

Brazil

Manaus & Rio Negro - Heart of the Amazon 1st to 17th September 2017 (17 days)

Trip Report



Spot-tailed Nightjar by Forrest Rowland

Tour Leaders: Forrest Rowland & Bradley Davis

Tour Participants: George Kenyon, Ingetraut Kuehn, Sue Lashko, Helmut Larssman & Lucy Waskell

TOP 10 (as voted by participants)

- 1. Capuchinbird
- 2. Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock
- 3. Crimson Fruitcrow / Curl-crested Aracari
- 4. Pavonine Quetzal
- 5. Crested Eagle
- 6. Wire-tailed Manakin
- 7. Grey-winged Trumpeter
- 8. White-fronted Manakin / Paradise Tanager
- 9. White-throated Antbird
- 10. Ferruginous-backed Antbird / Dusky Purpletuft

Mammal Highlights – Pink River Dolphin, Grey River Dolphin, Pale-throated Sloth, Midas Tamarin, Red-chested Moustached Tamarin

Tour Summary

Brazil has long been thought of as a wildlife and birding Mecca; though seemingly relatively distant, inaccessible, or rough. Now, it is finally getting the notoriety it deserves among wildlife enthusiasts, nature lovers, and birders as being one of the most beautiful, accommodating, and comfortable countries to visit! The variety of habitats, hosting more than 1,800 bird species (including 211 endemics), that its vast borders encompass range from lush coastal rainforests, to xerophytic desert-like scrub in the North, across the vast Amazon Basin full of microhabitats, some known and others unexplored. This incredible diversity, combined with an emerging infrastructure paying more mind to eco-tourism, makes Brazil one of the planet's most unique and rewarding destinations to explore.

The destinations we visited on this comprehensive tour of the central Amazon basin allowed us exposure to several of the microhabitat types on various "banks" of the Amazon. Uniquely, the huge tributaries of the Amazon are natural borders that many species of bird, mammals, and reptiles do not cross. Essentially, the huge interfluvial plains in between the massive rivers that pour into the Amazon are large islands. While a good portion of the flora and fauna is shared across



Red-chested Moustached Tamarin by Ingetraut Kuehn

each interfluvium, there is an astonishing variety of creatures that have evolved only within their interfluvial "island". The region around Manaus is the perfect example of this: north of Manaus (and the Rio Negro) is the southern Guianan Shield, which is different from anything south of the Rio Negro and Amazon. South of the Rio Negro, but west of the Rio Solimoes, is what's generally referred to as the "West Bank". This region is distinct not only from the Guianan Shield aforementioned, but also from the land east, which is divided from it by the Rio Solimoes. We had ample time to explore each of these three distinct regions, as well as spending time on all four major island types. Each island type is home to its own avifauna, of course, because this is the Amazon: *prototype mega-diversity!* It was a fascinating, fabulous trip, starring some of the most spectacular birds on earth – *as the Top Ten list can attest.* The tour began, as mentioned above, in Manaus.

Manaus

Due to flight schedules, we found ourselves a day early, rather than late, in Manaus! We also found ourselves in the fancy Wyndham Gardens Hotel on the shores of the impressive Rio Negro. We ended



Klages's Antwren by Ingetraut Kuehn

our first day's birding, and some great cultural sightseeing (including the famed opera house), with a hankering for some celebratory beers. The tour was off to a great start after our morning's birding together at the nearby riparian habitat along the Rio Negro. Despite being relatively small, the habitat around the Wyndham and Tropical Hotels is outstanding, and we started the tour off with loads of great birds! Among the nearly 60 species recorded, great views of Little Chachalaca, White-winged and Tui Parakeets, Golden-spangled "Bouffon's" Piculets, Blacknecked Aracari, and the endemic Klages's Antwren took top honours!

Our first official day of the tour began at daybreak, atop the "MUSA" tower at the north edge of the metropolis that is Manaus. Despite it's proximity to the city, the tower is located at the edge of a 10,000-hectare preserve adjacent to the immense Adolfo Ducke Reserve. The MUSA botanical gardens are home to more than 250 species of birds, and we had an amazing morning from the tower, due in large part to nearby fruiting trees. First bird of the morning was the Guianan Shield endemic: Marail Guan! *Though widespread across the shield forests, this bird is always scarce*. Parrots always get moving at first light, and there was no shortage of eye-candy in that department! Golden-winged Parakeet, Caica, Dusky, Blue-headed, Orange-winged, and the spectacular Red-Fan Parrot all put in appearances. Black-bellied Cuckoo, Waved Woodpecker and Paradise Jacamar were spotted not long after the gorgeous down sun broke horizon above the expansive forests to our east. Shortly thereafter a mixed flock appeared right next to the tower, yielding Guianan Woodcreeper, Guianan Tyrannulet,

Spot-backed Antwren, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Red-billed Pied, Spotted, Paradise, Yellow-backed, and Flame-crested Tanagers, and we basically had our minds blown within the first 30 minutes up there. *It was awesome!*

The fruiting trees attracted good numbers of sought-after frugivores, especially Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, and Black-spotted Barbet. One of the star birds of the morning was a Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo that spent a good deal of time just below our feet in the treetops adjacent to the tower. We had outstanding views of this widespread, though seldom seen and relatively



