project and what can be done with positive actions in such an endangered habitat. With 44 endemic species, seen and/or heard out of a total of 300 recorded in just over a week illustrates the avian richness of REGUA and the surrounding districts. We were lucky with the weather as well, perhaps no more so than on the last whole day. Thank you to Nicholas, Adilei, Thomas, Alcení and the REGUA staff for looking after us so well and I hope that some if not all of us will have the opportunity to return sometime in the future, and that in the meantime we'll meet up again on another Ornitholidays' tour before too long!

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November 2016

Itinerary and Weather

- 13 September Flight from London Heathrow to Rio de Janeiro; onward drive to REGUA.
- 14 September Morning in REGUA wetlands; lunch and early afternoon in and around the lodge; late afternoon/dusk at the Giant Snipe fields.
Hot 35-40°C.
- 15 September Morning to the Green Trail, lunch, siesta and local walk to wetlands p.m.
Hot and humid with more in the way of cloud. 35°C
- 16 September Whole day excursion to Cabo Frio (coastal lagoons, Restinga and mangroves); late picnic lunch at Praia de Conches beach.
Overcast throughout with light drizzle at times. Cooler 20-23°C
- 17 September Morning to Waldernoor Trail, lunch, siesta and p.m. visit to the wetlands.
A cloudy start after overnight thunderstorm, soon becoming brighter and hotter again. 27°C
- 18 September Whole day excursion to Sumidouro (grasslands) and Carmo (dry forest) via Serra dos Órgãos.
Hot and sunny after a misty start. Thunderstorm and rain after dinner. 30°C
- 19 September Morning along the 4x4Trail; lunch at the lodge; afternoon in the lowlands.
A fine morning, fresh after last night's thunderstorm, but clouded up during the afternoon with rain after dark. 28°C
- 20 September Whole day excursion to Pico de Caledonia.
Rain at REGUA, low cloud and sometimes drizzle during excursion 19-20°C.
- 21 September Morning along the Green Trail; lunch at the lodge; late afternoon transfer to Rio de Janeiro for evening flight to London.
An overcast morning, but brighter near the coast during the afternoon. 20°C
- 22 September Arrive at London Heathrow early afternoon



White-tufted Marmoset



Tawny-browed Owl



Saw-billed Hermit



Blue Dacnis

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN

No of Days Recorded

1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 others

Locations

R = REGUA trails, wetlands and environs

C = Coast - Cabo Frio & Praia da Conches*

S = Sumidouro (grasslands) & Carmo (dry forest)*

P = Pico de Calendonia*

* = some species listed seen on journeys only

Abundance Scale

1 = 1-4

2 = 5-9

3 = 10-99

4 = 100-999

5 = 1000+

The sequence of bird families, and the order of the species within them, follow *A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil* by Ber van Perlo. The English names also largely follow van Perlo, with alternative names given where they are used by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC). The scientific names largely follow the IOC in order to reflect up to date taxonomic changes.

E = Endemic to Brazil.

Species	No of Days Recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	Scientific Name
Brown Booby	1	C	2	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Magnificent Frigatebird	2	C	4	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Anhinga	3	R	1	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	5	R C	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	1	C	1	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	R	3	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Boat-billed Heron	1	R	1	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>
Striated Heron	3	R C	1	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Rufescent Tiger Heron	1	R	1	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
Whistling Heron	1	R	1	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
Little Blue Heron	1		1	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Snowy Egret	3	R C	3	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Great Egret	4	R C	3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
(Western) Cattle Egret	8	R C S P	5	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Capped Heron	4	R	3	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
Cocoi Heron	4	R C	1	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	3	R	2	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
White-faced Whistling Duck	3	R	3	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Muscovy Duck	2	R	2	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
Brazilian Teal	4	R C	2	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
White-cheeked Pintail	1	C	3	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
Black Vulture	8	R C S P	5	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	7	R C S P	3	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	3	R C S	1	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
Plumbeous Kite	1		P	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>
White-necked Hawk ^E	1	R	1	<i>Buteogallus lacernulatus</i>
White-tailed Hawk	1		P	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>
Roadside Hawk	3	R C	1	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
Savanna Hawk	4	R S	1	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
Black Hawk-Eagle	3	R	1	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>
American Kestrel	4	R C S	1	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Aplomado Falcon	1	R	1	<i>Falco femoralis</i>
Laughing Falcon	1	R	1	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
Southern (Crested) Caracara	8	R C S P	4	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	8	R C S P	3	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Brown Tinamou	- 2h	R	1	<i>Crypturellus obsoletus</i>
Tataupa Tinamou	- 1h	R	1	<i>Crypturellus tataupa</i>
Limpkin	1	R	1	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
Rusty-margined Guan	1	R	1	<i>Penelope superciliaris</i>
Dusky-legged Guan	1		P	<i>Penelope obscura</i>
Red-legged Seriema	2	S P	1	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
Ash-throated Crake	1 1h	R	1	<i>Porzana albicollis</i>
Blackish Rail	1	S P	1	<i>Pardirallus nigricans</i>
Slaty-breasted Wood Rail	2	S	1	<i>Aramides saracura</i>
Common Gallinule ¹	4	R C	3	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>

