



**AMAZONIAN BRAZIL:
MANAUS & THE RIO NEGRO, RORAIMA, TUPANA LODGE**

7 – 28 October 2015



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*)

a **Brasil Aventuras** customized birding tour
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Introduction:

The north-central Brazilian Amazon around the chaotic jungle metropolis of Manaus is surely one of the most productive, if under-rated, birding areas in all of Brazil. Where else can one easily hop between major Amazon river basins, the all-important drivers of speciation in Amazonian birds? Where else in the Amazon can one bird a varied range of habitats from tall Guianan Shield *terra firme* forests, to stunted white sand campinas and campinaranas, to blackwater island archipelagos, ephemeral whitewater river islands, and palm-infested swampy *terra firme*? We did all of the above on this tour, and even added an extra week in Brazil's northernmost state of Roraima to the standard itinerary, allowing us to bird the seasonally-inundated savannas and gallery woodlands north of Boa Vista, along with several days working the unusual swampy campinaranas of Viruá National Park.

Any birding tour to this region – but especially one during the month of October – requires a certain degree of luck with the weather. On balance I would say we were quite fortunate, with only three or four short, heavy downpours during the trip, all of which we encountered on travel days as we were driving between sites. We lost very little birding time to rain, though it would have been nice to have those two hours to bird a new site west of Caracaraí on the 24th to look for the Gray-legged Tinamou! However, the lack of rain in the Manaus region was not strictly limited to the month of October. Our tour coincided with a severe drought in the area, which along with some of the hottest temperatures in nearly 90 years in the region, definitely meant that bird activity was significantly reduced. Forest and brush fires typically meant that we would start our mornings under a low cloud of unpleasant smoke, particularly around Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, and Novo Airão. Dawn choruses were mostly non-existent or, at best, uninspired. Trails in the interior of *terra firme* forests were eerily quiet in the mornings, and completely dead in the afternoons. Mixed-species feeding flocks were few and far between, and the flocks we did encounter were often less diverse than they would have been under normal conditions. Understorey insectivores were notably difficult to find during the course of our trip, and as a result certain families are under-represented on the list of birds we recorded during the tour.

All that said, with patience and persistence in the field we were able to find the vast majority of the target birds we were looking for, including some of South America's absolute best birds in addition to some of Brazil's most poorly-known species. We recorded 565 species of birds (not including 2 species recorded only by the leader), including impressive totals in the typical antbirds (59 species), woodcreepers (22), parrots (29), manakins (16), and tanagers and allies (36). We also recorded 26 species of mammals during the course of the trip, including an impressive 12 species of primates! Trip highlights were numerous and included good views of both Great and Variegated Tinamous at the Ducke Reserve in Manaus, both Crestless and Black Curassows at Viruá National Park, an exquisite Rufous Potoo seen on its nest with a tiny chick, both Crimson and Fiery Topazes, Double-striped Thick-knee, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, Crested Owl, the sister taxa Black-faced and White-browed Hawks, Pavonine Quetzal, six species of jacamars including Bronzy, Paradise, and Great, Collared Puffbird, Orange-breasted Falcon, Kawall's Parrot, Sun Parakeet, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Red-billed, Bar-bellied, Zimmer's, and Long-billed Woodcreepers, Undulated and Pearly Antshrikes, both Negro and Madeira Stipple-throated Antwrens, Predicted Antwren, Cherrie's and Klages's Antwren, Rio Branco, Humaitá, Rufous-throated, Hairy-crested, and Yapacana Antbirds, Reddish-winged Bare-eye, Thrush-like Antpitta, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, Purple-breasted, Spangled, and Pompadour Cotingas, Amazonian Umbrellabird, the remarkable spectacle of ten male Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at their lek, Wire-tailed, Golden-headed, White-throated, and Black Manakins, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Olive-green Tyrannulet, an undescribed endemic species of tody-tyrant, Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant, Pale-bellied Mourner, Glossy-backed Becard, Guianan and Inambari Gnatcatchers, Cayenne Jay, Plumbeous and Golden-sided Euphonias, and White-naped Seedeater, to name but a few!

Itinerary:

- October 7th** AM: Jardim Botânico canopy tower and trails. PM: River trip on Rio Solimões.
Night Tropical Hotel, Manaus.
- October 8th** AM: Ramal do Pau Rosa N of Manaus. PM: Iracema Falls Hotel grounds.
Night Iracema Falls Hotel, Presidente Figueiredo.
- October 9th** AM: Lajes reserve and track at KM 3 of AM-240.
PM: Iracema Falls and Lajes reserve.
Night Iracema Falls Hotel, Presidente Figueiredo.
- October 10th** AM: Iracema Falls and Parque Cachoeira das Orquídeas.
PM: Iracema Falls Hotel grounds and trails.
Night Iracema Falls Hotel, Presidente Figueiredo.
- October 11th** Aldeia Mari Mari and return to Manaus.
Night Pousada Chez Les Rois, Manaus.
- October 12th** AM: Ramal KM 50 of AM-070. PM: Restaurante Cirandeira Bela, Manacapuru.
Night Pousada Chez Les Rois, Manaus.
- October 13th** AM: Reserva Florestal Adolpho Ducke. PM: Drive to Novo Airão.
Night Pousada Tarantula, Novo Airão.
- October 14th** Anavilhanas archipelago all day.
Night Pousada Tarantula, Novo Airão.
- October 15th** AM: *Terra firme* forest south of Novo Airão. PM: Igarapé do Castanho.
Night Pousada Tarantula, Novo Airão.
- October 16th** AM: Birding around our hotel and on tracks south of Novo Airão.
PM: Return to Manaus.
Night Tropical Hotel, Manaus.
- October 17th** AM: Jardim Botânico canopy tower.
PM: Flight to Boa Vista and birding in town.
Night Aipana Plaza Hotel, Boa Vista.
- October 18th** AM: Rio Uraricoera gallery forests. PM: Haras Cunha Pucá.
Night Aipana Plaza Hotel, Boa Vista.
- October 19th** AM: Serra Grande. PM: Drive to Caracará and Vicinal Bem Querer.
Night Hotel Luminar, Caracará.
- October 20th** Viruá National Park all day (Estrada Perdida, park HQ area, Estrada do Portão).
Night Hotel Luminar, Caracará.
- October 21st** Viruá National Park all day (Estrada do Portão, Estr. Perdida, Estrada do Neri).
Night Hotel Luminar, Caracará.
- October 22nd** AM: River trip on Rio Branco (river islands and *varzea* forest trail).
PM: Viruá National Park (Estrada Perdida for late afternoon and night birding).
Night Hotel Luminar, Caracará.
- October 23rd** AM: Viruá National Park (Estrada do Portão, Estrada do Neri).
PM: Vicinal 03 west of Caracará.
Night Hotel Luminar, Caracará.
- October 24th** Return to Boa Vista and flight to Manaus.
Transfer to Tupana Lodge, crossing Rio Solimões and driving south on BR-319.
Night Tupana Lodge, KM 158 of BR-319.
- October 25th** AM & PM: Tupana trail system.
Night Tupana Lodge, KM 158 of BR-319.
- October 26th** AM & PM: Tupana trail system.
Night Tupana Lodge, KM 158 of BR-319.
- October 27th** AM: Tupana main trail into upland *terra firme*. PM: BR-319 south of Tupana.
Night Tupana Lodge, KM 158 of BR-319.
- October 28th** AM: BR-319 south of Tupana. PM: Return to Manaus.
Night Tropical Hotel, Manaus. End of tour.

Summary:

We started the trip meeting up in the lobby of the famous Tropical Hotel in Manaus before dawn, allowing for plenty of time to reach the Jardim Botânico on the north-east edge of the city. A wrong turn en route meant we needed that extra time, but we were only a few minutes late for our meeting with Tomaz from the Museu da Amazônia who was to accompany us up the brand new canopy tower located in a forest reserve adjacent to the 10,000 hectare Adolpho Ducke reserve. The tower itself is an impressive bit of engineering, built by the same engineer who designed the famous canopy towers at Cristalino Lodge, and even at the top level at 42 metres height there wasn't even the slightest wobble. The tower provided a perfect introduction to the Guianan Shield avifauna, and in our three hours we had exceptionally close views of a number of canopy birds which are often difficult to see well, including Spot-backed Antwren, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Cinnamon-throated and Lineated (Guianan) Woodcreepers, Spotted Tanager, Guianan Toucanet, and Guianan Tyrannulet. Perhaps the best sighting of all was the spectacular pair of Caica Parrots which chose to alight at eye level in a treetop beside the tower for unprecedented views of this oft-difficult parrot. More distant but equally important sightings were had of Red-fan Parrot, the scarce Black-faced Hawk, a female Pompadour Cotinga, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, and Dusky Parrot, all seen through the scope. After descending the tower for a cup of coffee, we took a walk on the trail system which was rather quiet but still produced Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, and best of all, a Guianan Gnatcatcher with a small canopy flock.

In the afternoon we took a boat trip down the Rio Negro from the Tropical to visit the *Encontro das Águas* where the Negro and Solimões meet to form the Amazon river proper, before heading upstream to visit a river island in the Solimões to look for a couple of target birds. Typically we would spend a full day birding the river islands here, but the group had cleaned up on the majority of the target birds on a previous trip to islands in the Napo at Iquitos in Peru, so instead we opted for this single afternoon trip. We headed for the upstream end of Marchantaria island, planning to land at just about the only firm ground I had managed to find during a day of pre-tour scouting (always essential with the constant rise and fall of water levels on the Solimões). Just about the only target species for the group was Green-throated Mango, a species which I had seen the previous day at this same location. Even though we staked out the flowers where I had seen the bird for quite a while, no mango showed amongst the handful of Glittering-throated Emeralds. A few Tui Parakeets were around and a flock of Short-tailed Parrots came through. The highlight of the afternoon was a showy Yellow-crowned Elaenia in the seasonally flooded forests, a new bird for the group.

The following morning we headed for Presidente Figueiredo, a small town 100 km north of Manaus. Some birding in disturbed forest along the Ramal do Pau Rosa just north of Manaus was productive albeit rather smoky (unfortunately, conditions which prevailed throughout the course of our three weeks), with Crimson Topaz, Pink-throated Becard, and Golden-sided Euphonia along a quiet roadside, and Dusky-throated Antshrike, White-crested Spadebill, Violaceous Trogon, and Golden-collared Woodpecker on a forest trail. A roadside stop three-quarters of the way to Presidente Figueiredo added Waved Woodpecker and Mouse-coloured Antshrike before we arrived in town in time for a delicious lunch of fire-roasted *tambaqui*, a sumptuous Amazonian fish.

Our base in Presidente Figueiredo was the Iracema Falls Hotel, surrounded by a private forest reserve where we spent a morning and a couple of afternoons. Good birds seen in the forest included Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Marail Guan, Tiny Hawk, Collared Puffbird, Green Aracari, Black-necked Aracari, Great Jacamar, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Guianan Warbling-Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Todd's Sirystes, and Red-billed Pied Tanager. The hotel grounds themselves held Painted Parakeet, White-thighed Swallow, Moriche Oriole, and Coraya Wrens. A visit to the nearby Lajes reserve on one particularly smoky morning was good for a number of specialists of stunted forests on white sands, including Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Bronzy Jacamar, Black Manakin, Red-shouldered Tanager, and others, while a return visit that same afternoon caught us up with the elusive White-naped Seedeater and a pair of lovely Plumbeous Euphonias. A visit to the Cachoeira das Orquídeas park in town was quite productive, with good flocks including Long-winged, Gray, and Brown-bellied Antwrens, White-throated Manakin, Ringed Woodpecker, a pair of Black-tailed Trogons, Black-eared Fairy and others. The small patch of white sand *campinarana* at the far end of the trail produced the desired Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant in short order, a well-behaved individual which even posed for

scope views! The *terra firme* at Mari-Mari was surprisingly quiet, but we still managed to find a lovely Ferruginous-backed Antbird, a circling Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, and a responsive Amazonian Pygmy-Owl which dropped down to mid-levels for great views. After another great meal alongside a picturesque blackwater stream, we headed into the forest to visit a Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek which had at least ten males in attendance, although they were mostly sitting around lethargically awaiting a female to pass through to inspect their finery. Other important birds we saw nearby included Yellow-crested Manakin, Saffron-crowned Tyrant-Manakin, and Northern Slaty-Antshrike. Pleased with this finish, we bid farewell to our hosts at Mari-Mari and returned to Manaus, where this time we stayed at a friendly bed and breakfast in a quiet residential neighbourhood.

Having re-organized the itinerary slightly to skip the full day visit to the river islands on the Solimões, we used the resulting 'extra' day to bird a forested track in swampy *terra firme* on the west bank of the rio Negro. In a marked change from the area around Presidente Figueiredo, fruiting trees were in evidence all along the path and being attended by Ivory-billed Araçaris, Chestnut Woodpecker, Gilded Barbet (up to 10 individuals seen or heard), Mealy Parrot, Orange-cheeked Parrot, and a flock of Maroon-tailed Parakeets. Mixed flocks held Rufous-tailed Xenops, Buff-throated and Duida Woodcreepers, Fasciated and Cinereous Antshrikes, Long-winged and White-flanked Antwrens, Slender-footed Tyrannulet, and an early migrant Black-whiskered Vireo. In the undergrowth we found many Black-faced Antbirds, Yellow-browed Antbird, Spot-winged Antbird and a family group of Coraya Wrens; Chris spotted a female American Pygmy Kingfisher as she sat, motionless, on a perch beside a shallow puddle. By late morning the skies had darkened considerably and distant thunder claps were moving ever closer as we worked on a recalcitrant pair of Black-throated Antbirds. Finally things came to a head, and the antbird had to be left behind as the skies opened and we legged it back toward the van. We headed to the Cirandeira Bela restaurant near Manacapuru, finding it to be extremely busy for the national Children's Day holiday in spite of the gray and rainy conditions. A pleasant lunch here was followed by an hour or so watching a few fruiting *Ficus* trees in the parking lot which were pulling in a remarkable number of fruit-eating birds even in the light drizzle. Visitors included a family of Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers, a cracking male Spangled Cotinga, several species of manakins including Golden-headed, White-crowned, Blue-backed, and Blue-crowned Manakin, Cinereous Becard, Black-billed, Pale-breasted and White-necked Thrushes, Turquoise Tanager, and Violaceous, White-vented and Rufous-bellied Euphonias. With the gloomy weather persisting and the prospect of busy roads as families started to return to Manaus, we decided to do the same.

