



BIRDING

MATO GROSSO

Customized birding and natural history tours throughout Brazil.

BRAZIL: SOUTHERN SPECIALTIES & COASTAL MARSHES

15 – 31 October 2016



Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant, Rio Grande / Rio Grande do Sul

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Introduction: Over the course of our tours throughout Brazil, I am often asked by clients about my favourite birding area in this vast country. The question is a loaded one, of course, since how can one choose from amongst the numerous world class sites for birdwatching found in a country which accounts for roughly half the land mass of the entire continent of South America, and which boasts a bird list exceeding 1800 species? One might think that living in the southern Amazon, I would choose the fantastic combination of the Cristalino and Rio Azul lodges where one can enjoy great service, delicious food, and lovely accommodations whilst working through nearly a third of the country's avifauna. Or perhaps the Pantanal, with its jaguars and Hyacinth Macaws and everything else. The South-east is rightly famous for its remarkable concentration of endemic species, many of which are simply breathtaking (think Red-necked, Green-headed, Gilt-edged and Brassy-breasted Tanagers, for example). Or what about the Minas Gerais circuit, exploring the spectacular upper plateau of the Serra da Canastra, the rocky cerrado of the Serra do Cipó, and the atmospheric Caraça monastery and the lovely valley within which it lies. During the course of a tour to this latter area, and having just come from a couple of selected sites in the Pantanal where we had seen multiple jaguars and ocelots, Sally and Richard finally asked me: what is your favourite birding area in Brazil? Without reservation I responded that the trips I tend to enjoy most are our itineraries visiting Brazil's southernmost states. Aside from a good selection of lovely endemics and range-restricted species, the south of Brazil offers some of the country's most enjoyable birding due to its excellent infra-structure, good food and surprising wines, hospitality, and the varied range of habitats one can visit and bird. Relatively few tour companies visit the south, and most of those that do neglect to include the coastal plain and vast wetlands of Rio Grande do Sul, the country's southernmost state. This is a tremendous shame, as the Lagoa do Peixe National Park is one of Brazil's greatest wildlife reserves, and the diverse marshes surrounding the cities of Rio Grande and Pelotas host an impressive diversity and bird concentrations that simply boggle the mind. I guess I talked it up enough, as by the time we finished in Minas Gerais in 2014, we were already looking ahead to the autumn (austral spring) of 2016.

Itinerary:

- October 15th:** Meet in São Paulo and drive to Trilha dos Tucanos. Afternoon birding Trilha dos Tucanos.
Night at Trilha dos Tucanos in Tapiraí, São Paulo.
- October 16th:** Full day at Trilha dos Tucanos, birding the trail system, the feeders, and nearby roads through forested areas.
Night at Trilha dos Tucanos, Tapiraí, São Paulo.
- October 17th:** Pre-breakfast visit to hide feeder at Trilha dos Tucanos, mid-morning birding on road to Cachoeira de Chá. Afternoon birding around Cananéia and on Ilha Comprida.
Night at Hotel Marazul, Cananéia, São Paulo.
- October 18th:** Morning birding at Sitio Tangará near Cananéia. Afternoon drive to Curitiba.
Night at Dom Ricardo Hotel, São José dos Pinhais, Paraná.
- October 19th:** Morning birding Estrada do Corvo in Serra da Graciosa. Afternoon on Estrada de Graciosa and Caminho Itupeva (hummingbird feeders), returning via Borda de Campo where we stopped to try for Marsh Tapaculo.
Night at Dom Ricardo Hotel, São José dos Pinhais, Paraná.
- October 20th:** Parque Barigui in Curitiba in morning. Drive to Santa Catarina with birding along the Estrada de Caiovi in Garuva for Marsh Antbird. Late afternoon birding at Volta Velha.
Night at Reserva Volta Velha, Itapoá, Santa Catarina.

- October 21st:** Casa de Vidro trail at Reserva Volta Velha in the morning. Spent the rest of the day driving to Rio dos Touros, arriving in time to watch the feeders for a while before birding a nearby marsh until just after dusk.
Night at Pousada Rio dos Touros, Urupema, Santa Catarina.
- October 22nd:** All day birding at Rio dos Touros and in the Urupema area, including the Morro das Antenas, Morro do Combate, and various upland marshes.
Night at Pousada Rio dos Touros, Urupema, Santa Catarina.
- October 23rd:** Drive from Urupema to São Francisco de Paula, with birding stops between Vacaria and Bom Jesus en route. Late afternoon birding on our hotel's trail system.
Night at Parador Hampel, São Francisco de Paula, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 24th:** Morning birding hotel grounds and trails at Parador Hampel, also open grassland and marshes north of São Francisco de Paula. Afternoon visit to the Fortaleza canyon at the Serra Geral NP.
Night at Parador Hampel, São Francisco de Paula, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 25th:** São Francisco de Paula National Forest. Afternoon driving to Mostardas.
Night at Pousada Pouso Alegre in Mostardas, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 26th:** Lagoa do Peixe NP Trilha das Dunas and Estrada Caieiras.
Afternoon Lagoa do Peixe NP Trilha do Talha-Mar and ocean beach to Barra da Lagoa.
Night at Pousada Pouso Alegre in Mostardas, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 27th:** Lagoa do Peixe NP Trilha das Dunas and seawatch from Balneário Mostardense.
Afternoon on Estrada Rincão and Lagoa do Peixe NP Trilha do Talha-Mar.
Night at Pousada Pouso Alegre in Mostardas, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 28th:** Lagoa do Peixe NP Trilhas das Dunas.
Rest of day spent driving to Rio Grande via Porto Alegre, a long detour necessitated by the fact that the ferry at São José do Norte was closed due to an extra-tropical cyclone offshore. Afternoon birding stop at the Banhado da Marambaia near Pelotas.
Night at Hotel Atlântico Praia, Cassino, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 29th:** Ilha de Torotama and area in the morning.
Afternoon at Corredor Pinheiros near Quinta.
Night at Hotel Atlântico Praia, Cassino, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 30th:** Santa Isabel road in the morning.
Afternoon birding the ocean beach from Cassino south for 15 km.
Late afternoon on the Estrada Senandes.
Night at Hotel Atlântico Praia, Cassino, Rio Grande do Sul.
- October 31st:** Pre-breakfast birding the tidal marshes near Rio Grande's western breakwater.
Return to Porto Alegre with a stop at the Banhado da Marambaia near Pelotas en route.
End of tour.



Green-headed Tanager, Trilha dos Tucanos / São Paulo

Summary: Our tour began early at the airport in São Paulo, where we picked up our vehicle then made the drive to the Trilha dos Tucanos, a relatively new lodge situated in an area of lovely Atlantic rainforest at just below 800 metres elevation. Trilha dos Tucanos is already a famous destination amongst Brazilian birders thanks in large part to its excellent feeders, and upon arrival we immediately understood why: Ruby-crowned, Olive-green, Azure-shouldered and Green-headed Tanagers were feasting on bananas, joined at times by Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers and blue-eyed Red-rumped Caciques. The following day we added Festive Coquette, Brazilian Ruby, Magpie Tanager, and the local Tayra, all at the feeders. Trilha dos Tucanos boasts a well set-up feeder hide inside the forest, and during a couple of visits there we found Half-collared Sparrow, Black-throated Grosbeak, Red-crowned Ant-tanager, and even a pair of Brown Tinamous in amongst the dozens of Gray-fronted and White-tipped Doves. The lodge's compact system of good trails in excellent forest yielded some great sightings, including a nesting pair of Atlantic Royal Flycatchers, endemics such as Crescent-chested Puffbird, White-breasted Tapaculo, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Rufous-headed Tanager, and other stonkers including Giant Antshrike, Pavonine Cuckoo, White-browed and Robust Woodpeckers. For the most part we took things fairly easy during these first couple of days as Richard recovered from the travails of the tour he had just finished guiding immediately prior to our meeting up with him in São Paulo.

Well pleased with our time around Trilha dos Tucanos, we headed down to the coast, where we planned to spend an afternoon around the small town of Cananéia to look for a few specialty birds. To reach Cananéia we crossed a small ferry from the mainland, picking up our first Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Boobies

during the crossing. A mid-afternoon visit to a quiet road on the outskirts of town produced the first of the specialty species in short order when a Restinga Tyrannulet popped up amongst a small flock which included Red-eyed Vireos, a Fuscous Flycatcher of the nominate race, and the blood-red endemic Brazilian Tanager. Shortly thereafter we found a little group of Black-backed Tanagers, a beautiful endemic restricted to the coastal restinga forests of south-east Brazil, and one of the key birds at Cananéia. With two of our three principal targets quickly 'in the bag', we crossed on another ferry to Ilha Comprida, to wait for the local Red-tailed Parrots to become active and fly around before heading to roost. It took a little while, but eventually, after a series of backlit flyovers and a few distant and unsatisfactory views of perched birds, a pair pulled in silently and perched beside the road, allowing excellent views through the scope. Thinking we could still catch the next ferry across to the town, we hurried back along the road only to find that the ferry schedule was being only loosely observed. At least we were first in line! Unfortunately, the check battery light that had flicked on earlier in the day proved not to be a feature rather than a bug, and as we idled awaiting the ferry, the car surreptitiously died on us! Sally and Richard wandered up to the dock to watch passing flocks of Scarlet Ibis while I made a few phone calls to get us back on track. In the end we just pushed the car onto the ferry, and with the help of the ferry crew, managed to get it started on the other side. Some negotiation with the hire company ensued, but by the time we had finished dinner things were settled and a taxi would arrive in the morning to take us to our next destination, Curitiba. The following morning we birded a new site near Cananeia, Sitio Tangará, which was more or less our plan anyway, highlighted by Brazilian Tanagers at the feeders, brief views of our first Azure Jays of the trip, and a showy Blond-crested Woodpecker right near the main house. Then we returned to Cananeia to meet the taxi, which drove us on to Curitiba where we arrived in mid-afternoon. A thunderstorm rolled in not long after we arrived to our hotel, and it was decided that we'd forego any late afternoon birding as a result, allowing me time to go pick up our replacement vehicle.



From the feeders at Trilha dos Tucanos: Brown Tinamou (left) and Tayra (right)

In a day and a half around Curitiba, we visited the lovely forests of the Serra da Graciosa, which we descended all the way to Morretes in the lowlands. In the Graciosa we had a relatively slow morning on the Estrada do Corvo, but we still managed to find Hooded Berryeater and Bare-throated Bellbird there, along with Scale-throated Hermit, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, and Brown-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant. In the lowlands we visited some hummingbird feeders where we had seven different species including Festive Coquette, Sombre Hummingbird, Saw-billed Hermit, and Black Jacobins. On the return to Curitiba in the afternoon we stopped in some upland marshes to search for the recently described endemic Marsh Tapaculo; heavy recent rains meant that my preferred marshes had very high water levels, making it difficult for us to landscape the little tunnels we usually make to try to coax the birds into. We certainly heard the tapaculos, but just couldn't get them to come somewhere where they might be seen. An attempt at an alternate site was cut short by the arrival of another late afternoon thunderstorm just as a bird started to respond to playback. The

following morning we headed to a popular city park in Curitiba to look for the range restricted Canebrake Groundcreeper, a pair of which eventually came around to check us out, showing very well as they skulked about in a densely vegetated gully.

Continuing south, we dropped down into the lowlands again and crossed the state lines from Paraná into Santa Catarina state, where we took a stone road out of the unassuming town of Garuva into extensive banana and *pupunha* palm plantations, interspersed with the occasional rice paddy. A stop at one of the very few remaining patches of reedy wetlands produced the desired Marsh Antwren in short order, but the systematic draining of such habitats in these lowlands are obviously putting the future of this range restricted endemic in jeopardy. A second stop along the return drive back to Garuva yielded a second responsive male in another patch of reeds at the roadside.