Purple Gallinule	2		R				1	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>
Wattled Jacana	5		R	C			3	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
Sungrebe	1		R				1	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>
White-backed (Black-necked) Stilt ²	1			C			3	<i>Himantopus (mexicanus) melanurus</i>
(Hudsonian) Whimbrel ³	1			C			1	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	1			C			3	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	1			C			2	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	1			C			1	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
South American Snipe	1		R				1	<i>Gallinago paraguayae</i>
Giant Snipe	1		R				1	<i>Gallinago undulata</i>
Southern Lapwing	8		R	C	S	P	3	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Black-bellied (Grey) Plover	1			C			2	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Semipalmated Plover	1			C			3	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Collared Plover	1			C			1	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>
Black Skimmer	1			C			1	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
Royal Tern	1			C			1	<i>Thalasseus maximus maximus</i>
Cayenne Tern ⁴	1			C			3	<i>Thalasseus acuflavidus eurygnathus</i>
Cabot's Tern ⁴	1			C			1	<i>Thalasseus acuflavidus acuflavidus</i>
South American Tern	1			C			1	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>
Yellow-billed Tern	1			C			1	<i>Sternula superciliosa</i>
Kelp Gull	1			C			3	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Plain-breasted Ground Dove	1				S		1	<i>Columbina minuta</i>
Ruddy Ground Dove	8		R	C	S	P	3	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
Blue Ground Dove	1		R				1	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>
White-tipped Dove	3	1h	R		S	P	1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Gray-fronted Dove	1					P	1	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	4			C	S	P	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	5		R	C	S	P	1	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
Plumbeous Pigeon	1					P	1	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>
Picazuro Pigeon	8		R	C	S	P	3	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
White-eyed Parakeet	6		R	C		P	3	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>
Maroon-bellied Parakeet	2		R				3	<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>
Blue-winged Parrotlet	1		R				1	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>
Plain Parakeet ^E	2		R		S		1	<i>Brotogeris tirica</i>
Scaly-headed Parrot	1					P	3	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
Greater Ani	2		R				1	<i>Crotophaga major</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	8		R	C	S	P	3	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Guira Cuckoo	5		R	C			3	<i>Guira guira</i>
Striped Cuckoo	1		R				1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
Squirrel Cuckoo	1				S		1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Tropical Screech Owl	1		R				1	<i>Megascops choliba</i>
Black-capped Screech Owl	-	1h	R				1	<i>Megascops atricapilla</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	1	1h	R	C			1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Burrowing Owl	6		R	C	S		2	<i>Athene cucularia</i>
Striped Owl	-	1h	R				1	<i>Pseudoscops clamator</i>
Tawny-browed Owl	1		R				1	<i>Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana</i>
Common Potoo	1		R				1	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
(Common) Pauraque	1	1h	R				1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Sooty Swift	3			C			1	<i>Cypseloides fumigatus</i>
White-collared Swift	1		R				3	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Biscutate Swift	1		R			P	3	<i>Streptoprocne biscutata</i>
Gray-rumped Swift	2		R			P	1	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Reddish Hermit	1		R				1	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	2		R				1	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Saw-billed Hermit	1		R				1	<i>Ramphodon naevius</i>
Black Jacobin	8		R				2	<i>Florisuga fusca</i>
Violet-capped Woodnymph	8		R				1	<i>Thalurania glaucopis</i>
Versicolored Emerald	2		R			P	1	<i>Amazilia versicolor</i>
Green-crowned Plovercrest ^{5 E}	1					P	1	<i>Stephanoxis lalandi</i>
Frilled Coquette ^E	1		R				1	<i>Lophornis magnificus</i>
Glittering-throated Emerald	5		R				1	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
Sapphire-spangled Emerald	1				S		1	<i>Amazilia lactea</i>
Glittering-bellied Emerald	1		R				1	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>

