

Brazil: Northern Amazon and the Araguaia Valley

a Birding Mato Grosso custom tour

15 October - 2 November 2012



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas

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Introduction: One of the best parts of owning a birding tourism company in Brazil is that every year I have the opportunity to visit little-known regions of the country while searching for enigmatic birds and wildlife; to do so in the company of genuinely interested nature lovers, over the course of a rich and varied itinerary, is better yet. After an enjoyable and successful first trip to Brazil a few years ago, Bill and I had kept in touch about the possibility of a return trip in search of more new birds, an interesting mammal here and there, and even the occasional stop to look at a few local handicrafts. After a trip we had planned for the beginning of 2012 fell through, we worked on a new itinerary and thanks to Bill's perseverance in keeping me on task during a period in which being a new parent was a daily distraction, we had the makings of an exciting trip.

A last minute revision to our itinerary to add a quick visit to the northern state of Roraima, a region that Mary had long wanted to see, left us with a logistically complex trip that promised to be

highly rewarding if all went well. Thankfully all went very well, and we didn't have a single hitch in the plans even with a number of internal flights in our itinerary. Our trip began in the *terra firme* Guianan Shield forests at Presidente Figueiredo to the north of Manaus, where we had the bird of the trip: the unforgettable Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, on a lek no less, where we watched eight or ten males showing off their fabulous colours all around us - this just a short while after devouring a delicious lunch of barbecued fresh fish, prepared by our hosts. From Presidente Figueiredo we moved on to the Anavilhanas archipelago, the world's largest river island system. Here we made daily boat trips in search of the regional endemics, each day returning to our elegant lodgings overlooking the spectacular rio Negro. Our next birding location was a definite change of pace, moving from the forested Amazonian habitats to the rice and soybean farms of the Araguaia river valley at the Pousada Praia Alta in the state of Tocantins. Here we enjoyed an exuberant birdlife reminiscent of the Pantanal as we toured around the local farms, took a river trip, and made a side trip for the recently rediscovered Kaempfer's Woodpecker. Praia Alta was good for a few mammals too, with great sightings of Brazilian Tapir, Crab-eating Raccoon, Giant Otter, a fleeting look at a Jaguarundi, and more Marsh Deer than one could shake a stick at. Before we knew it our four nights at Praia Alta were up and we were headed back to Manaus in another long travel day. From there we made the short flight up to Boa Vista, the capital of the state of Roraima. Around Boa Vista itself we found the local endemics (Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail) while birding gallery forests, savannahs, and the mighty rio Branco. A single night in the village of Tepequem in north-central Roraima took us to a mini-tepui cloaked in tropical forest; our time in Roraima was short, but we saw quite a few new birds and thanks to Francisco Diniz of Makunaima Expeditions, learned quite a bit about the state and its history.

I'd like to thank Mary and Bill for the opportunity to organize and guide this trip. Brazil is a country replete with well-kept secrets that even the most traveled birders and nature lovers have yet to hear of. To spend three weeks visiting such locations with friends is a great blessing indeed.



Dawn over the rio Negro, Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge, Amazonas.

Itinerary

October 15: Arrival in Manaus. Drive to Presidente Figueiredo.

October 16: Birding in Presidente Figueiredo (Iracema Falls Hotel / AM-240 south of Presidente Figueiredo / PM at Iracema Falls Hotel again).

October 17: Birding in Presidente Figueiredo (Parque Municipal Cachoeira das Orquideas / KM-122 of BR-174).

October 18: Birding in Presidente Figueiredo (Aldeia Mari Mari / Iracema Falls Hotel).

October 19: Birding in Presidente Figueiredo (Iracema Falls Hotel). Drive to Manaus and transfer to Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge.

October 20: Anavilhanas archipelago all day.

October 21: Anavilhanas archipelago all day.

October 22: Birding on foot from Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge.

October 23: Transfer to Manaus. Afternoon flight to Palmas via Brasília. Night in Palmas.

October 24: Transfer to Pousada Praia Alta and afternoon birding nearby.

October 25: Birding at Pousada Praia Alta (Trail to Rio Formoso / Fazenda Diamante / river trip on Rio Formoso).

October 26: Birding near Lagoa da Confusão. Afternoon at Fazenda Barreira da Cruz.

October 27: Birding at Pousada Praia Alta (Fazenda Terras Negras / Fazenda Imperador / Fazenda Praia Alta).

October 28: Morning birding Pousada Praia Alta. Return to Palmas for flights to Manaus.

October 29: Mid-day flight to Boa Vista. Afternoon river trip on Rio Branco.

October 30: Morning birding north of Boa Vista (RR-319 to Passarão). Drive to Tepequem.

October 31: Birding at SESC Tepequem. Return to Boa Vista.

November 1: Birding in Boa Vista. Afternoon flight to Manaus.

November 2: Outbound flights.

Daily Accounts

October 15th: I met up with Bill and Mary at the airport in Manaus in the early afternoon under cloudy skies. After exchanging greetings and catching up a bit, we headed directly to lunch at a nice air-conditioned restaurant fairly close to the airport where they serve a tasty spread of regional specialties including *pato no tucupi*, various fresh fish dishes including several featuring *pirarucu*, lamb in wine sauce, and various fresh and saltwater seafood dishes in a delicious buffet. Hunger satisfied, we arranged ourselves in the van and hit the road, heading north to the town of Presidente Figueiredo, 110 km on a good road through forested hills.

We arrived at our hotel in the late afternoon, and after checking in agreed to meet once everyone had sorted out their gear for a bit of late afternoon birding near the rooms. We reconvened just a little bit before dusk, but still with enough time to start things off with a few striking creatures including a **Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** pair, a couple of **Moriche Orioles**, a flyover view of four **Blue-and-yellow Macaws**, and a nice supporting cast that included **Blue-gray**, **Palm**, and **Silver-beaked Tanager**, **Piratic** and **Social Flycatchers**, **Yellow-browed Sparrow**, **Swallow-wing**, and a couple of **Short-tailed Nighthawks** that started to fly around over the hotel's volleyball court at dusk. By now it was too dark to glimpse the **Marail Guans** we heard calling near the forest edge by the parking lot, but we decided to mark a date with them for the following morning.

The hotel's restaurant was closed, so we drove into the small town of Presidente Figueiredo in search of dinner. After a couple more closed restaurants, we found an unassuming place near the Urubuí rapids which actually turned out to be quite nice. Mary had the beef, while Bill and I split a sumptuous barbecued *tambaqui*, a delicious Amazonian fish.

October 16th: Our first morning began around the hotel grounds before breakfast, where we eased into the Amazonian avifauna watching the activity in the *acaí* palms beside our rooms. Things kicked off with **Variegated Flycatcher** and improved views of the **Chestnut-bellied Seed eater**, which we followed up with a pair of **Yellow-crowned Tyrannulets** and a co-operative **Cinereous Becard** pair. We wandered over in the direction of the swimming pool, hoping to see the **Crimson Topaz** I had been hearing, and while we didn't get that one we did have quick views of a nice little **Green-tailed Goldenthrout**. Before long Bill spied a couple of **Moriche Orioles** in nearby palms, including one feeding a begging juvenile **Shiny Cowbird**, and moments later I noticed a lovely **Sulphury Flycatcher** which we enjoyed in the scope. We had our first of at least a dozen **Scarlet Macaws** on the morning fly over. Some activity in a bare crown at the forest edge drew our attention to a pair of **Black-tailed Tityras**, while not far away a handsome **Scaled Pigeon** was perched up in the open.



Sulphury Flycatcher (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*), Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas

Mary found she wasn't feeling too well early this morning, and went to sit down for a bit and have a snack to regain her energy, while Bill and I wandered down to the small stream near the hotel. Here we found a cracking male **Golden-sided Euphonia**, more **Moriche Orioles**, and a couple of

Black Nunbirds to boot. Swinging back round to pick up Mary, we walked back toward the stream thinking we would stake out a tree with brilliant red flowers beside the road, hoping to find a hummingbird or two. First up was the hefty **Gray-breasted Sabrewing**; for a while it was the only hummer around, so we turned our attention to a pair of **Blue-headed Parrots** which had flown in nearby and obliged while we ogled them in the scope. A quartet of **Mealy Parrots** flew through, while a **Red-eyed Vireo** foraged quietly in a tree beside us. A calling **Waved Woodpecker** refused to budge and at this point Mary decided perhaps she had best sit down again. No sooner had she left when the **Crimson Topaz** started to call in front of us, and with a bit of tape riling him up we were soon enjoying top-to-bottom scope views of a dazzling male!

After a leisurely breakfast during which we were well taken care of by the hotel's cook, followed by a very short break to further sort ourselves out, we reconvened at the parking lot and left the hotel in the van. A first stop along the hotel entrance road on the drive out did not produce views of the **Green Honeycreeper**, **Spot-backed Antwren**, or **Dusky-capped Greenlet** which I was hearing in a passing canopy flock, but we did eventually get nice looks at **Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** and also, after a fair bit of effort to round up views for everyone, **Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant**. A calling **Black Hawk-Eagle** stayed out of sight, and by now the heat was already bordering on oppressive. A second stop was well worth it for the excellent views we eventually had of a pair of **Fulvous-crested Tanagers**.

We headed south of Presidente Figueiredo, turning off onto the paved road to Balbina. A short side road not too far along was our destination; the forest here is heavily disturbed, but for whatever reason I find that activity here is always good, particularly in the late mornings. Today was no different; we stopped upon hearing the calls of the **Red-billed Pied-Tanager**, which we saw only fleetingly before being distracted first by some grunts and squeaks which revealed the presence of a trio of the **Guianan (White-faced) Saki**, an absolutely stunning primate with a Beatles haircut grown too long, and then our distraction continued with the appearance of a series of new birds: a pair of **Opal-rumped Tanagers** were present, soon to be joined by a couple of **Golden-collared Woodpeckers**, two **Yellow-throated Flycatchers**, **Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers**, **Flame-crested Tanager**, a couple of **Paradise Jacamars**, **Blue Dacnis**, and others including a singing **Black-spotted Barbet** which managed to remain hidden from view in the canopy. By now it was *really* hot, and the suggestion of returning to our hotel for lunch was met with approval from all parties.

A nice lunch was had, once again featuring a fresh fish dish, and then we parted ways for a siesta break while I dashed into town to run a couple of errands. Before all of this though, Bill and I had nice views of a couple of a small flock of four **Painted Parakeets** in trees between the restaurant and the rooms.

Meeting up in mid-afternoon, we started things off with a couple of **Black-necked Aracaris** in the tall secondary forest beside the parking lot, where we also had scope views of a couple of responsive **Ruddy Pigeons**. Heading down near the bridge over the small stream near the hotel, we stopped at the red flowering tree to re-find the brilliant male **Crimson Topaz** that Bill and I had seen in the morning, finally getting him to come out of hiding for Mary to have great views in the scope. In a nearby tree in the clearing we had a snappy little pair of **White-lored Euphonias**, of which we enjoyed a nice look at the male through the telescope. Then we drove out to the parking lot and trailhead for the Iracema falls themselves, where we set up the scope to see what the last hour or two of light might bring to the clearing edge. A bit of pygmy-owl imitation stirred up some activity in the form of pairs of **Red-legged** and **Purple Honeycreepers**, with a female **Green Honeycreeper** thrown in for good measure. While working through the honeycreepers, we heard a

distinctive high-pitched song which got me excited, and after a bit of searching we managed to find a lovely **Dotted Tanager** which stayed still long enough for everyone to have a good look through the telescope. I'm still not quite certain how he did it, but Bill spotted a **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** on a nest from all the way across the clearing. A handful of other birds in the area included **Buff-throated Saltator**, **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, **Forest Elaenia**, **Sulphury Flycatcher** and more.

October 17th: Our early 'packed' breakfast was quite a spread, and having augmented it with a few extra items during the previous day's shopping expedition, we took it as a sit-down affair in the hotel's open air restaurant. A couple of ripe bananas were sacrificed when we realized that the resident **Silver-beaked Tanagers** were eyeing our selection of fruits, and mere moments after putting the bananas out there were **Palm** and **Blue-gray Tanagers** arriving to join the Silver-beaks. The drive along the entrance road out to the main highway produced a few birds in the course of a quick couple of stops, including **White-throated Toucan** in the scope, flyover views of a pair of **Ringed Woodpeckers**, a nice **Buff-cheeked Greenlet** that was trying to cobble together a mixed flock (without success, as far as we could tell), **Blue-headed Parrots**, a pair of **Lineated Woodpeckers** on utility poles near the gate, and in the same area, terrific scope views of a pair of **Orange-winged Amazons**, our first of the trip.

Our destination this morning was the Parque Municipal da Cachoeira das Orquideas, a very productive forest site in the town of Presidente Figueiredo itself that harbours tall *terra firme* and a good patch of lower *campinarana*. A couple of pairs of **Little Chachalacas** were rowdy greeters as we signed the guest book at the gate, while a **Plumbeous Pigeon** foraging on the ground behind a tree root puzzled us until it stepped into full view. A short distance ahead we started to work on a **Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper** which eventually everyone got onto, and while that happened we were pleased when a molting male **White-throated Manakin** popped into view before our eyes as it zipped to and fro between a couple of fruiting melastomes. Other goodies here included a single male **White-crowned Manakin**, a small party of **Fulvous-crested Tanagers**, a female **Yellow-backed Tanager**, and a **Black-eared Fairy** which only Bill spotted. Some tapping near the trail in front of us drew our attention to a fabulous male **Waved Woodpecker** working industriously on an ant nest; the bird was totally absorbed in its task, allowing us to approach it very closely for excellent views in the binoculars and the scope.