Festive Coquette, Morretes / Paraná



Russet-winged Spadebill, Volta Velha Reserve

We then proceeded to Itapoá and the excellent Volta Velha Reserve, getting a free car wash en route as we passed through several bands of thunder showers. Ana was waiting for us upon arrival at the reserve, and we enjoyed a coffee and a piece of cake while watching Rufous-bellied Thrushes, Green-headed Tanagers, and Brazilian Tanagers coming to the banana feeders. On a late afternoon walk under threatening skies we found our first of the target species for the location, a pair of Scaled Chachalacas at the forest edge. We followed that up the next morning with decent success on the Casa de Vidro trail, where we found our main targets at Volta Velha, the extremely localized endemic Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant, and the scarce Russet-winged Spadebill. A nice supporting cast included a confiding Rufous-capped Antthrush, Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, the spectacular Squamate Antbird, and a handsome male Black-cheeked Gnateater. As is often the case, we had scheduled a full day at Volta Velha in case either of the target flycatchers were to give us trouble. However, since we had found them both by mid-morning, and with rain threatening once again, we immediately decided to move along. By late morning we were on the road, heading south again down the coast before turning inland near Florianópolis and climbing up into the mountains of the Serra Geral in southern Santa Catarina. It was early evening when we finally arrived at the Rio dos Touros, a wonderful lodge run by our friends Fernando and Rose, outside the small town of Urupema. At this latitude there was still plenty of light left in the day, so we headed to a nearby marsh where we found a handful of the area's specialties including at least five Black-and-white Monjitas, a flock of Saffron-cowled Blackbirds, Lesser Grass-Finch and Freckle-breasted Thornbird. Neither of the hoped-for Giant Snipe or Sickle-winged Nightjar deigned to show themselves in the rather cool evening. Along the lodge driveway after dark we found a nice pair of Long-tufted Screech-Owls as a consolation prize of sorts.

In a full day spent at Rio dos Touros and in the Urupema area we did very well on the highland specialties.

Both Striolated and Araucaria Tit-Spinetails were around the lodge, while the feeders were pulling in some real gems including Chestnut-backed Tanager, Diademed Tanager, Thick-billed Saltator and some remarkably tame Dusky-legged Guans, all during breakfast. A short walk in the forest behind the cabins produced the desired Planalto Tapaculo, of which we had walk-away views. Rio dos Touros must surely be one of the best places in the world to see this recently described endemic. A mid-morning visit to the Morro das Antenas was quite chilly, but we did find the endemic Long-tailed Cinclodes, Speckle-breasted Antpitta, Mouse-coloured Tapaculo, Large-tailed Antshrike, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, and Blue-billed Black-Tyrant. Elsewhere we saw Long-tailed Reed-Finch, and Bay-chested, Gray-throated, and Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finches. Finally, as we returned to the lodge in early evening, a short stop along the driveway brought us to grips with the striking Mottled Piculet, a much-desired species here. Our time at Rio dos Touros was all too short, for this is a place to linger, to enjoy the special birds, the spectacular highland scenery (picture vast rolling hills covered by high altitude marshy grasslands interspersed with well-preserved groves of the bizarre, towering, candelabra-like *Araucaria* pines), and the warm welcome provided by Rose and Fernando, complete with some nice local wines. In no time at all we felt like part of the family, and Fernando was kind enough to join us for our birding outings, pointing out where he had seen the local specialties recently, explaining these mad birders to the perplexed locals, and in general just taking good care of us.



Long-tailed Cinclodes, Urupema / Santa Catarina



Planalto Tapaculo, Pousada Rio dos Touros

From Urupema we continued south, crossing into Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, by mid-morning. Driving cross-country through mostly open grasslands with many small marshes, we picked up a range of open country species as we went. A stop at a good marsh near Vacaria was good for our first Straight-billed Reedhaunters of the trip, along with a charismatic trio of Sharp-tailed Tyrants. However, it was evident that we were still early for any of the seedeaters which breed here: in a month's time this marsh would be teeming with dapper male Black-bellied Seedeaters; the timing of our trip was just a bit early this year, as spring appeared to be fairly late arriving to the southern highlands. By mid-afternoon we reached our destination, the lovely Parador Hampel, an historic hotel in the small town of São Francisco de Paula. A late afternoon stroll on a forest trail at the hotel was fairly quiet, but we did see Greenish Tyrannulet and White-throated Spadebill in addition to a Rufous-breasted Leafhopper. Just before dusk a few pairs of Vinaceous-breasted Parrots were heading to roost, but we only had partial views of them through the forest canopy from our position on the trail. We decided to return the following morning to see if we could get better views. The next day we counted 18 of these endangered Atlantic forest endemics around the hotel in the early morning. A short foray back onto the forest trail finally yielded nice views of a responsive Short-tailed Antthrush, which Richard missed as he had returned to the hotel for an early cup of coffee. We met up with him at breakfast,

where he had found a nesting pair of Green-chinned Euphonias. We spent the balance of the morning birding a couple of good wetlands north and east of São Francisco de Paula, seeing a number of the regional specialties, most of which we had already seen – Saffron-cowled Blackbird, Black-and-white Monjita, Long-tailed Reed-Finch, Straight-billed Reedhaunter, Lesser Grass-Finch, amongst others – as we searched fruitlessly for an early arriving Black-bellied Seedeater. In the afternoon we headed for the spectacular Fortaleza canyon in the Serra Geral National Park. The weather wasn't crystal clear, but the mist would clear now and again, revealing the 7.5 km-long canyon in its entirety; peering over the edge of the canyon, we could look down the half kilometre drop to the bottom – unforgettable!



Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Pousada Rio dos Touros



Chestnut-backed Tanager, Pousada Rio dos Touros

Our final morning in the highlands was spent under drizzly conditions as we birded the excellent São Francisco de Paula National Forest, focusing on the Araúcarias Centenárias Trail. The weather seemed to keep bird activity down, but we had no shortage of curious White-browed Warblers, while Short-tailed Antthrushes were also common and vocal. We duly admired the impressive *araucaria* trees along the trail, and near the last of them the Purple-crowned Plovercrests were extremely active on their lek. It took a while to find one sitting still, but eventually we were able to scope a striking male on a song perch. Returning the way we had come, a singing Variegated Antpitta was now much closer to the trail, and we hunkered down to give this elusive bird a try. The bird quickly shut up, but I thought it might be approaching our position in response to tape, and soon enough Sally was onto something: I wasn't close enough to hear exactly what she was saying, but I imagined she had found the antpitta. I trained my binoculars in the direction she and Richard were looking, and only realized that it wasn't an antpitta she had found when I glimpsed the golden brown haunches and tail of a large Puma as it started to walk away from us! No wonder the antpitta had stopped singing! A completely unexpected sighting, certainly, though when we later reported our observation to the reserve administrator, she told me that likely this same animal had been recorded regularly on camera traps within the reserve during the months preceding our visit. The rain intensified as we returned to the wider track which leads to the trail, and here we heard a pair of Blue-bellied Parrots. They appeared to come closer in response to playback, but remained hidden somewhere in the canopy two or three layers back from the trail, and we were simply unable to get a glimpse before the rain started to come down in earnest. We beat a retreat for the car, bringing our time in the highlands of southern Brazil to a close.

Continuing south down into the lowlands east of Porto Alegre, we skirted the eastern shore of the vast estuarine Laguna dos Patos, heading down the narrow Mostardas peninsula to the town of the same name, the gateway

to the northern end of the Lagoa do Peixe National Park. We arrived at our hotel in Mostardas in the late afternoon, and with gale force winds coming off the Atlantic, we chose to check in and get settled after a long day of birding and traveling. The following morning we found that the winds had switched, swinging around to blow strongly from the west. We started on the nearby Dunes Trail (the "trails" in the national park are actually driveable roads) before breakfast, seeing our first Giant Wood-rails, a pair of lovely Silver Teal, a couple of exquisite Spot-flanked Gallinules, Plumbeous Rail, and a few passerines hunkering down in the reed beds, including Wren-like Rushbird and Curve-billed Reedhaunter, along with a few open country birds such as Spectacled Tyrant and Brown-and-yellow Marshbird. After breakfast we headed in the direction of the Laguna dos Patos along the Caieiras road, a sandy track that runs through extensive rice fields before reaching marshes and reed beds fringing the lake. First up was a responsive pair of Rufous-sided Crakes which obliged for good views in a little roadside marsh. The rice paddies were mostly still being planted, meaning we only encountered "small" numbers of the ubiquitous Chestnut-capped Blackbirds (my count barely exceeded 1000 individuals, compared to the 5000+ we see when the paddies are flooded), but the early stages of planting meant we could stop here and there and walk out into the fields to scan for migrant waders: a single Black-bellied Plover was mixed in with about 40 American Golden-Plovers, a dozen or so White-rumped Sandpipers, and nearly 30 Pectoral Sandpipers. At the edge of the lake the west wind was howling, pushing the lake up on shore and flooding the reed beds where we had hoped to search for Many-coloured Rush-tyrant. Instead we had to content ourselves by scanning a nearby marsh and some flooded fields, where amongst a collection of widespread species we found a lone Ringed Teal, Roseate Spoonbill, Yellow-browed Tyrant, a small flock of migrant Barn Swallows hugging the ground in a somewhat sheltered spot behind some bushes, and a pair of Common Miners near the water's edge.



Silver Teal, Lagoa do Peixe NP



Spot-flanked Gallinule, Rio Grande

Keen to check out the action on the Lagoa do Peixe itself, we headed for the Talha-Mar Trail (the Skimmer Trail) near the town of Tavares. The Talha-Mar trail is a track which slices across the northern end of the Lagoa do Peixe, allowing views of the lake itself, and access to the extensive flooded fields and marshy fringes which flank the lake, before continuing through sandy coastal dunes and eventually reaching the ocean beach. Our first look did not disappoint: as usual, there were birds everywhere. A flock of 41 Chilean Flamingos was feeding at the northern edge of the lake, a bit far off, but nothing the scope couldn't handle. The strong winds were keeping birds off the open water of the lake mostly, but we still counted nearly 300 Red-gartered Coots hugging the shoreline or bobbing like toy boats in more sheltered stretches, while a loose flock of at least 70 Coscoroba Swans and roughly a half dozen Black-necked Swans were floating distantly in a smaller lake north of the track. The flooded fields closer to the track were rammed with shorebirds, including 200+ Pectoral Sandpipers, and a similar number of American Golden-Plovers, with smaller numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, 15 Hudsonian Godwits, and a handful of Buff-

breasted Sandpipers mixed in. After a short lunch stop in Tavares, we drove back out on the Talha-Mar trail, winding through the dunes to the lighthouse. We drove down the hard-surfaced beach for several kilometres, ploughing through hundreds of White-rumped Sandpipers clustered together in little flocks; between these flocks we encountered several groups of Red Knots totaling 113 individuals, in addition to a smattering of American Oystercatchers, Black-bellied and Collared Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings. There were only a relative few terns loafing on the beach (possibly due to the high seas), most of which were Commons but also a single South American Tern and a couple of Snowy-crowned Terns. A couple of Manx Shearwaters were flying in rather close to shore, while two or three Yellow-nosed Albatrosses were gliding up and down over the waves more distantly. Later in the afternoon we stopped in on the inland edge of the dunes to search for Hudson's Canastero in the sedges, eventually finding a pair in spite of weather. A serendipitous stop beside a small patch of reeds came just as a Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail started to timidly sing its insect-like song. Some work with the tape and a great deal of patience eventually allowed us to see two of at least three individuals that were present. Not far from that spot we stopped again to investigate some promising flooded fields that I expected to hold one of our major targets for Lagoa do Peixe, the secretive and enigmatic South American Painted-Snipe. First we found nothing aside from a few Correndera Pipits, but as we reached the damper fringes of a small pond we flushed a painted-snipe which we were able to re-find sitting on the ground, its cryptic plumage doing it great service to keep it hidden from prying eyes. Other birds found in the near vicinity included four Red Shovelers, a rare seasonal visitor (possibly even an occasional breeder) to the Lagoa do Peixe, and perhaps 200+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers in drier, turf-like pasture on slightly higher ground. A different vantage point over the more distant lake to the north of the Talha-Mar track revealed that the swan flock numbered closer to 500 birds, with a roughly 60-40 split of Coscoroba to Black-necked. Back at our hotel that evening, we learned that the sudden change in the winds overnight was foreshadowing the arrival of an extra-tropical cyclone which was due to bring some rain and more strong winds the following day.