Brazilian Ruby ^E	1		R				1	<i>Clytolaema rubricauda</i>
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	8		R	C	S	P	1	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>
Green-backed (White-tailed) Trogon ⁶	-	1h	R				1	<i>Trogon viridis</i>
Surucua Trogon	2	1h	R		S	P	1	<i>Trogon surrucura</i>
Rufous-capped Motmot	-	3h	R				1	<i>Baryphthengus ruficapillus</i>
Ringed Kingfisher	3		R				1	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>
Green Kingfisher	1		R				1	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	3		R				1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
Three-toed Jacamar ^E	1				S		3	<i>Jacamaralcyon tridactyla</i>
White-eared Puffbird	2		R		S		1	<i>Nystalus chacuru</i>
Crescent-chested Puffbird ^E	1		R				1	<i>Malacoptila striata</i>
Spot-billed Toucanet	1		R				1	<i>Selenidera maculirostris</i>
Channel-billed Toucan	3		R				1	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus ariel</i>
Toco Toucan	1		R				1	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
White-barred Piculet	3		R				1	<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>
White-browed (Yellow-browed) Woodpecker ⁷	1					P	1	<i>Piculus aurulentus</i>
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	2		R				1	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>
Yellow-eared Woodpecker ^E	1				S		1	<i>Veniliornis maculifrons</i>
Campo Flicker	6		R			P	1	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>
Blond-crested Woodpecker	-	1h	R				1	<i>Celeus flavescens</i>
White Woodpecker	1		R				1	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker	1		R				1	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>
Plain-winged Woodcreeper	1		R				1	<i>Dendrocincla turdina</i>
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	2		R				1	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
White-throated Woodcreeper	1		R				1	<i>Xiphocolaptes albicollis</i>
(Southern) Lesser Woodcreeper	2		R				1	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus</i>
Scaled Woodcreeper ^E	1				S		1	<i>Lepidocolaptes squamatus</i>
Black-billed Scythebill	1					P	1	<i>Campylorhamphus falcularius</i>
Wing-banded (Band-tailed) Hornero ^{8E}	2		R				1	<i>Furnarius figulus</i>
Rufous Hornero	6		R	C	S	P	2	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
Rufous-capped Spinetail	1					P	1	<i>Synallaxis ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	4		R	C			1	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>
Pallid Spinetail ^E	1					P	1	<i>Cranioleuca pallida</i>
Rufous-fronted Thornbird	2		R		S		1	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons</i>
Orange-eyed Thornbird ⁹	1				S		1	<i>Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus</i>
Pale-browed Treehunter ^E	1		R				1	<i>Cichlocolaptes leucophrus</i>
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	2		R				1	<i>Philydor rufum</i>
Black-capped Foliage-gleaner	1		R				1	<i>Philydor atricapillus</i>
Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper	1					P	1	<i>Lochmias nematura</i>
White-eyed Foliage-gleaner	-	1h	R				1	<i>Automolus leucophthalmus</i>
Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser	1		R				1	<i>Sclerurus scansor</i>
Streaked Xenops	1		R				1	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
Spot-backed Antshrike	-	1h	R				1	<i>Hypoedaleus guttatus</i>
Large-tailed Antshrike	1					P	1	<i>Mackenziaena leachii</i>
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	1	2h	R		S		1	<i>Thamnophilus palliatus</i>
Rufous-capped Antshrike	1					P	1	<i>Thamnophilus ruficapillus</i>
Variable Antshrike	-	1h				P	1	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens</i>
Sooretama Slaty Antshrike ^E	3		R	C			1	<i>Thamnophilus ambiguus</i>
Spot-breasted Antwren ^E	1		R				1	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>
Star-throated Antwren ^E	1		R				1	<i>Rhopias gularis</i>
Silvery-flanked Antwren ^{10E}	3		R				1	<i>Myrmotherula (axillaris) luctuosa</i>
Unicolored Antwren ^E	2		R				1	<i>Myrmotherula unicolor</i>
Streak-capped Antwren	1		R				1	<i>Terenura maculata</i>
Rufous-winged Antwren	1		R				1	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>
Serra Antwren ^E	1				S		1	<i>Formicivora serrana interposita</i>
Restinga Antwren ^E	1			C			1	<i>Formicivora serrana littoralis</i>
Rufous-tailed Antbird ^E	1					P	1	<i>Drymophila genei</i>
Dusky-tailed Antbird	1					P	1	<i>Drymophila malura</i>
Scaled Antbird ^E	2		R				1	<i>Drymophila squamata</i>
White-shouldered Fire-eye	2					P	1	<i>Pyriglena leucoptera</i>
Rufous Gnateater	1				S		1	<i>Conopophaga lineata</i>
Black-cheeked Gnateater ^E	1	1h	R				1	<i>Conopophaga melanops</i>
Serro do Mar (Mouse-colored) Tapaculo ^{11E}	1	1h				P	H	<i>Scytalopus (speluncae) notorious</i>