The original tour itinerary had not included a visit to the Adolpho Ducke reserve, a 10 000 hectare *terra firme* forest plot on the outskirts of Manaus. However, just before arriving in Manaus we had been informed of a possible Rufous Potoo nest in the Ducke reserve, something the group was quite keen to see, and more than happy to have things re-arranged to work in an attempt to see this magnificent nightbird during the day. Marcelo Barreiros, the birding guide based in Manaus who found the potoo nest kindly offered to take us to the site. The main reserve trail at Ducke was extremely quiet under hot and smoky conditions, but we did manage to find Bicoloured Hawk, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, a nice Rufous-capped Antthrush, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, and a pair of Rufous-throated Antbirds which led us on a merry chase down a couple of side trails before finally slipping away, unseen. On the way back to meet up with Marcelo were fortunate first to encounter a pair of Variegated Tinamous near the edge of the trail, and as we approached the potoo nest site, we found an extremely approachable Great Tinamou, which we realized later had small chicks in tow, better explaining its reluctance to take wing to flee our approach. Seeing the Rufous Potoo on its nest – simply the end of a broken-off vertical stem – was a major tour highlight and definitely worth re-organizing the itinerary for. A little ball of feathers beneath the adult potoo turned out to be its chick, and as the adult shuffled slightly on its perch now and again, one couldn't help but wonder how long it would be before the stem wasn't big enough for the both of them! Curiously, both the adult and the chick would gently rock back and forth every time a breeze rustled through the treetops above them, an action which appeared to mimic the movements of a clump of dead leaves. Such camouflage and adaptation is part of what makes this species so difficult to find on day roosts, and the story behind Marcelo's discovery of the bird and its nest testifies to a great deal of patience and fieldcraft on his part.



Rufous Potoo (*Nyctibius bracteatus*) and chick

Thanking Marcelo once again, we left the reserve, crossed Manaus and the bridge over the Rio Negro, and headed west and north to the small town of Novo Airão, where we were to stay for the next three nights. It seemed we had timed this afternoon of travel quite well, as en route we encountered very heavy rain and were thankful that we didn't have any birding planned along the way.

From Novo Airão we took several boat trips into the vast Anavilhanas archipelago of river islands in the stunningly beautiful Rio Negro. Anavilhanas is the world's largest system of freshwater islands; a recently created national park here protects 340 000 hectares including at least 100 000 hectares of river island habitats. Water levels were extremely low, meaning that some of our normal haunts for the local specialties were rendered inaccessible, but thankfully most of the island specialists are actually rather abundant in the appropriate habitats in the islands. Most of the important birds fell into place on the first morning, with Festive Parrots and Amazonian Umbrellabird seen as we traversed one of the main channels en route to a little trail into the seasonally flooded forest (completely dry) where we racked up a good list which included Streak-throated Hermit, Black-crested Antshrike, Blackish-gray Antshrike, Spot-winged Antshrike, Black-chinned Antbird, Leaden Antwren, Klage's Antwren, Speckled Spinetail, and Snelhage's Tody-Tyrant. A female Pavonine Quetzal in the same area was a totally unexpected sighting. A different path produced Ash-breasted Antbird in addition to a series of woodpeckers which included Cream-coloured and Scaly-breasted, and woodcreepers including Long-billed, Zimmer's and Straight-billed. Other new birds we picked up during our river trips included the jaw-dropping Wire-tailed Manakin, Green-tailed Jacamar, Amazonian Tyrannulet, Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch, Gray-chested Greenlet, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, Three-striped Flycatcher, and at dusk, dozens of Band-tailed Nighthawks of two different vocal types. Our land-based explorations of *terra firme* forest near Novo Airão were also fairly productive, though as elsewhere in the trip the smoke seemed to suppress vocal activity significantly. Just south of town we found Negro Stipple-throated Antwren, Pearly Antshrike, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, White-eyed Tody-Tyrant, Great-billed Hermit, Ocellated Woodcreeper, Yellow-browed Antbird, and White-crested Spadebill, while two nocturnal forays to the same areas produced a heard-only White-winged Potoo which

refused to collaborate.

After bidding farewell to our gracious hosts at the Pousada Tarantula, we returned to Manaus for the night and had a few hours free the following morning before our mid-day flight to Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima. Of course this meant we headed back to the canopy tower for a couple of hours in the morning! Here we once again enjoyed privileged views of great canopy birds like Paradise Jacamar, Guianan Toucanet, Dusky and Red-fan Parrots, Spangled Cotinga, and Spotted Tanager, with new additions in the form of a long-awaited Glossy-backed Becard, top-down views of a Guianan Puffbird and scope views of a relatively distant Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle. A big mixed flock moved through just below eye level, allowing terrific views of neat species such as Cinnamon-throated and Guianan (Lineated) Woodcreeper, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Guianan Tyrannulet, Black-bellied Cuckoo and more.

Then we were off to the airport for the short flight to Boa Vista. Stowing our things at the hotel, which was full for an international motorcycle meet attended by bikers from Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana, we headed out to bird a gallery forest site in a quiet neighbourhood of Boa Vista. A short walk here and some stops elsewhere in town produced a number of new trip birds, including White-bellied Piculet, Hooded Tanager, Tropical Gnatcatcher, migrant Yellow Warblers, Brown-throated Parakeet, many Red-shouldered Macaws, Tropical Mockingbird and Bicoloured Wren. The following morning we headed north to the bridge over the Uraricoera river where activity was excellent as usual. Here we made quick work of the Rio Branco endemics, seeing Hoary-throated Spinetail and Rio Branco Antbird promptly and without much difficulty. The supporting cast included Toco Toucan, Black-striped Sparrow, Pale-legged Hornero, Rusty-backed Spinetail, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Pied Water-Tyrant, Flavescent Warbler, and Green-rumped Parrotlets. Stops made along the main highway further north produced brief views of Yellow Oriole, our first Burnished-buff Tanager of the trip, Black-collared Hawk, and the only Blue-chinned Sapphire of the tour. After lunch in Boa Vista, we headed to the Haras Cunha Pucá located on the opposite bank of the Rio Branco. The main lake here had hundreds of Black-bellied and White-faced Whistling-Ducks, Roseate Spoonbill, Little Blue Heron, and wide variety of other common waterbirds. We worked the lake edges looking for Large-billed Seed-Finch, but found only a couple of Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters, Grassland Yellow-Finch, White-tailed Goldenthrout, and a handful of handsome Bicoloured Wrens. Big flocks of Shiny Cowbirds were headed to roost somewhere nearby, and we also had our first Snail Kite of the tour. Returning to Boa Vista we cruised the streets of the Caçari neighbourhood looking and listening for Sun Parakeet, an endangered and declining species which has a small feral population in the capital. Since most of the best sites in Brazil for the species are on indigenous territory or lay well off our route on this tour (or both), these birds were to be our best shot for the species. It didn't take long before we heard the distinctive insistent screeching of the parakeets, and we quickly piled out of the van to see a single bird perched atop a dead snag near a small forest patch. It didn't stay long enough for everyone get scope views, but we managed to track it down again, eventually following the bird to a spot where it, along with two other Sun Parakeets, were preparing to roost in the hollow top of an electricity pole.

The following morning we birded the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande, seeing Cayenne Jays, White-browed, Black-headed and White-bellied Antbirds, Rufous-winged Antwren, our first Purple-throated Fruitcrows, Yellow Tyrannulet, Pectoral Sparrow, and Finsch's Euphonia. A quick foray to a small farm near Boa Vista in late morning produced the hoped-for Double-striped Thick-knee and a couple of Eastern Meadowlark, all wisely standing in small bits of shade under the burning sun. A couple of stops that afternoon produced our only pair of Point-tailed Palmcreepers of the trip and a responsive Straight-billed Hermit in quiet patch of forest near Caracaráí.



Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*)

The small town of Caracarái was our base for five nights as we explored the fascinating Viruá National Park, a 227 000 hectare reserve protecting extensive seasonally inundated *campina* and *campinarana* woodlands along with natural patches of upland *terra firme* forests, and *varzea* along the left bank of the rio Branco. We started at Viruá along the infamous Estrada Perdida, or the Lost Road (the original proposed path of the federal BR-174 highway between Boa Vista and Manaus – after building some 50 km of road into the swampy *campinas*, losing a great deal of equipment along the way, the government realized the error in their planning and abandoned this elevated causeway, instead electing to detour the highway onto higher ground). Our various excursions along the Lost Road produced a number of rare birds, highlighted by a responsive pair of Yapacana Antbirds (were we the first birders this particular pair had ever seen?) on the first morning. Other great sightings included a pair of Crestless Curassows seen on two different occasions, both Jabiru and Maguari Stork, dozens of Blue-and-yellow Macaws, several sparkling Ruby-topaz Hummingbirds, a perched Orange-breasted Falcon watched at length late one afternoon, the rare and local Cherrie's Antwren, numerous Rufous-crowned Elaenias, a pair of Red-shouldered Tanagers, and females of both Large-billed and Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finches practically side by side for comparison. A bit of night birding here revealed the presence of dozens of White-tailed Nightjars in addition to a healthy dose of Least Nighthawks and a few Rufous Nightjars.

The taller forests along the park entrance road, on the Estrada do Neri, and on the trail grid behind the park headquarters itself were also fairly productive. Slow drives along the entrance road in the early mornings produced a pair of Black Curassows strolling calmly along the track on a couple of occasions, but the dry conditions probably hurt our chances of finding a group of trumpeters in the same fashion. The secondary forest along the entrance road had our only Ruddy Spinetail of the trip, and also our first views of the handsome Rufous-throated Antbird. The trail system was fairly quiet (and somewhat overgrown in parts), but there were several singing Thrush-like Antpittas which some of us went off-trail, braving the ticks, to try to see, with varying results and at least partial views. The Estrada do Neri was more productive, with Willis' Antbird, Olivaceous Schiffornis, Black-headed Parrot seen perched through the scope, another party of Rufous-throated Antbirds, Pied Puffbird, and Great Jacamar, amongst others. One day just before lunch we had a circling Ornate Hawk-Eagle over the park headquarters, and a short night birding session after our lone dinner in the park produced the desired Crested Owl, sitting in plain view on a cecropia branch and calling gruffly, much to our delight.

We spent one morning visiting river islands and varzea forest on the Rio Branco downstream from Caracaraí. The rocky rapids near the bridge over the Branco had our first (and only) White-banded and Black-collared Swallows, while nearby beaches held Black Skimmers, Spotted Sandpiper, a flock of 10 migrant Greater Yellowlegs, and even a couple of Jabirus. Our first stop was the Muriru island, where we found Yellow Warbler, Lined, Chestnut-bellied, and Gray Seedeater, Rusty-backed and White-bellied Spinetails, and Lesser Wagtail-Tyrants in the early successional scrub and grassy areas. Rio Branco Antbirds called from the denser vegetation beyond, but extremely fresh pug marks in the sand of an adult jaguar apparently accompanied by a smaller cub dissuaded us from entering the forest! While examining the tracks we flushed a Ladder-tailed Nightjar off a nest with two eggs; a little while later we found another nest, this one with two fluffy hatchlings. Returning to the river, we passed another sandbar which held a couple of Collared Plovers, Pied Lapwing, and migrant White-rumped and Least Sandpipers. Nearby we found an unkempt gang of Hoatzins, and while stopped to enjoy these unique leaf-eaters, we also found a pair of Klage's Antwrens, a Little Cuckoo, and a Zimmer's Woodcreeper. A mid-morning walk in dry varzea forest within the confines of Viruá NP was rather quiet although we did see a couple of Wire-tailed Manakins, a nest-building Speckled Spinetail, Rufous-winged and White-flanked Antwrens, a couple of Gray-headed Tanagers, and a dapper Dot-backed Antbird.



Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)

Thunderstorms during the wee hours of our final night in Caracaraí knocked out the power, and dark clouds hung low over the town as we had our final early breakfast at the Hotel Luminar in candlelight. The rains picked up again as we reached a track we had scouted the previous afternoon, and after a couple of false starts it soon became apparent that we would not be birding this morning. We returned to Boa Vista, checked in for our flight to Manaus, and headed to a popular per-kilo buffet at a busy downtown restaurant for a leisurely lunch. Upon arrival in Manaus we were met by Ribamar, the owner of the Tupana Lodge, who whisked us off to the CEASA port for a quick crossing of the Solimões where another van awaited. The drive south on the infamous BR-319, the federal highway which ostensibly connects Manaus to Porto Velho, the capital of Rondônia some 800 km to the south, was mostly uneventful although we did traverse a few heavy thunder showers, along with some very

thick smoke from the burning of forests along the highway corridor. The BR-319 was “lost” for years after its construction in the 1970's, its middle reaches falling into a severe state of disrepair while being gradually reclaimed by the jungle. Ongoing work to recover and maintain this road will have catastrophic repercussions as settlers and land speculators denude the forest along its length. We arrived at Tupana just after dark, in time to settle into our spacious rooms before being served the first of a number of delicious meals.

Tupana is terrific birding lodge that has not yet become fully entrenched on the Amazonian birding circuit, though it fully deserves recognition as a top-notch birding site. We had three full days to explore their trail system into the extensive *terra firme* behind the lodge, with an understorey rich in small palms and dense *Heliconia* thickets. These forests are heaven for antbirds (and antbird lovers) so it should be no surprise that said family dominated the list of our best sightings. We were fortunate to encounter a large army ant swarm along the main trail two days running, and here we were treated to great views of bold Hairy-crested Antbirds, hulking Reddish-winged Bare-eyes, Sooty Antbird, many White-throated Antbirds, and at least one Common Scale-backed Antbird, along with White-chinned and Bar-bellied Woodcreepers, the latter a difficult bird anywhere in its range. The recently described Predicted Antwren proved to be common in canopy flocks, which also held Sclater's and Chestnut-shouldered Antwrens, along with Rufous-tailed and Slender-billed Xenops, and in one flock, Inambari Gnatcatcher, another recently described species. We also added Black Antbird and Madeira Stipple-throated Antwren to our antbird list, and after a fair bit of searching, we also found co-operative pairs of Humaitá Antbird and Undulated Antshrike. Other good birds added on the trail system included White-browed Hawk, Needle-billed Hermit, Amazonian Trogon, Broad-billed Motmot, Blue-necked Jacamar, Brown-banded Puffbird, Golden-collared Toucanet, Curl-crested Aracari, Kawall's Amazon, Chestnut-winged and Olive-backed Foliage-gleaners, Long-tailed and Spot-throated Woodcreepers, Inambari Woodcreeper, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, an undescribed endemic *Hemitriccus* tody-tyrant, Brownish Twistwing, Southern Nightingale Wren, and Masked Crimson-Tanager. Around the lodge clearing itself we found a nesting pair of Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, and at night, Austral Screech-Owl and a Black-headed Night Monkey. A late afternoon and part of a morning along the road near the lodge paid dividends with brief views of a female Fiery Topaz, several Wing-barred Seedeaters, close views of Pale-bellied Mourner, and a fantastic family of Russet-crowned Crakes. The spacious rooms, comfortable beds, good food and great birding at Tupana made this site one of the trip's highlights. The lodge is planning to further develop its trail system and build one or more canopy towers, improvements which will surely cement its status as a “must-visit” site for birders venturing to the Brazilian Amazon. Well pleased with our stay at Tupana, we returned to Manaus for a farewell dinner and a final (short) night at the Tropical Hotel. We all had early flights the following morning: I returned home, while the rest of the group continued to São Paulo where Fred awaited them for another three weeks of birding in south Brazil!