Specialties of Lagoa do Peixe National Park: South American Painted-Snipe (left) and Chilean Flamingo (right)

The next morning we lingered over breakfast at the hotel before heading out into the windy morning. It seemed like there was a good chance that the strong winds might push some seabirds in closer to shore, so our first stop was the ocean beach at the tiny village of Balneário Mostardense. In spite of the winds, it was actually quite pleasant, with the sun even breaking through the clouds as we headed up the beach on foot. Seabirds were indeed visible: we estimated that albatrosses numbered in the triple digits, with the bulk of them being Yellow-nosed, but we also had at least two definite Black-browed Albatrosses. Manx Shearwaters were present, and several individuals flew low and close to shore showing extremely well. Farther out we could discern a larger number of Sooty Shearwaters, a couple of White-chinned Petrels, and several unidentified seabirds including a possible Pomarine Jaeger and a fair number of distant terns. The incoming storm made birding difficult the rest of the day, with the winds keeping the marsh birds down and forcing waterbirds into cover. We spent the late morning and early afternoon working the Rincão road and another track to the edge of the Laguna dos

Patos, but we didn't add much beyond our first Aplomado Falcon and a few Gray-hooded Gulls. The flooded fields along these roads held quite a few ducks however, including a single field where we counted 27 exquisite Ringed Teal. The morning of the 29th brought bad news: the storm had hit the southern end of the Mostardas peninsula overnight, and the ferry crossing from São Jose do Norte to Rio Grande, our destination today, was closed (another guest at our hotel showed us videos someone had sent him of the waves crashing in the streets of São José!). This meant we would have to head north and around the top of the Lagoa dos Patos before driving south to Rio Grande via the continental highway. After a last visit to the northern end of the Lagoa do Peixe National Park, we packed up to make the long drive via Porto Alegre down to the southern port city of Rio Grande. A stop at the Banhado da Marambaia near Pelotas was rewarding, with the usual staggering numbers of waterbirds: our fairly conservative counts included approximately 400 Southern Screamers, 200 Neotropical Cormorants, 250 Black-necked Stilts, and roughly 1000 White-faced Ibis! An extremely cooperative Gilded Hummingbird showed well down to just a few feet, allowing for a great many photos, while a pair of Curve-billed Reedhaunters replied to tape but refused to stick their heads up out of the roadside reed beds. We pulled into our comfortable hotel in the historic beach resort town of Cassino, where we stayed for three nights.

We finished the tour with two full days birding in the vast marshes in the area around the city of Rio Grande. Relatively few tour companies offer trips even as far south as the Lagoa do Peixe, and hardly any continue south down the coast to Rio Grande, which is truly a shame, as the birding is really excellent. As Richard put it at one point, "this place kind of puts the Pantanal to shame, doesn't it?". When one compares the sheer numbers and diversity of water birds, then yes, the marshes of southern Brazil certainly can outshine the much more famous Pantanal. We started our birding in the area by heading to the Ilha de Torotama, a small peninsula which juts out into the Lagoa dos Patos just north of Rio Grande. A couple of short stops in pastures, scrub, and thorny forest yielded a few interesting birds, including our only Stripe-crowned Spinetails of the trip, a few Firewood-gatherers, a Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch, and some more Brown-and-yellow Marshbirds. We enjoyed a really pleasant morning on the "island", with comfortable temperatures up to about 23°C, sunny skies, and hardly any wind. This latter factor surely helped our chances with a handful of diminutive marsh flycatchers, the best of the bunch being a couple of striking little Crested Doraditos which perched up atop tall reeds for good scope views. Others included a more discreet Warbling Doradito, the flitty Sooty Tyrannulet, a displaying male Spectacled Tyrant, and a brief view of a Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant. We also had a pair of Pinnated Bitterns, several pairs of Plumbeous Rails, a family of Coscoroba Swans with eight cygnets, and a pair of Ringed Teal in together with more than 20 Silver Teal. Some flooded fields held decent numbers of waders including more than 200 yellowlegs (about $\frac{3}{4}$ Lesser), more than 100 Pectoral Sandpipers, 30+ American Golden-Plovers, and smaller numbers of Black-necked Stilts, Semipalmated Plovers and South American Snipe.

In the afternoon we headed to the Pinheiros corridor near Cassino, birding along a dirt road through a mosaic of small farms, flooded fields, marshes dominated by reed beds, all of which is now flanked by rows of windmills to the south. Over a leisurely period of about three hours we recorded upward of 70 species, including our best views of Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant (see cover photo), Curve-billed Reedhaunters, and a responsive Sulphur-bearded Spinetail. We also had more great views of Spot-flanked Gallinules, Giant Wood-Rails, and a half dozen Scarlet-headed Blackbirds, their heads glowing brightly in the late afternoon sun. We checked every one of the dozen or so Long-winged Harriers that we encountered, hoping to find a Cinereous, to no avail



Spectacled Tyrant, Ilha de Torotama



Sulphur-bearded Spinetail, Rio Grande

The following morning, we headed south from Rio Grande to the Santa Isabel road for what proved to be one of the most memorable mornings of the entire trip. For the first couple of kilometres we passed through tilled rice fields, mostly populated with flocks of White-faced Ibises numbering in the hundreds of birds (my count for the morning surpassed 3000 individuals of this species). Passing the rice fields, we descended to a lower area with extensive flooded pastures occupying a vast area which was teeming with birds! High counts included our estimates for Southern Screamer (550+), White-faced (670) and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (130+), Black-necked (92, exact count) and Coscoroba Swans (183), Snail Kites (100+), Roseate Spoonbill (86), White-winged (880) and Red-gartered (150) Coots, Spot-flanked Gallinule (22), Rosy-billed Pochard (37), Bare-faced Ibis (350), Limpkin (90), and Black-necked Stilt (480). At this point in the trip we didn't have very many target species remaining, which was great as it allowed us to just drink in the scene and sort through the vast numbers of waterbirds, counting and studying them through the scope. Still, we did find our first White-tufted Grebes of the trip, also adding Chotoy and Sooty-fronted Spinetails a bit earlier in the morning. There were many families out fishing from the dike or just enjoying a pleasant and clear spring Sunday morning. With our trip winding down, I think we all reflected a bit on the enjoyable and varied birding of the past two weeks, and considered these amazing flooded fields as a fitting finish to a great trip to a relatively under-appreciated birding route in a terrific birding country.

Of course, the trip was not quite finished yet, and upon returning to Cassino in early afternoon, a check of the ocean beach revealed that the *ressaca* of the ocean (high waters pushed up onto the beach during the storm of a couple days prior) had receded, and that a track had been cleared through the rolled-up balls of mud which had impeded access to the beach up to now. As such, we took a leisurely drive down the hard-surfaced beach, seeing a few bits and pieces including six species of terns, a dozen Red Knots, and best of all, a lone Andean Flamingo. This latter bird had been lingering in the area since the southern winter months, and I had half-expected to find it here, although I didn't have much recent information as to its presence or absence. The flamingo flew in beside us, then proceeded to walk around near the car for a few minutes before it made its way up toward the dunes and out of sight. In the late afternoon we spent a couple of hours on the Senandes road, hoping to find a Cinereous Harrier for Richard, but once again without luck. A co-operative Black-and-white Monjita was a reasonable consolation prize, as were the best numbers of Brown-and-yellow Marshbirds of the trip. For our last morning we only had time for a quick visit to the Rio Grande breakwaters to look for Dot-winged Crake in the tidal sedges, but we struck out on that one in the limited time available (having lost our best opportunity for the species when we had to detour back to Porto Alegre to drive to Rio Grande, rather than being able to stop at my favourite site for the bird en route to the ferry crossing at São José do Norte). A quick, final stop at the Banhado do Marambaia must be mentioned, if only to describe the grisly scene we witnessed there. As we were sorting through the vast numbers of birds across the extensive roadside marshes

(ca. 150 Southern Screamers, hundreds of ibises, a smattering of waterfowl including a few Ringed Teal and a really lovely pair of Silver Teal, 35 or so Black-necked Swans, etc.), our attention was drawn to a nearby clacking sound. We noticed a Maguari Stork quite close to us, actively gulping something down, though it was unclear what it had caught. That was when we saw an adult Coypu near the stork. As the stork stepped purposefully toward the Coypu, we saw that the rodent had a young pup which it was shielding from the stork, trying to push it into hiding in a little mound of aquatic vegetation. The stork reached down toward the pup several times, stepping back a little and clacking its beak each time when the brave Coypu parent charged the bird, baring its teeth. It became clear that the Maguari had just consumed one of the Coypu's pups, and that it was intent on having the other as well. This tug of war continued for a minute or two, but it was apparent that it was just a matter of time until the stork's superior reach would prevail – just as that thought entered all of our minds at about the same time, the stork snapped up the Coypu pup out of the floating vegetation, tipped its beak up and consumed the young animal whole, and live.

With this last scene of the trip, Southern Brazil left us agape one last time. A little bit shaken by the scene, we hit the road for Porto Alegre, where we arrived in good time for Sally and Richard to make their flight to Florianópolis, where they would spend a few days relaxing on the beach before returning to Scotland.



Andean Flamingo, Praia de Cassino



Black-and-white Monjita, Cassino



Maguari Stork, Banhado da Marambaia, Pelotas

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 status obtained from the website of BirdLife International (see www.birdlife.org for more information).

RHEAS (RHEIDAE)

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*

We saw rheas in small numbers on four dates on the Mostardas peninsula, including within the confines of the Lagoa do Peixe NP. The birds here belong to the *intermedia* race of southernmost Brazil and Uruguay.

TINAMOUS (TINAMIDAE)

* **Solitary Tinamou** *Tinamus solitarius*

Heard at Trilha dos Tucanos and the Serra da Graciosa near Curitiba.

Brown Tinamou *Crypturellus obsoletus*

Heard on multiple dates in the Atlantic forests, and one seen extremely well at the feeder hide at Trilha dos Tucanos on the morning of the 16th.

* **Yellow-legged Tinamou** *Crypturellus noctivagus*

ENDEMIC

Several heard at Cananéia and Volta Velha.

* **Red-winged Tinamou** *Rhynchotus rufescens*

Heard daily in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*

Recorded on seven dates in grasslands and pastures in Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. We saw the species on several occasions, including four individuals foraging in the open in a grazed pasture alongside the road to the Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande on the 29th.

SCREAMERS (ANHIMIDAE)

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata*

Recorded daily at Lagoa do Peixe NP and around Rio Grande, where the species is numerous. We had day counts in the thousands in the latter region, where we counted hundreds upon hundreds of them at the Banhado da Marambaia, and especially in the vast flooded fields along the Santa Isabel road.

DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS (ANATIDAE)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Recorded on 10 dates. Abundant in the marshes in the extreme south, where we counted more than 600 individuals on two different dates, first along the Rincão road in the Lagoa do Peixe area on the 27th, and again on the 30th along the Santa Isabel road near Rio Grande.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Seen on three or four dates. First found near Garuva in Santa Catarina on the 20th, where we had a couple of pairs in rice paddies. Our highest count was on the Santa Isabel road south of Rio Grande on the 30th, when we counted 133 individuals.

Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melancoryphus*

Hundreds of these beautiful swans seen on a daily basis at Lagoa do Peixe NP and around Rio Grande. High count of about 200 birds (estimated) on the 26th along the Trilha do Talha-Mar at Lagoa do Peixe.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Seen daily at Lagoa do Peixe and in the wetlands around Rio Grande. Numbers in the triple digits recorded on two dates, with about 250 birds at Lagoa do Peixe on the 26th, and a count of 183 birds seen on the Santa Isabel road on the 30th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

We saw small numbers of this exquisite little duck of freshwater ponds and marshes on 5 dates in the Mostardas and Rio Grande areas. The biggest haul came on the windy afternoon of October 27th, when we counted 27 individuals in flooded fields near the Cristovão Pereira lighthouse.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

The most widespread duck, typically seen in pairs and small groups in roadside ponds and anywhere else there is fresh water. Our highest count was around 100 birds seen on the 26th around Mostardas and in the Lagoa do Peixe NP.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

Two pairs seen on the Trilha Talha-Mar in Lagoa do Peixe NP on the 26th. This southern duck is very scarce in Brazil, here at the northern limit of its eastern range.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*

Common in marshes and ponds in the extreme south. Seen on 8 dates.

Silver Teal *Anas versicolor*

Another spectacular duck, and for my money perhaps the best of the bunch! Seen daily during our week spent exploring the southern marshes, mostly in small numbers but with a high count of 22 individuals at Ilha de Torotama outside Rio Grande on the 29th.