Slaty Bristlefront ^E	1				P	1	<i>Merulaxis ater</i>
Black-and-gold Cotinga ^E	1				P	1	<i>Tijuca atra</i>
Gray-winged Cotinga ^E	1				P	1	<i>Tijuca condita</i>
Bare-throated Bellbird	2	1h	R		S	1	<i>Procnias nudicollis</i>
Swallow-tailed Cotinga	1				P	1	<i>Phibalura flavirostris</i>
White-bearded Manakin	3		R			1	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
Blue (Swallow-tailed) Manakin ¹²	3		R			1	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>
Serro do Mar Tyrant-manakin ^E	1				P	1	<i>Neopelma chrysolophum</i>
Green-backed Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus viridis</i>
Chestnut-crowned Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus castaneus</i>
White-winged Becard	2				S	1	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>
Black-capped Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>
Crested Becard	2		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>
Whiskered (Flycatcher) Myiobius ¹³	2		R			1	<i>Myiobius barbatus mastacalis</i>
Southern Antpipit	1		R			1	<i>Corythopis delalandi</i>
Planalto Tyrannulet	2	1h	R		P	1	<i>Phyllomyias fasciatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	5		R		C	1	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant	1				C	1	<i>Euscarthmus meloryphus</i>
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	1				C	1	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
Serra do Mar Tyrannulet ^E	1				P	1	<i>Phylloscartes difficilis</i>
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	2		R			1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	1				S	1	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>
Bran-colored Flycatcher	1					1	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant ^E	2		R			1	<i>Hemitriccus orbitatus</i>
Hangnest Tody-Tyrant ^E	2				C S	1	<i>Hemitriccus nidipendulus</i>
Eared Pygmy Tyrant	1		R			1	<i>Myiornis auricularis</i>
Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher ^{14 E}	2	1h	R		S	1	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	1		R			1	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Euler's Flycatcher	2		R		S	1	<i>Lathrotriccus eulerei</i>
Yellow-olive Flatbill	1		R			1	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
Blue-billed Black Tyrant	1				P	1	<i>Knipolegus cyanirostris</i>
Crested Black Tyrant	1				S	1	<i>Knipolegus lophotes</i>
Velvety Black Tyrant ^E	1				P	1	<i>Knipolegus nigerrimus</i>
Yellow-browed Tyrant	1		R			1	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>
Streamer-tailed Tyrant	2		R		S	1	<i>Gubernetes yetapa</i>
Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant	1				P	1	<i>Muscipipra vetula</i>
Masked Water Tyrant	5				C S	1	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
White-headed Marsh Tyrant	4				C	1	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	1		R			1	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Cattle Tyrant	5		R		C S	1	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	1		R			1	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	1				P	1	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Social Flycatcher	7		R		S P	1	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Great Kiskadee	8		R		C S P	2	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	2		R		P	1	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	1					1	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Variiegated Flycatcher	1				P	1	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
Tropical Kingbird	8		R		C S P	1	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	5		R		C S	1	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1		R			1	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Swainson's Flycatcher	1				P	1	<i>Myiarchus swainsoni</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1				S	1	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	3		R		C	1	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Gray-hooded Attila ^E	1		R			1	<i>Attila rufus</i>
Yellowish Pipit	1	1h	R			1	<i>Anthus lutescens</i>
Tropical Parula	4		R		C S	1	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler	2				S P	1	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
White-rimmed Warbler	-	1h			P	1	<i>Myiothlypis leucoblephara</i>
Southern (Masked) Yellowthroat ¹⁵	1		R			1	<i>Geothlypis (aequinoctialis) velata</i>
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	1	1h			S P	1	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
Red-eyed Vireo ¹⁶ (Chivi Vireo)	4		R		C	1	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Rufous-crowned Greenlet	1				P	1	<i>Hylophilus poicilotis</i>
Lemon-chested Greenlet	1				C	1	<i>Hylophilus thoracicus</i>