The telltale snarls of *Thamnomanes* antshrikes revealed the presence of a small but active mixed flock, and here we found both **Dusky-throated** and **Cinereous Antshrikes**, **Gray Antwren**, **Plain Xenops**, **Thrush-like Schiffornis**, another **Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper**, several **Flame-crested Tanagers**, and also a couple of **Tawny-crowned Greenlets** which refused to approach close enough to be seen. A **Straight-billed Hermit** flew in to check us out though, stopping to perch in the open on a nearby stick long enough for good views to be had. We then took advantage of a lull in the flock activity to discuss the flock-leading role of the two *Thamnomanes* antshrikes briefly, until we were distracted by an agitated churring in the undergrowth. A quick look revealed the culprit to be the handsome and spritely **Collared Gnatwren**; a chase ensued as we followed the bird along the path until it stopped moving and sat, hidden, singing. Finally I spotted it just before it crossed the trail in front of us, moving into an area with some fallen logs where it popped up four or five times for Bill to get good views, but every time it just barely managed to elude Mary's binoculars. Eventually it gradually moved off into the forest again, and we resolved to try to find another one later.

Any subscribers to the 'monkey-a-day' program would have been pleased with the sighting that followed, an encounter with a what at first appeared to be just a couple **Golden-handed (Midas) Tamarins**, but as we watched them move through we realized there must have been at least 12 individuals in the party. We had great views of a couple of the closer ones, including one that stopped to look over its shoulder at us, giving Mary a privileged view through the scope. Thrilled with this, we didn't mind that bird activity was slowing down as the morning warmed up. A bit of speculative work with the tape quickly produced nice scope views of a male **Yellow-billed Jacamar**. Originally we had planned to continue all the way down to the *campinarana* near the end of the trail, but things were fairly quiet and Mary was still not quite feeling fully recovered. Or as it was put to me: 'it there were a Cock-of-the-Rock lek at the end of the trail, we'd be scampering down'; apparently a Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant or Rufous-crowned Elaenia wasn't going to do the trick! As such we worked our way back to the top, seeing a **Black Nunbird** near the main gate, and watching the guard's cat devour its hot lunch of beef with rice and beans - not bad!



Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*), **Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas**

The cat had the right idea, so we too returned to our hotel for a bit of lunch and a mid-afternoon break. We ended up meeting up again just after 4 PM, and headed out along the hotel entrance road, making a stop near an overgrown orchard to try for **Wing-barred Seedeater** (which we saw, though our best views were of the three or four females that were accompanying the single male); here we saw a handful of other common birds, though a male **White-lined Tanager** was the first one of the trip. We then drove north a few kilometres to a *Mauritia* palm swamp at the roadside where we added **Black Caracara**, **Short-tailed Swift**, **Wattled Jacana**, and **White-eyed Parakeet**. A couple of noisy, swirling flocks of **Red-bellied Macaws** easily totaled at least 150 birds, and they

were joined later on by about a dozen **Blue-and-yellow Macaws** in the palms towards the end of the afternoon.

October 18th: We started with another early breakfast and set out for our day's birding, stopping at the front gate to chat up the guard dog and check out a pair of **Golden-spangled Piculets**. The piculets were accompanied by a few common species we had already seen, but a **Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** was our first for the trip.

Driving to the south of the town, we stopped several times en route, first to check out what turned out to be a **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker**. This pause also produced our first **Bananaquit** of the trip, and even better, a couple of **White-thighed Swallows** flying low over the disturbed forest edges. Stopping again further on, we had **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**, **Blue-headed Parrot**, **Gray Hawk**, and **Band-rumped Swifts**. Yet another stop along the *ramal* in tall forest was needed when I spotted four **Red-and-green Macaws** in a treetop, and those were soon joined by at least three **Blue-and-yellow Macaws**.

We pulled into Beto's property to let them know that we had arrived, seeing our first **Greater Yellow-headed Vultures** soaring overhead, along with a **Great Black-Hawk** and a pair of **Gray-headed Kites**. We set up the scope to view the treetops from our position overlooking the canopy, and here we had a **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, a female **Spangled Cotinga**, and plenty of **Swallow-wings**. After touching base with Beto and his lovely family, we resolved to return to the *ramal* to bird a side trail in good *terra firme* forest. Things were rather quiet for the first bit, so we distracted ourselves taking a look (and a taste of) at a big quinine trail. Some soft calls drew our attention to a male **Guianan Warbling-Antbird**, and while we watched it some of us glimpsed a **Yellow-billed Jacamar** in the background. The highlight of the walk was undoubtedly a male **Guianan Red-Cotinga** which circled around us for a while before finally giving up the goods, even pausing briefly for scope views. A nearby **Lineated Woodcreeper** was a leader-only sighting, and a responsive pair of **Pied Puffbirds** stayed mostly out of sight in the treetops. We decided it was time to head back to go for our scheduled early lunch. Before getting back into the van though, we stopped to call in the **Pied Puffbirds** properly, this time bringing them into a tall tree beside the road for nice views through the scope.

We returned to Beto's place (he and Ana Paula are building a promising looking lodge which may well become an excellent base for birders in the future), stopping to enjoy a cold drink at the improvised restaurant beside the Mutum river. While we waited for Ana Paula to put the finishing touches on lunch, we were stunned when a gaudy orange male **Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock** pulled into an *acaí* palm just a few metres from where we were sitting! The bird didn't stay long enough for everyone to get a look, but it certainly whet our appetites! A male **White-tailed Trogon** visited the same palm moments later, and the *açaís* were also the focus of constant attention from a couple of **Sulphury Flycatchers**. Bill spotted a nice **Guianan (White-faced) Saki** female just across the beautiful blackwater stream beside the restaurant, which we managed to get in the scope's field of view for a good look. Just as lunch was being served the skies opened for our first rain of the trip, and it couldn't have been timed better as we didn't get a drop on us, and the thunderstorm cooled things down quite nicely while we enjoyed a delicious fresh *tambaqui assado*, yet another of the many sumptuous Amazonian freshwater fish dishes served to us during the tour.

Once we had carefully picked the last bits of meat off the bones of our fish, we grabbed our things and piled into Beto's truck to drive over to the trailhead for our noon-time trail. Beto had graciously opened an easy-access just for us, and he led us along, attentively pointing out possible hazards

and clearing the path of leaf litter as we went. We edged along the trail into the *campinarana* until we reached the spot that Beto had shown me the previous afternoon during a quick scouting visit. It seemed we had arrived right on time, as Beto quickly spotted two or three **Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock** males on low perches near their respective lekking arenas.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), **Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas**

The male Cocks-of-the-Rock clear a small patch of ground in a preferred area, which during the breeding season they congregate to display and call in their attempts to attract a mate. We were fortunate today, as it seemed there was a female in attendance somewhere nearby (according to

Beto the females would typically stay in the subcanopy out of view). In all we ended up watching a minimum of eight to ten males coming and going, often spending long periods sitting quietly on preferred perches near the arena. Occasionally the phantom-like arrival of a female would put the glowing orange males into action, causing a pandemonium of nasal calls and colourful flashes as they dropped to the ground one by one to display. We stayed with the birds for quite a while, drinking in the fascinating behaviour and the amazing colours. The show was well worth it, and even I had no regrets later on when I realized I had left a laser pointer behind at the lek!



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), **Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas**

After thanking Beto and Ana Paula profusely, we returned to our car to drive back to the hotel. A couple of stops along the entrance road produced a few birds, including a heard only **Little Tinamou**, a pair of **Marail Guans**, several **Black Nunbirds**, **White-throated Toucan** and the first **Tufted Capuchins** of the trip. After a quick break to use the facilities at the hotel, we opted to keep birding during the final hour of daylight, and a stroll around the hotel grounds turned up **Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** again, a male **Blue-black Grosbeak**, a **Green-tailed Goldenthrout** feeding at flowers near an old nest, perhaps its own, and a **Coraya Wren** around the forest edge near the volleyball courts.

October 19th: We had time on this our final morning in Presidente Figueiredo for some final birding before we needed to load up the van to return to Manaus. We didn't want to wander too far afield, and thus opted to drive out to the trailhead to the Iracema waterfall, where we set up the scope in the parking lot to see what we could find. No sooner had we stepped out of the van when we spotted a pair of **Black Curassows** strutted around on the ground beyond the open gate. They walked nervously away for a while before returning, apparently satisfied that we posed no threat; one continued to forage in the open while the other flew up a few metres into a *Cecropia* and sat there, watching us, for several minutes. A nice **Red Acouchy** in the same area was a new one for us all, and a small group of **Golden-handed Tamarins** nearby kept the mammal fun going. We called a pair of **Plumbeous Euphonias** in for scope views, and they soon settled into the top of some nearby fruiting trees which began to fill up with birds. A little flock of five or six **Yellow-green Grosbeaks** came and went a few times, often sitting in the open to gorge themselves on fruit. Other visitors included quite a few **Fulvous-crested Tanagers**, a couple of **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, and **Buff-throated Saltator**. In the canopy a female **Spangled Cotinga** nearly passed itself as a small pigeon (according to Bill!), and while we studied that one a female **Purple-breasted Cotinga** arrived beside it to be duly admired in the scope. Not too long after that a handsome male **Pompadour Cotinga** pulled in atop the same tree!



Yellow-green Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes canadensis*), **Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas**

We probably could have watched the fruiting trees all day, but needed to get back to the hotel for a bite of breakfast before leaving. The hotel staff had set out a full spread just for the three of us, and attended us with a friendly smile, something that was never missing during our stay at Iracema Falls. The plan was to check out and drive directly back to Manaus, and we almost pulled it off.

However, a couple of cars stopped along the road drew our attention to a massive (approx. 2.5 metres!) **Red-tailed Boa Constrictor** that was being herded off the highway by some conscientious motorists. Bill loves snakes, so there was no way we would pass this up, and after parking safely we walked over to the snake for a closer look - a fabulous animal. A couple of new trip birds were also seen along the drive: **Snowy Egret**, **American Kestrel**, and two **Yellow-headed Caracaras** which were feeding on a road-killed opossum together with a **Turkey Vulture**.

A **House Sparrow** seen while we re-fueled the rental car before returning it in Manaus was also the first for the trip. We dropped the car off and had lunch at a popular per-kilo restaurant in the airport (on the last day it would be open - all of their tax receipts were boxed up in the corner beside our table), then met the van from the Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge for our afternoon transfer. The drive took three hours including the crossing of the Rio Negro (now very quick thanks to the completion of the new bridge!) and was rather uneventful. We were all pretty tired it seemed, and even in between naps there wasn't much to see aside from a few **Cattle** and **Great Egrets**, a **Savannah Hawk**, **Snail Kite**, and a couple of other odds and ends.

October 20th: To bird the Anavilhanas archipelago properly, one needs to tour amongst the river islands in a small boat, and we did just that, starting out early under low clouds and heavy skies with a packed breakfast and our personal pilot and local guide, Metu. As we climbed down the stairs from the lodge to the river, a noisy flock of forty **White-eyed Parakeets** scuttled overhead shouting a nasal greeting. We headed downstream to a channel amongst the islands located a short distance from the lodge, spying a few **Chapman's Swifts** flying high above the channel entrance, with some **White-winged** and **Southern Rough-winged Swallows** doing the same low over the water. A lonely **Cocoi Heron** was one of just a few waders we saw early on. Scanning the treetops for **Festive Parrots** eventually paid off, and as a bonus we had a pair of **Pale-vented Pigeons** perched beside the first parrot could find in half-decent light. Other birds along the main channel included **Yellow-rumped Cacique**, **Green** and **Ringed Kingfishers**, **Neotropical Cormorant**, and **Anhinga**. A stop at the river's edge to try for a calling **Green-tailed Jacamar** didn't work out as planned, but we did see several males and a female **Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch** instead. A **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** and a **Striated Heron** were clambering around in dead branches near the entrance to the Lago da Arraia. As we entered the shallow lagoon we had a trio of **Greater Anis**, a **Muscovy Duck**, a nice **Osprey** atop a snag overlooking the water, and unfortunately, a leader-only trio of **Crestless Curassows** which had been walking along the beach. We had hoped to bird a channel which usually yields Cherrie's Antwren, but low water levels kept us from getting our boat in; a **Sungrebe** swimming near the mouth of the channel was a consolation prize. At the far end of the lagoon we saw a few common species including **Great Egret**, **Roadside Hawk**, and **Red-breasted Blackbird**.

The sun was working its way higher into the sky and things were heating up in our uncovered boat, so we began to work our way back out to the main channel. A stop for **Black-crested Antshrike** produced nice views of a handsome male in a tangle above our heads. We resolved to try for the Green-tailed Jacamar once again, but the birds remained uninterested; we switched sides of the channel, hoping to glimpse another singing individual... it remained hidden though. The stop wasn't a complete waste as we pulled in a couple of pairs of **Klage's Antwren**, and also saw a male **Black-chinned Antbird** down low just a couple of metres in front of us.

After lunch and a siesta break during the hottest hours of the day, I met up with Bill and Mary at 15h30 for a quick look around the lodge grounds before we were scheduled to meet up with Metu

for another boat trip. We walked over to look at the **Yellow-crowned Manakin** which holds territory in front of rooms 7 and 8, and it didn't take long before we were enjoying a good view of a male through the telescope. A quick foray up the entrance road was worth it for the great views of **Yellow-browed Antbird** (again through the scope) we had. Some strong winds and distant thunder had us thinking that perhaps we might get rained out, but we continued along the track a ways nevertheless, seeing our first **Black-fronted Nunbirds** of the trip, and hearing **White-throated Toucans** and a **Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin**. Soon enough it was time to meet up with Metu.