Yellow-billed (Speckled) Teal *Anas flavirostris*

Seen on 8 dates.

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*

We found a pair of these exquisite ducks together with whistling-ducks, coots, and other waterfowl in a flooded pasture in Lagoa do Peixe NP on the 26th. On the 30th we counted 37 birds in the extensive flooded pastures along the Santa Isabel road near Rio Grande.

GUANS & ALLIES (CRACIDAE)

Scaled Chachalaca *Ortalis squamata*

ENDEMIC

A pair seen at forest edge on the afternoon of the 20th at Volta Velha near the beginning of the Casa de Vidro trail. The species is endemic to south Brazil, occurring from central São Paulo state south to Rio Grande do

Sul, having been split from Speckled Chachalaca *O. guttata*.

Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura*

Singles seen at Trilha dos Tucanos and the Serra da Graciosa near Curitiba. Eight to ten birds visited the feeders at Rio dos Touros in Urupema on a daily basis, where we had great views.

NEW WORLD QUAILS (ODONTOPHORIDAE)

* **Spot-winged Wood-quail** *Odontophorus capoeira*

A pair heard singing near the feeder hide at Trilha dos Tucanos, while we waited, hoping for them to show. Some photographers also staying at the lodge during our stay did see the birds coming to the forest feeders, so it seems we were just unlucky to miss them.

GREBES (PODICIPEDIDAE)

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland*

Seen only on the 30th along the Santa Isabel road, where we found seven individuals in and around aquatic vegetation scattered about the extensive flooded pastures.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Seen in small numbers on three dates in the marshes of Rio Grande do Sul, and also near the international airport in São Paulo on the first morning of the tour.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

Four birds seen on the Lagoa Barro Vermelho near Santo Antonio da Patrula en route to Mostardas on the afternoon of the 25th. A single seen on rough waters of the Laguna dos Patos west of Mostardas on the 27th, and a pair in the flooded pastures along the Santa Isabel road were the only other records of this elegant grebe.

FLAMINGOS (PHOENICOPTERIDAE)

Andean Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus andinus*

Prior to our arrival, I had seen photos online of a small group of Andean Flamingoes – a rare but regular vagrant to extreme south Brazil – which had shown up on the ocean beach at Cassino, where we would stay just outside of Rio Grande. As our arrival date neared, I hadn't seen any more recent pictures, but had the bird in the back of my mind as we set off down the hard-packed beach on the afternoon of the 30th. The ocean beach had been impassable to vehicles for a couple of days due to the high seas caused by the passage of the extra-tropical cyclone, but by the 30th things looked OK so we set off for a mid-afternoon drive. To my slight surprise, a lone Andean Flamingo was one of the first birds we saw, just a kilometre down the beach from the town!

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

Seen on two consecutive dates in the same area of the Lagoa do Peixe along the Talha-Mar trail, between 40 and 50 individuals total. Another flock of approximately the same size seen at a distance through heat haze on the afternoon of the 26th at the *barra* of the Lagoa do Peixe where the lake meets the ocean.

ALBATROSSES (DIOMEDEIDAE)

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

I conservatively estimated about 50 of these seen during our morning seawatch from the ocean beach at the Balneário Mostardense on the 27th, in addition to another 50 or so birds which were too distant to identify with

any certainty. It wouldn't surprise me if there were actually many more birds present, as the viewing conditions were variable.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

Two definites and many other possibles seen with the above species during our morning seawatch from the ocean beach at the Balneário Mostardense on the 27th.

PETRELS & SHEARWATERS (PROCELLARIDAE)

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

One definite and another possible seen amongst the many albatrosses and shearwaters visible from shore along the ocean beach at Mostardas on the 27th.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Perhaps 20 or so seen from the ocean beach near Mostardas on the morning of the 27th.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

We saw maybe 10 different birds from the ocean beach near Mostardas on the morning of the 27th, including several which flew quite close to shore.

STORKS (CICONIDAE)

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*

After seeing a single bird near Bom Jesus in the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul on the 23rd, we found this species to be very common in the coastal marshes farther south at Lagoa do Peixe NP and around Rio Grande. A grisly sighting from the final morning of the trip will not soon be forgotten: we came across a Maguari Stork which was trying repeatedly to reach a baby Coypu that was being fiercely guarded by a parent. Eventually the stork was able to stretch over the adult Coypu (which would rush the stork time and again with its teeth bared) and nab its offspring, which it then proceeded to swallow in a single gulp!

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Seen on five dates in the marshes of Rio Grande do Sul, but never in the same numbers as the preceding species.

FRIGATEBIRDS (FREGATIDAE)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Seen on the coast of southern São Paulo state around Cananéia, but not recorded farther south.

BOOBIES (SULIDAE)

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Small numbers seen during ferry crossings between Cananéia, the mainland, and Ilha Comprida on the afternoon of the 17th and the morning of the 18th.

CORMORANTS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)

Neotropical Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Seen nearly daily in almost any habitat with water; numerous at Lagoa do Peixe and Rio Grande.

HERONS, BITTERN & EGRETS (ARDEIDAE)

Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus*

We had wonderful scope views of this secretive species as it skulked around in the marshes at Ilha Torotama near Rio Grande on the 29th.

Rufescent Tiger-heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Singles seen on just two dates in marshes near Rio Grande.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Mostly absent during the first week of the tour, but seen on 9 days in total including in numbers in the southern marshes.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Seen nearly daily during the tour.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Seen on 13 dates.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Seen in the mangroves at Cananéia and Ilha Comprida, and one seen later in the trip in Rio Grande do Sul on the 29th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on 10 dates.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Seen only on five dates.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*

We saw this graceful heron of open country – often in areas without much water – on a daily basis in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, and also on several dates in the wetlands around Rio Grande.

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Several seen heading out to feed around dusk on the evening of the 17th in Cananéia, and also returning to roost the following morning.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS (THRESKIORNITHIDAE)

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber*

Two flocks totaling approximately 130 birds flew past the ferry landing at Ilha Comprida late in the afternoon on the 17th, glowing brilliant red against the green of the forested hillsides which flank the estuary. The species has made a remarkable recovery in southern São Paulo state after being nearly extirpated from parts of its range in coastal south-east Brazil. The well-preserved mangroves of Ilha Comprida and Cananéia, which extend southward to Guaraqueçaba in Paraná state, represent an important stronghold for populations of the species in Brazil.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*

Abundant in wetlands and flooded fields in the extreme south, where we counted thousands of them at the Banhado da Marambaia on the 28th and along the Santa Isabel road on the 30th. We also counted around 350 birds in the rice paddies near Garuva in Santa Catarina on the 20th.

Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus*

Common and encountered on 8 dates in the extreme south, but in much smaller numbers than the preceding species. High count was about 350 birds in the flooded fields along the Santa Isabel road on the 30th.

Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens*

Pais seen on four dates in flooded fields near Lagoa do Peixe and in the Rio Grande area.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*

Seen on five dates in pairs and small flocks in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Seen daily in and around Lagoa do Peixe NP and Rio Grande, with a high count of 86 birds in the flooded fields along the Santa Isabel road.

NEW WORLD VULTURES (CATHARTIDAE)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Abundant and seen nearly daily.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Seen on 11 dates. The pale-naped *ruficollis* race, resident and non-migratory in South America, differs from the North American races and may well deserve recognition as a species level taxon.

HAWKS, KITES & EAGLES (ACCIPITRIDAE)

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Seen daily during the first 9 days of the trip, from São Paulo south as far as Urupema, but not thereafter.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

First seen in small numbers in marshes around São Francisco de Paula, then a few more in the Lagoa do Peixe area. Finally, in the Rio Grande area we found the species to be quite numerous.

Rufous-thighed Kite *Harpagus diodon*

Seen at Trilha dos Tucanos and near Curitiba.

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni*

What a treat to watch these graceful raptors over the vast coastal marshes in Rio Grande do Sul, where we saw them on a daily basis. Surprisingly, despite regular scrutiny of every harrier we encountered, we did not find a single Cinereous Harrier.

* **Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*

Heard only, near the São Francisco de Paula National Forest, on the 25th.

Bicoloured Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*

One flashed across the road as we drove to Urupema from Volta Velha on the afternoon of the 21st.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

Seen only on the 22nd at the Morro do Combate in Urupema, a single individual.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*

Seen on 8 dates.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

Mantled Hawk *Pseudastur polionotus*

One seen at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th, and three soaring birds seen over forested slopes at Sitio Tangará in Cananéia on the morning of the 18th.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

Seen just once, a single bird on the 17th.

RAILS & ALLIES (RALLIDAE)

Rufous-sided Crane *Laterallus melanophaius*

We had terrific views of a pair of these little cranes at a roadside marsh on the Estrada de Caieiras near Mostardas on the 26th.

Slaty-breasted Wood-rail *Aramides saracura*

Seen or heard on 8 dates at Atlantic rainforest sites.

Giant Wood-rail *Aramides ypecaha*

Common at Lagoa do Peixe NP and marshes around Rio Grande. Quite conspicuous for a rail.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*

A trio seen at a duckweed-choked pond outside Santo Antonio da Patrulha en route to Mostardas from São Francisco de Paula on the afternoon of the 25th turned out to be our only sighting of the species.

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

These attractive rails are quite common and easy to observe in the Lagoa do Peixe and Rio Grande areas, where we had them on five dates.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Seen on 10 dates, and increasingly common as we moved further south. Abundant along the Santa Isabel road and elsewhere in and around Rio Grande and the Lagoa do Peixe.

Spot-flanked Gallinule *Gallinula melanops*

We saw these exquisite gallinules on four dates around Mostardas and Rio Grande, with a high count of 22 individuals in the extensive flooded pastures along the Santa Isabel road.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

Numerous on the Lagoa do Peixe on the 26th (an estimated 500 individuals seen, with many more coots visible in the distance which could well have been this species), and smaller numbers seen around Rio Grande where outnumbered by the latter species.

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

Common on ponds, marshes and flooded pastures in the extreme south. High count was 850 individuals seen on the Santa Isabel road on the 30th. In spite of much careful sorting through the coot flocks, we did not manage to find a Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*, which is locally the most difficult of the three species to find.

LIMPKIN (ARAMIDAE)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

Recorded on 8 dates, including on a daily basis in the extreme south, where we had a high count of 90 individuals in the flooded pastures along the Santa Isabel road on the 30th.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (CHARADRIIDAE)

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Seen every day of the trip.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Quite common in short-grass pastures and flooded fields in the extreme south and particularly abundant along the Trilha do Talha-Mar at Lagoa do Peixe NP where they numbered in the hundreds. Also seen on the 30th on the ocean beach at Cassino, a total of 26 birds.

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Seen on four dates in Rio Grande do Sul: in small numbers on 2 dates along the ocean beach; and a high count of 60 individuals in a flooded field in the Mostardas area on the 27th.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

We saw 30 of these boreal migrants on the ocean beach between the Tavares lighthouse and mouth of the Lagoa do Peixe on the 26th; a single bird seen on the ocean beach near Cassino on the 30th.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

Seen only on the 26th, a pair on the ocean beach between the Tavares lighthouse and the mouth of the Lagoa do Peixe.

OYSTERCATCHERS (HAEMATOPODIDAE)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Seen on three dates on ocean beaches at Lagoa do Peixe and near Cassino, with a high count of 30 individuals on the 27th.

STILTS (RECURVIROSTRIDAE)

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*

Seen on 9 dates.

SANDPIPERS (SCOLOPACIDAE)

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae*

Found in small numbers on five dates at Volta Velha, Urupema, Lagoa do Peixe, and around Rio Grande.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

A flock of 15 birds seen on the 26th along the Talha-mar trail in Lagoa do Peixe NP.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

One seen on the 26th was our only sighting.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Seen on three dates, with a high count of 40 birds found along the road to the Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Fairly common in marshes and coasts of the extreme south, where we had them six dates with a high count of 180 birds at Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande on the 29th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Just one sighting: two birds on the ocean beach near Tavares on the 26th.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

We saw this threatened wader on three dates along the ocean beaches at Lagoa do Peixe and Cassino, with a high count of 113 individuals on the Farol beach near Tavares on the 26th.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Seen on three dates, with a high count of 250 birds along the beach near Tavares on the 26th.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Seen on three dates, with counts in the 100 – 200 range recorded at several sites, including a high count of 270 birds seen in flooded pastures on the Santa Isabel road near Rio Grande on the 30th.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*

Seen on three dates in pastures with short grass, including flooded fields in Lagoa do Peixe NP and on the Santa Isabel road. High count of 200 birds at Lagoa do Peixe on the Talha-mar Trail on the 26th.