Gray-eyed Greenlet ^E	1			S		1	<i>Hylophilus amaurocephalus</i>	
White-rumped Swallow	2	R				1	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>	
Blue-and-white Swallow	6	R	C	S	P	2	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	
Gray-breasted Martin	2	R	C			3	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	
Brown-chested Martin	3	R				1	<i>Progne tapera</i>	
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	7	R		S	P	3	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	
Black-capped Donacobius	1	R				1	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>	
Moustached Wren	1	R				1	<i>Pheugopedius genibarbis</i>	
Long-billed Wren ^E	1	1h	R			1	<i>Cantorchilus longirostris</i>	
(Southern) House Wren ¹⁷	7	R	C		P	1	<i>Troglodytes aedon musculus</i>	
Yellow-legged Thrush	5	R			P	1	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>	
Rufous-bellied Thrush	2	1h	R		S	P	1	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>
Pale-breasted Thrush	4	R			P	1	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>	
Creamy-bellied Thrush	1	R				1	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>	
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	7	R	C	S	P	1	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>	
Crested Oropendola	3	R		S	P	1	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	
Red-rumped Cacique	5	R				3	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>	
Chopi Blackbird	3	R		S		3	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>	
Shiny Cowbird	3	R		S		2	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	
White-browed Meadowlark/Blackbird ¹⁸	1	R				1	<i>Sturnella superciliaris</i>	
Chestnut-capped Blackbird	1		C			1	<i>Chrysomus ruficapillus</i>	
Cinnamon Tanager ^E	1				P	1	<i>Schistochlamys ruficapillus</i>	
Black-goggled Tanager	2	R				1	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>	
Hooded Tanager	1			S		1	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>	
Rufous-headed Tanager ^E	1			S		1	<i>Hemithraupis ruficapilla</i>	
Yellow-backed Tanager	3	R				1	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>	
Brazilian Tanager ^E	2	R	C			3	<i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>	
Sayaca Tanager	8	R	C	S	P	3	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>	
Azure-shouldered Tanager ^E	1	R				1	<i>Thraupis cyanoptera</i>	
Golden-chevroned Tanager ^E	2	R				1	<i>Thraupis ornata</i>	
Palm Tanager	7	R	C		P	2	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	
Flame-crested Tanager	4	R		S		2	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>	
Ruby-crowned Tanager	1			S		1	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>	
Black-backed Tanager ^E	1		C			1	<i>Tangara peruviana</i>	
Burnished-buff Tanager	3	R		S		1	<i>Tangara cayana</i>	
Brassy-breasted Tanager ^E	1				P	1	<i>Tangara desmaresti</i>	
Gilt-edged Tanager ^E	1	R				1	<i>Tangara cyanoventris</i>	
Green-headed Tanager	5	R			P	2	<i>Tangara seledon</i>	
Diademed Tanager	1				P	1	<i>Stephanophorus diadematus</i>	
White-bellied (Turquoise) Tanager ¹⁹	1	R				1	<i>Tangara (mexicana) brasiliensis</i>	
Red-cowled Cardinal ^E	1	R				1	<i>Paroaria dominicana</i>	
Sooty Grassquit	2	R				2	<i>Tiaris fuliginosus</i>	
Black-legged Dacnis ^E	2	R				1	<i>Dacnis nigripes</i>	
Blue Dacnis	4	R		S		2	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	
Green Honeycreeper	1	R				1	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	
Red-legged Honeycreeper	1	R				1	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	
Chestnut-vented Conebill	5	R	C			1	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>	
Grassland Yellow Finch	1	R				3	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>	
Saffron Finch	7	R	C	S	P	3	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	
Temminck's Seedeater	1	R				1	<i>Sporophila falcirostris</i>	
Double-collared Seedeater	3	R		S		3	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>	
Blue-black Grassquit	1	R				1	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	
Gray Pileated Finch	1			S		1	<i>Coryphospingus pileatus</i>	
Bay-chested Warbling Finch ^E	1				P	1	<i>Poospiza thoracica</i>	
Bananaquit	4	R	C	S		1	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	
Yellow-green Grosbeak	1	R				1	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>	
Green-winged Saltator	1				P	1	<i>Saltator similis</i>	
House Sparrow	4		C	S	P	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Common Waxbill	5	R	C			3	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	
Purple-throated Euphonia	3	R				1	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>	
Violaceous Euphonia	4	R				1	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia	1	R				1	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>	
Hooded Siskin	1				P	2	<i>Spinus magellanicus</i>	