I would like to thank all of the local staff who took such good care of our group during the tour, including Dona Dora and Edileusa in Novo Airão, Francisco and Hélio of Makunaima Expedições (highly capable ground agents in Roraima), Ricardo our excellent driver in Roraima, and Ribamar, Augusto, and their staff at Tupana, Tomaz Melo for arranging our visits to the MUSA tower, and to Marcelo Barreiros for setting us up to visit the Rufous Potoo nest!

Systematic Bird List

Birds marked with a single asterisk were heard only. Birds marked with a double asterisk were seen or heard only by the tour leader. Brazilian endemics are indicated in blue boldface to the right of the species name. Threatened species are indicated in red boldface to the right of the species name; threat statuses obtained from the website of BirdLife International (see www.birdlife.org for more information).

TINAMOUS (TINAMIDAE)

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*)

NEAR THREATENED

Recorded on 9 dates, of which seen on 3, with astoundingly good views of a extremely confiding individual near the Rufous Potoo nest in the Ducke reserve on the 13th.

*** White-throated Tinamou (*Tinamus guttatus*)**

NEAR THREATENED

Heard on the final morning of the tour, on the 28th, at Tupana Lodge.

*** Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*)**

Heard along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP and also at Tupana Lodge.

*** Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)**

Up to five birds heard calling before dusk along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 22nd.

*** Gray-legged Tinamou (*Crypturellus duidae*)**

NEAR THREATENED

A singing bird heard and tape recorded (though barely audible on my tape over the buzz of a distant chainsaw) along the track at Vicinal 03 just west of Caracaraí on the afternoon of the 23rd. Unfortunately, we were rained out at the same location the following morning. A species which is known from only a few locations in Brazil, though a lack of observer coverage seems the most likely explanation for this.

Variegated Tinamou (*Crypturellus variegatus*)

Heard on 7 dates, and a pair seen well along the main trail at the Ducke Reserve on the 13th.

GUANS AND ALLIES (CRACIDAE)

Marail Guan (*Penelope marail*)

A specialty of the Guianan Shield. Seen on the mornings of the 10th and 11th along the entrance road at Iracema Falls Hotel in Presidente Figueiredo. Also seen on the 19th in the forested stretch of the Vicinal Bem Querer north of Caracaraí in Roraima.

Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*)

Pairs seen on 2 dates at Tupana.

Little Chachalaca (*Ortalis motmot*)

Seen or heard on 9 dates; most common north of Manaus around Presidente Figueiredo.

Black Curassow (*Crax alector*)

VULNERABLE

A pair seen walking on the entrance road at Viruá NP on the mornings of the 21st and 23rd. Also seen on the Estrada do Nerí in Viruá on the morning of the 23rd, another pair.

Crestless Curassow (*Mitu tomentosum*)

NEAR THREATENED

Seen on the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 20th and 22nd, possibly the same pair both times. Apparently they had been nesting near the first culvert along the Estrada Perdida, which is roughly the area where we saw them. A shy cracid which is almost ghost-like anywhere there is hunting activity.

NEW WORLD QUAILS (ODONTOPHORIDAE)

* **Crested Bobwhite** (*Colinus cristatus*)

Heard on the 20th in the seasonally flooded campinas along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP while we looked for Yapacana Antbird.

Starred Wood-quail (*Odontophorus stellatus*)

One disturbed from trail-side along the main trail at Tupana late in the morning of the 27th did not stay long enough for the entire group to see.

DUCKS, GEESE, & SWANS (ANATIDAE)

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)

Seen on 2 dates in Roraima, with around 100 birds at Haras Cunha Pucá on the afternoon of the 18th.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Seen on 4 dates. High count of 200 birds at Haras Cunha Pucá on the afternoon of the 18th.

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) – Seen on 3 dates.

Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*)

Seen only on the afternoon of the 7th on the Solimões upstream from the Encontro das Aguas.

SUNBITTERN (EURYPYGIDAE)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*)

One seen on the morning of the 14th in the Anavilhanas archipelago was our only sighting. The Sunbittern is the only member of its monotypic family Eurypygidae, which is most closely related to the geographically distant Kagu of New Caledonia.

PIGEONS & DOVES (COLUMBIDAE)

Feral Pigeon (*Columbia livia*)

Recorded on 12 dates in urban areas.

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

We saw or heard this attractive pigeon (for my money the best-looking pigeon in South America) 7 dates around Viruá NP and in Presidente Figueiredo, where it shows a preference for forests on sandy soils.

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

Recorded on 11 dates. Particularly common at Viruá.

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Seen or heard almost daily everywhere except Tupana. Vocal differences between Plumbeous Pigeons north and south of the Amazon are marked, and it would not be at all surprising to find there are more than one species level taxa involved.

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

VULNERABLE

Less frequently encountered than the preceding species; recorded on 6 dates.

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)

Seen on 4 dates in Roraima.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

Recorded on 3 dates; only actually seen on river islands in the Anavilhanas archipelago.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

Common and widespread throughout.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*)

This petite ground dove was seen in the savannas north of Boa Vista on the 6th.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)

Seen on 6 dates, mostly in Roraima.

* **Blue Ground-Dove** (*Claravis pretiosa*)

One heard along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande on the 19th.

POTOOS (NYCTIBIIDAE)

* **Common Potoo** (*Nyctibius griseus*)

Heard on 4 dates.

* **White-winged Potoo** (*Nyctibius leucopterus*)

Frustratingly heard only. We tried for this scarce and little-known potoo in *terra firme* on sandy soils south of Novo Airão on the evening of the 15th; the bird responded for a time, at one point landing ever so briefly on the dead snag we had 'chosen' for it, but it did not stay long enough even for me to put the spotlight on it nor did it return, though not for a lack of effort on our part. We tried again the following morning before dawn, receiving only a distant and tepid reply. Another attempt for the species on the evening of the 27th at Tupana on the Auditorium Trail also obtained an extremely distant response but the bird did not approach.

Rufous Potoo (*Nyctibius bracteatus*)

Seeing an adult during the day – on a nest with a young chick no less – must be counted amongst the highlights of the tour. Marcelo Barreiros graciously arranged permission for us to visit the nest site at the Ducke Reserve on the outskirts of Manaus on the morning of the 13th. This smallest of the potoos resides in primary *terra firme* forests in the Amazon, often showing a preference for forests with many small palms in the understorey.

NIGHTJARS (CAPRIMULGIDAE)

Least Nighthawk (*Chordeiles pusillus*)

At least 25 seen at dusk along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 22nd. According to the 2014 paper published on the birds of Viruá NP, the race found here is *esmeraldae*.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

We had ten or more of this boreal migrant flying high overhead on the evening of the 25th at Tupana.

Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)

Seen on a couple of dates near dawn and dusk at the Iracema Falls Hotel in Presidente Figueiredo and heard on one date at Tupana.

Band-tailed Nighthawk (*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*)

We saw dozens of them just before dusk on the 14th in the Anavilhanas archipelago, where there are two distinct vocal types found side by side. We saw both types, which are almost certainly different taxa.

Blackish Nightjar (*Nyctipolus nigrescens*)

Seen during daytime at Presidente Figueiredo and Viruá NP.

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

Surprisingly seen or heard on just 3 dates.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)

We found two active nests (one with eggs and another with small chicks) on a river island in the Rio Branco on the 22nd.

White-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis cayennensis*)

Numerous along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the evening of the 22nd, with multiple birds seen well as they sat on the road.

* **Rufous Nightjar** (*Antrostomus rufus*)

Up to 8 birds heard along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the evening of the 22nd.

SWIFTS (APODIDAE)

Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicaudus*)

Seen on 8 dates.

Chapman's Swift (*Chaetura chapmani*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates.

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*)

Common and recorded on 14 dates, often showing a preference for areas with *Mauritia* palms, though not a true specialist like the following species.

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)

Recorded on 10 dates, always close to groves of *Mauritia* palms.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

Seen on the afternoon of the 23rd over Vicinal 03 west of Caracarái in Roraima.

HUMMINGBIRDS (TROCHILIDAE)

Crimson Topaz (*Topaza pella*)

First seen on the 8th on the Ramal do Pau Rosa, a female at a small stream along a side road. We had a couple of birds including a male (no tail streamers, though) at the Lajes Reserve in Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th.

Fiery Topaz (*Topaza pyra*)

A female seen on our final morning hawking insects over a water-filled ditch alongside the BR-319 near Tupana.

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)

Seen on 5 dates.

Streak-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis rupurumii*)

Numerous in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th, including a number of birds seen at a lek. Also recorded on a couple of dates at Viruá NP, where singing birds could be heard all along the entrance road.

Reddish Hermit (*Phaethornis ruber*)

Seen on 7 dates, including a few individuals each day at Tupana.

Needle-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis philippii*)

Recorded only at Tupana, where common in the understory along the trail system.

Straight-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis bourcieri*)

Seen with certainty only on the 19th in the forest along the Vicinal Bem Querer north of Caracaraí. At least some of the hermits which flashed past us in forested areas in the Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo areas must also have been this species.

Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis superciliosus*)

Singles seen on the 12th along the track at KM 50 of the AM-070; and on the 20th at the edge of the park HQ clearing at Viruá.

Great-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis malaris*)

At least three birds on the morning of the 15th in *terra firme* south of Novo Airão on the W bank of the Negro. Also seen on a couple of dates at Tupana.

Black-eared Fairy (*Heliophryx auritus*)

Seen on several dates at Presidente Figueiredo, from the canopy tower, and at Tupana.

White-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus guainumbi*)

Seen only on the afternoon of the 19th in the Haras Cunha Pucá near Boa Vista.

Green-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus theresiae*)

Recorded on 7 dates in white sand habitats on the rio Negro, the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP, and along the BR-319 near Tupana.

Ruby-topaz Hummingbird (*Chrysolampis mosquitus*)

Common on the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP.

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

Seen on just three dates.

Blue-tailed Emerald (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)

Seen on 2 dates.

Blue-chinned Emerald (*Chlorostilbon notatus*)

A male seen in gallery forest at the rio Parimé north of Boa Vista late in the morning on the 18th was our only sighting.

Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Campylopterus largipennis*)

Singles seen on a couple of dates.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)

The most frequently encountered hummingbird during the trip, common in forest interior and at edges.

Versicolored Emerald (*Amazilia versicolor*)

A trio seen the first morning from the canopy tower in Manaus, and two birds around the buildings at the Lajes reserve, but quite scarce thereafter.

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*)

Recorded on 10 dates.

Rufous-throated Sapphire (*Amazilia sapphirina*)

Seen only on the 16th, a male along the track behind the Novo Airão dump.

White-chinned Sapphire (*Hylocharis cyanus*)

Multiple singing males encountered on the 12th along the track at KM 50 of the AM-070, and on the 23rd along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP.

HOATZIN (OPISTHOCOMIDAE)

Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)

One of South America's top birds and one of the flagship species of the Amazon basin. We saw dozens of them along the rio Branco downstream from Caracarái on the 22nd. One particular tree was stacked with a big, excitable flock which fled noisily both times we passed it. Hoatzins are particularly easily stressed: a study in Ecuador found that exposure to eco-tourism visits reduced reproductive success in the species, largely due to higher mortality rates in nestlings. Adult birds in the study area seemed to become habituated to visitation, showing higher tolerance for human presence than in birds living in undisturbed areas, revealing that eco-tourists were putting nestlings at risk, while the adult birds themselves seemed to be relatively unaffected (Mullner *et al.* 2004).

CUCKOOS (CUCULIDAE)

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*)

Seen in small numbers on the rio Negro and rio Branco.

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Seen almost daily in open country.

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*)

Encountered on 2 dates in Roraima: on the 18th along the Uraricoera river, and on the 22nd on river islands in the rio Branco.

Little Cuckoo (*Coccyzua minuta*)

A single bird seen in mature forest on a large river island in the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)

Recorded on 13 dates in forested habitats.

Black-bellied Cuckoo (*Piaya melanogaster*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates in tall forest: from the canopy tower in Manaus; on the west bank of the rio Negro; and at Tupana Lodge.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

We found two individuals of this boreal migrant together in the subcanopy of tall *terra firme* forest about 5 km along the long main trail at Tupana on the 27th.

FINFOOTS (HELIORNITHIDAE)

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*)

Seen on the 14th and 15th on the rio Negro in the Anavilhanas archipelago and the Igarapé do Castanho upstream from Novo Airão, with a high count of six birds on the 14th.

RAILS & GALLINULES (RALLIDAE)

Russet-crowned Crane (*Rufirallus viridis*)

Heard on a few dates, and a family group seen well in a dried-out roadside ditch opposite the Tupana Lodge gate late in the afternoon on the 27th.

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)

A resident pair seen near the park HQ at Viruá.

LIMPKIN (ARAMIDAE)

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

Seen on 4 dates in Roraima.

STORKS (CICONIIDAE)

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

Seen only on the 18th north of Boa Vista.

Maguari Stork (*Ciconia maguari*)

One seen flying over the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 20th.

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*)

Seen on 4 dates in Roraima, with a high count of 10 birds seen along the BR-174 as we returned to Boa Vista on the 24th.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS (THRESKIORNITHIDAE)

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)

A single bird seen at the Haras Cunha Pucá near Boa Vista.

Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*)

Seen on 2 dates around Boa Vista in Roraima.

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)

Seen on 3 dates.

HERONS (ARDEIDAE)

Rufescent Tiger-heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

Seen in small numbers on 5 dates.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

Recorded on 8 dates.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Recorded on 9 dates, including almost daily in Roraima where common in open country.

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)

Seen on 3 dates.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Seen on 10 dates, including large numbers along the BR-319 between Careiro da Várzea and Tupana.

**** Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*)**

Leader-only, a single bird seen flying past the canopy tower in Manaus on the morning of the 7th.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Seen at Haras Cunha Pucá in Boa Vista on the 18th.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Seen on 4 dates.

CORMORANTS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Seen on 5 dates.

ANHINGAS (ANHINGIDAE)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Seen on just 2 dates in the Anavilhanas archipelago.

THICK-KNEES (BURHINIDAE)

Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*)

Francisco took us to a spot for the species – his parents' home outside of Boa Vista – where we found a single bird wisely standing in the shade under the hot mid-day sun on the 19th. In Brazil found only in savannas in Roraima and Amapá states.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (CHARADRIIDAE)

Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)

Seen on Marchantaria Island on the 7th; also common on beaches and sandbars in the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Pied Lapwing (*Hoploxypterus cayanus*)

Common on beaches and sandbars in the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)

Seen on 7 dates.

JACANAS (JACANIDAE)

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)

Seen on 7 dates.

SANDPIPERS (SCOLOPACIDAE)

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

Two individuals seen on a sandbar in the rio Branco downstream from Caracaraí on the 22nd. A common migrant in river systems in the northern and central Amazon, but typically rather rare farther south.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

At least two individuals on a sandbar in the rio Branco downstream from Caracaraí on the 22nd.