JACANAS (JACANIDAE)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

Recorded on a daily basis in the extreme south.

PAINTED-SNIPES (ROSTRATULIDAE)

South American Painted-Snipe *Nycticryphes semicollaris*

We had good views of one of these fantastic little waders in the waterlogged grassy edges of a flooded short-grass pasture along the Trilha do Talha-Mar in the Lagoa do Peixe NP on the 26th. While the species is secretive and generally difficult to find, they are common at Lagoa do Peixe in the austral spring and summer.

GULLS (LARIDAE)

Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

Seen on a daily basis in the extreme south, with a high count of 143 birds along the ocean beach at Cassino on the 30th; also 135 birds counted on the Santa Isabel road on the same date.

Gray-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Seen only on the 27th near Mostardas.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Seen on 8 dates.

TERNs (STERNIDAE)

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*

Seen in small numbers on four dates in the extreme south. High count of 18 birds seen along the Santa Izabel road on the 30th.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*

Found on just two dates, with a maximum count of 4 birds seen at Lagoa do Peixe NP on the 26th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Seen on four dates along the ocean beaches at Lagoa do Peixe NP and near Cassino, with counts in the hundreds on the 26th and the 30th.

South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*

Seen in small numbers along the ocean beaches of Lagoa do Peixe and near Cassino, on three dates.

Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui*

We saw this attractive tern on the 26th along the ocean beach near Tavares, and again on the 30th when we counted 16 birds along the Santa Izabel road in the morning, and another 17 birds in the afternoon along the ocean beach south of Cassino.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus*

Seen on three dates.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Seen on three dates along the coast.

SKIMMERS (RYNCHOPIDAE)

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

Seen on just 3 dates at Lagoa do Peixe and along nearby ocean beaches; high count of 65 birds along the beaches at Cassino on the afternoon of the 30th.

PIGEONS & DOVES (COLUMBIDAE)

Feral Pigeon *Columbia livia*

Common in towns and cities.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Seen on three dates near the coast in southern São Paulo and Paraná states.

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*

The common pigeon of open country. Seen daily.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*

Seen or heard on four dates in mid-elevation montane Atlantic forests at Trilha dos Tucanos and the Serra da Graciosa near Curitiba.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Recorded on 7 dates. Not seen in the extreme south, where largely replaced in areas we visited by the following species.

Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*

Seen on 8 dates in Rio Grande do Sul.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Seen or heard on a near daily basis.

Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*

Recorded on four dates. Common around Trilha dos Tucanos, where seen well at the forest hide.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

Seen almost daily from the 19th onward.

CUCKOOS (CUCULIDAE)

* **Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*

Surprisingly only encountered on just two dates, and both records were heard-onlys.

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

We saw or heard these spunky cuckoos of open country on 13 dates.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*

Recorded on 3 dates, and seen on the entrance road to Volta Velha in northern Santa Catarina on the 20th.

Pavonine Cuckoo *Dromococcyx pavoninus*

One seen at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th. This secretive cuckoo is widespread in South America, but nowhere is it particularly easy to see; any time you see one is a treat!

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Remarkably seen only once, a single bird on the 20th as we drove to Volta Velha.

TYPICAL OWLS (STRIGIDAE)

Long-tufted Screech-Owl *Megascops sanctaecatarinae*

Lovely views of a responsive pair on the evening of the 21st on the grounds of the Pousada Rio dos Touros in Urupema, in the highlands of Santa Catarina.

** **Tawny-browed Owl** *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*

One seen only by myself late on the evening of the 23rd on the grounds the Parador Hampel.

* **Least Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium minutissimum*

Heard only, and only once, at Trilha dos Tucanos on the afternoon of the 16th.

* **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Heard on the 23rd and 24th at the Veraneio Hampel in São Francisco de Paula.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

Seen or heard on 6 dates.

* **Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata*

Heard at Trilha dos Tucanos on the evening of the 16th.

NIGHTJARS (CAPRIMULGIDAE)

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus*

Seen or heard on three dates, at Volta Velha, near Rio dos Touros, and in São Francisco de Paula.

* **Little Nightjar** *Setopagis parvula*

POTOOS (NYCTIBIIDAE)

* **Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus*

We heard the hauntingly beautiful song of this species on the night of the 16th at Trilha dos Tucanos, and again near Rio dos Touros on the 21st while we tried for Sickle-winged Nightjar.

SWIFTS (APODIDAE)

Sooty Swift *Cypseloides fumigatus*

Seen on the 16th at Trilha dos Tucanos.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Seen on just two dates during the tour.

Sick's Swift *Chaetura meridionalis*

Seen on a daily basis around Trilha dos Tucanos and down to Cananéia; also in the São Francisco de Paula area.

HUMMINGBIRDS (TROCHILIDAE)

Black Jacobin *Florisuga fusca*

We saw this striking black and white hummingbird on six dates, with a high count of at least 8 individuals at the feeders at the private home we visited near Morretes on the 19th.

Saw-billed Hermit *Ramphodon naevius*

ENDEMIC

Seen at the feeders at the private home we visited near Morretes on the 19th, and also inside the forest at Volta Velha on the Casa de Vidro Trail on the 21st. A monotypic genus endemic to the lowlands of south-east Brazil.

Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*

Recorded on a couple of dates at Trilha dos Tucanos, and three birds – including perched males on song posts – seen on the Estrada do Corvo near Curitiba on the 19th. Endemic to the Atlantic forest biome.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*

Seen on just three dates, at Trilha dos Tucanos and around Curitiba, but not thereafter.

Festive Coquette *Lophornis chalybeus*

A female seen on all dates at Trilha dos Tucanos, and three birds seen coming to feeders at the private home we visited near Morretes on the 19th.

Brazilian Ruby *Clytolaema rubricauda*

ENDEMIC

We saw this handsome and well-named endemic on four dates at Trilha dos Tucanos and near Curitiba.

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon lucidus*

Singles seen on three dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, including at the feeders beside the restaurant at the Pousada Rio dos Touros.

Purple-crested Plovercrest *Stephanoxis loddigesii*

Seen on two dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, where our best views came at a lek at the São Francisco de Paula National Forest, where we had up to twelve individuals. This is the southern form of Plovercrest, which has now been split into two species; the northern birds of the Serra dos Orgãos are now called Green-crested Plovercrest.

Violet-capped Woodnymph *Thalurania glaucopis*

Seen on six dates.

Sombre Hummingbird *Aphantocroa cirrochloris*

ENDEMIC

Endemic to the lowlands of south-east Brazil. Seen on three dates, including a couple of birds at the private feeders we visited near Morretes on the 19th.

White-throated Hummingbird *Leucochloris albicollis*

Seen daily in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul from the 22nd to the 25th.

Versicoloured Emerald *Amazilia versicolor*

Recorded on four dates.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriate*

One seen on the 17th turned out to be the only sighting of the trip.

Gilded Hummingbird *Hylocharis chrysura*

The only hummingbird we observed in the lowlands of Rio Grande do Sul; we had fabulous views of a tame perched bird at the Banhado da Marambaia near Pelotas.

TROGONS (TROGONIDAE)

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*

Seen or heard on the first six days of the trip.

Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*

Seen or heard on three dates.

KINGFISHERS (ALCEDINIDAE)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Recorded on 8 or 9 dates.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Seen on just two dates.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

Seen on 5 dates.

PUFFBIRDS (BUCCONIDAE)

Crescent-chested Puffbird *Malacotila striata*

ENDEMIC

A pair at Trilha dos Tucanos on our first afternoon was our only sighting.

TOUCANS (RAMPHASTIDAE)

Red-breasted Toucan *Ramphastos dicolorus*

Seen or heard on six dates.

WOODPECKERS (PICIDAE)

Mottled Piculet *Picumnus nebulosus*

A male seen at close range on the evening of the 22nd at the Pousada Rio dos Touros after we had spent most of the day searching for the species elsewhere around Urupema. We also encountered one at the Parador Hampel in São Francisco de Paula on the 24th. The odd, bushy forecrest often shown by the species has always made me want to call it Crested Piculet!

Ochre-collared Piculet *Picumnus temminckii*

Seen or (mostly) heard on five dates during the first week of the trip.

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

This attractive and gregarious woodpecker of open country was seen on four dates: en route to Trilha dos Tucanos, outside Curitiba, at the Volta Velha Reserve, and near Cassino along the Estrada Senandes.

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons*

Seen at Trilha dos Tucanos where at least 4 – 6 birds regularly visited the fruit feeders by the lodge restaurant. A common but stunning Atlantic rainforest endemic.

White-spotted Woodpecker *Veniliornis spilogaster*

Seen or heard – mostly the latter – on seven dates.

White-browed Woodpecker *Piculus aurulenus*

One bird seen at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th was our only record of this handsome woodpecker which is endemic to the Atlantic rainforest.

Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*

A pair seen at a nest hole in the parking lot of our hotel in Cassino was a nice way to start our day on the 30th.

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*

Seen or heard on 12 dates. We recorded both the nominate form (*campestris* – Campo Flicker) and the southern form (*campestroides* – Field Flicker), the latter of which is often floated as a good candidate for a split in the future. The latter was quite common in the south, where we had it from the highlands of Santa Catarina south as far as Rio Grande.

Blond-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens*

Seen only on the 18th, when we had a pair at Sitio Tangará in Cananéia.

Robust Woodpecker *Campephilus robustus*

A pair near the lake at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 17th may have had a nest nearby. They weren't, however, the woodpeckers we were looking for at the site; the rarer Helmeted Woodpecker had recently been seen in the same area, so it was a bit of a let-down to find this species there instead.

SERIEMAS (CARIAMIDAE)

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*

Heard on three consecutive dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, where we finally saw a pair in upland grasslands on the 24th.

FALCONS & CARACARAS (FALCONIDAE)

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Seen on a near daily basis. Watched on several occasions raiding the nests of Southern Lapwings, and more than once we saw caracaras flying off, a lapwing chick in its talons, while the adults attacked the bird relentlessly.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Common in open areas and seen on most dates.

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*

Abundant from Urupema southward to Rio Grande, where it replaces the above species as the common species of small caracara.

* **Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

Heard on two dates at Trilha dos Tucanos.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Seen on four dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

Seen only on the 27th, a single bird along the Rincão road between Mostardas and Tavares.

PARROTS (PSITTACIDAE)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Seen on 6 dates in Rio Grande do Sul, where found on the coastal plain around Lagoa do Peixe and in the Rio Grande area.

Plain Parakeet *Brotogeris tirica*

ENDEMIC

Recorded on the first three days of the tour at Trilha dos Tucanos and near Cananeia.

Pileated Parrot *Pionopsitta pileata*

Seen or heard on four dates.

* **Blue-bellied Parrot** *Triclaria malachitacea*

ENDEMIC

We heard a pair of this enigmatic endemic parrot in the São Francisco de Paula National Forest. The birds appeared to respond to my playback a bit, and even seemed to move closer, but not quite close enough for us to see them. The drizzle which had threatened most of the morning decided to move in just as the parrots piped up, and after a while we had to give up as the birds had gone silent and weren't all too likely to fly about in the rain.

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*

Recorded on four dates in montane Atlantic rainforest at Trilha dos Tucanos and near Curitiba.

Vinaceous-breasted Parrot *Amazona vinacea*

Seen on consecutive dates at the Parador Hampel in São Francisco de Paula in the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul, with a count of 18 individuals on the morning of the 24th. This Atlantic forest endemic is globally Endangered with perhaps fewer than 2,500 individuals in the wild at present. The population is declining due to ongoing habitat destruction across its range: the species is perhaps more susceptible to threats given its nomadic nature, as they disperse widely in search of *Araucaria* cones outside the breeding season.