Curl-crested Jay	4	R	S	P	1	<i>Cyanocorax cristatellus</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	1			P	1	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Grassland Sparrow	1	R			1	<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>
Half-collared Sparrow ^E	1		S		1	<i>Arremon semitorquatus</i>

MAMMALS

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth						<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
Guianan Squirrel						<i>Sciurus aestuans</i>
Capybara						<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
White-tufted (Common) Marmoset						<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Thoas Swallowtail						<i>Papilio thoas</i>
Cattleheart sp						<i>Parides sp,</i>
Swallowtail sp						<i>Protesilaus sp</i>
Scarlet Peacock						<i>Anartia amathea</i>
White Peacock						<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>

OTHER SPECIES

Tegu Lizard						<i>Tupinambis merianae</i>
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Notes on the bird list

Alternative names in fieldguides and birdlists creates confusion with species names. The following gives some further information on the taxonomy and nomenclature of the species listed on the Ornitholidays' checklist for the REGUA area. The sources referred to are listed in the references section at the end of the notes.

1 Common Gallinule

It is generally recognised that Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* of the Western Hemisphere is now split as a distinct species from Eurasian Moorhen *G. chloropus* on the basis of morphological, genetic and vocal differences.

2 Black-necked Stilt (White-backed Stilt)

Many authorities split White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*, found in north Chile and east-central Peru to south-east Brazil and Argentina, from the Black-necked Stilt *H. mexicanus* of western and southern USA to Ecuador, south-west Peru and north-east Brazil. Mello follows this split but the SACC and Clements are awaiting the outcome of further study and still consider *melanurus* as a race of *mexicanus*.

3 Whimbrel

The SACC and Clements consider the dark-rumped *hudsonicus*, breeding in Alaska and north Canada and wintering as far as southern South America, as a race of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. However, other authorities, including the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), consider it as a full species Hudsonian Whimbrel *N. hudsonicus*, split from the Whimbrel breeding in Europe and Asia.

4 Sandwich Tern (Cabot's/Cayenne Tern)

Clements lists three subspecies of Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, including Cabot's Tern *T. s. acutiflavidus* and Cayenne Tern *T. s. eurygnathus*. Cabot's, with a black, yellow-tipped bill, breeds in east North America to the south Caribbean, wintering to south Peru and Uruguay (including south-east Brazil). The yellow-billed Cayenne Tern is a South American breeder on the islands off Venezuela, the Guianas, east Brazil and north Argentina. Other authorities, including the BOU, split Cabot's/Cayenne from Sandwich Tern, leaving the latter purely as the bird of Europe, north Africa, the Persian Gulf and India. They use the name Cabot's Tern *T. acutiflavidus* and treat Cayenne *T. a. eurygnathus* as a subspecies of Cabot's. It is possible to see both Cabot's and Cayenne in Brazil in September, so they are listed separately on the checklist.