South American Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiiae*)

A single bird at a roadside pond on the W bank of the rio Negro on the afternoon of the 13th as we drove to Novo

Airão was a bit of a surprise sighting.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Seen on at least 4 dates.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

Seen in small numbers on 5 dates.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Singles seen on the 12th and 19th, and a flock of 10 birds seen on a sandbar in the rio Branco on the 22nd.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS

Black Skimmer (*Rhynchops niger*)

Seen only on the 22nd on the rio Branco in Roraima.

Yellow-billed Tern (*Sternula superciliaris*)

Seen on the Solimões on the 7th and Branco on the 22nd.

Large-billed Tern (*Phaetusa simplex*)

Seen on 7 dates.

TYPICAL OWLS (STRIGIDAE)

Amazonian Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium hardyi*)

Heard on several dates in tall forest, and seen on the 11th in the forest at Aldeia Marí Marí in Presidente Figueiredo, and again on the 23rd along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP, both times seen through the scope.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

This widespread diurnal owl replaces the above species in the gallery forests and scrubby habitats in and around the savannas in Roraima, where we saw one late in the morning on the 18th along the rio Parimé north of Boa Vista.

* **Tropical Screech-Owl** (*Megascops choliba*)

Heard along the Estrada Perdida on the 22nd.

* **Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl** (*Megascops watsonii*)

Heard at the Iracema Falls Hotel on the 9th, and again near Novo Airão before dawn on the 16th.

Austral Screech-Owl (*Megascops usta*)

Heard daily at Tupana, where Jan and I saw a responsive bird on the evening of the 25th. Split from the Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl: birds south of the Amazon river are called Austral Screech-Owl, also known as Southern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl.

* **Spectacled Owl** (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*)

Heard at Iracema Falls Hotel on the 10th, and also before dawn on the 16th at the Pousada Tarantula, and a little later the same morning in tall forest south of Novo Airão.

Crested Owl (*Lophostrix cristata*)

Fabulous views of a calling bird perched in the open in a *Cecropia* near the park headquarters at Viruá NP on the night of the 22nd. A second individual was also calling nearby.

NEW WORLD VULTURES (CATHARTIDAE)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Seen on 14 dates; absent from extensively forested areas.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*)

Seen on 6 dates.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

Seen on 12 dates; typically restricted to well-forested areas.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Seen almost every day of the trip, though not noted during our time at Tupana.

OSPREY (PANDIONIDAE)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Seen on 5 dates, mostly over bodies of water but a single bird seen overflying the forested entrance road at the Iracema Falls Hotel on the 10th was a notable sighting.

HAWKS, KITES & EAGLES (ACCIPITRINIDAE)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

Seen on 5 dates, mostly single birds around Manaus and Novo Airão.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*)

A bird seen soaring over forest at Mari Mari in Presidente Figueiredo on the 11th; seen briefly through the scope from the canopy tower in Manaus on the 16th.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*)

NEAR THREATENED

A vocalizing bird approached in response to tape at Iracema Falls on the 8th, but only Jan glimpsed it. A soaring bird over the park headquarters at Viruá NP on the 21st was much more co-operative.

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*)

Seen from the canopy tower in Manaus and in disturbed *terra firme* forest south of Novo Airão.

Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*)

One seen on the morning of the 13th at the Ducke Reserve.

Tiny Hawk (*Accipiter superciliosus*)

Seen just once, an individual which shot over our heads, a small bird in its clutches, along the entrance road at the Iracema Falls on the 10th.

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*)

Seen on 5 dates in Roraima.

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)

One along the Estrada Perdida on the 20th.

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Seen on 11 dates; a resident pair seen daily in the clearing at Tupana, and on the final morning there we found a nest with a large chick alongside the BR-319.

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

Only seen at the Haras Cunha Pucá in Boa Vista, and on the drive from Tupana to Manaus on the 28th.

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*)

Recorded on 14 dates.

Slate-colored Hawk (*Buteogallus schistaceus*)

A distant adult scoped along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 20th.

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

Seen daily in open country in Roraima.

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*)

Singles on 3 dates in Anavilhanas and at the rio Parimé north of Boa Vista in Roraima.

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

Two seen on the 18th north of Boa Vista.

Black-faced Hawk (*Leucopternis melanops*)

A striking adult seen from the canopy tower in Manaus on the first morning was a terrific way to start the tour. This attractive hawk of forest interior is poorly known and relatively scarce throughout its range.

White-browed Hawk (*Leucopternis kuhlii*)

One seen in *terra firme* at Tupana along the main forest trail on the 26th and heard in roughly the same area the following morning. Sister species to the Black-faced Hawk, this species largely replaces it south of the Amazon river, although recent fieldwork has shown that Black-faced occurs in low densities at scattered localities in the southern Amazon as well.

Gray-lined Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)

This species of edges and disturbed habitats was recorded on 3 dates.

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Seen only on the 16th soaring with vultures near the town dump in Novo Airão.

TROGONS (TROGONIDAE)

Pavonine Quetzal (*Pharomachrus pavoninus*)

A female seen along a trail on a river island in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the morning of the 14th was a surprise sighting. A responsive pair along the main trail at Tupana on the morning of the 27th provided a higher quality sighting, and in the expected habitat to boot.

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)

A pair seen in the Cachoeira das Orquídeas municipal park in Presidente Figueiredo on the 10th turned out to be our only sighting.

Green-backed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)

By far the most frequently encountered trogon on this tour, with birds seen or heard on a near-daily basis.

Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*)

Recorded on 4 dates, with sightings on the 8th on the Ramal do Pau Rosa, and on the 21st along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP. Also sometimes called Guianan Trogon.

Amazonian Trogon (*Trogon ramonianus*)

A male seen with a mixed flock in *terra firme* on the main trail at Tupana was our only sighting. A split from the above species, with birds on the south bank of the Amazon river now being called Amazonian Trogon; “Violaceous” trogons from Middle America and NW South America are now called Gartered Trogon, *Trogon calligatus*.

* **Black-throated Trogon** (*Trogon rufus*)

Heard on 2 dates.

MOTMOTS (MOMOTIDAE)

Amazonian Motmot (*Momotus momota*)

Heard on two dates north of Manaus, and one seen along the boardwalk near the headquarters at Viruá NP on the 21st.

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*)

At least three calling birds (including one seen in the scope) quite some distance (ca. 3 km) along the main trail at Tupana on the 27th. Birds here belong to the “Plain-tailed” group (*pyrrholaemum* group); birds east of the Andes do not have tail rackets.

KINGFISHERS (ALCEDINIDAE)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)

Recorded on 10 dates.

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

Seen on 6 dates.

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)

One seen on the 12th at a small puddle in swampy *terra firme* forest on the W bank of the rio Negro. Also seen on the 14th at the Igarapé Tamatá in the Anavilhanas archipelago.

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)

Recorded on just 3 dates.

JACAMARS (GABULIDAE)

Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*)

Heard on 4 dates, and seen on the 11th in the disturbed *terra firme* at Marí Marí in Presidente Figueiredo.

Blue-necked Jacamar (*Galbula cyanicollis*)

A terrific pair seen near the beginning of the main trail at Tupana on the 26th, including a male which landed directly overhead to pose for us for a short period. An attractive Southern Amazon specialty, and a bird which isn't seen on most tours to the Manaus area as very few groups visit Tupana or other south bank sites.

Green-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula galbula*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates, including daily encounters with the species in Roraima.

Bronzy Jacamar (*Galbula leucogastra*)

Up to 7 individuals recorded at the Lajes reserve in Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th.

Paradise Jacamar (*Galbula dea*)

A striking and common denizen of forest canopy. Seen or heard on 13 dates during the tour!

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*)

Singles seen at the Iracema Falls Hotel on the 10th, and the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP on the 23rd.

PUFFBIRDS (BUCCONIDAE)

* **White-necked Puffbird** (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*)

Heard on the morning of the 15th along the track at KM 10 south of Novo Airão.

Guianan Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchus*)

We couldn't spot a responsive bird along a track south of Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th; we had much better success on the 17th when Chris spotted one below eye level from the canopy tower in Manaus. Split from White-necked Puffbird in 2004, this species is a Guianan Shield endemic.

Brown-banded Puffbird (*Notharchus ordii*)

One scoped in the canopy of *terra firme* on sandy soil along the auditorium trail at Tupana on the 25th; also heard the following two mornings around the lodge clearing. A species which was once considered to be extremely scarce across its range, it has proven to be fairly widespread and even common in forests on impoverished soils across the southern Amazon and on the north bank to the west of the rio Negro.

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*)

Recorded on 6 dates, and seen from the canopy tower in Manaus, at Serra Grande on the 19th, and along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá on the 23rd.

Spotted Puffbird (*Bucco tamatia*)

Four birds seen in campinarana at the Lajes reserve in Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th.

Collared Puffbird (*Bucco capensis*)

Great views of two pairs along the track to the Cachoeira das Araras at Iracema Falls on the afternoon of the 8th; also heard at Iracema Falls on the 11th (at the parking lot for the Cachoeira da Iracema), and heard pre-dawn near Novo Airão on the 16th.

Western Striolated Puffbird (*Nystalus obamai*)

Jan spotted a single bird in the canopy at Tupana on the 25th, but it got away before the rest of us could get onto it. Described only in 2013 in the Special Volume on New Species of the Handbook of the Birds of the World.

* **White-chested Puffbird** (*Malacoptila fusca*)

A singing bird heard at dawn along the track at KM 10 south of Novo Airão on the 15th.

Black Nunbird (*Monasa atra*)

Recorded on 10 dates.

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

Recorded on 2 dates at Anavilhanas.

Swallow-winged Puffbird (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

Recorded on 15 dates.

TOUCANS (RAMPHASTIDAE)

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*)

A flyover seen on the 12th while driving on the W bank of the Negro; two birds seen in the gallery forest and scrub along the rio Uraricoera on the 18th.

White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*)

The White-throated Toucans we saw on the west bank of the Negro, and south of the Amazon at Tupana were this taxon, split by HBW and BirdLife International and called Cuvier's Toucan. *R. t. cuvieri* is the widespread Amazonian form of White-throated Toucan found south of the Amazon west of the Xingu and west of the Negro to the north of the Solimões/Amazon.

White-throated (Red-billed) Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

VULNERABLE

The White-throated Toucans recorded on a daily basis in Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, and Roraima were *R. tucanus tucanus*, a form which is treated at the species level by HBW and BirdLife International and called Red-billed Toucan. Neither IOC or Clements follow that treatment, instead maintaining Red-billed and Cuvier's Toucan together in White-throated Toucan.

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

VULNERABLE

Seen on heard on a near daily basis in the Guianan Shield forests around Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, and at Viruá NP in Roraima.

Channel-billed (Yellow-ridged) Toucan (*Ramphastos culminatus*)

VULNERABLE

Seen only on the final day of the tour at Tupana Lodge on the 28th. Split by HBW and BirdLife International from the above species; Yellow-ridged Toucan is found south of the Amazon (west of the Tapajós) and on the north bank of the Amazon west of the Negro. IOC and Clements do not treat it as a species level taxon separate from *R. vitellinus*.

Guianan Toucanet (*Selenidera piperivora*)

Terrific scope views of a pair of these striking Guianan Shield endemics at close range from the canopy tower in Manaus on the 7th, and again on the 17th. Also seen on the 10th at Iracema Falls, along the hotel entrance road.

Golden-collared Toucanet (*Selenidera reinwardti langsdorffii*)

A male seen on the 25th along the main trail at Tupana, and a pair seen the following morning at a fruiting *Ficus* tree by the auditorium. HBW splits the *langsdorffii* race of the species and uses the name Green-billed Toucanet, while naming the nominate *reinwardti* race Red-billed Toucanet. The stated range for Green-billed Toucanet is from E Peru south of the Marañón east to the Madeira in Amazonian Brazil, and south to NW Bolivia. Red-billed replaces *langsdorffii* N of the Marañón and into SE Colombia, E Ecuador, and NE Peru.

Green Araçari (*Pteroglossus viridis*)

Seen on the 10th and 11th along the entrance road at Iracema Falls Hotel in Presidente Figueiredo.

Black-necked Araçari (*Pteroglossus aracari*)

Seen in Presidente Figueiredo and Viruá NP.

Chestnut-eared Araçari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)

Seen at Tupana, a pair visiting the fruiting *Ficus* tree near the auditorium on the 26th.

Ivory-billed Araçari (*Pteroglossus azara*)

Several flocks seen for a count of 18 birds in total in swampy *terra firme* along the track we birded on the west bank of the rio Negro on the morning of the 12th.

Curl-crested Araçari (*Pteroglossus beauharnaesii*)

Recorded only on the S bank of the Amazon at Tupana, where seen or heard on 3 dates including a flock of 7 birds attending the fruiting *Ficus* at the auditorium near the lodge on the 26th. A handsome and unique specialty of the southern Amazon – great hair!

BARBETS (CAPITONIDAE)

Black-spotted Barbet (*Capito niger*)

Seen or heard on 3 dates around Presidente Figueiredo.

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)

Recorded on 6 dates on the west bank of the Negro, the west bank of the Branco, and the south bank of the Amazon. A high count of 10 birds recorded on the 12th of the west bank of the Negro between Manaus and Manacapuru.

WOODPECKERS (PICIDAE)

Bar-breasted Piculet (*Picumnus aurifrons*)

A pair seen on the 27th and 28th along the BR-319 just south of Tupana Lodge. The birds we observed belong to the yellow-fronted, faintly barred *wallacii* race, an endemic subspecies restricted to the middle and lower reaches of the Purus – Madeira interfluvium.

Golden-spangled Piculet (*Picumnus exilis*)

Singles seen on the 9th and 10th in Presidente Figueiredo; at least three birds seen along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande in Roraima on the 19th.

White-bellied Piculet (*Picumnus spilogaster*)

VULNERABLE

A single bird of the nominate race seen during our first afternoon's birding around Boa Vista. Heard on a couple of subsequent dates in Roraima.

Red-necked Woodpecker (*Campephilus rubricollis*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

Recorded on 4 dates.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus flaviula*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates, all observations relating to the nominate race, the range of which centres on the Guianan Shield.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*)

A pair seen on Marchantaria Island on the 7th; also seen on a river island in the rio Branco on the 23rd.

Ringed Woodpecker (*Cealeus torquatus*)

NEAR THREATENED

This attractive woodpecker was seen or heard on 4 dates north of the Amazon.

* **Amazonian Black-breasted Woodpecker** (*Cealeus occidentalis*)

Heard only, on 2 dates at Tupana Lodge. HBW splits the Ringed Woodpecker along the Amazon river, retaining the N bank nominate race as Ringed Woodpecker while calling birds on the S bank of the Amazon Amazonian Black-breasted. The disjunct *tinninculus* race of lowland forests in Bahia and Espírito Santo in east Brazil is also split and called Atlantic Black-breasted Woodpecker, though it is quite similar in plumage and voice to *occidentalis*.

Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Cealeus flavus*)

Seen in the Anavilhanas archipelago and along the Mutante trail in Viruá NP on the 22nd.

Scaly-breasted Woodpecker (*Cealeus grammicus*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates on the W bank of the Negro and S bank of the Amazon.