Red-tailed Parrot *Amazona brasiliensis*

ENDEMIC

We saw 10 individuals on Ilha Comprida across from Cananéia during a cloudy afternoon vigil on the 17th, eventually finding a couple of perched birds which showed well for good views through the scope. Endemic to coastal *restinga* and estuarine islands (where they nest) along a short stretch of the coast of South-east Brazil from southern São Paulo state to extreme northern Santa Catarina, the species is considered globally Near Threatened. The population is thought to be increasing, but there are ever-present threats to its habitat on larger islands such as Ilha Comprida posed by coastal residential development and real estate speculation.

Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius*

Recorded on 2 dates around Cananeia.

Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*

The common forest parakeet in south-east Brazil: we saw or heard them on 9 dates.

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS (THAMNOPHILIDAE)

Giant Antshrike *Batara cinerea*

A hulking male of this monster antshrike seen in roadside bamboo near Trilha dos Tucanos on the afternoon of the 16th.

Large-tailed Antshrike *Mackenziaena leachii*

We had a nice look at a male of this species, which looks ever so much like a starry night, at the Cachoeira que Congela above Urupema on the morning of the 22nd; the bird even hopped along the handrail beside the trail!

Tufted Antshrike *Mackenziaena severa*

A male seen on the first afternoon of the trip at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 15th, and heard on three dates.

* **White-bearded Antshrike** *Biatas nigropectus*

Heard on the 16th in an area of extensive bamboo on the Surucua trail at Trilha dos Tucanos. We had seen the species well at Itatiaia during a trip in 2013, and thus didn't work it for too long when the bird didn't approach immediately in response to playback.

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*

Great views of a male on the 22nd en route to the Morro do Combate in Urupema.

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

Seen or heard on five dates.

Star-throated Antwren *Rhopias gularis*

ENDEMIC

Seen only at Trilha dos Tucanos, but also heard near Cananéia.

Spot-breasted Antvireo *Dysithamnus stictothorax*

Seen or heard on four dates at Trilha dos Tucanos and around Cananéia.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*

Seen or heard on 5 dates.

Unicoloured Antwren *Myrmotherula unicolor*

ENDEMIC

A lone male seen in secondary forest at Sitio Tangará near Cananéia on the morning of the 18th, and another seen with a mixed flock on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the 21st.

Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*

Seen or heard on four dates in lowlands at Cananéia, Morretes, and Volta Velha.

Marsh Antbird *Stymphalornis acutirostris*

ENDEMIC

We found males at two different cattail marshes along the Estrada de Caóvi near Garuva on the 20th. An endangered endemic, and the birds at the site we visited are likely doomed given the ongoing draining of the roadside wetlands to plant bananas and *pupunha* palms for heart-of-palm production. Sometimes included in the *Formicivora* genus. Rated as globally Endangered on the IUCN / BirdLife red list of threatened birds, and it is easy to understand why when one encounters the species in the field in tiny marshes surrounded by agricultural areas.

Ferruginous Antbird *Dryophila ferruginea*

ENDEMIC

These attractive antbirds were amongst the first birds we saw on the trail system at Trilha dos Tucanos on the first afternoon of the trip. Seen the following day at that location, but not thereafter.

Ochre-rumped Antbird *Dryophila ochropyga*

ENDEMIC

One near Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th.

Dusky-tailed Antbird *Dryophila malura*

We had nice views of a responsive male at the roadside on the track to the Cachoeira de Chá near Trilha dos Tucanos on the 17th. Also heard on four subsequent dates.

Scaled Antbird *Drymophila squamata*

ENDEMIC

Seen only on the morning of the 18th at Sitio Tangará near Cananéia.

Streak-capped Antwren *Terenura maculata*

We encountered this canopy species on six dates, typically accompanying mixed flocks.

White-shouldered Fire-eye *Pyriglena leucoptera*

Seen or heard on seven dates at Trilha dos Tucanos, Cananéia, Curitiba and Volta Velha.

Squamate Antbird *Myrmeciza squamosa*

ENDEMIC

Great views of a pair of these fabulous ground-dwelling antbirds on the trail system at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th. We saw the species again on the 21st, amongst terrestrial bromeliads in restinga forest on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha.

GNATEATERS (CONOPOPHAGIDAE)

Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata*

Seen on the 16th at Trilha dos Tucanos, and heard on five other dates.

Black-cheeked Gnateater *Conopophaga melanops*

ENDEMIC

A responsive male seen along the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the morning of the 21st was the only individual of this handsome species that we encountered.

ANTPITTAS (GRALLARIDAE)

* **Variiegated Antpitta** *Grallaria varia*

Heard on five dates in Atlantic forests. We managed to get close to a couple of different singing birds, but I must admit it never felt as though we were close to really seeing them, as we were usually unable to penetrate the dense thickets from where the birds were singing. I thought Sally had spotted one along the trail at the São Francisco de Paula National Forest, but instead it turned out that she was looking at a Puma!

Speckle-breasted Antpitta *Hylopezus nattereri*

Heard daily at Trilha dos Tucanos, where a vocal individual on the trail system near the lodge gave us fits over the course of a couple of attempts to see it. Also heard in the Serra da Graciosa near Curitiba on the 19th, and heard on three dates in the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul around São Francisco de Paula. We finally did manage to see one in elfin forest with bamboo tangles on the slopes alongside the *Cachoeira que Congela* at the Morro das Antas in Urupema on the 22nd, although the bird mostly kept hidden deep in thickets.

TAPACULOS (RHINOCRYPTIDAE)

White-breasted Tapaculo *Eleoscytalopus indigoticus*

ENDEMIC

Fairly common and vocal on the trail system at Trilha dos Tucanos. We saw a singing bird at the roadside along the track to the Cachoeira de Chá downslope from Trilha dos Tucanos, on the morning of the 17th. The bird clambered along the bank made by the road cut, and we even watched it disappear into a hole to sing, apparently seeking the best acoustics to carry forth its frog-like song.

Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *Scytalopus speluncae*

Heard at Trilha dos Tucanos. Seen near the Cachoeira que Congela above Urupema on the morning of the 23rd.

* **Marsh Tapaculo** *Scytalopus iraiensis*

ENDEMIC

For my money, one of the most difficult birds in all of Brazil to actually see. Water levels in the marshes around Curitiba and at our favourite site for the species were a bit too high this year, meaning we couldn't landscape a proper tunnel in the marsh grasses to catch a glimpse of one of two birds which were responding weakly to tape. Our attempt at a second site was cut short by the arrival of rain and heavy fog.

Planalto Tapaculo *Scytalopus pachecoi*

Great views of this recently described species on the grounds of the Pousada Rio dos Touros in Urupema, one of the best sites for this species in all of Brazil.

ANTTHRUSHES (FORMICARIIDAE)

Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma*

Heard on two dates around Trilha dos Tucanos. Seen on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the 21st.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona*

After hearing the species at Trilha dos Tucanos (where abundant) and near Curitiba, we finally saw one at our hotel in São Francisco de Paula before breakfast on the 24th.

* **Such's Antthrush** *Chamaeza meruloides*

ENDEMIC

Heard on the 16th and 17th at Trilha dos Tucanos.

* **Rufous-tailed Antthrush** *Chamaeza ruficauda*

Three or four birds encountered along the trail at the Cachoeira que Congela above Urupema on the morning of the 22nd, but we managed nothing more than the briefest of glimpses.

OVENBIRDS (FURNARIIDAE)

Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus scansor*

Seen on the 23rd and 24th on the trail system at Parador Hampel in São Francisco de Paula.

Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia*

We saw small numbers of this species near dunes and lake edges in the Lagoa do Peixe area on the 26th and 27th. The race here is the nominate *cunicularia* of the Atlantic coastal lowlands of southern South America, reaching its northernmost range limit here in Rio Grande do Sul.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Common in Atlantic forests and seen or heard on 10 dates. This widespread species is quite variable across its range from Mexico to Argentina, and several species-level taxa are certainly to be found within *S. griseicapillus* as currently recognized. The subspecies we observed during this tour is the *sylviellus* race.

Plain-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla turdina*

Seen only once, a single bird with a mixed flock on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the 21st.

Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*

We saw the species on two dates at Parador Hampel in São Francisco de Paula; also heard a couple of times at Trilha dos Tucanos.

White-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*

We had great studies of this hulking woodcreeper – endemic to the Atlantic forests of SE Brazil and limited areas of Paraguay and Argentina – on a couple of dates, including close range views at the hide at Trilha dos Tucanos, and a pair seen dismantling a bromeliad below eye level at a roadside rest stop on the Estrada da Graciosa. Recorded on 5 dates in total.

Lesser Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus fuscus*

Common in forests and seen or heard on 9 dates.

Scalloped Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes falcinellus*

Recorded on five dates.

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

Seen nearly every day of the tour.

Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper *Lochmias nematura*

Recorded on just four dates, and seen only on the 19th along the Estrada do Corvo near Curitiba.

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*

Recorded on six of the last seven days of the trip in the Lagoa do Peixe and Rio Grande areas, where it was quite common in its preferred reed bed habitat.

Curve-billed Reedhaunter *Limnornis curvirostris*

Fairly common in the Lagoa do Peixe and Rio Grande areas, where we recorded the species on four dates. Prefers extensive reed beds, and less likely than the previous species to be found in smaller patches of reeds.

Long-tailed Cinclodes *Cinclodes pabsti*

ENDEMIC

Seen on three dates around Urupema and São Francisco de Paula. Our first views were also our best views, of a displaying pair at the beginning of the track up the Morro das Antenas above Urupema on the morning of the 22nd. This species is endemic to the highlands of the Serral Geral and Serra Gaúcha of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul states in southern Brazil. A recently discovered population in the Espinhaço range of Minas Gerais, while somewhat similar vocally and morphologically to *C. pabsti*, is recognized by some authorities as a separate species, the Cipó Cinclodes *C. espinhacensis*.

* **White-collared Foliage-gleaner** *Anabazenops fuscus*

ENDEMIC

We heard this endemic species, a specialist of bamboo thickets in montane Atlantic rainforest, on four dates at Trilha dos Tucanos and near Curitiba. Having seen the species well on previous tours to SE Brazil together, we did not make a special effort to call any of these birds into view.

Pale-browed Treehunter *Cichlocolaptes leucophrus*

ENDEMIC

It seemed to be fairly common on the trail system at Trilha dos Tucanos, where we encountered the species three times. Also seen at Volta Velha on the 21st, a single bird with a mixed flock which habitually foraged inside large bromeliads. All of our sightings relate to the southern *holsti* subspecies, which HBW splits off from *C. leucophrus* and provisionally names Small Pale-browed Treehunter.

Sharp-billed Treehunter *Heliobletus contaminatus*

Seen on just two dates: on the 19th on the Estrada do Corvo in the Serra da Graciosa; and a pair with a mixed species flock along the forest trail at the Parador Hampel in São Francisco de Paula.

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor atricapillus*

Seen at Trilha dos Tucanos and Volta Velha.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum*

Pairs seen at Trilha dos Tucanos and São Francisco de Paula.

Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia lichtensteini*

A pair seen with a mixed flock on the Surucuá Trail at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th was our only sighting of this Atlantic rainforest endemic.

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*

We had remarkable walk-away views of a curious bird which stopped still beside the track, allowing feather-perfect views, along the Estrada do Corvo near Curitiba on the 19th.

Canebrake Groundcreeper *Clibanornis dendrocolaptoides*

After striking out in the Serra da Graciosa on the 19th, we visited the Barigui urban park in Curitiba the following morning and found a pair at their usual spot near a quiet jogging track. Endemic to the Atlantic rainforests below 1200m from the south of São Paulo to Santa Catarina; also occurs in a limited area in Paraguay and Argentina.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus*

Seen at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 15th and heard at Volta Velha.

Striolated Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura striolata*

ENDEMIC

This localized furnarid is endemic to the Serra Geral of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. We saw one on the grounds of the Pousada Rio dos Touros late in the afternoon on the 21st – the species usually nests very close to the lodge, sometimes even on the buildings themselves. We also saw a pair in an otherwise lifeless pine plantation near São Francisco de Paula on the 24th.

Araucaria Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura setaria*

Quite common in *Araucaria* groves in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

Hudson's Canastero *Asthenes hudsoni*

Two birds seen (and scoped) in their preferred habitat in the narrow band of sedges between the freshwater lakes and inland dunes of the Lagoa do Peixe. This species was only recently discovered to occur regularly in the area; it is perhaps a scarce breeding resident which is easily overlooked as its habitat tends not to hold many other birds, and is thus often ignored.

Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail *Spartonoica maluroides*

We were fortunate to find a responsive pair of these shy marsh skulkers along the Talha-Mar trail at Lagoa do Peixe NP on the 26th.

Freckle-breasted Thornbird *Phacellodomus striaticollis*

Pairs found in brushy areas around upland marshes in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul; also seen farther south around Rio Grande.

* **Orange-breasted Thornbird** *Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*

Heard only at the Banhado da Marambaia near Pelotas on the 28th. The species is nearly endemic to Brazil, but its range just barely bleeds across the border into northern Uruguay.

Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius annumbi*

Seen near Urupema on the 22nd and at Ilha de Torotama outside Rio Grande on the 29th; also heard on three other dates.

Straight-billed Reedhaunter *Limnoctictes rectirostris*

A pair of this range-restricted species seen at a marsh near Bom Jesus on the 23rd; also seen at the Banhado da Capivara outside São Francisco de Paula the following day.

Olive Spinetail *Cranioleuca obsoleta*

Seen on heard four dates in highland forests in Paraná (Curitiba), Santa Catarina (Urupema), and Rio Grande do Sul (São Francisco de Paula). In Brazil this is a specialty of the south, being replaced further north by the following species.

* **Pallid Spinetail** *Cranioleuca pallida*

ENDEMIC

Heard on a daily basis at Trilha dos Tucanos, but we didn't make much effort to try to see it as we had seen many during Richard and Sally's 2013 visit which covered South-east Brazil.

Stripe-crowned Spinetail *Cranioleuca pyrrhopia*

One seen on the road to Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande on the 29th.

Sulphur-bearded Spinetail *Cranioleuca sulphurifera*

We had great views – with its sulphur beard showing very well – of a responsive bird in an extensive reedbed alongside the road on the Estrada Senandes near Cassino on the 30th. Yet another southern specialty!

Chotoy Spinetail *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*

Seen on the 30th along the Santa Isabel road, in a bit of scrub at the edge of a ploughed field before we reached the extensive flooded areas.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*

Seen on heard on 6 dates. Quite common in the southern marshes.

Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla*

We recorded this species in the undergrowth of humid montane forests on six dates during the tour.

Gray-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis cinerascens*

One seen in the Parque Barigui in Curitiba on the morning of the 20th was our only sighting.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis*

Three birds seen or heard in thick brush at the very beginning of the Santa Isabel road southwest of Rio Grande on the morning of the 30th.

Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi*

Widespread; seen or heard on eight dates.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (TYRANNIDAE)

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Seen or heard on three dates.

Crested Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*

We found three individuals – and had good views of these terrific little flycatchers through the scope – in reedbeds at Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande on the morning of the 29th.

Warbling Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris*

One seen at Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande on the morning of the 29th was our only sighting. We found a responsive individual in a roadside reedbed a short distance farther down the road from the area where we spotted the aforementioned Crested Doraditos.

Gray Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps*

Two seen in the canopy of tall restinga forest on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the 21st.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Recorded on four dates.

Olivaceous Elaenia *Elaenia mesoleuca*

Seen or heard on three dates in Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul.

Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura*

At least a half dozen individuals seen in *restinga* around Cananéia on the afternoon of the 17th.

Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans*

We saw this spritely (if subdued in its colouration) little tyrannulet of streams and marshes on three dates near São Francisco de Paula and in the extreme south of Rio Grande do Sul.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

Seen or heard on five dates.

Gray-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*

Seen at Trilha dos Tucanos and along the Estrada do Corvo in the Serra da Graciosa near Curitiba.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*

Recorded on just a couple of dates.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*

Seen or heard on four dates; particularly common with mixed species flocks in the highlands of Santa Catarina around Urupema.

Restinga Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes kronei*

ENDEMIC

We saw this range restricted endemic on the 17th around Cananéia, where we had at least four different individuals; also seen on the 21st at Volta Velha along the Casa de Vidro trail.

Oustalet's Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes oustaleti*

ENDEMIC

A single bird seen on the trail system at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th was our only record of this endemic.

Serra do Mar Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes difficilis*

ENDEMIC

A single bird seen along the short trail to the Cachoeira Que Congela at the Morro das Antenas in Urupema on the morning of the 22nd. Considered Near Threatened on the IUCN / BirdLife red list.

Greenish Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias virescens*

A pair seen on the forest trail at Parador Hampel on the afternoon of the 23rd was our only sighting.

Planalto Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias fasciatus*

Seen or heard on four dates.

Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*

After missing the species at Lagoa do Peixe due to high flooding of its reed bed haunts in some of my favourite spots, we connected in style on the 29th, when we had close views of single males of this spectacular bird at Ilha de Torotama and in the Corredor Pinheiros marshes around Rio Grande.

Sharp-tailed Tyrant *Culicivora caudacuta*

Always a favourite of mine. We had a little group of three birds which came in to the edge of the road from quite some distance at an extensive marsh north of Bom Jesus in the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul on the 23rd. Globally threatened and listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN / BirdLife red list. In South Brazil the species is threatened by the conversion of its grassland habitats for farming and pine and *Eucalyptus* plantations.

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis auricularis*

Birds seen on two or three dates at Trilha dos Tucanos.

Brown-breasted Bamboo-tyrant *Hemitriccus obsoletus*

Seen or heard on three dates in stands of bamboo in highland forests of the Serra da Graciosa and around São Francisco de Paula. Endemic to the Atlantic rainforests of south-east Brazil and north-eastern Argentina.

Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus orbitatus*

ENDEMIC

A single bird seen on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the 21st was our only record.

Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus kaempferi*

ENDEMIC

One seen well on the 21st along the Casa de Vidro trail at the Volta Velha Reserve, which happens to be one of the best sites for the species, an endemic with a tiny coastal range in southern Paraná and northern Santa Catarina states. The species was first discovered in 1929, the collected again in 1950, but several decades passed between the 1950s and its rediscovery in 1991. It is globally Endangered.

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps*

Seen or heard on four dates.

Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum poliocephalum*

ENDEMIC

Seen or heard daily during the first seven days of the tour.

**** Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*

Heard only, on the 30th.

*** Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

Heard on three dates but we never made an effort to see it as Sally and Richard had seen the species many times before during previous trips to Brazil.

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*

One seen on the trail system at Parador Hampel on the 23rd, and heard there the following morning, were our

only records.

Russet-winged Spadebill *Platyrinchus leucoryphus*

One seen after quite a bit of searching on the Casa de Vidro trail at Volta Velha on the 21st. One of the rarer and more difficult to find of the Atlantic rainforest endemics; Volta Velha is one of the better places in all of Brazil to find the species.

Atlantic Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus swainsoni* **ENDEMIC**

A pair seen near a nest overhanging a forest stream on the trail system at Trilha dos Tucanos; this pair is perhaps the most-watched pair of Royal Flycatchers in Brazil, as Trilha dos Tucanos is convenient to São Paulo and very popular amongst the local birders, most of whom aspire to photograph the spectacular but rarely seen crest of this other unobtrusive species.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*

Seen or heard on four dates.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

Seen or heard on five dates.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri*

Widespread and common – albeit rather inconspicuous – and detected on nine dates during the tour.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*

Up to five different individuals seen on the afternoon of the 17th around Cananéia and on Ilha Comprida; we saw the nominate form here, an Atlantic rainforest endemic.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

A single seen on the 18th at Sitio Tangará in Cananéia was actually our only sighting on the trip.

Velvety Black-tyrant *Knipolegus nigerrimus* **ENDEMIC**

Three birds seen at the edge of the spectacular Fortaleza canyon in Serra Geral National Park in the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul represented the only sighting of the trip.

Blue-billed Black-tyrant *Knipolegus cyanirostris*

One seen at the Cachoeira Que Congela on the 22nd in Urupema was our only sighting of the trip.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus*

We saw this terrific little flycatcher on four dates in the marshes of southern Brazil.

Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*

Seen on seven different dates.

Gray Monjita *Xolmis cinereus*

Seen on three dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

White Monjita *Xolmis irupero*

A delightfully common bird of open country, pasture land, and marshes in the extreme south of Brazil, where we saw them on seven dates.

Black-and-white Monjita *Xolmis dominicanus*

We had this attractive near-endemic on five dates: 5 birds in a marsh opposite Pousada Rio dos Touros on the evening of the 21st; a pair on the Morro do Combate in Urupema on the 22nd; two different pairs along the road to the São Francisco de Paula National Forest on the 24th; at least 5 birds on another side road on the same date; and 3 birds near Rio Grande on the Senandes track on the 30th. The species is apparently declining across its range in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay due to habitat modification, burning, and implementation of large-scale forestry projects. It is rated Vulnerable to IUCN/BirdLife.

Masked Water-tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*

Recorded on three dates.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

Singles seen on a couple of dates.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

Seen on nine dates.

Rufous-tailed Attila *Attila phoenicurus*

Recorded on five dates, and two birds seen at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th.

Gray-hooded Attila *Attila rufus*

ENDEMIC

Seen or heard on four dates.

Sibilant Sirystes *Sirystes sibilator*

Heard on a couple of dates at Trilha dos Tucanos; we saw a pair (and heard another individual) at Sitio Tangará near Cananéia on the 18th. Along with Todd's Sirystes, White-rumped Sirystes, and Chocó Sirystes, this used to form a single superspecies known simply as Sirystes. The nominate form became the Sibilant Sirystes, which is largely restricted to eastern Brazil into the southern Amazon, but also occurs in the Atlantic forests of Argentina and Paraguay.

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*

Seen or heard on 8 dates.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

Seen on just a single date in the lowlands of São Paulo state on the 18th.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Recorded daily throughout the tour.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Recorded on just three dates.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Seen on three dates during the first week of the tour, but absent farther south.

Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgatus*

Seen or heard on five dates.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Recorded on 7 dates.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

Recorded on 7 dates.

Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*

Recorded on the first four days of the trip, but not thereafter.

Crowned Slaty-flycatcher *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*

Our only sighting came in a small pine plantation on the outskirts of the town of Mostardas, where a rather miserable looking bird sat quietly at the edge during a gray, windy morning.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Recorded on almost every day of the trip, save for the 27th.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Seen on 14 dates.

COTINGAS (COTINGIDAE)

Hooded Berryeater *Carpornis cucullata*

ENDEMIC

After hearing them at Trilha dos Tucanos, we managed good views of a male on the Estrada do Corvo in the Serra da Graciosa on the morning of the 19th. Also heard at the FLONA São Francisco de Paula.

* **Cinnamon-vented Piha** *Lipaugus lanioides*

ENDEMIC

Heard at close range along the main trail at Trilha dos Tucanos on the afternoon of the 15th, but we didn't manage to see them.

Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*

Heard on six dates and finally seen on the morning of the 19th on the Estrada do Corvo in the Serra da Graciosa, where we watched a singing male through the scope. It was remarkable to see the bird lean forward each time it called, appearing to use its entire body to 'throw' its far-carrying voice in the direction it had chosen.

MANAKINS (PIPRIDAE)

Blue Manakin *Chiroxiphia caudata*

Seen or heard on seven dates from São Paulo southward as far as Volta Velha in northern Santa Catarina.

TITYRAS & ALLIES (TITYRIDAE)

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*

A pair seen on the morning of the 17th on the road to the Cachoeira do Chá near Trilha dos Tucanos at ca. 600m elevation – our only sighting.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

A pair at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th was our only sighting of the trip.

Greenish Schiffornis *Schiffornis virescens*

Seen at Trilha dos Tucanos on the 16th, and heard on four subsequent dates as far south as Itapoá.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus*
Common at Trilha dos Tucanos.

* **White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus*
Heard only, on the 16th at Trilha dos Tucanos.

Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus*
Recorded on five dates, from Trilha dos Tucanos south to Volta Velha at Itapoá.

VIREOS (VIREONIDAE)

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Seen or heard on 10 dates. Absent from the extreme south.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis*
Seen or heard on four dates at the beginning of the tour.

* **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis*
Common and heard almost daily except in the lowlands of Rio Grande do Sul. Actually rather difficult to believe we didn't see one during the course of the trip!