Afternoons on the rio Negro are magical, if only for the play of the low afternoon light over the jet black waters, and the silent reflections of the forested river islands. The threat of rain had passed, and the river was flat calm as we motored downstream, returning to the channel we had birded in the morning. We saw a handful of the same herons and egrets, and added **Gray-breasted Martins** to our list of swallows for the day, but on the whole things were fairly quiet. Quiet, that is, until Metu spied the day's prize: an adult **Agami Heron** standing calmly on a muddy beach at the water's edge! Metu skillfully manoeuvred the boat into a position where we could watch the heron at close range, and it was apparently untroubled by our presence as it allowed a fairly close approach before slyly clambering amongst the dead branches of a fallen tree.



Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*), Anavilhanas archipelago, rio Negro, Amazonas

Metu struck again a few minutes later, spotting a **Gray-necked Wood-Rail** pair herding along their little family of four fluffy chicks near the water's edge. We worked our way a fair distance farther

along the channel than we had in the morning, with the idea that we'd head to a distant lagoon and wait until dusk before returning with the spotlight on. The hot afternoon and the threat of rain seemed to put a hold on any end of day activity, and we didn't see much of anything until the first few **Band-tailed Nighthawks** appeared low in the sky above our heads. By the end of the day we accumulated a count in the hundreds of these graceful little goatsuckers. At the lagoon itself, we beached the boat and watched a pair of fishermen working their craft before they would stop to camp for the night. Some **fishing bats** were flying around, along with a couple of other unidentified bat species. Metu got the spotlight out, and we worked our way back toward the lodge. The spotlighting was underwhelming, with three **Boat-billed Herons**, a large **Smooth-sided Toad**, and a couple of **Pauraques**, but not much else. Not to worry, back at the lodge we had a nice dinner and worked through the checklist, pleased with a productive first day at Anavilhanas.

October 21st: With a few specialties of the area still unseen and two full mornings left to go at Anavilhanas, we our local guide Metu bright and early. This morning it was indeed bright, as we caught the tail end of a lovely sunrise over the archipelago, unlike the previous day which had been gray with low-hanging clouds early on. Once again we returned to the first channel downstream from the lodge, this time passing the first section and moving right along. We saw some of the same birds as yesterday, while new additions included **Green Ibis**, **Chapman's Swift**, **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, and **Amazon Kingfisher**. A fairly large (as much as one could judge by the size of its head, the only part visible) **Black Caiman** cruising across the river was a highlight for me, but neither Bill nor Mary could get onto the animal before it felt the vibrations of our boat and submerged.

Metu wanted to try a short trail he knew to get into the currently dry *igapó* forest. We negotiated a short and gentle slope from the river's edge into the woods, and while Metu checked to see whether the trail was clean, I played tape speculatively for a couple of river island specialties. The first to respond was the dapper **Ash-breasted Antbird**, a lovely combination of black, gray and white that popped up quickly, obliging us with his own curiosity and approaching very closely to check us out. He even sat still long enough to set up the scope for Mary to have an even closer look - terrific bird.



Ash-breasted Antbird (*Myrmoborus lugubris*), Anavilhanas archipelago, rio Negro, Amazonas

That one in the bag, we switched to another species and soon enough a pair of **Leaden Antwrens** zipped in to take a look. The female was a bit nervous, but the male sat and sang on a nearby perch, again stopping long enough for me to get the scope set up for feather-by-feather views. What next? Well, that answer came quickly with an extremely responsive **Striped Woodcreeper** that repeated the show given by the first two species, though I suppose we didn't see him in the scope. Nevertheless, several times he pulled into trees that we could reach out and touch, so it would be fair to see that we saw him quite well. The encore performance was given by his considerably rarer cousin, the **Zimmer's Woodcreeper**, one of which responded well to tape and did exactly the same thing! Metu's trail turned out to be quite a short one, ending at a lagoon where we had a **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** but not too much else. Some more speculative tape successfully pulled in a stonking **Long-billed Woodcreeper**, complete with curlew-like bill, which we managed to see well and once again get some views through the scope. Other sightings here included **Black-fronted Nunbird**, glimpses of a **Spot-winged Antshrike** in the canopy, and a male **White-tailed Trogon** that didn't stick around for too long. We again heard a Green-tailed Jacamar, but this one didn't respond too well to tape and we didn't succeed in seeing it.

Returning to the boat, it was time to seek out a shady spot at the river's edge to enjoy our packed breakfast of sweet fresh fruit and tasty sandwiches accompanied by lively conversation. By now it was already quite hot, and thus we slowly started to work our way back along the channel toward the lodge, stopping several times to try for Green-tailed Jacamar, mostly without success. We did see **Squirrel Cuckoo**, another nice **Sungrebe** (one of two on the morning) and a male **Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch**, and a number of boats with families heading out to go fishing on a Sunday morning. We had nearly reached the mouth of the channel when we selected a last spot to try for the jacamar. It responded quickly enough, but was once again hidden inside the forest edge. Unwilling to let another one get away, we climbed down onto the shore and patiently scanned the

forest interior. After a little while Metu and I spotted one at the same time, and I managed to put the scope on it through a gap in the vegetation. Success! There was also a **Black-crested Antshrike** pair hopping about in the canopy above our heads, but our attention was trained on the jacamar after all the trouble it had given us the past day and a half.

We arrived back to the lodge just in time to avoid a very brief rain shower before lunch. After lunch and a break during the hottest part of the day, we met again in mid-afternoon to take a quick look around the lodge area again before getting to our program. This paid off with a nice little **Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant** in the low forest between the swimming pool and the new lookout tower. Then it was back down the stairs to the rio Negro again, for an afternoon boat trip downstream to an *igarapé* on the west bank of the river. A stop at a beach with some successional vegetation produced a responsive pair of **Amazonian Tyrannulets**, our first of the trip. We also had **Yellow-headed** and **Black Caracara**, an **Osprey**, a few **Pale-vented Pigeons** and several species of common swallows near the beginning of the blackwater stream. Quiet shallow areas held **Striated Herons** and we saw a couple more **Sungrebes** in here, along with a lovely **American Pygmy Kingfisher** that sat in the open for us to admire before dropping down to the water to catch the tiniest of fishes. A couple of **Green-tailed Goldenthroats** were bickering over a territory, and a **Green Oropendola** flew over while we watched the hummingbirds. The tranquility here on the flat calm ebony waters was unsurpassable, and even when there weren't any birds to look at we simply marveled at the beauty of the rio Negro.



American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryla aenea*), rio Negro, Amazonas

October 22nd: This morning we ate the packed breakfast the staff had kindly prepared for us in the dining room before starting out on foot up the lodge's entrance road. Flowering *Heliconia* plants near the parking lot attracted a visit from a **Long-tailed Hermit** to start our morning off well. Up the slope we called in a **White-flanked Antwren**, and heard a calling Scale-breasted Woodpecker while Metu pointed out an active **Roadside Hawk** nest just above the track. There were a few **Black-fronted Nunbirds** about, and while looking at one I spotted the big bushy tail of a melanistic **Northern Amazon Red Squirrel**; it shot across the road, soon to be following by a red individual, and then moments later by another black one. We were trying to get further views of the squirrels when a churring in the undergrowth drew our attention to a small party of at least three **Coraya Wrens**. While Mary and I worked to get better views, Bill spied a nice **Blue-throated Piping-Guan** as it sailed across the road in front of us.

We stopped to scope a **Yellow-rumped Cacique** at what turned out to be a rather productive spot. The cacique was soon joined by a pair of **Paradise Jacamars**, and later the same tree was occupied by a little party of four **Golden-winged Parakeets**. Some fruiting trees closer to us had a pair of **Purple Honeycreepers**, a male **Green Honeycreeper**, and a couple of **Flame-crested Tanagers** too. They were followed by **Red-eyed Vireo** and a **Spot-backed Antwren** which appeared to be trying to get a mixed flock together without much success. An indistinct ticking in the canopy drew my attention to a **Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher**, which we eventually tracked down and everyone had views in the scope. Farther along Bill wanted to have a look for the many **Screaming Pihas** which were calling loudly beside the road (his favourite bird). To that end, he and I stepped into the forest and slowly made our way into what sounded like the middle of the piha lek. However, aside from a couple of birds I saw briefly chasing one another madly through the canopy, we sort of struck out. Of course, no sooner had we returned to the road when I spotted one sitting in the open quite close by - the scope was set up and everyone had a quick look, even watching it scream a couple of times. At this spot we also scoped a singing **Versicolored Emerald** of the *milleri* race, a bird which caused us a bit of confusion before we finally got it right. A short distance ahead a male **Dusky Antbird** was hopping along quietly near the edge of the road, and Bill and I had really nice looks at this skulker.

By now the morning had become a real scorcher, and while we didn't want to complain since at least it wasn't raining, we did decide to start to slowly make our way back toward the lodge. A little mixed canopy flock had some nice birds for us though, including **Paradise Tanager**, a female **Yellow-backed Tanager**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, a heard only **Lemon-chested Greenlet**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, and best of all, a handsome **Gilded Barbet** which sat still long enough for everyone to enjoy through the telescope. Also of interest was a **Lineated Woodcreeper** which was foraging on and in a utility pole along the road, entering into the cracks of the *garantã* trunk which had been used for the pole, and disappearing for long periods of time inside while he presumably picked at something delicious in there. The rest of the walk back didn't yield much, though Bill and I had terrific views of a **Black-faced Antbird** which hopped about down low near the edge of the road. We were pleased to reach the lodge and escape the heat, which by now was downright inhospitable.

We had another tasty lunch, after which I stopped on my way back to the cabin to duck into the **Yellow-crowned Manakin** territory to try for a photograph. The male manakin didn't take long to arrive, and after taking a few snaps I happily left him be.



Yellow-crowned Manakin (*Heterocercus flavivertex*), Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge, Amazonas

The plan for the afternoon was to check out the lodge's newly built observation tower, which proved to be a well-made 15-metre high wooden tower with a privileged view over the rio Negro. Before we climbed up however, we stopped to check out a few birds in the woods nearby, seeing a few **Black-fronted Nunbirds**, a **Grayish Mourner**, and best of all a male **Lafresnaye's Piculet** which returned several times to check out the tapping noise I made against my binoculars. Up the tower, we watched a group of **Yellow-rumped Caciques** milling about, and saw a female **White-tailed Trogon** perched near to them for a few moments. More distantly both **Gray-breasted** and **Brown-chested Martins** were seen in flight, as was a flock of thirteen **White-eyed Parakeets**. Perhaps the most interesting sighting was the male **Yellow-crowned Manakin** which we observed performing a display ritual whereby it would fly up to a height of perhaps twenty or thirty metres above canopy level before folding its wings and rocketing straight back down into the forest. We saw the manakin do this twice before we got distracted by ominous thunderclouds approaching over the Anavilhanas archipelago. A couple of lightning strikes on the islands across the Negro were enough to get us moving, and we made our way down to the bottom, arriving back to the lodge just in time to beat out the arrival of a later afternoon shower - good timing!



Lafresnaye's Piculet (*Picumnus lafresnayi*), **Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge, Amazonas**

October 23rd: We had restructured our itinerary at the last minute to fit in a visit to Roraima at the end of the trip, and as such we needed to leave Anavilhanas in the morning to arrive back to Manaus in time for our internal flight to Palmas, rather than birding in the morning and returning in the afternoon, as we had originally planned. To that end, today was a travel-only day, with only incidental bird sightings had along the drive from Anavilhanas back to Manaus. The only important new sighting on the day turned out to be a **Black Agouti** which crossed the road in front of the van not long after we left the lodge in the morning. We arrived in Manaus right on schedule and got dropped off at the O Lenhador restaurant once more, where we again enjoyed a delicious buffet of freshly prepared regional dishes. There was a little bit of extra time between lunch and our afternoon flight to Brasilia and Palmas, and Mary was keen to have a look at the indigenous crafts on offer at the Museu do Índio in Manaus. We called a taxi and set off for the other side of the city, finally arriving at the museum after being led astray by an inaccurate map. There was just enough time to examine the crafts and pick out a couple of choice items before we had to rush off to the airport to make our flight. The TAM flights went smoothly to Brasilia and then to Palmas, the capital of the state of Tocantins, where we arrived just after midnight. We headed for our hotel, a comfortable place with modern rooms, checked in and agreed to meet for a late breakfast, before collapsing after a long day of travel.

October 24th: We reconvened, having rested a bit, for a mid-morning breakfast at the hotel. Eduardo Bernardon, who runs the Pousada Praia Alta with his family, met us in the lobby afterwards. Eduardo kindly ferried us around to a couple of shops in Palmas to take care of a few errands, including a stop at a co-operative specializing in local crafts including good quality items made from *capim-dourado*, a beautiful local fibre known as golden grass. Then it was time for the three hour drive to the Pousada Praia Alta, a relatively new lodge on a working farm and ranch

located on the banks of the beautiful Formoso do Araguaia river. The drive was smooth over good roads without too much traffic, and we arrived in time for a late lunch. Before that though, we couldn't resist making a stop along the lodge's entrance road to take a look at our first **Giant Wood-Rails** (an ever-present fixture in the Araguaia valley), a pair of **Wing-banded Horneros**, **Common Tody-Flycatcher**, two **Yellow-chinned Spinetails** at a nest, and a **Jabiru** by a roadside pool. Bill, ever on the lookout for snakes, spotted a large **Common Mussuarana**, perhaps 8 or 9 feet long, which came right over and slipped below the bridge upon which we were standing. New birds and a big snake - it doesn't get much better than that!