Waved Woodpecker (*Celeus undatus*)

Recorded on 5 dates on the E bank of the Negro N of the Amazon.

Chestnut Woodpecker (*Celeus elegans*)

Singles seen on the 12th and the 27th.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus lineatus*)

Seen on just 3 dates.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

Recorded on 14 dates.

Golden-collared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis cassini*)

Seen along the Ramal do Pau Rosa on the 8th, and again on the 19th at Serra Grande.

Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)

Seen at Caçari in Boa Vista on the afternoon of the 17th.

FALCONS & CARACARAS (FALCONIDAE)

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates, mostly in Roraima.

* **Barred Forest-falcon** (*Micrastur ruficollis*)

Heard at Iracema Falls on the 9th.

* **Lined Forest-falcon** (*Micrastur gilvicollis*)

Heard at Iracema Falls on the 10th, right beside the track, but we could not see the bird.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

Seen in the savannas north of Boa Vista.

Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)

A single bird over the Solimões on the afternoon of the 7th was our only sighting of the trip.

Red-throated Caracara (*Ibycter americana*)

Nice views of a small family group from the canopy tower and subsequently from within the forest below on the morning of the 7th. Heard on several other dates as well.

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)

Common and widespread in open areas, with sightings on 16 dates.

Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)

Seen on 3 dates in Roraima, and also on the 28th from the BR-319 just south of Tupana.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Seen in small numbers on the 18th and 19th around Boa Vista.

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)

Seen on 4 dates.

Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiroleucus*)

NEAR THREATENED

We scoped a perched bird along the Estrada Perdida late in the afternoon of the 22nd in Viruá NP. It stayed put long enough for us to walk up alongside it, from where we had good views before it started to make hunting flights out over the forest and the road.

PARROTS & MACAWS (PSITTACIDAE)

* **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet** (*Touit huetii*)

VULNERABLE

Heard from inside the forest at Tupana on the 27th.

Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet (*Touit purpuratus*)

A flock of 14 birds flew over the parking lot at Iracema Falls Hotel on the morning of the 11th.

Tui Parakeet (*Brotogeris sanctithomae*)

Seen on river islands in the Solimões on the 7th, and also recorded on the W bank of the Negro on the 12th.

White-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolurus*)

A pair seen over river islands in the Solimões on the 7th turned out to be our only sighting.

Golden-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris chrysoptera*)

The common *Brotogeris* throughout our trip, with records on 12 dates.

Orange-cheeked Parrot (*Pyrilia barrabandi*)

NEAR THREATENED

Decent numbers present along the track we birded on the W bank of the Negro on the 12th, but only one or two seen well. Heard daily at Tupana, where we had a brief flight view on the final morning.

Caica Parrot (*Pyrilia caica*)

NEAR THREATENED

Recorded on 5 dates around Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo. We had fabulous views (my best ever) of a pair just a few metres away from the lower platform of the canopy tower in Manaus on the 7th. Typically a difficult species to see well – a canopy tower certainly helps!

Dusky Parrot (*Pionus fuscus*)

This strangely-coloured parrot seen daily around Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo; we also had small numbers in *terra firme* south of Novo Airão on the W bank of the Negro.

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)

Seen or heard on 15 dates.

Short-tailed Parrot (*Graydidascalus brachyurus*)

We had at least 30 birds on Marchantaria Island on the afternoon of the 7th. Also seen around Careiro da Varzea during the drive from Manaus to Tupana on the 24th.

Festive Amazon (*Amazona festiva*)

NEAR THREATENED

Seen daily in numbers at Anavilhanas and Novo Airão; also a few along the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Yellow-crowned Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*)

Recorded on 4 dates.

Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa*)

NEAR THREATENED

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

Kawall's Amazon (*Amazona kawalli*)

ENDEMIC NEAR THREATENED

Seen or heard daily at Tupana, with a high count of 18 birds seen on the 25th. A relatively poorly known resident

mostly of the southern Amazon in Brazil which seems to favour areas with sandy soils.

Orange-winged Amazon (*Amazona amazonica*)

Seen on 6 dates.

Green-rumped Parrotlet (*Forpus passerinus*)

Heard in Boa Vista on the 17th, and a couple dozen birds seen in gallery scrub at the Uaricoera river north of Boa Vista on the 18th.

Black-headed Parrot (*Pionites melanocephalus*)

A stunning pair scoped along the Estrada do Neri on the 21st in Viruá NP.

Red-fan Parrot (*Deropterus accipitrinus*)

Seen on 8 dates. All of our observations relate to N bank birds of the nominate race; S bank birds (*fuscifrons*) differ in plumage – notably lacking the bright white forehead of N bank birds – and vocalizations, and may well represent a species-level taxon.

Painted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura picta*)

A flock of 8 birds seen on the 10th and 11th on the grounds of the Iracema Falls Hotel in Presidente Figueiredo.

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrrhura melanura*)

A flock of 8 birds seen along the track we birded on the W bank of the Negro on the 12th was our only sighting.

Brown-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula pertinax*)

Recorded on a near-daily basis in Roraima, albeit in smaller numbers than usual. Our high count was 16 birds on the afternoon of the 17th in Boa Vista, but otherwise we encountered just the occasional pair.

Sun Parakeet (*Aratinga solstitialis*)

ENDANGERED

After a bit of searching, we finally located a trio of these stunning birds in a residential neighbourhood in Boa Vista on the afternoon of the 18th. This Endangered species is under severe pressure from on-going trapping throughout its diminishing range. The species is believed to be extirpated from a large portion of its historical range in Guyana. The majority of the Brazilian population resides in areas demarcated as Indigenous Territories, and the current political situation in these areas makes access to its habitat rather difficult. There is a small feral population in Boa Vista descended from illegally trapped birds which were confiscated or delivered to the local environmental authorities and subsequently released in Boa Vista.

Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilatus*)

Seen on 10 dates, often numerous, especially around extensive groves of *Mauritia* palms.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)

Recorded on 10 dates. The most common of the large macaws in Brazil, but always a treat to see particularly when bathed in soft afternoon light as we saw them along the Estrada Perdida at Viruá.

Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)

Far fewer than we usually encounter in this region. Seen on just a couple of dates, and only seen in Viruá NP.

Red-and-green Macaw (*Ara chloropterus*)

Pairs seen or heard on 4 dates.

* **Chestnut-fronted Macaw** (*Ara severus*)

Heard only, on the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Red-shouldered Macaw (*Diopsittaca nobilis*)

Abundant in the gallery forests and riverine scrub along the Branco and Uraricoera rivers near Boa Vista on the 17th and 18th; a high count of 86 birds on the afternoon of the 17th.

White-eyed Parakeet (*Psittacara leucophthalmus*)

Recorded on 11 dates.

OVENBIRDS (FURNARIDAE)

The ovenbirds were decidedly under-represented during this tour. The hot and extremely dry and smoky conditions undoubtedly affected our success with the understorey members of this group; we only encountered a couple of species of foliage-gleaners, and didn't see or hear a single leaf-tosser during the entire three weeks of the trip, most of the time spent in excellent habitat. Even the more common foliage-gleaners were very thin on the ground. We also didn't do as well on spinetails as would be normal on a tour to this region, though this was in large part due to a decision made at the beginning of the trip to skip the full day trip to Marchantaria and other river islands in the Solimões which was scheduled in the original itinerary, as the group had actually cleaned up on the vast majority of the island specialties on a previous trip to Iquitos in Peru. As such we chose to spend that time elsewhere (Rufous Potoo nest!), essentially passing up on our chances for Dark-breasted, Parker's, Scaled, and Red-and-white Spinetails.

Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*)

Recorded on 3 dates along the rio Branco.

Lesser Hornero (*Furnarius minor*)

Seen on the afternoon of the 7th along the muddy shores of river islands in the Solimões.

* **Pale-breasted Spinetail** (*Synallaxis albescens*)

Heard on 3 dates in Roraima.

Ruddy Spinetail (*Synallaxis rutilans*)

Nice views of a responsive pair along the entrance road at Viruá NP on the 21st.

White-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis propinqua*)

One pair seen and at least another pair heard in early successional riverine scrub on the Muriru Island in the rio Branco on the 22nd.

* **Plain-crowned Spinetail** (*Synallaxis gujanensis*)

Several heard on Muriru Island on the 22nd.

Hoary-throated Spinetail (*Synallaxis kollari*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

We had excellent views of two pairs of this highly range-restricted near-endemic (occurring just across the border into Guyana) in riverine scrub along the Uraricoera on the 18th.

Rusty-backed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca vulpina*)

Seen on a couple of dates in riverine scrub along the Uraricoera and on river islands in the rio Branco.

Speckled Spinetail (*Cranioleuca gutturata*)

A pair seen with a mixed flock on the 14th at Anavilhanas; a nest-building bird seen in várzea forest along the Mutante trail in Viruá NP on the 22nd.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*)

Several pairs observed in flooded ditches and around small lakes in the savannas around Boa Vista on the 18th.

Point-tailed Palmcreeper (*Berlepschia rikeri*)

A pair observed in an extensive *Mauritia* palm grove along the Vicinal do Bem Querer north of Caracará on the afternoon of the 19th.

Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor erythrocerum*)

Encountered only on 4 dates around Presidente Figueiredo and at Tupana, always accompanying mixed species flocks in *terra firme*.

Chestnut-winged Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor erythropterum*)

A pair seen with a large mixed species flock in the canopy of *terra firme* along the main trail at Tupana on the 27th.

* **Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

Heard only on the 10th.

Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus infuscatus*)

One of a pair seen well in a dense thicket of *caraná* palms a couple of kilometres along the main trail at Tupana on the 27th. In 2002 this species was split with the *paraensis* race of the S bank of the Amazon to the east of the Madeira being elevated to specie status (Pará Foliage-gleaner). Clements recognizes two principal groups within what remains at Olive-backed: the *cervicalis* / *badius* group of the N bank of the Amazon (“Olive-capped Foliage-gleaner”); and the *infuscatus* / *purusianus* group of the S bank to the west of the Madeira (“Olive-backed”).

Rufous-tailed Xenops (*Xenops milleri*)

A single seen with a mixed flock in *terra firme* on the W bank of the Negro on the 12th; a pair with a large canopy flock at Tupana on the 27th.

Slender-billed Xenops (*Xenops tenuirostris*)

A pair in the same mixed flock as the above species at Tupana on the 27th.

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Seen in Presidente Figueiredo and near Novo Airão.

WOODCREEPERS (DENDROCOLAPTIDAE)

White-chinned Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla merula*)

At least 5 individuals attending an army ant swarm on the main trail at Tupana on the 26th.

Long-tailed Woodcreeper (*Deconychura longicauda pallida*)

Birds seen in a couple of mixed flocks at Tupana on the 26th.

NEAR THREATENED

Spot-throated Woodcreeper (*Certhiasomus stictolaemus*)

One with a mixed flock along the main trail at Tupana on the 26th.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)

Seen in Manaus (*amazonus* / *axillaris*) and Tupana (ssp. *transitivus*). Worth keeping track of where you see this species, as it probably contains as many as five species-level taxa.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Seen on 11 dates.

Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*)

Seen on the 14th on a river island in the Anavilhanas archipelago.

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*)

Seen on both of our visits to the canopy tower in Manaus (with great views on the 17th of two or three birds accompanying a mixed species canopy flock). Also heard at Viruá and Tupana.

Red-billed Woodcreeper (*Hylexetastes perrotii*)

We had excellent views of this scarce Guianan Shield specialty from the parking lot for the Iracema waterfall on the morning of the 11th.

Bar-bellied Woodcreeper (*Hylexetastes stresemanni*)

A major target, and one we connected on in spectacular fashion in finding a very tame individual attending an army ant swarm along the main trail at Tupana on the 25th. Also seen the following day at the same ant swarm.

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes certhia certhia*)

One seen from the parking lot for the Iracema waterfall on the morning of the 11th.

* **Amazonian (Juruá) Barred Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocolaptes certhia juruanus*)

Heard from the lodge clearing at Tupana on the 25th.

Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*)

Seen in Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th.

Ocellated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*)

At least three birds seen along a quiet side trail off the track we birded at KM 10 south of Novo Airão on the morning of the 15th. The race here is *beauperthysii*; the South American Checklist Committee of the AOU did not pass a proposal to split the *beauperthysii* and *chunchotambo* subspecies from nominate *ocellatus*, though perhaps more on a technicality than anything else, as most dissenting votes cited the lack of published vocal analysis to elucidate the differences between the taxa. *X.o.beauperthysii* is found on the N bank of the Amazon and W of the Negro.

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*)

The common *Xiphorhynchus* of *terra firme* forests in the Guianan Shield; recorded on daily basis in the Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo areas.

Elegant Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*)

Seen or heard on a daily basis at Tupana.

Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

Recorded on just a couple of dates in *igapó* forest.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Recorded on 6 dates. Seen on the 12th on the W bank of the Negro ("Buff-throated" *guttatus* group); also on the 27th at Tupana ("Lafresnaye's" *guttatoides* group).

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Dendroplex picus*)

Seen or heard (mostly the latter) on 7 dates.

Zimmer's Woodcreeper (*Dendroplex kienerii*)

NEAR THREATENED

Considered until even very recently to be 'almost unknown in life', this species has proven to be locally common in appropriate habitat. We saw it on Marchantaria in the Solimões on the 7th, in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th and in *várzea* forest along the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Guianan Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates in Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, and at Viruá NP. The IOC and SACC have both split

the old Lineated Woodcreeper into five species and use the new name Guianan Woodcreeper to refer to the Guianan Shield representative of the species complex.

Duida Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes duidae*)

One seen with a mixed flock in *terra firme* forest on the W bank of the Negro on the 12th. The IOC and SACC have both split the old Lineated Woodcreeper into five species and use the new name Duida Woodcreeper to refer to the representative of the species complex which occurs in NW Amazonia.

Inambari Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes fatimalimae*)

Seen or heard on all three days spent on the forest trails at Tupana, where quite common. A recently described member of the Lineated Woodcreeper complex from the Inambari centre of endemism south of the Amazon and west of the Madeira. Described in the HBW Special Volume by Aleixo *et al.* in 2013.

TYPICAL ANT BIRDS (THAMNOPHILIDAE)

Antbirds always feature highly on any birding trip to the Amazon, and this tour was no exception. In spite of the dry, difficult conditions, we managed to record 60 different species of typical antbirds during the tour, just four of which were only heard rather than seen. On the whole, most antbirds were not particularly vocal, and we undoubtedly missed a couple of more widespread species as a result. Indeed, our impressive haul of antbirds is testament to the remarkable diversity of them available on this itinerary, rather than excessively good luck with the family. Army ant swarms were notably absent from the time we spent in forests around Presidente Figueiredo, Novo Airão, and at Viruá NP in Roraima, almost causing us to miss White-plumed Antbird entirely, and nixing any chance we might have had for Chestnut-crested Antbird. Tupana was quite a bit better, though, with a large, active antswarm which we encountered on consecutive dates, affording us great encounters with Hairy-crested Antbird, Reddish-winged Bare-eye, and others.