JAYS (CORVIDAE)

Azure Jay *Cyanocorax caeruleus*
These big jays, loud and charismatic, have their stronghold in South Brazil, with the species' range just spilling over the borders into Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. We saw them first near Cananéia on the morning of the 18th, and had them on seven subsequent dates, mostly in forested areas, from the lowlands around Itapoá up to the *Araucaria* forests around Urupema. Considered Near Threatened by BirdLife.

SWALLOWS (HIRUNDINIDAE)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
This common swallow of open country was recorded on 10 dates and was most common in the highlands.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
Widespread in the south-east and seen on seven dates, but not in the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul or in the extreme southern marshes.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*
Recorded on seven dates.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*
Widespread and common, especially so in the south.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*
One seen on the 16th was our only record.

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*

Seen on 12 dates. We checked most of the birds we encountered in southern Rio Grande do Sul in case any late stragglers of Chilean Swallows were still to be found, but that winter visitor was nowhere to be found on this trip.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

This boreal migrant was seen on 7 dates, including daily in the Lagoa do Peixe and Rio Grande areas.

WRENS (TROGLODYTIDAE)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Recorded on each day of the tour.

* **Long-billed Wren** *Cantorchilus longirostris*

Heard at Sitio Tangará near Cananéia on the morning of the 18th.

ENDEMIC

GNATCATCHERS (POLIOPTILIDAE)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

Fairly common at Trilha dos Tucanos and seen there on the 16th.

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola*

Seen only around Rio Grande on the 28th and 29th.

THRUSHES (TURDIDAE)

Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes*

Seen or heard on four dates.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

Recorded on three dates in the lowlands of São Paulo, Paraná and Santa Catarina.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

Seen on eleven dates.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

Recorded on eight dates.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*

Seen on just four dates.

MOCKINGBIRDS (MIMIDAE)

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

PIPITS (MOTACILIDAE)

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens*

Seen or heard on six dates in lowlands of Rio Grande do Sul around Lagoa do Peixe and Rio Grande.

Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*

Numerous in the short-grass pastures along the Trilha do Talha-Mar in Lagoa do Peixe NP on the 26th.

Ochre-breasted Pipit *Anthus nattereri*

A singing bird seen poorly in grassland along the road to the São Francisco de Paul National Forest on a misty morning on the 25th was our only sighting of the species. The species prefers pristine grasslands, and as a result occurs patchily across south-east and south Brazil, southern Paraguay, north-east Argentina, and north-central Uruguay. It is considered Vulnerable by the IUCN and BirdLife International.

Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri*

One seen on the 24th in rocky grassland near the edge of the spectacular Fortaleza canyon in the Serra Geral NP was our only sighting.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS (PARULIDAE)

Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*

Common and widespread and found on 11 dates.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Common to abundant in forests and other wooded habitats from Trilha dos Tucanos south to the highlands of Rio Grande do Sul. Not recorded during our time at Lagoa do Peixe and around Rio Grande.

White-browed Warbler *Myiothlypis leucoblephara*

Seen or heard on 8 dates. Notably common at the São Francisco de Paula National Forest on the morning of the 25th.

Riverbank Warbler *Myiothlypis rivularis*

Recorded on five dates, including at least ten individuals seen on the 15th, the day we arrived at Trilha dos Tucanos from São Paulo.

TANAGERS & ALLIES (THRAUPIDAE)

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*

Common in the lowlands of Rio Grande do Sul, where often even found along roadsides.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*

We saw up to four of these stunning birds on the three dates we birded at Trilha dos Tucanos.

Olive-green Tanager *Orthogonys chloricterus*

A regular visitor to the fruit feeders at Trilha dos Tucanos.

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*

Seen daily at Trilha dos Tucanos, and on a couple of dates thereafter near Curitiba and at Volta Velha.

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus*

Males seen on two dates at or near Trilha dos Tucanos.

Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*

Seen daily during the first week of the tour, but not found after we left Volta Velha.

Brazilian Tanager *Ramphocelus bresilius*

This stunning, blood-red Brazilian endemic was seen on four dates around Cananéia and at Volta Velha.

Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus*

Fairly common in the highlands of Santa Catarina at the Rio dos Touros in Urupema, where it visits the feeders in front of the restaurant.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*

We saw this attractive tanager on the 15th at Trilha dos Tucanos, and again on the 23rd on the grounds of the Parador Hampel hotel in São Francisco de Paula.

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Pipraeidea bonariensis*

Fairly common in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. A regular visitor to the window-side feeders at the Pousada Rio dos Touros.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*

Common and widespread.

Azure-shouldered Tanager *Thraupis cyanoptera*

ENDEMIC

Quite common at the feeders at Trilha dos Tucanos, where we saw the species daily.

Golden-chevroned Tanager *Thraupis ornata*

ENDEMIC

Seen on just three dates, all at Trilha dos Tucanos, where the species was present in small numbers at the lodge feeders.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Seen on just four dates.

Black-backed Tanager *Tangara peruviana*

ENDEMIC

We found four individuals in the restinga forest along the quarantine road in Cananéia on the afternoon of the 17th. The species is endemic to a relatively short stretch of coastal restinga from northern Santa Catarina to southern Rio de Janeiro states. It is classified as globally Vulnerable by BirdLife International and the IUCN due to its restricted range and threats to its habitat posed by coastal developments.

Chestnut-backed Tanager *Tangara preciosa*

Sister species to the previous species, and just as attractive as that one. We had the species on five dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, where it is fairly common. A pair regularly visited the window-side feeders by the lodge restaurant at Pousada Rio dos Touros in Urupema.

Green-headed Tanager *Tangara seledon*

One of the most spectacular birds of the Atlantic rainforest. Seen daily during the first week of our trip, both in the montane forests around Trilha dos Tucanos and near Curitiba, and in the lowlands around Cananéia and Itapóia in northern Santa Catarina.

Red-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanocephala*

Small numbers seen on three dates at Trilha dos Tucanos and the Serra da Graciosa below Curitiba. Another stunning Atlantic rainforest endemic that must be seen to be believed!

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*

Recorded on just three dates.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

Seen on five dates at Trilha dos Tucanos and around Cananéia, but not found farther south.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

A pair seen at a roadside stop on the Estrada da Graciosa near Curitiba on the 19th turned out to be the only sighting of the trip.

Rufous-headed Tanager *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*

ENDEMIC

Two pairs seen with mixed species flocks on the 16th at Trilha dos Tucanos.

Long-tailed Reed-finch *Donacospiza albifrons*

Pairs seen in small marshes in upland grasslands on the 22nd near Urupema on the Morro do Combate, and also on the 24th near São Francisco de Paula on the road to Vargem São João.

Bay-chested Warbling-finch *Poospiza thoracica*

One seen at Rio dos Touros in Urupema on the 22nd.

Black-and-rufous Warbling-finch *Poospiza nigrorufa*

Seen on the 22nd and 23rd in the highlands of northern Rio Grande do Sul, where the species inhabits shrubby edges around marshes and humid grasslands. Also seen on the 29th in a small area of thorny scrub and deciduous forest en route to the Ilha de Torotama.

Gray-throated Warbling-finch *Poospiza cabanisi*

Seen on three dates in the highlands of Santa Catarina (Rio dos Touros) and Rio Grande do Sul (FLONA São Francisco de Paula). Recently moved from *Poospiza* to *Mitrospingus*.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

Widespread, abundant and recorded almost daily.

Grassland Yellow-finch *Sicalis luteola*

Common in the highlands and in the extreme south at Lagoa do Peixe and around Rio Grande.

Lesser Grass-finch *Emberizoides ypiranganus*

Locally common in small marshes and humid grasslands in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

Great Pampa-finch *Embernagra platensis*

Seen on eight dates.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

Somewhat surprisingly, only encountered on four dates, mostly near Urupema and in the highlands of northern Rio Grande do Sul.

* **Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch** *Sporophila angolensis*
Heard in the lowlands at Cananeia and Itapoá.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*
Seen on eight dates.

Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris*
A couple of females seen in the tidal marshes at the foot of the breakwaters of Rio Grande on the morning of the 31st were the only ones we encountered during the trip.

Red-crested Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*
We saw a male in a somewhat overgrown *pupunha* palm plantation at Volta Velha on the 21st.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*
Seen only on four dates at Trilha dos Tucanos, Cananéia, and Morretes.

Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*
Seen or heard on eight dates.

Thick-billed Saltator *Saltator maxillosus*
Seen only on the 22nd and 23rd at the feeders at Rio dos Touros, where the species is a regular visitor. The feeders at Pousada Rio dos Touros sit just outside the big windows of the lodge restaurant, meaning we could really enjoy the morning traffic of saltators, tanagers, guans and hummingbirds as we lingered over breakfast and a hot cup of coffee.

Black-throated Grosbeak *Saltator fuliginosus*
Seen or heard on a daily basis at Trilha dos Tucanos, where a pair would descend to the ground to feed on corn meal at the forest hide feeder.

SPARROWS (EMBERIZIDAE)

Half-collared Sparrow *Arremon semitorquatus* **ENDEMIC**
Recorded on three dates at Trilha dos Tucanos, where we were delighted to find the bird visiting the forest hide feeder on a regular basis. This endemic can be difficult to find in most of its range, and this was the first time I had seen them coming to feeders.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*
Seen or heard on five dates.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*
Common and seen daily.

CARDINAL GROSBEAKS (CARDINALIDAE)

Red-crowned Ant-tanager *Habia rubica*

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS (ICTERIDAE)

White-browed Blackbird *Sturnella superciliaris*

Seen in small numbers on seven dates, mostly in the southern lowlands.

Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*

Recorded on five dates.

Scarlet-headed Blackbird *Amblyramphus holosericeus*

Seen on three dates: a single bird at Lagoa do Peixe NP; and up to a half dozen on two dates near Rio Grande.

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius*

Seen on four dates in southern marshes, at a number of sites visited with a high count of about 20 birds.

Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus*

Widespread and abundant in the marshes of Rio Grande do Sul, where we had the species on seven dates. Seen in the thousands in areas under cultivation for rice plantations near Mostardas and Tavares in the vicinity of the Lagoa do Peixe NP (but outside the park), for example along the Estrada de Caieiras.

Saffron-cowled Blackbird *Xanthopsar flavus*

Seen on the evening of the 21st at Urupema in a marsh opposite the Pousada Rio dos Touros, where we had 9 individuals. Also seen on the 24th at three different sites: 12 birds at the Banhado das Capivaras; 13 birds at a small marsh near the São Francisco de Paula National Forest; and 2 birds along the side road to Vargem São João. This attractive blackbird is in steep decline across its range, and is rated as globally Vulnerable. We were able to observe the curious relationship between this species and the Black-and-white Monjita, as the small flocks of blackbirds habitually follow the movements of pairs of the monjitas. The blackbirds usually forage in small flocks on the ground while the monjitas sit on low but exposed perches in marshes; when the monjita changes its perch, the blackbirds would lift off the ground in unison to follow the monjita.

Yellow-rumped Marshbird *Pseudoleistes guirahuro*

Seen on six dates.

Brown-and-yellow Marshbird *Pseudoleistes virescens*

Seen on five dates in the southern marshes at Lagoa do Peixe and around Rio Grande, with a high count of 48 birds on the afternoon of the 30th along the Senandes road near Cassino.

Grayish Baywing *Agelaioides badius*

Seen on five dates.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Widespread; recorded on a daily basis throughout the tour.

**** Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Variable Oriole *Icterus pyrrhopterus*

Seen only on the 29th in thorny scrub forest at Ilha de Torotama near Rio Grande.

Golden-winged Cacique *Cacicus chrysopterus*

Singles seen at the feeders at Trilha dos Tucanos; also seen visiting the feeders at Rio dos Touros.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

Seen on five dates in Atlantic rainforest at Trilha dos Tucanos and near Curitiba.

EUPHONIAS & ALLIES (FRINGILLIDAE)

Green-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chalybea*

Sally and I had a pair on the trail at our hotel in São Francisco de Paula on the 24th; Richard caught up with it about a half an hour later when we found a nest-building bird in the hotel garden, seen from our breakfast table!

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*

Single males seen at Trilha dos Tucanos and on the Estrada do Corvo near Curitiba.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*

Quite common, especially as we progressed in the south. Particularly numerous in the highlands of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIDAE)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

We had this introduced species in built-up areas throughout the duration of the trip.