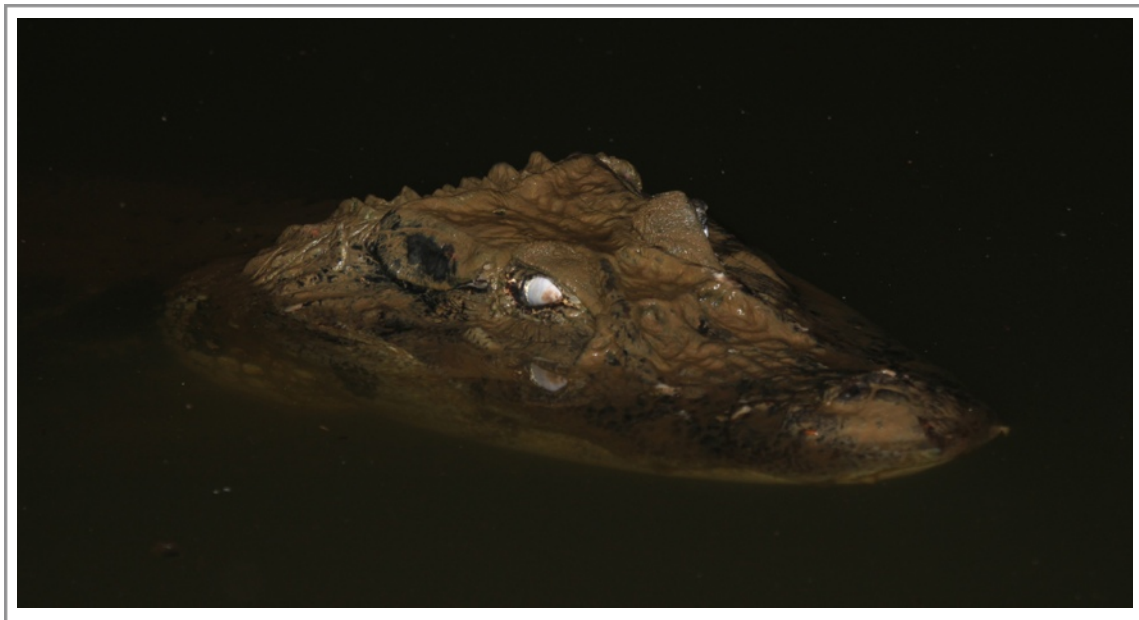
After lunch and a short break at the lodge, we started our 'official' Praia Alta birding with a short walk around the lodge grounds and nearby farm buildings. We peeked into the barn, and with the help of one of Eduardo's employees we found a roosting pair of **Barn Owls** inside - a nice start to things. There were plenty of **House Sparrows**, **Orange-fronted Yellow-Finches**, **Chestnut-capped Blackbirds** and **Shiny Cowbirds** about, and a closer look revealed the presence of at least one pair of **Screaming Cowbirds** mixed in with the more numerous Shiny's. An immature **Orinoco Goose** that Eduardo had found abandoned and helpless on beach not far from the lodge lorded over the chickens and ducks around the barnyard.



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Pousada Praia Alta, Tocantins

Eager to start birding the farms, we piled back into the truck and Eduardo ferried us out to the cultivated *lavouras* nearby. These irrigated cultivated areas, used for rice and soybean production, retain patches of native vegetation and host remarkable concentrations of birds and mammals. In the late afternoon we were immediately greeted by hundreds if not thousands of whistling-ducks, mostly **Black-bellied** but with some **White-faced Whistling-Ducks** and a single pair of **Brazilian Teal** mixed in, loafing in the fields. A big flock of **Cliff Swallows** was flying low over fields and irrigation ditches beside the farm road, and with careful scrutiny we were able to spot at least a handful of **Barn Swallows**. We stepped down from the truck to sort through a flock of seedeaters bouncing around in a low shrubby hedgerow, but before we could start to work on them our attention was drawn to a striking **Long-winged Harrier** coursing low over a nearby field in graceful flight. We also scoped a **White-tailed Kite** from the same spot, and after savouring a couple of new raptors for the list we started in on the assortment of passerines and others flitting around in front of us. During a previous October visit to Praia Alta, a Birding Mato Grosso custom tour had found a number of rare migrating seedeaters, so hopes were high for a Chestnut or a Marsh, but in the end we had to settle for **Lined**, **Yellow-bellied**, **Capped**, **Rusty-collared** and **Double-collared Seedeaters**, **Blue-black Grassquit**, **Plain-breasted Ground-Dove**, and quite a few **Chestnut-capped Blackbirds**. Carrying on a ways, we saw our first **Horned Screamers** of the trip (fantastic birds!), watched a couple of nice **White-headed Marsh-Tyrants** beside the road, and had a distant pair of **Bare-faced Curassows**. Mary wasn't convinced about the curassows as it was getting very dim in the evening twilight, so we decided to return to the lodge for dinner.

We wanted to give the mammals of Praia Alta a solid effort, and thus after dinner we loaded up the truck with Eduardo manning to spotlight up top and Eloi his father behind the wheel. In a lengthy loop through the *lavouras*, there didn't seem to be much moving around this evening: a couple of **Boat-billed Herons** fed in irrigation ditches, a **Great Horned Owl** perched up beside a rutted farm track, several **Pauraques**, and at least three **Marsh Deer** including a male with fresh antlers were the sum of our efforts. As a nearly full moon rose, spilling a pale light over the fields, we vowed to return for another try in the nights to come. Before going to bed, I walked down to the edge of the river below the lodge to photograph one of the monstrous **Black Caimans** that floated at the river's surface - see below - sinister fellows!



Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), rio Formoso do Araguaia, Tocantins

October 25th: After breakfast we headed for a track leading through open fields, riverine scrub, and small patches of gallery forest on its way to the river edge. In the open areas and pastures we had our first **Scaled Doves** of the trip, while a wet area held a striking **Capped Heron** and a few **Wattled Jacanas**, along with the obligatory **Giant Wood-Rails**. Our first stop came in a scrubby area to try for the first of the area's endemics, and while I cued up the tape we enjoyed a flyover **Large-billed Tern**. It didn't take long for the **Araguaia Spinetail** to respond, but it took us a while longer to nail it down for good views. A handsome male **Glossy Antshrike** was a little showier, and he was followed by the likes of **Buff-throated** and **Grayish Saltators**, **Solitary Cacique**, **Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher**, **Amazonian Tyrannulet**, a pair of **Little Woodpeckers**, **Glittering-throated Emerald**, **Bananaquit**, and **Silver-beaked Tanager**. Both **Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant** and **White-wedged Piculet** were leader-only birds, and a **Maranhão Hermit** which came in to check us out a couple of times wasn't seen well enough by either Bill or Mary for them to count. A singing **Pavonine Cuckoo** refused to budge from its position and remained heard-only. A short distance ahead we found a **Forest Elaenia** together with a pair of **Southern Beardless-Tyrannulets**, Bill spotted a **Swainson's Flycatcher**, and we called in a pair of **Boat-billed Flycatchers**, our first of the trip.

A little area of gallery forest near the river's edge had a responsive pair of **White-fringed Antwrens** which flitted back and forth in front of us for a while. A male **Cream-colored Woodpecker** seen through the telescope was a nice addition, as was the **Straight-billed Woodcreeper** pair which eventually sat still long enough to watch them through the scope. The path down to the beach was very washed out and we decided it might be a bit rough for our party, so Eduardo and I called an audible and we piled back into the truck to head for a neighbouring farm.

The neighbouring farm was already diverting river water to irrigate their rice crops which had been planted early, and along the main canal we had a few herons and egrets and a couple of **Ringed Kingfishers**. A banana-like beak revealed the presence of a **Toco Toucan** in the trees alongside the canal, and in stopping to check out the toucan we also discovered a nice **Crane Hawk** and a male **White-winged Becard**. Driving on we saw a number of the same species from the previous afternoon, though we added a couple including a **Snail Kite** hunting in an irrigation ditch. A female **Marsh Deer** at fairly close quarters was nice to see during the day after last night's spotlighting success with the species. Eventually we arrived at a patch of forest bordering a small lake where locals will occasionally go fishing. Eduardo the owner of the Praia Alta lodge had been doing just that when he heard our target species here a couple of years ago for the first time, and this spot has proven to be a dependable territory for the Bananal Antbird since then. Kicking a few **Blue-black Grassquits** and **Rusty-collared Seedeaters** out of the way, we walked in to a likely spot and played some tape. No response. Our first **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** of the trip soared overhead, casting a pitiful glance in our direction. After a while it became clear that there were no Bananal Antbirds at this spot, so we walked back toward the truck, figuring we'd try a little farther along the road. Eduardo suggested we play the tape one last time though, and this time it didn't take long before we heard the gravelly call of our quarry. Getting everyone onto it turned out to be another story however, and although the **Bananal Antbird** did its job with admirable gusto, it always seemed to be sitting just to the left or just to the right of where Mary was looking. The bird, a male, came back again and again though, and finally, after quite a struggle, we all had good looks. Well pleased with our eventual success, we celebrated with a cold drink on our way back to the lodge. A male **Greater Rhea** and his 20 chicks strutting their stuff in a graded field alongside the elevated farm road was a nice sighting on the drive back for lunch.



Greater Rhea (*Rhea americana*), **Lagoa da Confusão, Tocantins**

After a nice meal we took a break to let the heat abate before taking to the river for our afternoon outing. Even by our scheduled departure time, it was still sweltering, and low water levels in the river meant we had to use a small engine and go very slowly - and bake in the sun! But it was worth it, as we had a lovely outing. The many beaches along the Formoso do Araguaia river were dotted liberally with pairs of **Pied Lapwings**, along with an occasional **Collared Plover** and later on a single **Spotted Sandpiper**. There were also quite a few terns, mostly **Large-billed Terns** but also a few **Yellow-billed Terns**, and a few groups of **Black Skimmers** resting on the beaches. Shallow water with sandbars usually had a few **Bare-faced Ibises**, and in one such area there was also a flock of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks**, at least 100 strong. Sundry herons and egrets along the banks included **Striated**, **Cocoi**, and **Rufescent Tiger-Heron**, and **Great** and **Snowy Egrets**.

A quiet oxbow off the main channel was a good place to find a group of **Hoatzins**, and near the edge we saw a **Sungrebe** which swam under some fallen logs and somehow managed to disappear, perhaps clambering into a vine tangle over the water. A pair of **Sunbitterns** were also in here, along with a responsive trio of **Rusty-backed Spinetails** that stuck their heads out from within thick riverine vegetation to check us out. Another large flock of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** was resting on the grassy beach at the far end of the oxbow, and when they took flight we realized that a handful of **Muscovy Ducks** were associating with the flock.

We continued upstream until the boat got stuck on a shallow sandbar for a few moments, but Eduardo easily moved us off by hopping into the water and pushing; moments later I watched a rather large freshwater sting ray float elegantly past in the transparent waters below us! Motoring slowly ahead, we reached a sharp bend in the river where we had first a **Pink** then a couple of **Gray River Dolphins** surfacing a number of times as they patrolled the shallow water for fish. We disturbed a few **Black Skimmers** as we pulled the boat up onto a wide beach. The scrubby successional vegetation at this spot is ideal habitat for an **undescribed species of Certhiaxis spinetail**, and within just a couple of minutes after we disembarked, we had found a pair of these birds, and at a nest no less! The nest and the birds themselves resemble very much the sympatric Yellow-chinned Spinetail, aside from some slight plumage differences and a different song.

By now, late afternoon, the heat was only just starting to ease off as the sun began to slip down toward the horizon. We returned to the boat to make our way back downstream to the lodge. En route we saw mostly the same species as we had on the way up, but we added a pair of **Bare-faced Curassows** which had come down to the river's edge for a drink of water. A flyover **Roseate Spoonbill** was also a new addition. Some remarkable flocks of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were

flying over before dusk, each flock several hundred birds strong. We made it back to the lodge in time to wash up before dinner.



undescribed spinetail species (*Certhiaxis* sp. nov), rio Formoso do Araguaia, Tocantins

October 26th: We ate an earlier breakfast today, under gray skies as the winds that had been blowing the previous night appeared to have brought a system in with them. Our destination this morning was a small patch of scrubby forest with an understorey dominated by slender bamboos near the town of Lagoa da Confusão. After a moment taken to scope a pair of **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls** in the mango trees beside the lodge, we hopped into Eduardo's truck for the 30-minute drive to our birding site. The weather was cool and overcast, but even so bird activity seemed to be fairly low; we heard **Undulated Tinamou** and had a spritely pair of **Yellow Tyrannulets** in the bamboo beside the truck. We had come to this spot looking specifically for a woodpecker, but the responsive **Blond-crested Woodpecker**, while nice, was not the one we wanted. Nor was the **White-wedged Piculet**, of which we had a cooperative trio that stayed still long enough for Bill and Mary to enjoy through the scope. Others that appeared here included **Buff-throated Saltator**, a nice **Pectoral Sparrow**, **Black-capped Antwren**, and the skulking **Ochre-cheeked Spinetail**. An **Azara's Agouti** crossed the road a couple of times, testament to the very light vehicle traffic on the quiet ranch road. A light rain came and went, petering out just as we had finished fishing out our jackets.

The first hour or so at this site had already produced a few nice new birds, but we had come for a specific reason: Kaempfer's Woodpecker. Rediscovered in 2006 in Brazil after having been 'lost' for 80 years, the endemic and endangered woodpecker has since been found at a handful of sites scattered across central Brazil. After a fair bit of searching in suitable habitat in the region around Praia Alta, Eduardo has located this single territory near the town of Lagoa da Confusão. However, we had only heard one probable response to tape in our first hour. My confidence was faltering a little when rather suddenly, a woodpecker quite close to the road! We edged down the road a short distance and there it was - **Kaempfer's Woodpecker!** clinging to a small trunk just a couple of metres off the ground. Bill and Mary hustled over to where I was watching the bird and thankfully the stuck around long enough for everyone to have at least a quick look in the scope at one of the rarest birds we would see on the whole trip.