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)

Seen or heard on 9 dates.

Undulated Antshrike (*Frederickaena unduligera*)

A pair seen in and around a dense heliconia thicket along the auditorium trail at Tupana on the morning of the 26th. These hulking antshrikes circled us several times without revealing much before the male finally popped up into the open, allowing for excellent views. A low density, elusive species, and for my money simply one of the best birds of the Amazon.

Black-crested Antshrike (*Sakesphorus canadensis*)

Seen in the Anavilhanas archipelago, and seen or heard on a daily basis in Roraima.

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

Recorded on a daily basis in Roraima.

Blackish-gray Antshrike (*Thamnophilus nigrocinereus*)

NEAR THREATENED

It took a bit of work, but we finally obtained very good views of a pair of this island specialist on the 14th in the Anavilhanas archipelago.

* **White-shouldered Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus aethiops*)

Heard only, on 3 dates near Novo Airão and at Tupana.

Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamnohilus murinus*)

Recorded on 10 dates.

Northern Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus punctatus*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates around Presidente Figueiredo and in Roraima.

Amazonian Antshrike (*Thamnophilus amazonicus*)

Seen by Jan in Presidente Figueiredo on the 11th; heard in Viruá NP on the 21st.

Spot-winged Antshrike (*Pygoptila stellaris*)

Seen with a mixed flock on a river island at Anavilhanas; a pair with a flock in *varzea* forest on the left bank of the Rio Branco on the 22nd; and a single at Tupana on the 26th.

Pearly Antshrike (*Megastictus margaritatus*)

A female seen with a mixed flock in *terra firme* south of Novo Airão on the 15th; we also had a pair at the far end of the long *terra firme* trail at Tupana on the morning of the 26th. Scarce and local throughout its range, there is little published material on the natural history of this poorly-known species aside from Kevin Zimmer's excellent species account in the Handbook of the Birds of the World.

Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)

A common core species in mixed flocks in *terra firme* around Presidente Figueiredo.

Cinereous Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesius*)

Recorded on 7 dates in *terra firme* on both banks of the Rio Negro and at Tupana, where a common constituent of mixed species understorey flocks.

Brown-bellied Antwren (*Epinecrophylla gutturalis*)

NEAR THREATENED

A single bird accompanying a mixed flock and seen at close range on the trail to the Cachoeira das Orquideas in Presidente Figueiredo on the 10th was our only encounter with the species.

Negro Stipple-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophylla pyrrhonota*)

A pair seen with a small mixed flock in *terra firme* south of Novo Airão on the morning of the 15th.

Madeira Stipple-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophylla amazonica*)

We had a pair foraging low near the edge of the Auditorium Trail at Tupana on the 26th. A near-endemic found south of the Amazon between the Juruá and Ji-Paraná rivers in Brazil, just barely ranging into northern Bolivia.

Pygmy Antwren (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)

Recorded on 7 dates and common at Presidente Figueiredo and Tupana.

Sclater's Antwren (*Myrmotherula sclateri*)

Recorded only at Tupana, where heard daily and one seen with a canopy flock on the 26th.

Cherrie's Antwren (*Myrmotherula cherriei*)

After striking out at a couple of spots in Anavilhanas, we finally connected with a pair along the Estrada Perdida at Viruá NP on the morning of the 21st. A range- and habitat-restricted species with just a few accessible localities in Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

Klages's Antwren (*Myrmotherula klagesi*)

ENDEMIC NEAR THREATENED

Abundant in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th (though the first pair took a little while to see). A single bird seen on our river trip on the Rio Branco on the 22nd.

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Seen on the west bank of the Negro on the 12th; also seen on a couple of dates at Viruá NP; and also on the trail system at Tupana.

Long-winged Antwren (*Myrmotherula longipennis*)

Seen north of the Amazon at Presidente Figueiredo and on the W bank of the Negro (n nominate form), and also encountered at Tupana on the 27th (ssp. *garbei*).

Purus Antwren (*Myrmotherula heteroptera*)

One seen at Tupana on the 26th with a mixed flock. and appearing on our checklist as Ihering's Antwren was this species, which was split by HBW from true *iheringi* which occurs to the east of the Rio Madeira (and thus becomes a Brazilian endemic from the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium). However, most authorities including Clements and IOC have not adopted this split.

Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

Seen at Presidente Figueiredo, on the west bank of the Negro near Novo Airão, and on a daily basis at Tupana Lodge.

Leaden Antwren (*Myrmotherula assimilis*)

Up to ten birds recorded in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th; also seen on the Rio Branco on the morning of the 22nd.

Predicted Antwren (*Herpsilochmus praedictus*)

ENDEMIC

Seen or heard daily on the trail system at Tupana, where common in the canopy of *terra firme* forest. Recently described to science in 2013 in the HBW Special Volume on New Species, the species is a Brazilian endemic found from the Madeira river west to both banks of the Purus river.

Spot-backed Antwren (*Herpsilochmus dorsimaculatus*)

Seen or (especially) heard on a daily basis in *terra firme* at Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, around Novo Airão and on a couple of dates in Viruá NP. By far our best views were had from the canopy tower in Manaus where we called a responsive pair into crowns just below eye level from the lower platform!

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*)

A pair seen on the Ramal das Cachoeira at Serra Grande on the 19th was our only sighting, but we heard the species on a couple of subsequent dates in Viruá NP.

White-fringed Antwren (*Formicivora grisea*)

Seen at the Lajes reserve in Presidente Figueiredo. Also seen or heard on several dates in Roraima, and a pair seen in the secondary *campina* scrub along the BR-319 south of Tupana Lodge on the 28th.

Chestnut-shouldered Antwren (*Terenura humeralis*)

Always a very difficult bird to see well; we had a pair with a canopy flock along the main trail at Tupana which remained invisible for the longest time before finally giving themselves up for views which were half-decent at best, barely identifiable at worst (depending on where you stood). Hoepfully a species which will become easier to see once Tupana builds their canopy tower!

* **Ash-winged Antwren** (*Terenura spodioptila*)

A singing pair heard with a mixed canopy flock on the trail to the Cachoeira das Orquideas in Presidente Figueiredo on the 10th.

Blackish Antbird (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)

One seen by Jan on the grounds of our hotel in Novo Airão on the 16th.

Willis's Antbird (*Cercomacra laeta*)

After drawing blanks at my favourite sites around Presidente Figueiredo, we finally nailed it much later in the trip at Viruá NP on the 23rd, at the beginning of the Estrada do Neri.

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

Recorded on 3 dates around Presidente Figueiredo, where seen at the Lajes reserve.

Black Antbird (*Cercomacra serva*)

Recorded on a daily basis on the trail system at Tupana, where we had nice views of a pair in a dense *Heliconia* thicket near the beginning of the main trail on the morning of the 25th.

* **Gray Antbird** (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)

Heard on 4 dates.

Rio Branco Antbird (*Cercomacra carbonaria*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Common in the gallery forest along the Uraricoera river north of Boa Vista on the 18th; also heard on the Murirú river island in the Rio Branco downstream from Caracarai on the 22nd. Endemic to gallery forests and riverine thickets along the Rio Branco and its tributaries, this species is near-endemic to Brazil, just barely squeaking into Guyana.

White-browed Antbird (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)

Three birds seen on the Ramal das Cachoeira at Serra Grande near Boa Vista on the 19th.

Ash-breasted Antbird (*Myrmoborus lugubris*)

VULNERABLE

Seen on a river island in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th.

Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)

Remarkably common along the track at KM 50 of the AM-070 on the west bank of the Rio Negro on the 12th (ssp. *ardesiacus*). Also seen at Tupana on the 26th (ssp. *proximus*).

Guianan Warbling-Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*)

NEAR THREATENED

Seen at Presidente Figueiredo and Viruá NP, but on the whole the species was surprisingly quiet throughout the trip, likely due to the dry and smoky conditions.

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird (*Hypocnemis peruviana*)

Seen at the edge of the lodge clearing at Tupana on the 25th and heard on a couple of subsequent dates.

Yellow-browed Antbird (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*)

Pairs seen on two dates in *terra firme* on the west bank of the Rio Negro.

Black-chinned Antbird (*Hypocnemoides melanopogon*)

At least four birds seen in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th.

Black-headed Antbird (*Percnostola rufifrons*)

Heard at Presidente Figueiredo, but not seen until the morning of the 19th in Roraima at Serra Grande when we had a lovely pair near the beginning of the Ramal das Cachoeiras. Also seen at Viruá NP.

Spot-winged Antbird (*Schistocichla leucostigma*)

Only encountered once when brief views of a pair had on the 12th on the track at KM 50 of the AM-070 on the west bank of the lower Rio Negro.

Humaitá Antbird (*Schistocichla humaythae*)

A specialty of the area to the south of the Amazon and west of the Madeira river, this species took us a while longer than expected to see at Tupana after having encountered a singing bird on our first morning at the site. We finally connected with a pair along a forest stream at least a couple of kilometres down the main trail at Tupana on the 27th, the showy male eventually settling down a singing from a log over the stream for a long time.

Yapacana Antbird (*Myrmeciza disjuncta*)

One of the most important birds of Viruá NP, where it resides in small patches of seasonally inundated *campinarana* surrounded by open *campina* along the Estrada Perdida. Knowing it can be difficult, on our first

morning at Viruá we went directly to a territory we had discovered in 2010 which had apparently become *the* site for the species at Viruá in the interim. Because birding wouldn't be nearly as much fun if it were easy, there was of course no response from the birds at this spot in spite of more than an hour spent in the little patch of *campinarana*. We returned to the Estrada Perdida and continued along it, looking for a decent patch of habitat from the elevated roadway. Seeing a likely spot some distance off the road, we climbed back down into the *campina* and worked our way over to the patch of taller forest. The habitat looked impenetrable, so I decided to play some tape first to see if any antbirds were around before trying to work our way in. It turned out we wouldn't need to go in – the response to tape was nearly immediate! A pair of Yapacana Antbirds came right out to the edge of the little forest island, showing very well at close range as they worked their way back and forth in front of us, vocalizing intermittently. Species with an extremely patchy and restricted range in E Colombia, S Venezuela, and in NW Brazil. Viruá National Park is undoubtedly the most accessible location for the species in Brazil.

White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*)

Good views of two birds which approached closely and moved around on the forest floor at our feet in semi-deciduous forest at Serra Grande near Boa Vista on the 19th. A bird which isn't encountered on most itineraries to the Manaus area, as in Brazil it occurs in northern Roraima and east Pará and Amapá.

Ferruginous-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza ferruginea*)

Seen in Presidente Figueiredo and at the Ducke reserve in Manaus. Heard on a couple of dates in Viruá NP.

Sooty Antbird (*Myrmeciza fortis*)

Encountered daily on the trails at Tupana where at least a half dozen birds were seen on two different dates attending a large antswarm along the main trail.

Black-throated Antbird (*Myrmeciza atrothorax*)

Heard and glimpsed on the west bank of the Negro on the 12th. A single bird seen on the 23rd along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP.

Dot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax punctulatus*)

A pair seen in *varzea* forest on the left bank of the Rio Branco in Roraima on the 22nd.

Common Scale-backed Antbird (*Willisornis poecilinotus*)

A lone female attending an antswarm at Tupana on the 26th was our only sighting of the species.

White-plumed Antbird (*Pithys albifrons*)

A dearth of active army ant swarms at sites on the north bank of the Amazon meant we really struggled to find this species. Our only sighting came on the afternoon of the 10th at Iracema Falls when we staked out a few puddles along a nearly dry streambed off the trail to the Cachoeira das Araras. A single bird came in, presumably looking to have a drink of water and perhaps bathe a bit; unfortunately it approached from behind us, meaning we were between the bird and the water. As such it only showed briefly and in rather dim light, making for a fairly unsatisfactory sighting. Jan also probably saw one with a group of the following species on the Estrada do Neri on the 23rd, but the sighting was brief and nobody else got onto the bird.

Rufous-throated Antbird (*Gymnopithys rufigula*)

A singing pair led us on a merry chase down a couple of secondary trails in the Ducke reserve in Manaus on the 13th, but did not show at all. We finally caught up with the species along the Estrada do Portão at Viruá NP on the morning of the 21st when a male showed a great deal more collaborative spirit. A couple of days later we encountered a family group of at least 6 birds on the Estrada do Neri.

White-throated Antbird (*Gymnopithys salvini*)

A common denizen of the palm-dominated understorey on the trail system at Tupana. We saw and heard the species there on a daily basis, with a conservative estimate of some ten individuals recorded on the 26th. Several

pairs were in attendance at the large *Eciton* army ant swarm that was partway along the main trail two days running.

Hairy-crested Antbird (*Rhegmatorhina melanosticta*)

We had this striking obligate antswarm follower on the 25th and 26th at Tupana; our first sighting of a responsive pair at the first deep forest stream on the main trail was perhaps our best, as one individual stayed put long enough for Chris to take some terrific photos. That said, the two or three pairs present at a big antswarm on the 26th were also great fun to watch as they dropped down onto hapless prey from low perches above the havoc on the forest floor being caused by the army ants.

Reddish-winged Bare-eye (*Phlegopsis erythroptera*)

Another flashy obligate antbird follower, and one our highest priority targets at Tupana. We had excellent views near the first deep forest stream on the main trail, immediately after seeing the preceding species (there must have been an active antswarm nearby) on the 25th. The big antswarm along the main *terra firme* trail also had at least a pair on the 25th, and three or four birds on the 26th.

ANTPITTAS (GRALLARIDAE)

Thrush-like Antpitta (*Myrmothera campanisona*)

Heard at Mari Mari on the 11th; heard on 3 dates at Viruá NP, where we also managed to see one after a great deal of effort on the trail grid on the 21st.

TAPACULOS (RHINOCRYPTIDAE)

Rusty-belted Tapaculo (*Liosceles thoracicus*)

Terrific views of an individual which approached from some distance along a dry stream bed choked with *caranaí* palms on the main trail at Tupana on the 27th. The bird even came out to the edge of the wide trail, and even tried to sneak across before deciding – about one metre into the crossing – that it should fly the rest of the way.

ANTTHRUSHES (FORMICARIIDAE)

Rufous-capped Antthrush (*Formicarius colma*)

A responsive bird seen on the main trail at the Ducke Reserve on the 13th; also heard and glimpsed as it blasted past us along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP on the 21st.

COTINGAS (COTINGIDAE)

White-browed Purpletuft (*Iodopleura isabellae*)

A pair at a fruiting tree along the main trail at Tupana on the 25th.

Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

Seen or heard on a near-daily basis.

Purple-breasted Cotinga (*Cotinga cotinga*)

A dapper female in the clearing where we parked the van on Vicinal 03 west of Caracará on the afternoon of the 23rd represents one of just a few known records of the species for the state of Roraima.

Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*)

Recorded on 4 dates.

Pompadour Cotinga (*Xipholena punicea*)

Seen or heard on 11 dates including several females and immature males, and at least one molting male seen. For

some reason we never had an adult male.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)

Three seen on the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande on the 19th.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*)

Seen on 4 dates in Roraima: at Serra Grande, on the Viruá trail grid, and the Estrada do Neri.