5 Green-crowned Plovercrest

In accord with the recent SACC proposal 664, Clements splits Plovercrest into two species: Green-crowned Plovercrest *Stephanoxis lalandi* and Violet-crowned Plovercrest *Stephanoxis loddigesii*. Green-crowned is endemic to east Brazil (south Minas Gerais to Espírito Santo and north-east Sao Paulo), with Violet-crowned occurring in east Paraguay and north-east Argentina (Misiones) to southern Brazil.

6 Green-backed Trogon (White-tailed Trogon)

Clements and the SACC both list the trogon of the REGUA region as Green-backed Trogon, still using the scientific name *Trogon viridis*. Its full range is Colombia east of the Andes to north Bolivia and Brazil, as well as Trinidad. They use the name White-tailed Trogon *T. chionurus* for the bird occurring in the lowlands of east Panama to west Colombia and west Ecuador. Both van Perlo and Mello also use *T. viridis*, but retain the English name White-tailed Trogon.

7 White-browed (Yellow-browed) Woodpecker

Mello uses Yellow-browed Woodpecker as its English name for the species called White-browed Woodpecker by the SACC and Clements. Both are used in van Perlo.

- 8 Wing-banded Hornero**
Furnarius figulus appears to have a variety of English names, most authorities using Wing-banded Hornero but the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) and others using Band-tailed Hornero.
- 9 Orange-eyed Thornbird**
 The birds seen on Macae de Cima are 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, a potential source of confusion amongst our guides, compounded by the fact that *erythrophthalmus* actually translates as 'red-eyed'!
- 10 White-flanked Antwren**
 Ridgely/Gwynne follows the IOC, splitting Silvery-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula luctuosa* of east Brazil from White-flanked Antwren *M. axillaris* of Columbia, Venezuela, Amazonia and the Guianas. Van Perlo illustrates both: 'Silvery-flanked', found in the REGUA area, is shown as 107.3b. The book, along with Mello and the SACC, follows Clements in listing *luctuosa* as a race of White-flanked.
- 11 Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus speluncae*) or Serro do Mar Tapaculo (*Scytalopus notorius*)?**
 The taxonomy of the *Scytalopus* tapaculos seems to be in a constant state of flux as ornithologists realise that there are more species than had been realised in this very difficult group. It seems that the tapaculos on Pico de Calendonia are the recently described Sarro do Mar Tapaculo, formerly part of Mouse-colored Tapaculos. As always field guides are always slower on the uptake than scientific publications and the so-called authorities cannot always agree!
- 12 Blue (Swallow-tailed) Manakin**
 Van Perlo's and Ridgely/Gwynne's alternative name Swallow-tailed Manakin is used by Clements, the SACC and Mello. Blue Manakin is also given in the checklist as it is the name most often used by the guides at REGUA.
- 13 Whiskered Flycatcher (Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher)**
 The taxonomy and nomenclature of this is somewhat confusing. Van Perlo, Mello and Clements list *Myobius barbatus mastacalis* as the subspecies found in south-east Brazil and it is illustrated as 142.6a in van Perlo. The SACC lumps Whiskered with Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, split by Clements as *M. sulphureipygius*, occurring in Columbia and Ecuador. To my knowledge it is the only species on our REGUA tour checklist where the SACC currently doesn't follow Clements.
- 14 Gray-headed (Yellow-lored) Tody-Flycatcher**
 The English name Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher is used by the SACC and Clements, but Mello and Ridgely/Gwynne use Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher so both names are given in the checklist.
- 15 Southern (or Masked) Yellowthroat**
 The race which occurs in south-east Brazil is *G. a. velata*, split as a full species Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata* by some authorities including Ridgely/Gwynne, although not by Clements, the SACC, Mello or van Perlo.
- 16 Red-eyed Vireo (Chivi 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. The latter is the one most likely to be seen at REGUA. Mello treats it as a full species Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi* but Clements, Ridgely/Gwynne and the SACC consider it as one of ten subspecies of Red-eyed.
- 17 House Wren (Southern House Wren)**
 Mello and Ridgely/Gwynne split Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus* from the House Wren of North America *T. aedon*. However, the SACC and Clements continue to consider them conspecific, Clements listing *T. a. musculus* of south-east Brazil as one of 33 subspecies of House Wren!
- 18 White-browed Meadowlark (White-browed Blackbird)**
 Clements and the SACC (in accord with Proposal 641) have changed the English name of *Sturnella superciliaris* from White-browed Blackbird to White-browed Meadowlark. The former is still used in van Perlo and Mello and Ridgely/Gwynne.
- 19 Turquoise Tanager (White-bellied Tanager)**
 Both van Perlo and Mello split White-bellied Tanager *Tangara brasiliensis* from Turquoise Tanager *T. mexicana*, thus making the former a Brazilian endemic. However, both the SACC and Clements lump the two, considering White-bellied as a race of Turquoise Tanager *T. m. brasiliensis*.