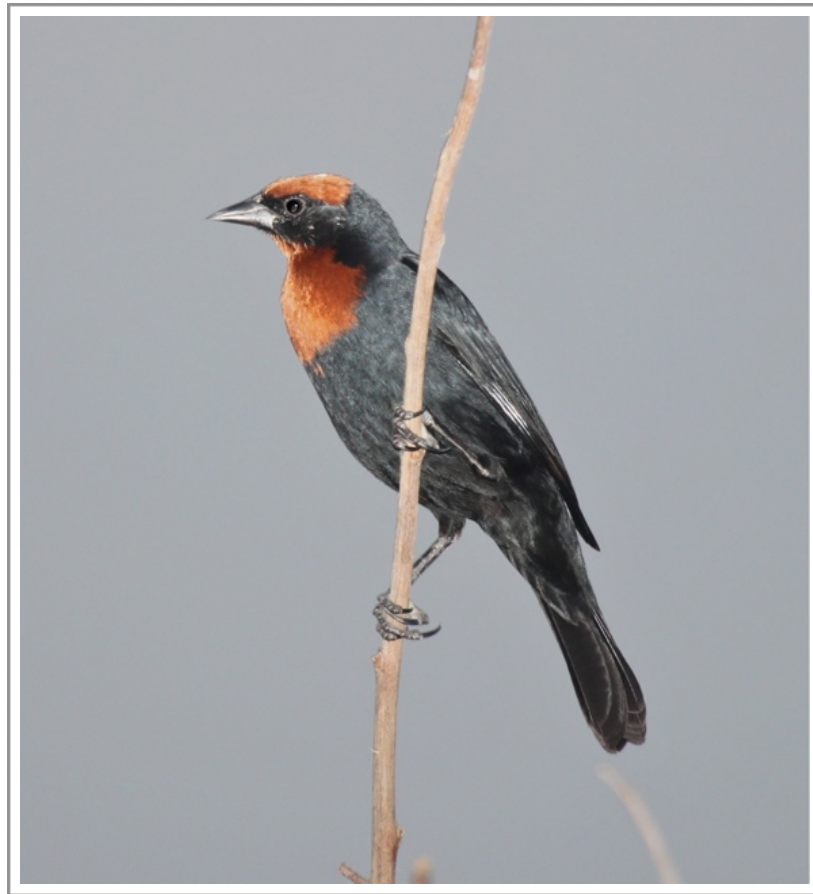
Quite pleased with ourselves, we decided to carry on a bit to see what else we could find in the surrounding ranchland. The lightest of drizzles had started up once again, but that didn't stop us from making a few roadside stops: a patch of forest with a few large snags scattered nearby had a **Laughing Falcon** pair, a small flock of **Peach-fronted Parakeets**, and a male **Great Antshrike**; the fenceline beside a small house had a pair of **Burrowing Owls** and a couple of striking **Spot-breasted Woodpeckers**.



Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*), Lagoa da Confusão, Tocantins

Moving onward into pastures and ploughed fields, we picked up a couple of **White-rumped Monjitas** battling a brisk wind that had come up, a **White-tailed Hawk**, and a **Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch**. A drying-up pond had a **Black-collared Hawk**, dozens of **Black Vultures**, a half-dozen **Capped Herons**, our first two **Wood Storks** of the trip, and a few **Spectacled Caimans**. By this point, the rain that had been threatening all morning started to fall in earnest, and we took the hint. We returned to the lodge in the rain, which continued on right up until lunch time.

By mid-afternoon the weather had cleared up considerably. After our customary mid-day break we met up with Eduardo to head for a rice farm some 15 minutes down the road near the rio Javaés, the Fazenda Barreira da Cruz. En route we already noted vast flocks of **Chestnut-capped Blackbirds**, just the tip of the iceberg apparently as we recorded flocks numbering into the thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, throughout the afternoon.

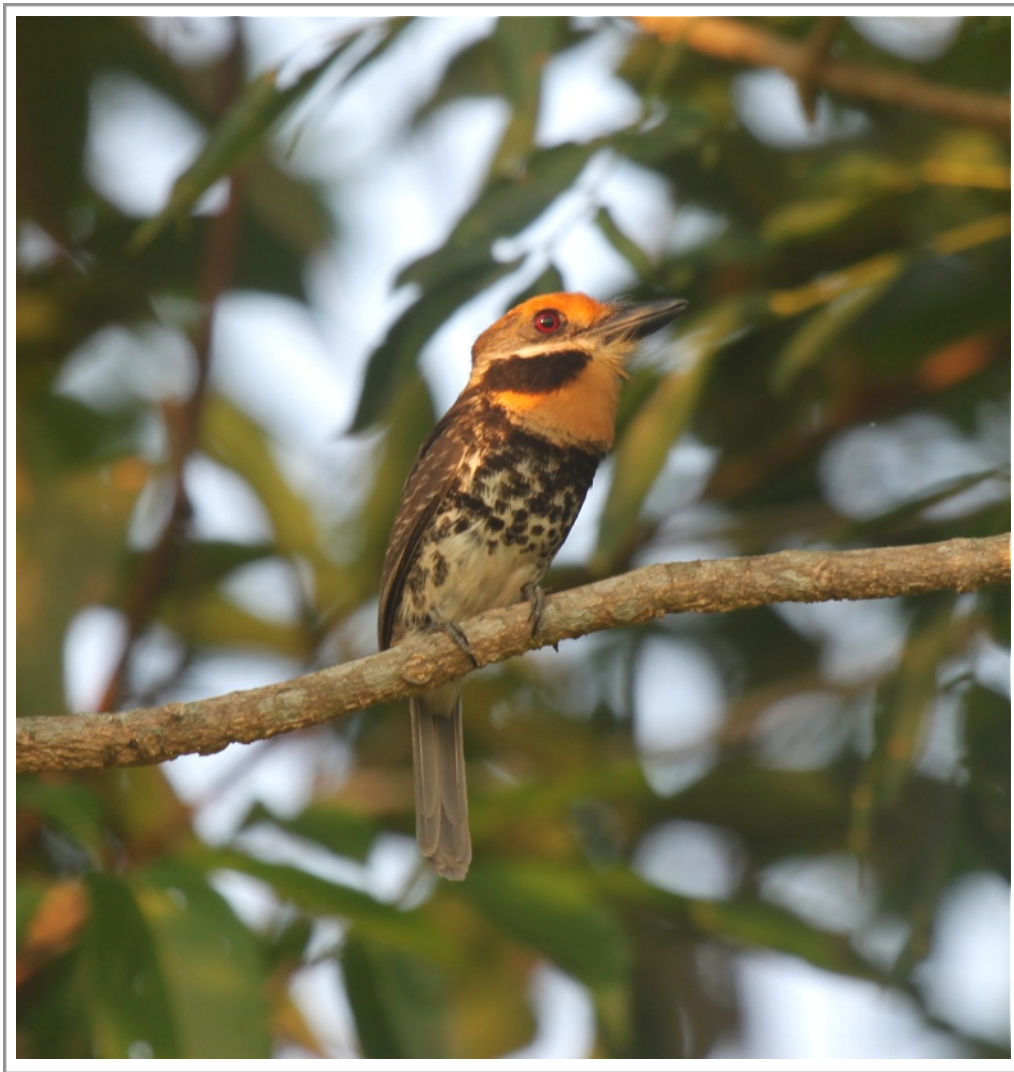


Chestnut-capped Blackbird (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*), **Fazenda Barreira da Cruz, Tocantins**

Upon reaching the fazenda, we began to drive the elevated roads between the rice fields, flushing sundry herons, egrets, and Limpkins from the irrigation ditches alongside us. Bill and Eduardo spotted a dark shape loping along the brushy edge of a ploughed field; the animal didn't stay in the open for very long, but it was obvious through binoculars that we were looking at a **Jaguarundi**! A nice start to things, to be sure. Up ahead farm workers were preparing a field for planting, and an expectant crowd of hundreds of **Great** and **Snowy Egrets** and perhaps even more **Southern Caracaras** were waiting patiently for the machines to stir up hapless prey for them. Wet areas and small ponds in irrigated fields that had already been planted held **Jabirus** and **Maguari Storks**, along with numerous **Limpkins** and the afternoon's first flocks of **White-faced** and **Black-bellied**

Whistling-Ducks. Two pairs of **White-backed Stilts** were new for the trip. **Savannah Hawks** dotted the fields in all directions, and as we drove in amongst fallow fields that were not yet being prepared for cultivation we were struck by the impressive numbers of the two whistling-duck species - easily into the tens of thousands, perhaps exceeding even that estimate.

Eduardo stopped the truck at the edge of a patch of forest where we got out to have a look around. A big flock of at least one hundred seedeaters was moving about between tall grasses in the fields and the scrub at the forest edge, and we managed to pick out **Yellow-bellied, Lined, Double-collared** and **Capped Seedeaters**. A **Bat Falcon** blasted overhead, scattering the seedeaters as it went. The best bird here was a **Spotted Puffbird** that we called in and eventually found for fabulous views through the scope. We then tried to call in an **Ash-throated Crane**, but in the end only managed flight views of that species as one that had skulked in close to our position saw us before we could spot it, and flushed up, flying awkwardly away from us before pitching back down into the grasses. We also had the first of the afternoon's ten or so **Marsh Deer** here.



Spotted Puffbird (*Bucco tamatia*), Fazenda Barreira da Cruz, Tocantins

Elsewhere on the grid of raised roads we saw **Yellowish Pipit** - great views alongside the road, **Long-winged Harrier**, and a couple of **Black Skimmers**. A stop at a pond produced a **Capybara** wallowing in a mud puddle, loads of Chestnut-capped Blackbirds, a few **Black-crowned Night-herons**, and of course plenty of whistling-ducks. A scraggly-looking black and white bird in the thick brush beside the road turned out to be one of the outstanding targets, an immature **Crimson-fronted Cardinal**! It soon was joined by another, and then a handsome adult arrived alongside them; there turned out to be at least six of these endemic cardinals in the area - fabulous! We also had **Common Tody-Flycatcher**, lots of **Cliff Swallows** hawking insects low over the water, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, and a **Black-backed Water-Tyrant**. And did I mention the astonishing numbers of whistling-ducks already?

We worked our way slowly back through the farm, hoping for a mammal or two, then drove back to the lodge in the dark, elated. It had been an excellent day, topped off with a truly fabulous afternoon immersed in abundant birdlife.

October 27th: Our final full day at Praia Alta had arrived, and we had only a couple of target species left to try for. Leading the list was the Orinoco Goose, and to that end Eduardo suggested we try a nearby fazenda where he has seen the geese in cultivated fields in the past. We had breakfast and headed a short distance along the main road to the Fazenda Terras Negras. Mere moments after turning off onto the farm's private road, we spied a pair of **Bare-faced Curassows** slipping away into a dried-up irrigation ditch beside the truck. The nearby trees had at least two or three **Chestnut-bellied Guans** in them as well, and on the right hand side we had the first of many **Marsh Deer** in the rice fields, including at least two large bucks with respectable racks. The road itself was lined with dozens and dozens of **Scaled Doves**, **Ruddy** and **Plain-breasted Ground-Doves**. Most of the rice fields were too dry to present much chance for the goose as the rice farmers had not started irrigating at this ranch, but they did have quite a few other birds: the fields were filled with **Limpkins**, **Southern Caracaras**, **Giant Wood-Rails**, and **Great, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets**. One field had at least ten **Maguari Storks** and a group of four **Jabiru** at its far end. An area of flooded forest with a number of dead snags held an impressive number of **Hoatzins**, good for easily our best views of these unique, goofy-looking birds. In the background here we had a couple of **Black-crowned Night-herons** and **Rufescent Tiger-Heron**, a pair of **Black-collared Hawks** and another **Chestnut-bellied Guan** which scampered across the road before flying up into the trees.



Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*), Fazenda Terras Negras, Tocantins

A stop to check out a flock of shorebirds flying around over a recently planted rice field turned out to be quite productive. The shorebirds turned out to be migrant **American Golden-Plovers**, about 30 of them. In an adjacent field we beheld the remarkable sight of dozens of **Large-billed Terns** hunting over a recently tilled field, diving down to capture prey in the same manner they would dive into rivers to catch fish near the surface. A little bit of scrubby forest on the other side of the road was good for a pocket of activity: we called in pair of **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, and then with pygmy-owl imitations whipped up some further interest from several **seedeaters** (**Rusty-collared**, **White-bellied**, **Yellow-bellied**, **Capped**, and **Lined**), **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**, **Suiriri Flycatcher**, **Glittering-bellied Emerald**, **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**, **White-tailed Goldenthrout**, **Bananaquit**, and a couple of **Black-faced Tanagers**. Activity was reaching frenetic levels when a hulking female **Apomado Falcon** swooped through, scattering our birds. We tried to re-ignite their

interest with more pygmy-owl imitations and a bit of pishing, but the majority of the birds chose to remain in hiding.

We carried on a bit, seeing a couple of **Long-tailed Ground-Doves** working the edge of a field, then later on had **Snail Kite** and **White-tailed Hawk**, both watching irrigation ditches with hungry interest. Looping back the way we had come, a couple of random stops produced a pair of **Masked Gnatcatchers**, a male **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Little Woodpecker**, more seedeaters of the same species mix as before, another couple of **Glittering-throated Emeralds**, and a perched pair of **Applomado Falcons**. A singing **Striped Cuckoo** responded nicely and popped us beside the road for views through the scope, and at the same spot we managed to call in a **Large Elaenia**, new for the trip. We also had another brief look at a **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**, and a distant **Bare-necked Fruitcrow** in flight was leader-only.