Amazonian Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)

Three birds seen on the morning of the 14th at Anavilhanas.

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*)

The spectacular display of at least ten male cocks-of-the-rock at their lek at Marí Marí in Presidente Figueiredo on the afternoon of the 11th surely provided an experience which is likely not soon forgotten.

MANAKINS (PIPRIDAE)

Wire-tailed Manakin (*Pipra filicauda*)

Fabulous birds. Three seen at Anavilhanas on the 14th, but our best views came when Hamilton, our river pilot for the boat trip on the rio Branco on the 22nd, spotted a cracking male perched quietly over the Mutante trail.

Golden-headed Manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates.

Red-headed Manakin (*Pipra rubrocapilla*)

Seen or heard on 3 dates at Tupana.

Blue-crowned Manakin (*Lepidothrix coronata*)

Quite a few seen and heard along the track at KM 50 of the AM-070 on the 12th, and also a couple seen well at the fruiting *Ficus* trees at the Pousada Cirandeira Bela on the same date. Heard daily at Tupana.

White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia pipra*)

Recorded on 10 dates.

Blue-backed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)

A male seen at the fruiting *Ficus* trees at the Pousada Cirandeira Bela on the 12th. Heard on a couple of dates at Tupana.

White-throated Manakin (*Corapipo gutturalis*)

A female and a subadult male seen on the 10th at the Cachoeira das Orquídeas municipal park in Presidente Figueiredo.

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*)

Seen in Presidente Figueiredo at Iracema Falls Hotel.

Black Manakin (*Xenopipo atronitens*)

Several flighty individuals seen in *campinarana* at the Lajes reserve in Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th. A female seen in an 'island' of *campinarana* off the Estrada Perdida while we tried for Yapacana Antbird on the 20th.

Yellow-crested Manakin (*Heterocercus flavivertex*)

One seen well after some effort, and a couple of others heard, in the white sand forest near the Cock-of-the-Rock lek at Marí Marí on the 11th.

Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin (*Neopelma chrysocephalum*)

Heard in white sand forests at the Lajes Reserve, the Cachoeira das Orquídeas municipal park, and Marí Marí in Presidente Figueiredo. Seen by some of the group at the latter site.

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin (*Tyranneutes stolzmanni*)

Seen or heard on the west bank of the Negro and south of the Amazon at Tupana (where abundant).

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin (*Tyranneutes virescens*)

Seen in the tall forest at Marí Marí on the 11th, and heard on several other dates at Presidente Figueiredo.

Wing-barred Piprites (*Piprites chloris*)

Seen or heard on 4 dates.

* **Varzea Schiffornis** (*Schiffornis major*)

Heard only at Anavilhanas.

Olivaceous Schiffornis (*Schiffornis olivacea*)

Heard on a couple of dates in Viruá NP and seen after a bit of work on the afternoon of the 21st on the Estrada do Neri. In 2011 the South American Checklist Committee of the AOU passed a proposal to split Thrush-like Schiffornis *S. turdinus* into five separate species-level taxa. Olivaceous Schiffornis is the Guianan Shield representative of the complex.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (TYRANNIDAE)

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Seen or (especially) heard on 12 dates. Its distinctive 'free-beer' call was quickly assimilated into Rosemary's extensive repertoire of Amazonian bird vocalizations.

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimdardii*)

Common and widespread; recorded on 15 dates.

Gray Elaenia (*Myiopagis caniceps*)

Heard on 5 dates, and seen on the 25th at Tupana.

Yellow-crowned Elaenia (*Myiopagis flavivertex*)

One seen very well on Marchantaria Island on the afternoon of the 7th; also heard on Muriru Island on the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

Seen at the rio Parimé north of Boa Vista on the 18th.

Small-billed Elaenia (*Elaenia parvirostris*)

One seen with a canopy flock along Vicinal 03 west of Caracaraí on the afternoon of the 23rd.

Rufous-crowned Elaenia (*Elaenia ruficeps*)

A pair at the Lajes Reserve in Presidente Figueiredo on the 9th; quite common along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP. A specialist of white sand *campinas* and associated habitats with a patchy distribution throughout Amazonia.

White-lored Tyrannulet (*Ornithion inerme*)

Recorded on 8 dates.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

Seen or heard on 9 dates.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*)

Quite common and numerous, except at Viruá NP (where unrecorded) and Tupana (heard on the final morning along the BR-319).

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*)

A pair in scrubby tangles in cut-up forest along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande on the 19th.

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura napensis*)

Several pairs on a river island in the rio Branco on the 22nd, part of a disjunct population of the nominate race.

Slender-footed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

Seen only on the 12th on the W bank of the Negro along the track at KM 50 of the AM-070.

Guianan Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius acer*)

Seen on both visits to the canopy tower in Manaus.

Olive-green Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes virescens*)

An active pair accompanied a canopy flock along the track to a small dump site off the AM-240 south of Presidente Figueiredo around mid-day on the 9th. Both birds seen wing-lifting from time to time. A scarce Guianan Shield specialty, usually relatively easy to find around Presidente Figueiredo.

* **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

Heard only on the 12th.

McConnell's Flycatcher (*Mionectes macconnelli*)

Seen on 3 dates around Presidente Figueiredo.

Amazonian Tyrannulet (*Inezia subflava*)

Seen at Anavilhanas on the 14th.

Pale-tipped Tyrannulet (*Inezia caudata*)

Quite common in riverine scrub along the rio Uraricoera north of Boa Vista on the 18th.

* **Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Myiornis ecaudatus*)

Heard on 6 dates, but we never really managed to see this, the smallest passerine in the world, properly.

* **Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Lophotriccus vitiosus*)

Heard on 4 dates in Presidente Figueiredo.

Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus galeatus*)

Seen at the Jardim Botânico in Manaus on the 7th, and several birds seen along the Estrada do Neri in Viruá NP on the 23rd.

Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus minor*)

Birds of the vocally distinctive *pallens* subspecies (surely a species level taxon in its own right) seen on the west bank of the Negro on the 12th and 14th.

undescribed Tody-Tyrant sp. (*Hemitriccus* sp. nov.)

ENDEMIC

Seen on the 25th and recorded on all subsequent dates at Tupana. We had dinner with the ornithologist who is describing the species on the last night of the tour, when we learned the likely name of this bird, a member of the *Hemitriccus minor* complex (and the only such taxon found on the left bank of the Madeira).

White-eyed Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus zosterops*)

Birds of the nominate race recorded from the *terra firme* forests west of the Negro south of Novo Airão on the 15th and 16th.

White-bellied Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccu griseipectus*)

Seen on the 26th and 27th along the trails at Tupana.

Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus inornatus*)

ENDEMIC

We had great views (even through the scope) of this inconspicuous and poorly known flycatcher at the Cachoeira das Orquídeas municipal park in Presidente Figueiredo on the 10th. We also heard a couple of individuals near the Cock-of-the-Rock lek at Marí Marí the following afternoon. A bird with a remarkable story: known only from a single specimen from 1831, the bird was finally re-found in 1992 less than 50 km from Manaus. Since its voice and habitat requirements have been learned, the species has proven to be relatively common in appropriate white sand habitats north of the Amazon on the east bank of the Negro.

Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus minimus*)

An agitated pair seen in *terra firme* on the W bank of the Negro south of Novo Airão on the 15th. Also seen or heard on 3 dates at Tupana.

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus sylvia*)

One seen and several others heard in riverine scrub along the Uraricoera north of Boa Vista on the 18th.

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum maculatum*)

Recorded on 9 dates.

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

Common in riverine scrub and gallery forest along the Uraricoera and Branco rivers in Roraima.

Painted Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum pictum*)

Recorded on 6 dates around Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo, only seen from the canopy tower in Manaus on the first morning of the tour.

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)

A pair present daily in the lodge clearing at Tupana.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)

Seen only on the 19th at Serra Grande.

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

Seen on both visits to the canopy tower in Manaus (ssp. *examinatus*) Also seen on the Estrada do Neri in Viruá on the 23rd (same, *examinatus*), and on a couple of dates at Tupana (ssp. *assimilis*). We heard *neglectus* on the 12th on the W bank of the Negro, but did not see it.

Gray-crowned Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

Seen on the grounds of the Pousada Tarantula in Novo Airão; heard daily at Tupana.

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*)

Seen on river islands in the Solimões and the rio Branco.

White-crested Spadebill (*Platyrinchus platyrhynchos*)

A pair seen at the Ramal do Pau Rosa on the 8th, and near Novo Airão on the 15th.

* **Amazonian Royal Flycatcher** (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*)

Heard near the auditorium at Tupana.

Brownish Twistwing (*Cnipodectes subbrunneus*)

One heard on the 12th on the W bank of the Negro; fairly common and vocal at Tupana, where seen in the undergrowth along the main trail at the 26th.

Whiskered Flycatcher (*Myiobius barbatus*)

Seen on a couple of dates in Presidente Figueiredo, including a bird coming to bathe in a drying-up stream bed off the track to the Cachoeira das Araras.

Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*)

Two birds seen at Tupana on the 25th.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)

Seen or heard on 9 dates.

Fuscous Flycatcher (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*)

Seen by Jan on a river island in the rio Branco on the 22nd (ssp. *fuscator*), and heard and glimpsed in the patch of secondary *campinarana* south of Tupana on the 28th (ssp. *duidae*).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

Seen on a couple of dates in Roraima.

Drab Water-Tyrant (*Ochthornis littoralis*)

A lovely pair on the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Pied Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola pica*)

At least 4 birds seen on the 18th at sites around Boa Vista.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)

One at the Haras Cunha Pucá on the 18th, and one spotted during the drive from Tupana to Manaus on the 28th.

* **Long-tailed Tyrant** (*Colonia colonus*)

Heard only at Serra Grande on the 19th.

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

Recorded on 14 dates.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)

Recorded on 18 dates.

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Recorded on 15 dates.

Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)

Recorded on 4 dates.

Yellow-throated Flycatcher (*Conopias parvus*)

Seen or (mostly) heard on 12 dates in *terra firme* forests.

Three-striped Flycatcher (*Conopis trivirgatus*)

A pair seen at the Igarapé do Castanho upstream from Novo Airão on the 15th. Also heard along the Vicinal 03 west of Caracará on the 23rd.

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)

Several seen on Marchantaria Island on the 7th.

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

Sulphury Flycatcher (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)

Seen on a few dates, always around *Mauritia* palms.

Variiegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*)

Seen at Presidente Figueiredo and Novo Airão.

White-throated Kingbird (*Tyrannus albogularis*)

At least 2 birds in riverine scrub along the Uraricoera river on the 18th.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Seen every day of the tour!

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

Seen on 7 dates, including 50+ birds in the savannas north of Boa Vista on the 18th.

Grayish Mourner (*Rhytipterna simplex*)

Recorded on 11 dates, mostly by voice.

Pale-bellied Mourner (*Rhytipterna immunda*)

Heard at the Lajes Reserve on the 9th; one seen very well in the secondary *campinarana* south of Tupana on the morning of the 28th. A scarce and patchily distributed resident of stunted forests on white sands across the Amazon basin.

Todd's Sirystes (*Sirystes subcanescens*)

Singles seen on the 10th and 11th along the entrance road of the Iracema Falls Hotel in Presidente Figueiredo. The South American Checklist Committee of the AOU accepted a proposed 4-way split of the *Sirystes* *Sirystes sibilator*; the Guianan Shield birds are now called Todd's Sirystes.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

Seen on the 7th in Manaus and the 25th at Tupana.

Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

Seen on the 17th and 18th around Boa Vista.

Rufous-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotricon ruficauda*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*)

One seen and another heard just south of Tupana on the BR-319 on the morning of the 28th.

* **Bright-rumped Attila** (*Attila spadiceus*)

Heard on 7 dates in Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, Viruá and Tupana. Tomaz showed us a recently abandoned nest on the trail system at the Jardim Botânico on the 7th.

* **Cinereous Mourner** (*Laniocera hypopyrra*)

Heard only, on the Ramal do Pau Rosa on the 8th.

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)

A male seen from the tower in Manaus on the 17th.

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*)

A male seen with a mixed flock on Vicinal 03 west of Caracaraí on the 23rd.

Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*)

The common tityra species throughout.

Cinereous Becard (*Pachyramphus rufus*)

Pairs seen on river islands in the Solimões (on the 7th) and the Branco (on the 22nd).

Chestnut-crowned Becard (*Pachyramphus castaneus*)

Seen on the 7th on Marchantaria Island.

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

A male along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande near Boa Vista on the 19th.

Black-capped Becard (*Pachyramphus marginatus*)

Pairs seen in Presidente Figueiredo and at Tupana.

Glossy-backed Becard (*Pachyramphus surinamus*)

After striking out on the species around Presidente Figueiredo, we pulled a rabbit out of the hat in finding a responsive female from the canopy tower in Manaus on the morning of the 17th, effectively our final chance for the species. A rare regional specialty.

Pink-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus minor*)

A female seen along the Ramal do Pau Rosa on the 8th. Heard on a couple of other dates.

SWALLOWS (HIRUNDINIDAE)

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

Seen on 4 dates, always around water.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

Recorded on at least 7 dates, with large concentrations around Iranduba and Manacapuru on the 13th.

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)

Seen on 14 dates.

Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*)

Recorded on 6 dates.

White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*)

Our only sighting was a pair seen on the rio Branco downstream from Caracaraí on the 22nd.

Black-collared Swallow (*Atticora melanoleuca*)

A dozen birds seen near exposed rocks in the rio Branco near the bridge downstream from Caracaraí on the 22nd.

White-thighed Swallow (*Neochelidon tibialis*)

Seen daily at Iracema Falls Hotel but not elsewhere.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

Recorded on just 5 dates.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Seen on 5 dates, including a large flock flying low over the Solimões as we crossed from Manaus en route to Tupana on the 24th.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

Several dozen mixed in with the above species on the 24th.

WRENS (TROGLODYTIDAE)

Bicolored Wren (*Campylorhynchus griseus*)

We had these large, attractive wrens in Boa Vista on the 17th and at the Haras Cunha Pucá on the 18th.

Moustached Wren (*Pheugopedius genibarbis*)

Seen along the BR-319 south of Tupana on the 28th.

Coraya Wren (*Pheugopedius coraya*)

Recorded on 10 dates.

* **Buff-breasted Wren** (*Cantorchilus leucotis*)

Heard only, on 5 dates at Anavilhanas and in Roraima.

Southern House Wren (*Troglodytes musculus*)

Recorded on 19 dates.

Southern Nightingale Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*)

Great views of a responsive white-breasted bird along the first stretch of the main trail at Tupana on the 25th.

* **Musician Wren** (*Cyphorhinus arada*)

Heard at almost the same spot as the previous species, but we did not follow through in trying to see it as we were distracted by the first Predicted Antwren of the trip calling in the forest canopy overhead.

MOCKINGBIRDS (MIMIDAE)

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)

Common in open areas around Boa Vista and Caracaraí, and along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP.