References:

- A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil by Ber van Perlo (Oxford University Press, 2009)
- Wildlife Conservation Society Birds of Brazil: The Atlantic Forest of Southeast Brazil including São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro by Robert S Ridgely, John A Gwynne, Guy Tudor and Martha Argel (Cornell University Press 2016)
- Field Guide to the Birds of the Serra dos Orgaos and Surrounding Area by Daniel Mello, Gabriel Mello and Francisco Mallet-Rodrigues (Rio de Janeiro, 2015)
- 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)

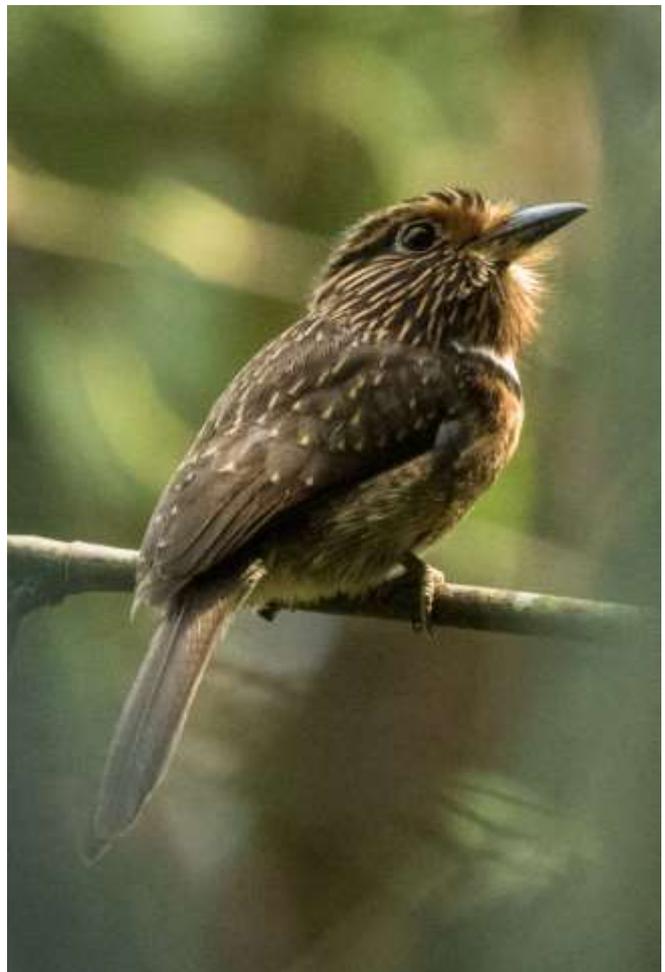
- Clements world checklist
- The online World Bird List of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) (<http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>)
- The British list of the BOU (<http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/>)
- <http://museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop664.htm> (Plovercrest)

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

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Red-legged Seriema



Crescent-chested Puffbird



Crested Becard



Gray-winged Cotinga



Whistling Heron



Three-toed Jacamars



White-barred Piculet



Collared Plover



White-eared Puffbird



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl



Maroon-bellied Parakeet



Giant Snipe



Half-collared Sparrow



Streamer-tailed Tyrant



Reddish Hermit



Swallow-tailed Hummingbird



Blue Manakin



Scaled Antbird

Front cover: Rufous-tailed Jacamar

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