There was time to spare before lunch, so we made a stop on the way back at the Fazenda Praia Alta, seeing a dark morph **Long-winged Harrier** hunting over the fields, several more **Marsh Deer**, some **Bare-faced Ibises**, and some of the other usual suspects. We drove in a little ways, hoping to get closer views of the **Horned Screamers** we had seen a couple of days earlier. Sure enough, there were exactly where Eduardo expected them to be; five of them were loafing in a roadside irrigation ditch, and one by one they flushed up atop a row of large bushes upon realization that there was a pickup truck full of people staring at them. The Horned Screamer is a bird I can never get enough of, and I'm quite convinced they are closely related to the Unicorn. It was now nearly time for lunch, so we headed for the lodge, stopping only along the entrance road to check out a **Greater Thornbird** beside its nest.



Horned Screamer (*Anhima cornuta*), Fazenda Praia Alta, Tocantins

With the Orinoco Goose still on our minds, we headed in the afternoon to the Fazenda Imperador adjacent to Barreira da Cruz. Birdwise, we had the usual suspects and our list didn't vary much from the previous afternoon. We saw a few mammals too, including perhaps the largest **Marsh Deer** buck we had seen all trip. **South American Coati** was a new addition, but we didn't find the goose nor the Giant Anteater we were hoping for. A quick foray to the edge of the Douradinho river was good for a couple of **Muscovy Ducks**, and beside the truck we idly called in a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**; a brave little male **Violaceous Euphonia** also came in to check things out and scold the owl. One of the best sightings of the afternoon came as Eduardo took us through a recently opened and ploughed field: I believe Mary was the one who spotted a rock-like shape ambulating along in the dirt beside the rutted track - a **Six-banded Armadillo**!



Six-banded Armadillo (*Euphractus sexcinctus*), **Fazenda Imperador, Tocantins**

We stopped at the edge of the Javaes river by the ferry crossing for a late look at the exposed sandbars to see if we could put an end to our wild goose chase. A trio of **Whistling Herons** were our first of the trip, and we also saw some **Black Skimmers**, **Jabiru**, **Cocoi Heron**, and sundry others. As the afternoon light waned and dusk fell, we scoped the distant sandbars without much hope. Remarkably, and I'm still not sure if Mary believed that they were there, the most distant sandbar had a lonely pair of **Orinoco Goose** sitting on it. Even through the scope they were little more than a couple of specks, and even in the best light it might have been difficult to resolve much detail on the birds - an unsatisfactory end to the goose chase.

This was our last night at Praia Alta, and to that end we were keen to have another shot at spotlighting on Eduardo's family's farm. We set out after dinner, kicking things off with a seemingly endless parade of **Pauraques** on the farm roads. As usual there were some **Marsh Deer** out and

about - we totaled four individuals during the spotlighting. Top marks went to a massive **Brazilian Tapir** we found standing calmly in a bean field; the animal only moved once a slight breeze picked up and presumably wafted our scent in its direction. Bill and Mary got a mammal tick when we spotted a wandering **Crab-eating Raccoon** which was crossing a ploughed field. The raccoon stopped a couple of times to stand up on its hind legs and sniff the air, not quite certain what was behind the bright light that was being aimed at it. A noise from the truck spooked the animal and it went tearing away in the other direction. Another tapir seen briefly before it slipped into a small patch of forest proved to be the final sighting of the evening, but we returned to the lodge well pleased with our sightings, and fully satisfied with the rewards that our stay at the Pousada Praia Alta had yielded.

October 28th: Our flight from Palmas to Manaus wasn't scheduled to leave until mid-afternoon, which meant we had time for some early birding before we needed to load our things into the truck and start the 3 hour drive back to the capital. Eduardo took us a short distance from the lodge to bird the beginning of a dirt track through some *cerrado*-like habitat that eventually enters nice gallery forest before reaching the Formoso do Araguaia river. An unexpectedly locked gate meant, however, that we would be forced to focus our time on the first part of the track. There were a few birds around, and a bit of work with a pygmy-owl imitation did the trick to bring some of them into view: **Glittering-throated Emerald**, a pair of **White-wedged Piculets**, **Little Woodpecker**, **Yellow-breasted Flycatcher**, **Brown-crested Flycatcher**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Ashy-headed Greenlet**, **Masked Gnatcatcher**, a pair of **Hooded Tanagers**, **White-lined Tanager**, our first **Burnished-buff Tanager** of the trip, a female **Guira Tanager**, and a few **Chestnut-vented Conebills** all came to check out the action. Apart from that little pocket of activity, we also managed to call in a handsome male **Black-tailed Trogon**, a pair of **Green-backed Becards**, and a nervous **Straight-billed Woodcreeper**. A **Small-billed Tinamou** that crept across the road in front of us was only seen well by Eduardo and myself.

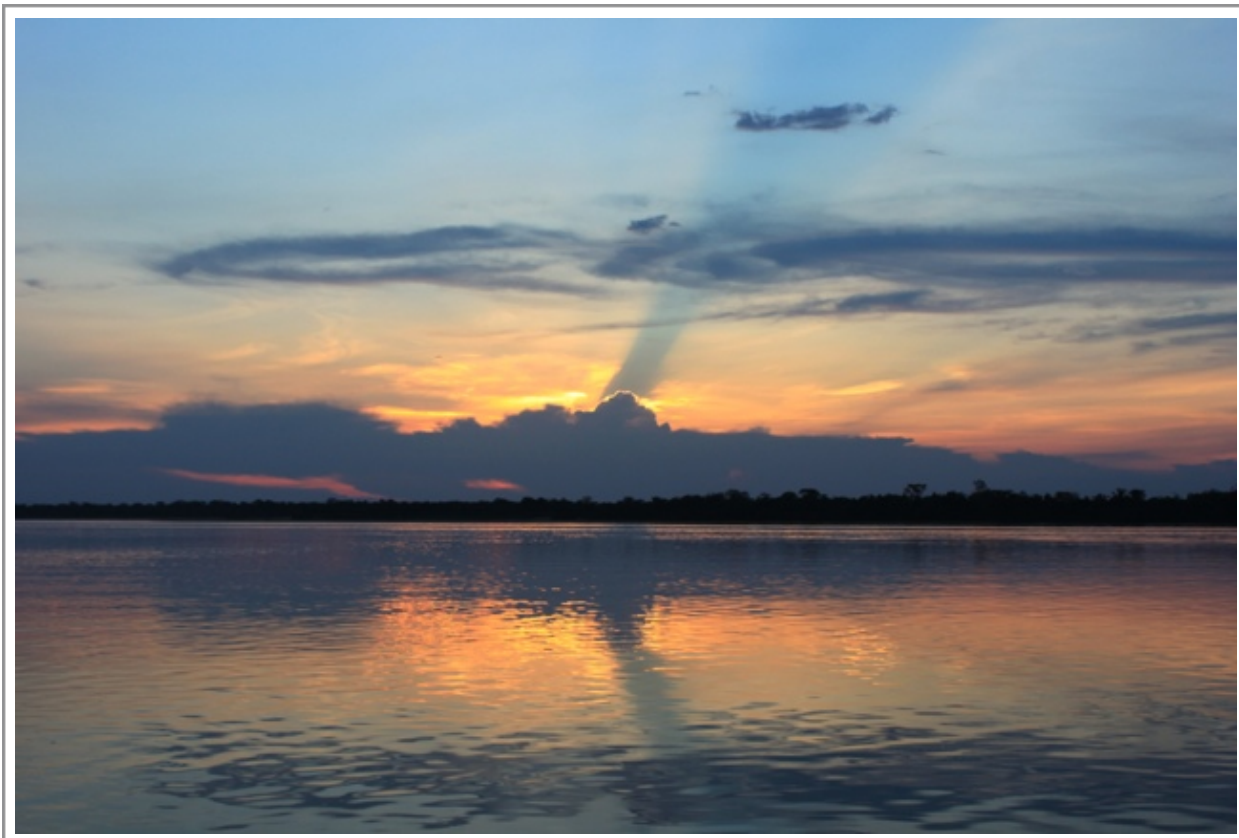
Soon enough it was time to return to the lodge to pack up our things, settle the account, and head for Palmas. The drive was mostly uneventful, though we did stop to look at a pair of **Red-legged Seriemas** beside the main highway. After a nice lunch in Palmas and a quick stop at the supermarket for travel supplies, Eduardo dropped us at the airport where we said our goodbyes, thanking him and his family for their excellent, friendly service. Our flight to Manaus via a connection in Brasilia went smoothly, but it was late by the time we arrived at our hotel in Manaus, the pleasant Pousada Chez Les Rois. We checked in and went right to bed as we had yet another flight to catch the next day.

October 29th: In consideration of our late arrival the previous evening, we had agreed to meet for a leisurely late breakfast at our little hotel in a residential neighbourhood. The mango trees behind the swimming pool proved to be a magnet for local birds, the best of which were the noisy **Canary-winged Parakeets** which were holding court in the upper canopy. After breakfast and taking care of a bit of correspondence, we checked out and headed for the airport to catch our mid-day flight to Boa Vista, the capital of the state of Roraima. We were met upon arrival by Francisco Diniz of Makunaima Expedições, our ground agent in Roraima, who took us to the Aipana Plaza Hotel for a late lunch followed by a short break to rest and/or unpack our gear for the afternoon outing.

We were picked up again at the hotel about an hour later by Francisco's associate, Hélio, who drove us a short distance to the bank of the rio Branco, where Fredson and our boat awaited. Just around the parking lot we were already picking up new birds for the trip, with a couple of migrant **Yellow Warblers**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Silver-beaked Tanager**, **House Wren**, **Pale-breasted Thrush**, **Red-capped Cardinal**, a responsive **Spotted Tody-Flycatcher**, and a male **American Redstart** that not everyone saw. On the river itself it was still very hot, and heading downstream we started slowly with just some **Black** and **Turkey Vultures**, **Osprey**, **Large-billed Terns**, **Cocoi** and **Capped Herons**. We saw a single **Jabiru** on a river beach, and soon thereafter Bill spotted another soaring high on thermals above our heads. Our first two stops on randomly selected riverbanks were unproductive: we had **Tropical Gnatcatchers** at one stop, while the second stop yielded a pair of **Drab Water-Tyrants** and a **Green Kingfisher**.

Fredson took us downstream to the entrance of a small side stream known locally as Paranázinha, where we put the boat ashore on a beach to try our luck. Here we called in our first **Pale-tipped Tyrannulets** of the trip, and while working on them we spotted a little flock of six **Green-rumped Parrotlets** feeding on *Cecropia* fruits in a tree that also hosted at least three **Green Iguanas**. Other species in the area included **Ringed Kingfisher**, **Green-tailed Jacamar**, a pair of **Black-crested Antshrikes**, **Rusty-margined Flycatcher**, **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, and **Pale-vented Pigeon**.

Before long it was time to return upstream to Boa Vista. En route Fredson pointed out a group of eight **Red-backed Bearded Sakis** feeding quietly on the fruits of a riverside emergent tree, a really spectacular sight to behold. That was soon followed by first a fabulous sunset, then an eerie but truly incredible moonrise as the full moon peeked its way above the horizon, dodging in and out from behind heavy thunderclouds in the distance. A handful of **Band-tailed Nighthawks** hunting over the river were the final birds of the day.



Sunset over the rio Branco, Boa Vista, Roraima

October 30th: Francisco was indispensable as usual during our time in Roraima, and the early breakfast he arranged for us from the best hotel in Boa Vista was proof positive of this. Soon we had the van packed and were on our way, headed for the paved road leading to the Uraricoera river north of Boa Vista.

We saw several pairs of **American Kestrels** en route, along with the likes of **Snail Kite** and **Black-collared Hawks** perched near flooded fields alongside the main highway. Our first stop on the road to Uraricoera was for a pair of **Eastern Meadowlarks** on the fence, one of which appeared to be carrying a food item to an unseen nest that must have been nearby. While watching the meadowlarks in the scope, we were quite happy to notice a pair of **Double-striped Thick-knees** standing stoically in the short grass savannah behind them, in the same scope view no less! The first of our 'Roraima targets' had fallen quickly into place. There were a few **Buff-necked Ibises** in the back of the same field, along with our first **Tropical Mockingbird**. A flooded part of the savannah a short distance behind us held a flock of **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, a single **Great Egret**, two **Least Sandpipers**, a **Greater Yellowlegs**, and best of all, a **Pinnated Bittern** standing tall with its neck stretched out in some reeds fringing the flooded area.

While watching all of the above, we had heard another target species nearby, so we drove over to a warehouse that was under construction. While Francisco wandered over to sweet-talk the workers and make a couple of new friends, we played tape and soon had a **Tropical Mockingbird** (not what we were looking for) arrived for much improved views, followed shortly thereafter by the desired **Bicolored Wren**, which pulled in beside the mocker for a great comparison and very nice views indeed.



Bicolored Wren (*Campylorhynchus griseus*), Boa Vista, Roraima

A brisk wind was picking up and temperatures rising already, so we resolved to head straight on to the Uraricoera, stopping only briefly to look at the likes of **Grassland Sparrow** and **Red-breasted Blackbird** on the way. We didn't have to wait long at the village of Passarão for our turn to load onto the ferry, and once across we parked the car near a narrow trail into the gallery forest. The brushy scrub and forest along this path is usually productive, and this morning was no different. We saw **Pale-tipped Tyrannulet**, **Black-crested Antshrike**, **White-fringed Antwren**, **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, **Yellow-breasted Flycatcher**, **Versicolored Emerald**, and **Chestnut-vented Conebill**, all before we got a response from the first of our target birds. A male **Rio Branco Antbird** approached willingly in response to a bit of tape, and it didn't take too long before everyone was enjoying nice views of this extremely localized Rio Branco endemic. A short distance further ahead we eventually got an answer from the **Hoary-throated Spinetail** we sought, which came in for good, close views a couple of times but refused to approach any more after that.