THRUSHES (TURDIDAE)

Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)

Seen on just 3 dates.

Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*)

The common thrush of open habitats on this tour.

White-necked Thrush (*Turdus albicollis*)

Heard on a couple of dates, and one seen at the fruiting *Ficus* trees at the Pousada Cirandeira Bela on the 12th.

GNATCATCHERS (POLIOPTILIDAE)

* **Collared Gnatwren** (*Microbates collaris*)

Frustrating encounters with calling birds in Presidente Figueiredo and Novo Airão, some of which it seemed must have been within arm's reach while still managing to stay out of view.

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates.

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*)

Seen on the 17th and 18th around Boa Vista.

Guianan Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila guianensis*)

One with a small canopy flock on the 7th near the canopy tower in Manaus.

Inambari Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila attenboroughi*)

ENDEMIC

After a near-miss with a singing bird overhead that clammed up and took off at the far end of the main trail in tall *terra firme* at Tupana on the 27th, we were fortunate to encounter a pair in a large mixed species flock in the canopy about an hour later as we worked our way back towards the lodge. A recently described species by Whittaker *et al.* in the 2013 Special Volume of the Handbook of the Birds of the World. The SACC voted to reject the recognition of this species, but the ballot was split and the dissenters admitted that rejection was based mostly on a technicality related to the proposal itself.

JAYS (CORVIDAE)

Cayenne Jay (*Cyanocorax cayanus*)

A half dozen seen along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande on the 19th.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIDAE)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Just a couple of sightings, in Novo Airão and Manaus.

VIREOS (VIREONIDAE)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

Recorded on 13 dates.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius leucotis*)

Heard on 4 dates in Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo before we finally saw a pair with a flock from the canopy tower on the 17th. Heard daily in the *terra firme* at Tupana.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Seen or heard on 11 dates.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

One seen on the W bank of the Negro on the 12th, and three birds seen at Tupana on the 25th.

Lemon-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus thoracicus*)

Heard at the Ramal do Pau Rosa on the 8th; seen by some of the group on the 22nd in *várzea* along the rio Branco.

Gray-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus semicinereus*)

Seen at Anavilhanas.

Ashy-headed Greenlet (*Hylophilus pectoralis*)

A few seen in the gallery forest along the Uraricoera on the morning of the 18th.

Dusky-capped Greenlet (*Hylophilus hypoxanthus*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates on the W bank of the Negro and S of the Amazon at Tupana.

Buff-cheeked Greenlet (*Hylophilus muscicapinus*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates in Manaus, Presidente Figueiredo, and Viruá NP. We had terrific views of this canopy species from the tower in Manaus on the first morning of the trip when a responsive bird flew into the branches of a treetop just a couple of metres from our position on the tower's lower platform.

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)

A singleton seen in Presidente Figueiredo on the 10th.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS (PARULIDAE)

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)

Quite a few migrants seen along the Branco and Uraricoera.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)

Two birds in basic plumage seen with a mixed flock at Vicinal 03 west of Caracará on the afternoon of the 23rd.

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*)

A single male seen along the BR-319 south of Tupana on the 27th and 28th.

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)

Up to four individuals seen along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande on the 19th.

Flavescent Warbler (*Myiothlypis flaveola*)

One seen in riverine scrub along the Uraricoera on the 18th. Not shown on most range maps to occur in Roraima; the first state records are from 2001, though it has been found to occur at a number of sites in the state since then.

TANAGERS & ALLIES (THRAUPIDAE)

Black-faced Tanager (*Schistochlamys melanopsis*)

Jan had one along the Estrada Perdida on the 20th; a male seen by all on the final morning of the tour, along the BR-319 south of Tupana.

Red-billed Pied Tanager (*Lamprospiza melanoleuca*)

Seen only on the 10th in Presidente Figueiredo: first a single bird along the entrance road at Iracema Falls; and later in the morning a large flock containing at least a dozen individuals in the canopy at the Cachoeira das Orquídeas municipal park.

Hooded Tanager (*Nemosia pileata*)

Seen on the 17th and 18th in Roraima.

Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*)

An adult and an immature seen in *várzea* forest on the left bank of the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

Seen on 9 dates.

Fulvous-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus surinamus*)

Seen on 8 dates.

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

Seen along the road at Tupana.

Red-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*)

Two pairs seen at the Lajes Reserve on the 9th and a pair along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 20th.

Masked Crimson Tanager (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*)

Seen on 2 dates at fruiting trees at Tupana.

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Recorded on almost every day of the tour.

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)

Recorded daily.

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Recorded almost daily.

Turquoise Tanager (*Tangara mexicana*)

Seen on 3 dates including at close range attending the fruiting trees at Cirandeira Bela on the 12th.

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)

Seen or heard on 11 dates. A stunning bird.

Spotted Tanager (*Tangara punctata*)

Seen on 7 dates. Best views had from the canopy tower in Manaus.

* **Dotted Tanager** (*Tangara varia*)

Heard only, a singing bird in the forest on the Ramal do Pau Rosa on the 8th.

Burnished-buff Tanager (*Tangara cayana*)

Seen on a couple of dates in Roraima.

Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*)

Seen on the track at KM 50 of the AM-070 on the 12th; also a pair at Tupana on the 25th.

Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)

Seen on 4 dates.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis (*Dacnis flaviventer*)

Seen only on the 14th at Anavilhanas.

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)

Seen on 10 dates.

Short-billed Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes nitidus*)

Seen on 7 dates around Presidente Figueiredo and at Tupana.

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)

Seen on 8 dates.

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)

Seen on 5 dates.

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

Seen on 8 dates.

Yellow-backed Tanager (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)

Singles seen on 2 dates at Tupana.

Chestnut-vented Conebill (*Conirostrum speciosum*)

Seen in small numbers around Boa Vista.

Bicolored Conebill (*Conirostrum bicolor*)

NEAR THREATENED

A half dozen seen on Marchantaria on the 7th; and eight birds on the river islands in the rio Branco on the 22nd.

Plumbeous Euphonia (*Euphonia plumbea*)

A fabulous pair of this diminutive euphonia scoped in beautiful late afternoon light at the Lajes reserve on the 9th immediately after we saw the White-naped Seedeater in the same location.

Finsch's Euphonia (*Euphonia finschi*)

A male along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande was our only sighting of this specialty of northern South America.

Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*)

Seen on 3 dates.

White-lored Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

Seen in Presidente Figueiredo and Manaus.

White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*)

Pairs at Cirandeira Bela on the 12th and west of Caracaraí on the 23rd.

Rufous-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

Recorded daily at Tupana; also recorded on the W bank of the Negro on 2 dates.

Golden-sided Euphonia (*Euphonia cayennensis*)

Recorded on 4 dates in Presidente Figueiredo and Manaus.

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)

Recorded on 12 dates. Abundant along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS (EMBERIZIDAE)

**** Grassland Sparrow** (*Ammodramus humeralis*)

A leader-only bird seen outside of Caracaraí on the afternoon of the 19th.

Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)

Seen or heard on 12 dates.

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*)

One bird attracted by pygmy-owl imitations in the dense shrubbery along the Uraricoera in Roraima on the 18th was our only sighting of this species.

Pectoral Sparrow (*Arremon taciturnus*)

At least three individuals seen along the Ramal das Cachoeiras at Serra Grande in Roraima.

Orange-fronted Yellow-finch (*Sicalis columbiana*)

Several pairs seen on beaches in the Anavilhanas archipelago on the 14th, and a trio seen at the CEASA port in Manaus on the afternoon of the 28th.

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)

Birds seen in Boa Vista in Roraima are apparently derived from a feral population of escaped cagebirds.

Grassland Yellow-finch (*Sicalis luteola*)

Two pairs seen in flight at the Haras Cunchã Pucá outside Boa Vista on the afternoon of the 18th.

Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Seen on 7 dates.

Gray Seedeater (*Sporophila intermedia*)

A couple seen on a river island in the Rio Branco on the morning of the 22nd.

Plumbeous Seedeater (*Sporophila plumbea*)

A male seen on the 20th along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP.

Wing-barred Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*)

Seen on the 27th and 28th on the road near Tupana.

Lined Seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*)

Seen on 4 dates.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater (*Sporophila minuta*)

Two or three seen at the Haras Cunchã Pucá outside Boa Vista on the afternoon of the 18th.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)

Seen daily in Presidente Figueiredo and also on river islands in the Rio Branco on the 22nd.

Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*)

We had a pair on the 12th on the track at KM 50 of the AM-070; a female seen along the Estrada Perdida in Viruá NP on the 20th.

Large-billed Seed-finch (*Oryzoborus crassirostris*)

A female seen along the Estrada Perdida on the afternoon of the 20th appeared moments before we had a female of the previous species, allowing for a good comparison of the two birds.

White-naped Seedeater (*Dolospingus fringilloides*)

A striking male seen singing at close range and below eye level at the Lajes reserve in Presidente Figueiredo on the afternoon of the 9th. This rare and extremely local species is known only from a couple of locations in Brazil, and has quite a restricted range outside Brazil as well. Restricted to undisturbed scrubby clearings on white sand soils.

CARDINAL GROSBEAKS (CARDINALIDAE)

Yellow-green Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes canadensis*)

A dozen birds seen on the main trail at the Ducke reserve in Manaus on the 13th; also seen on the 23rd, a pair with a mixed flock on the Vicinal 03 west of Caracaraí.

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)

Recorded on 8 dates in total, albeit not seen until the 27th at Tupana when we had up to 10 birds.

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)

Seen in good numbers in gallery forest along the Uraricoera on the 18th, and also on river islands on the Rio Branco downstream from Caracaraí on the 22nd.

* **Blue-black Grosbeak** (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*)

Heard on the 21st along the Estrada do Portão at Viruá NP. The CBRO (Brazilian Checklist Committee) treats the Amazonian form of Blue-black Grosbeak as a separate species, Rothschild's Grosbeak *C. rothschildii*.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS (ICTERIDAE)

Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*)

Seen or heard on 3 dates around Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo.

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)

Recorded on 17 dates.

* **Russet-backed Oropendola** (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)

Heard on the 15th in *terra firme* near Novo Airão.

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

Seen near Manaus and in Roraima.

Green Oropendola (*Psarocolius viridis*)

Recorded on a daily basis at Tupana.

Olive Oropendola (*Psarocolius bifasciatus*)

We only saw this species on the afternoon of the 19th at forest edge along the Vicinal do Bem Querer near Caracaraí.

Yellow Oriole (*Icterus nigrogularis*)

Seen on the 18th at Lago Internacional north of Boa Vista.

Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus croconotus*)

One seen at Marchantaria on the 7th.

Moriche Oriole (*Icterus chrysocephalus*)

Seen or heard on 4 dates.

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

Singles seen on 3 dates.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

Seen on 6 dates, including several large flocks near Boa Vista on the 18th totaling 250 birds.

Red-breasted Meadowlark (*Sturnella militaris*)

Seen on 4 dates.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

Seen on the 18th and 19th in savannas near Boa Vista.



White-throated Antbird (*Gymnopithys salvini*)

Sooty Antbird (*Myrmeciza fortis*)

For further information regarding customized birding tours to the Amazon or elsewhere in Brazil, please visit the Brasil Aventuras website or write to: operations@brasilaventuras.com.br

Any queries regarding this report can be directed to the author at: bradley@birdingmatogrosso.com

MAMMAL LIST

Taxonomy and sequence follow the 2nd edition of the Annotated Checklist of Brazilian Mammals (Paglia et. al. 2012), which can be found online at:

http://www.conservation.org.br/publicacoes/files/annotated_checklist_of_brazilian_mammals_2nd_edition.pdf

Paglia, A.P., Fonseca, G.A.B. da, Rylands, A. B., Herrmann, G., Aguiar, L. M. S., Chiarello, A. G., Leite, Y. L. R., Costa, L. P., Siciliano, S., Kierulff, M. C. M., Mendes, S. L., Tavares, V. da C., Mittermeier, R. A. & Patton J. L. 2012. *Lista Anotada dos Mamíferos do Brasil / Annotated Checklist of Brazilian Mammals*. 2ª Edição / 2nd Edition. *Occasional Papers in Conservation Biology*, No. 6. Conservation International, Arlington, VA. 76pp.

DIDELPHIDAE (OPOSSUMS)

Common Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*)

BRADYPODIDAE (3-TOED SLOTHS)

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*)

CERVIDAE (DEER)

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

DELPHINIDAE (DOLPHINS)

Tucuxi (Gray River Dolphin) (*Sotalia fluviatilis*)

Amazon (Pink) River Dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*)

AOTIDAE (OWL MONKEYS)

Black-headed Night Monkey (*Aotus nigriceps*) – The lone night monkey seen at Tupana was this species.

Noisy Night Monkey (*Aotus vociferans*) – Seen at their day roost at the Pousada Tarantula in Novo Airão.

ATELIDAE (HOWLERS, SPIDER MONKEYS & WOOLLY MONKEYS)

Guianan Red Howler Monkey (*Alouatta macconnelli*)

* **Colombian Red Howler Monkey** (*Alouatta seniculus*)

* **Guianan Black Spider Monkey** (*Ateles paniscus*)

CALLITRICHIDAE (MARMOSETS & TAMARINS)

Pied Tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*) – A micro-endemic which occurs only in Manaus and the immediate vicinity, meaning it is severely threatened by habitat loss and urban expansion. We saw groups of them at the Ramal do Pau Rosa and the Ducke Reserve.

Golden-handed Tamarin (*Saguinus midas*)

CEBIDAE (CAPUCHINS & SQUIRREL MONKEYS)

Guianan Brown Capuchin (*Sapajus apella*)

* **Large-headed Capuchin** (*Sapajus macrocephalus*)

Common Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)

PITHECIIDAE (SAKIS & TITI MONKEYS)

Rio Negro Bearded Saki (*Chiropotes chiropotes*) – The bearded sakis seen on the west bank of the Rio Branco along Vicinal 03 near Caracará on the 23rd were this species according to the taxonomy in Paglia et al. 2012.

Guianan Bearded Saki (*Chiropotes sagulatus*) – Bearded sakis at Serra Grande and Viruá NP (E bank of the Rio Branco) were this species according to the taxonomy in Paglia *et al.* 2012.

Monk Saki (*Pithecia monachus*) – We had brief views of a small party of 4 at Tupana on the 25th.

CANIDAE (DOGS & FOXES)

Crab-eating Fox (*Cerdocyon thous*)

MUSTELIDAE (WEASELS & OTTERS)

Tayra (*Eira barbara*)

EMBALLONURIDAE (BATS)

Proboscis Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)

CAVIDAE (CAVIES & ALLIES)

Capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*)

DASYPROCTIDAE (AGOUTIS)

Amazon Red-rumped Agouti (*Dasyprocta croconota*)

Black Agouti (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*)

SCIURIDAE (SQUIRRELS)

Guianan Squirrel (*Guerlinguetus aestuans*)

Southern Amazon Red Squirrel (*Urosciurus spadiceus*)



Pied Tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*)