We needed to return to the ferry landing to continue on our way north to Tepequem, and while waiting for the ferry to arrive we had a look at the catch of the day on offer along the riverside. Then we crossed and drove onward heading back to the main highway, then north and west to the Serra do Tepequem. We didn't see much en route, and arrived in time for a late lunch in the old diamond mining village of Tepequem at a restaurant run by friends of Francisco (**Rusty-margined Flycatcher** and **Burnished-buff Tanager** here). After lunch we drove down to our hotel, the SESC Tepequem, checking in and seeing **Gray-fronted Dove** and **Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers** on the way to the cabins.

After taking a short break, we walked around the hotel grounds to do a bit of afternoon birding. A raucous group of **Violaceous Jays** were new (and proved to be ever-present around the hotel), and after admiring some **Green Oropendola** nests we saw the birds themselves. The forest edge and a scrubby hillside near the final cottage at the hotel proved productive, and here we had **Sooty-capped Hermit** at close range (it returned several times throughout the afternoon for repeated views). Pygmy-owl imitations drew in **Black-faced Tanager**, **Blue Dacnis**, **White-lored Euphonia**, **White-chested Emerald**, and a couple of others. The scrub below our position had **Silver-beaked Tanager**, **Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch**, some **Brown-throated Parakeets** perched in the distance, **Blue-headed Parrots**, and plenty of the aforementioned jays and oropendolas. A female **Black-throated Mango** showed well in the scope, and we had great close views of a **Copper-tailed (Green-bellied) Hummingbird** at a flowering bush beside the anteater statue at the cottage. A distant pair of the loud **Red-and-green Macaw** flying over the ridgeline below us proved to be the last bird of the day.

October 31st: Since our visit to Roraima was a frantically-arranged last minute alteration to the original itinerary, we didn't really have the time to fully appreciate to the fullest the varied habitats and excellent birding the state offers. The Tepequem area was a good compromise, as our lodge was situated on the slopes of the Tepequem 'mini-tepui', surrounded by lovely forest and with very birdy grounds. As such we merely had to roll out of bed to find that Francisco had prepared a full spread for breakfast including fresh cheese from his family's dairy production! While we ate we were surrounded by a noisy gang of **Violaceous Jays**. After breakfast right beside our rooms we had **Lineated Woodpecker**, a pair of **Red-shouldered Macaws**, better views of **Brown-throated Parakeets**, and best of all, a **Tiny Hawk** which stopped nearby long enough for Bill to get a nice look through the telescope. Down the hill from our lodgings we caught up with a nice **White-chested Emerald** which perched up in a leafless tree for quite a while.

On the walk down to the final cottage of the SESC we had three male **White-tailed Trogons**, and around the cottage itself we picked up a number of hummingbirds: **Copper-tailed (Green-bellied) Hummingbird**, **Blue-tailed Emerald**, a couple of **Black-throated Mangos**, and a **Sooty-capped Hermit** which returned faithfully to a couple of flowering plants around the anteater statue - we had great views of this latter species, a bird which was only recently discovered to occur in Brazil in the state of Roraima. Continuing down to the football pitch near the forest edge, we started to hear the distant but distinctive calls of **White Bellbirds**. Try as we might (and boy did we try!), we could not call in a bellbird, nor did we manage to spot one through canopy gaps which revealed quite a bit of forest cloaking the slopes surrounding the SESC. Francisco and Bill did however see our only **Streak-throated Hermit** of the trip, and around the soccer field we had a mixed flock that consisted mostly of **Blue-gray** and **Palm Tanagers**, but also contained a couple of North American migrants in the form of a female **Blackpoll Warbler** and an **American Redstart**, along with **Red-eyed Vireo**, more **Violaceous Jays**, and a **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**. A couple of trees fringing the clearing were heavily laden with fruit, and they attracted a few birds including **Dusky-chested**, **Variegated** and **Boat-billed Flycatchers**, **Small-billed Elaenia**, **Ruddy Pigeon**, and we also saw **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** and a few female **Gray Seedeaters** in the same area. A small group of the handsome **Collared Titi-Monkey** provided a mammalian distraction.



Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*), SESC Tepequem, Roraima

We returned to the cottage for a washroom break before heading to the village of Tepequem for lunch. By the SESC headquarters we birded the brushy roadside while Francisco chatted up the management. A bit of pygmy-owl imitation whipped up a froth of activity: **Barred Antshrike**, **Black-faced Tanager**, **Burnished-buff Tanager**, **Red-shouldered Tanager**, **Common Tody-Flycatcher** and **House Wren** were amongst the birds which arrived to scold the phantom owl. A roadside stop en route to the village didn't produce much aside from **Buff-throated Saltator** and our very first **Rufous-collared Sparrow** of the trip!

We had lunch at the restaurant in the village, then returned to the hotel for a short nap before hitting the road back to Boa Vista. We watched carefully along the way, scanning the open savannas for the hoped-for Giant Anteater, but in spite of the fact that we 'always' see them from the main highway between Venezuela and Boa Vista, we struck out this time. A last ditch effort near Boa Vista proved fruitless, and even the covey of Crested Bobwhite that Francisco spotted for us here slipped away before any of us could see them in the early evening half-light.

November 1st: This morning we met up with Marcelo Camacho, a dentist and bird photographer living in Boa Vista, for a bit of birding in a patch of riverine forest in the urban area of the state capital that Marcelo knows well. Marcelo was kind enough to take some time to take us to this spot (the Bairro Parque Caçari). No sooner had we stepped out of the van when we kicked things off right with a pair of the desired **Yellow Orioles**. These were followed by some **Gray Seedeaters**, plenty of females at first, then later a fair few males as well. A **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** attracted attention, both from us and from a couple of **Lined Seedeaters**. We called in a male **Finsch's Euphonia** for scope views, much to Mary's delight. The pygmy-owl kept at it, attracting the likes of **Pale-tipped Tyrannulet**, **House Wren**, **Bananaquit**, **Tropical Gnatcatcher**, and **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**.

We saw a **Pale-breasted Thrush** in a dense thicket, and then with Marcelo's help we called in the cute little **Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** for views through the scope, seeing his spectacles and all. We repeated the trick with **Buff-breasted Wren**, and had just finished admiring that one when Bill spotted a **Sunbittern** which had landed beside a puddle in the track behind us. Finally we got a response from the desired **White-bellied Piculets**, and with a bit of persistence eventually managed to get scope views for everyone. Marcelo then produced a **Yellow Tyrannulet**, and then it was time to head back to the Aipana. We had seen everything we had come for anyway, and so we thanked Marcelo for his time and companionship and return to the hotel to pack up and check out. Francisco figured it would be best if we checked in early for our flight to Manaus before going to lunch, and it was a good thing we did as the TAM check-in line moved at a glacial pace. Finally we were sorted, and closed out our short visit to Roraima with a nice lunch at the Tulipa restaurant, a per-kilo buffet affair.



Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*), Boa Vista, Roraima

The flight to Manaus went smoothly. We caught a taxi to the Hotel Tropical, where they couldn't find our *pre-paid* reservation at first, but finally sorted us out. The plan for the rest of the afternoon was to unwind a bit after a long trip, but I encountered Mary and Bill around the grounds in the late afternoon; they had seen a **Little Chachalaca** and a few other more common species before I joined them. We stood overlooking the rio Negro, enjoying a lovely sunset and chatting idly, before darkness loomed and we adjourned to the rooms to wash up before dinner.

November 2nd: There was time before breakfast for us to take a quick look around at the Tropical Hotel, and Mary and Bill wanted to show me the chachalaca they had seen the previous afternoon. No luck there, but we did see **Spotted Tody-Flycatcher**, **Pale-breasted Thrush**, **Gray-crowned Flycatcher**, **Yellow-browed Sparrow**, **White-eyed Parakeet**, and **Glittering-throated Emerald** in the trees overlooking the Rio Negro. Around the back of the hotel we saw some **Yellow-rumped Caciques**, a **Squirrel Cuckoo**, and heard **Gray-chested Greenlet**. After being questioned by a hotel security guard, we spotted the final bird of the trip, a new one to boot, a little group of **Turquoise Tanagers**.

Then it was off to breakfast and back to the rooms to pack up our things before heading to the airport. We were delayed slightly by traffic to the city cemetery for All Souls' Day, but arrived in time to check-in and for Bill and Mary to safely make their flight to Miami.

Systematic Bird List

The following selectively annotated list reflects our observations from 15 October to 2 November 2012. Taxonomy and nomenclature follows the 10th edition of the official Brazilian checklist maintained by the Comitê Brasileiro de Registros Ornitológicos and available online at www.cbro.org.br. Species that were heard only are marked with an asterisk, while species that were seen or heard only by the tour leader are marked with a double asterisk. Species highlighted in yellow are endemic to Brazil. We recorded 442 species during the course of our trip.

RHEAS (RHEIDAE)

Greater Rhea (*Rhea americana*)

TINAMOUS (TINAMIDAE)

- * **Little Tinamou** (*Crypturellus soui*)
- * **Undulated Tinamou** (*Crypturellus undulatus*)
- * **Variegated Tinamou** (*Crypturellus variegatus*)
- * **Small-billed Tinamou** (*Crypturellus parvirostris*)

SCREAMERS (ANHIMIDAE)

Horned Screamer (*Anhima cornuta*)

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS (ANATIDAE)

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)
Orinoco Goose (*Neochen jubata*)
Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)
Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*)

GUANS AND ALLIES (CRACIDAE)

Little Chachalaca (*Ortalis motmot*)
Marail Guan (*Penelope marail*)
Chestnut-bellied Guan (*Penelope ochrogaster*)
Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cumanensis*)
** **Crestless Curassow** (*Pauxi tomentosum*)
Black Curassow (*Crax alector*)
Bare-faced Curassow (*Crax fasciolata*)

NEW WORLD QUAIL (ODONTOPHORIDAE)

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

CORMORANTS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

ANHINGAS (ANHINGIDAE)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS (ARDEIDAE)

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*)

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)

Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*)

Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

IBIS & SPOONBILLS (THRESKIORNITHIDAE)

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)

Bare-faced Ibis (*Phimosus infuscatus*)

Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*)

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)

STORKS (CICONIIDAE)

Maguari Stork (*Ciconia maguari*)

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*)

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

NEW WORLD VULTURES (CATHARTIDAE)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*)

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

King Vulture (*Sarcorampus papa*)

OSPREY (PANDIONIDAE)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (ACCIPITRINIDAE)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Long-winged Harrier (*Circus buffoni*)

Tiny Hawk (*Accipiter superciliosus*)

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*)

Savanna Hawk (*Heterospizias meridionalis*)

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*)

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*)

White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)

FALCONS & CARACARAS (FALCONIDAE)

Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*)

LIMPKIN (ARAMIDAE)

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS (RALLIDAE)

Giant Wood-Rail (*Aramides ypecaha*)

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

**** Russet-crowned Crane** (*Laterallus viridis*)

*** Ash-throated Crane** (*Porzana albicollis*)

SERIEMAS (CARIAMIDAE)

Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*)

SUNBITTERN (EURYPYGIDAE)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*)

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (CHARADRIIDAE)

Pied Lapwing (*Vanellus cayanus*)
Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)
American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)
Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)

STILTS (RECURVIROSTRIDAE)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

THICK-KNEES (BURHINIDAE)

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

SANDPIPERS (SCOLOPACIDAE)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)
Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)
Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

JACANAS (JACANIDAE)

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)

TERNS (STERNIDAE)

Yellow-billed Tern (*Sternula superciliaris*)
Large-billed Tern (*Phaetusa simplex*)

SKIMMERS (RYNCHOPIDAE)

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

PIGEONS & DOVES (COLUMBIDAE)

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*)
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)
**** Picui Ground-Dove** (*Columbina picui*)
Scaled Dove (*Columbina squammata*)
Long-tailed Ground-Dove (*Uropelia campestris*)
Rock Pigeon (*Columbia livia*)
Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*)
Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)
Picazuro Pigeon (*Patagioenas picazuro*)
Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)
Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)
Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

PARROTS (PSITTACIDAE)

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)
Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)
Red-and-green Macaw (*Ara chloropterus*)
Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)
Red-shouldered Macaw (*Diopsittaca nobilis*)
White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)
Brown-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga pertinax*)
Peach-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga aurea*)
Painted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura picta*)
Green-rumped Parrotlet (*Forpus passerinus*)
Canary-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolorus*)
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*)
Golden-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris chrysoptera*)
* **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet** (*Touit huetii*)
* **Orange-cheeked Parrot** (*Pyrilia barrabandi*)
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)
Dusky Parrot (*Pionus fuscus*)
Festive Parrot (*Amazona festiva*)
Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*)
Orange-winged Parrot (*Amazona amazonica*)
* **Red-fan Parrot** (*Deroptryus accipitrinus*)

HOATZIN (OPISTHOCOMIDAE)

Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)

CUCKOOS (CUCULIDAE)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)
* **Black-bellied Cuckoo** (*Piaya melanogaster*)
Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*)
Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)
Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*)
Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*)
* **Pavonine Cuckoo** (*Dromococcyx pavoninus*)

BARN-OWLS (TYTONIDAE)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

OWLS (STRIGIDAE)

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)
* **Amazonian Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium hardyi*)
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)
Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

POTOOS (NYCTIBIIDAE)

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

NIGHTJARS (CAPRIMULGIDAE)

Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)
Band-tailed Nighthawk (*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*)
Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)
* **Little Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus parvulus*)
** **Spot-tailed Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus maculicaudus*)

SWIFTS (APODIDAE)

Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicauda*)
Chapman's Swift (*Chaetura chapmani*)
Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*)
Fork-tailed Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)

HUMMINGBIRDS (TROCHILIDAE)

** **Rufous-breasted Hermit** (*Glaucis hirsutus*)
Streak-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis rufurumii*)
** **Maranhão Hermit** (*Phaethornis maranhaoensis*)
Straight-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis bourcierii*)
Sooty-capped Hermit (*Phaethornis augusti*)
Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis superciliosus*)
Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Campylopterus largipennis*)
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird (*Campylopterus macrourus*)
Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)
Crimson Topaz (*Topaza pella*)
** **Blue-chinned Sapphire** (*Chlorostilbon notatus*)
Blue-tailed Emerald (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)
Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)
White-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus guainumbi*)
Green-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus theresiae*)
Copper-tailed (Green-bellied) Hummingbird (*Amazilia viridigaster*)
Versicolored Emerald (*Amazilia versicolor*)
White-chested Emerald (*Amazilia brevirostris*)
Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*)
Black-eared Fairy (*Heliophryx auritus*)
** **Long-billed Starthroat** (*Heliomaster longirostris*)

TROGONS & QUETZALS (TROGONIDAE)

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)

**** Collared Trogon** (*Trogon collaris*)

KINGFISHERS (ALCEDINIDAE)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquatus*)

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)

MOTMOTS (MOMOTIDAE)

*** Amazonian Motmot** (*Momotus momota*)

JACAMARS (GALBULIDAE)

Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*)

Green-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula galbula*)

**** Bronzy Jacamar** (*Galbula leucogastra*)

Paradise Jacamar (*Galbula dea*)

PUFFBIRDS (BUCCONIDAE)

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*)

Spotted Puffbird (*Bucco tamatia*)

Black Nunbird (*Monasa atra*)

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

Swallow-wing (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

BARBETS (CAPITONIDAE)

*** Black-spotted Barbet** (*Capito niger*)

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)

TOUCANS (RAMPHASTIDAE)

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*)

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

White-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

**** Green Aracari** (*Pteroglossus viridis*)

Black-necked Aracari (*Pteroglossus aracari*)

WOODPECKERS (PICIDAE)

Lafresnaye's Piculet (*Picumnus lafresnayi*)

Golden-spangled Piculet (*Picumnus exilis*)

White-wedged Piculet (*Picumnus albosquamatus*)
White-bellied Piculet (*Picumnus spilogaster*)
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)
Golden-collared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis cassini*)
Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)
**** Yellow-throated Woodpecker** (*Piculus flavigula*)
Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*)
Waved Woodpecker (*Celeus undatus*)
*** Scale-breasted Woodpecker** (*Celeus grammicus*)
Blond-crested Woodpecker (*Celeus flavescens*)
Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*)
Kaempfer's Woodpecker (*Celeus obieni*)
Ringed Woodpecker (*Celeus torquatus*)
Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)
*** Red-necked Woodpecker** (*Campephilus rubricollis*)
Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

TYPICAL ANT BIRDS (THAMNOPHILIDAE)

*** Fasciated Antshrike** (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)
Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)
Black-crested Antshrike (*Sakesphorus canadensis*)
Glossy Antshrike (*Sakesphorus luctuosus*)
Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)
Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamnophilus murinus*)
*** Blackish-gray Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus nigrocinereus*)
*** Northern Slaty-Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus punctatus*)
**** Amazonian Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus amazonicus*)
Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)
Cinereous Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesius*)
*** Pygmy Antwren** (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)
Klage's Antwren (*Myrmotherula klagesi*)
White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)
Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)
Leaden Antwren (*Myrmotherula assimilis*)
Black-capped Antwren (*Herpsilochmus atricapillus*)
Spot-backed Antwren (*Herpsilochmus dorsimaculatus*)
White-fringed Antwren (*Formicivora grisea*)
**** Gray Antbird** (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)
Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)
Bananal Antbird (*Cercomacra ferdinandi*)
Rio Branco Antbird (*Cercomacra carbonaria*)
Ash-breasted Antbird (*Myrmoborus lugubris*)
Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)
Guianan Warbling-Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*)
Yellow-browed Antbird (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*)
*** Band-tailed Antbird** (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*)
Black-chinned Antbird (*Hypocnemoides melanopogon*)
**** Black-headed Antbird** (*Percnostola rufifrons*)

Black-throated Antbird (*Myrmeciza atrothorax*)

WOODCREEPERS (DENDROCOLAPTIDAE)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*)

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Dendroplex picus*)

Zimmer's Woodcreeper (*Dendroplex kienerii*)

**** Ocellated Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*)

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*)

Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

**** Buff-throated Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)

Lineated Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*)

OVENBIRDS (FURNARIIDAE)

Wing-banded Hornero (*Furnarius figulus*)

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*)

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

Araguaia Spinetail (*Synallaxis simoni*)

Hoary-throated Spinetail (*Synallaxis kollari*)

Ochre-cheeked Spinetail (*Synallaxis scutata*)

Rusty-backed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca vulpina*)

**** Speckled Spinetail** (*Cranioleuca gutturata*)

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*)

undescribed spinetail (*Certhiaxis* sp. nov.)

Greater Thornbird (*Phacellodromus ruber*)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (TYRANNIDAE)

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

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

**** Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus striatocollis*)

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

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus latirostris*)

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

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum maculatum*)

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

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

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

Large Elaenia (*Elaenia spectabilis*)

Small-billed Elaenia (*Elaenia parvirostris*)

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

Suiriri Flycatcher (*Suiriri suiriri*)

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*)

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Campsiemopsis flaveola*)
Slender-footed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)
Amazonian Tyrannulet (*Inezia subflava*)
Pale-tipped Tyrannulet (*Inezia caudata*)
**** Yellow-margined Flycatcher** (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)
Gray-crowned Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*)
*** Bran-colored Flycatcher** (*Myiophobus fasciatus*)
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)
Drab Water-Tyrant (*Ochthornis littoralis*)
White-rumped Monjita (*Xolmis velatus*)
Black-backed Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola albiventer*)
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)
Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosa*)
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)
Dusky-chested Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*)
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)
Yellow-throated Flycatcher (*Conopias parvus*)
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)
Sulphury Flycatcher (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)
Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*)
White-throated Kingbird (*Tyrannus albogularis*)
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)
Grayish Mourner (*Rhytipterna simplex*)
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)
Swainson's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus swainsoni*)
Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)
Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
*** Cinnamon Attila** (*Attila cinnamomeus*)
*** Bright-rumped Attila** (*Attila spadiceus*)

COTINGAS (COTINGIDAE)

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*)
Guianan Red-Cotinga (*Phoenicircus carnifex*)
Purple-breasted Cotinga (*Cotinga cotinga*)
Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*)
Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*)
Pompadour Cotinga (*Xipholena punicea*)
Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)
Amazonian Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)
*** White Bellbird** (*Procnias alba*)

MANAKINS (PIPRIDAE)

* **Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin** (*Tyranneutes stolzmanni*)
* **Tiny Tyrant-Manakin** (*Tyranneutes virescens*)
White-throated Manakin (*Corapipo gutturalis*)
Yellow-crested Manakin (*Heterocercus flavivertex*)
White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia pipra*)
* **Band-tailed Manakin** (*Pipra fasciicauda*)
Golden-headed Manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*)

TITYRAS & ALLIES (TITYRIDAE)

Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdina*)
Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*)
Cinereous Becard (*Pachyramphus rufus*)
Green-backed Becard (*Pachyramphus viridis*)
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

VIREOS & ALLIES (VIREONIDAE)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)
* **Lemon-chested Greenlet** (*Hylophilus thoracicus*)
Gray-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus semicinereus*)
Ashy-headed Greenlet (*Hylophilus pectoralis*)
Buff-cheeked Greenlet (*Hylophilus muscicapinus*)

CROWS & JAYS (CORVIDAE)

Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)

SWALLOWS (HIRUNDINIDAE)

White-thighed Swallow (*Neochelidon tibialis*)
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)
Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*)
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)
White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)
Cliff Swallow (*Pterochelidon pyrrhonota*)
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

WRENS (TROGLODYTIDAE)

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
Bicolored Wren (*Campylorhynchus griseus*)
Coraya Wren (*Pheugopedius coraya*)
Buff-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus leucotis*)

DONACOBIOUS (DONACOBIIDAE)

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*)

GNATCATCHERS (POLIOPTILIDAE)

Collared Gnatwren (*Microbates collaris*)

*** Long-billed Gnatwren** (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*)

Masked Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila dumicola*)

THRUSHES (TURDIDAE)

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*)

Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*)

MOCKINGBIRDS (MIMIDAE)

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)

Chalk-browed Mockingbird (*Mimus saturninus*)

PIPITS (MOTACILLIDAE)

Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*)

BANANAQUIT (COEREVIDAE)

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)

TANAGERS & ALLIES (THRAUPIDAE)

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)

Black-faced Tanager (*Schistochlamys melanopsis*)

Red-billed Pied-Tanager (*Lamprospiza melanoleuca*)

Hooded Tanager (*Nemosia pileata*)

Orange-headed Tanager (*Thlypopsis sordida*)

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

Fulvous-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus surinamus*)

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

Red-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*)

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Turquoise Tanager (*Tangara mexicana*)

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)

Dotted Tanager (*Tangara varia*)

Burnished-buff Tanager (*Tangara cayana*)

**** Masked Tanager** (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*)

**** Black-faced Dacnis** (*Dacnis lineata*)
**** Yellow-bellied Dacnis** (*Dacnis flaviventer*)
Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)
Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)
Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)
Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)
Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)
Yellow-backed Tanager (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)
Chestnut-vented Conebill (*Conirostrum speciosum*)

EMBERIZID FINCHES (EMBERIZIDAE)

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
Grassland Sparrow (*Ammodramus humeralis*)
Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)
Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis columbiana*)
Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch (*Emberizoides herbicola*)
Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)
Gray Seedeater (*Sporophila intermedia*)
Rusty-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*)
Wing-barred Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*)
Lined Seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*)
Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
White-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila leucoptera*)
Capped Seedeater (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)
Double-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila caeruleascens*)
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*Sporophila angolensis*)
Pectoral Sparrow (*Arremon taciturnus*)
Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*)
Crimson-fronted Cardinal (*Paroaria baeri*)

CARDINAL GROSBEAKS (CARDINALIDAE)

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
Yellow-green Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes canadensis*)
Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanoloxia cyanoides*)

NEW WORLD WARBLERS (PARULIDAE)

**** American Redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)
*** Flavescent Warbler** (*Basileuterus flaveolus*)

TROUPIALS & ALLIES (ICTERIDAE)

Green Oropendola (*Psarocolius viridis*)
Solitary Cacique (*Procacicus solitarius*)

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)
Moriche Oriole (*Icterus chryscephalus*)
Yellow Oriole (*Icterus nigrogularis*)
Chopi Blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
Chestnut-capped Blackbird (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)
Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)
Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)
Screaming Cowbird (*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*)
Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)
Red-breasted Blackbird (*Sturnella militaris*)
White-lored Blackbird (*Sturnella supercilialis*)

SISKINS & ALLIES (FRINGILLIDAE)

Plumbeous Euphonia (*Euphonia plumbea*)
Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*)
Finsch's Euphonia (*Euphonia finschi*)
Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*)
White-lored Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)
Golden-sided Euphonia (*Euphonia cayannensis*)

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIDAE)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Mammal List:

The taxonomy of this list follows that found on Natureserve's Infonatura service (www.natureserve.org/infonatura).

ARMADILLOS (DAYPODIDAE)

Six-banded Armadillo (*Euphractus sexcinctus*)

MARMOSETS, TAMARINS & CAPUCHINS (CEBIDAE)

Golden-handed (Midas) Tamarin (*Saguinus midas*)
Tufted Capuchin (*Cebus apella*)

TITIS & SAKIS (PITHECIDAE)

Collared Titi-Monkey (*Callicebus torquatus*)
Red-backed Bearded Saki (*Chiropotes chiropotes*)
Guianan (White-faced) Saki (*Pithecia pithecia*)

HOWLERS & SPIDER MONKEYS (ATELIDAE)

* **Guianan Red Howler Monkey** (*Alouatta macconnelli*)

SQUIRRELS (SCIURIDAE)

Guianan Squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*)

Northern Amazon Red Squirrel (*Sciurus igniventris*)

ASSORTED RODENTS (RODENTIA)

Capybara (*Hydrochaerus hydrochaeris*)

Black Agouti (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*)

Azara's Agouti (*Dasyprocta azarae*)

Red-rumped Agouti (*Dasyprocta leporina*)

Red Acouchy (*Myoprocta acouchy*)

Brazilian Guinea Pig (*Cavia aperea*)

BATS (VARIOUS ORDERS)

Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*)

Little Brown Bat (*Myotis* spp.)

CATS (FELIDAE)

Jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*)

WEASELS & OTTERS (MUSTELIDAE)

Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*)

RACCOONS & ALLIES (PROCYONIDAE)

South American Coati (*Nasua nasua*)

Crab-eating Raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*)

TAPIRS (TAPIRIDAE)

Brazilian Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*)

DEER (CERVIDAE)

Marsh Deer (*Blastocercus dichotomus*)

DOLPHINS (DELPHINIDAE / INIIDAE)

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

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

Reptiles & Amphibians:

Red-tailed Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Mussurana (*Clelia clelia*)

Tegu Lizard (*Tupinambis teguixin*)

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*)

Amazon Whiptail (*Ameiva ameiva*)

House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*)

Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*)

Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*)

Smooth-fronted Caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*)

Smooth-sided Toad (*Rhinella guttata*)

Marine Toad (*Rhaebo marina*)