Paradise Tanager by Forrest Rowland

scarce species. After the heat and the beginnings of a holiday-weekend crowd ran us off the tower, we decided to spend a few minutes walking one of the few trails of the botanical gardens. There wasn't a ton of action, but we did manage to come across a pair of obliging, huge, Red-necked Woodpeckers, as well as a small understorey mixed flock. The flock of Chestnut-rumped and Plain-brown

Woodcreepers, Fulvous-crested Tanager, and Bright-rumped Attila led us to a mated pair of Yellow-billed Jacamars that glowed in the understorey. After getting looks at the nearby White-eyed Tody-Tyrant of the special Guianan Shield race, we decided it was time for lunch. We logged a whopping 80

Spix's Night Monkey by Ingetraut Kuehn

species before lunch!

Our first afternoon was a typical one in these climes – pretty quiet. With a few exceptions, such as White-crowned Manakin, Straight-billed Hermit, Spot-winged Antbird, and Amazonian Motmot, our pre-dusk time at the huge Adolfo Ducke biological station was as quiet as expected. After the sunset, however, things picked up quickly. With a few Paraques plotting our progress into the forest, we managed to call in the nominate form of Tawny-bellied Screech Owl for looks and photos; while an Amazonian Pygmy Owl tooted away at us overhead. Our main target for the evening was a bit of a mythical creature – Rufous Potoo. Though it has a broad range

throughout Amazonia, it occurs strictly in upland, hilly, stunted terra firme forest, making it quite rare overall. While listening for owl, a Rufous Potoo gave two soft call notes. It took two seconds to get a beautiful individual in the spotlight not 30 feet off the trail! It sat around, looking for prey, allowing cripplingly great views, photos, and video. A fitting end to an exceptionally enjoyable first day!

The following day, we returned to the Ducke Reserve to search for a few of the species we'd heard the afternoon before, and to see if we'd get lucky with some antswarms due to recent rains. We hit it big, working the main trail behind the biological station. Though off to a slow start, with failed looks for White-fronted Manakin, fleeting views of Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, and an only-somewhat cooperative Guianan Trogon, it all came together when a mid-storey flock convened overhead, and we began to hear antbirds growling in the undergrowth as they hungrily awaited a forming swarm. *Perhaps the ants had bivouacked up a tree?* The end result was phrenetic! The woodcreeper show was beyond my imagination: Olivaceous, Wedge-billed, Plain-brown, Chestnut-rumped, Buff-throated, two Blackbanded, and four Amazonian Barred Woodcreepers were all present at the swarm, giving awesome

views; while a pair of stunning Red-billed Woodcreepers worked a bit higher up the trees. Mouse-colored, Dusky-throated and Cinereous Antshrikes showed nicely, as did a Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant. Of course, the Antbirds were the stars — both antswarm obligates were present. While White-plumed Antbird took several minutes for folks to get views of, the Rufousthroated Antbirds were entirely cooperative, offering up endless good looks at our delight. This Guianan Shield speciality can be tricky anywhere in its range, as can the stunning White-plumed Antbird, so we were ecstatic to have had such good fortune.



Rufous-throated Antbird by Dubi Shapiro

Our afternoon of Day Two was much more productive than the first, due to some fine overcast weather. *The birds were far busier than normal!* Birding one of the tracks through the area known as Pau Rosa, we pulled an Amazonian Pygmy Owl into view which, as always, brought in a load of other nice species to mob it. Black-spotted Barbet, Pink-throated Becards (at a nest), and a nice host of Tanagers



Red-billed Pied Tanager by Forrest Rowland

and Dacnises, along with a few species of hummers, came in to investigate. As the afternoon wore on, Cotingas began to perch up for us. After two Pompadours were viewed well through the scope, a Purple-breasted Cotinga flew in and perched roadside! While all this was going on, we noted a few species of Antbirds singing nearby. First up, we played for Blackheaded Antbird. The local "Hellmayr's" subspecies is a possible split from the nominate, and endemic to the Shield. A pair came right in, to within a few feet of me, which we all enjoyed greatly. As though in an attempt to simply not be outdone by its nearby relative, the Ferruginous-

backed Antbird singing across the road sat up to sing in full view. Simply getting good looks at this ornate species is reward enough for what amounted to no effort on our part. By putting the bird in the scope, and being able to watch it sing, we had one of our top ten experiences of the tour. Almost an afterthought given the run of great birds before, parrots started to fly and we saw more Red-Fan Parrots, two flyover Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlets, and 3 Diademed Amazons. The latter species is an extremely disjunct population from its closest relative, the Red-lored Amazon, and was therefore split last year. Yet another Guianan regional endemic...

Our final morning in the Manaus area was spent at the famed INPA Canopy Tower #2. Exactly halfway between Manaus and our next destination to the north, Presidente Figuereido, the tower is well off the main road, hidden in the middle of millions of hectares of primary forest. While the MUSA held some surprises and was certainly very enjoyable, in retrospect, it seems but an appetizer compared to the

INPA tower, which was the main course and dessert! The list of birds we recorded here topped 100 species. It was truly a spectacular morning, leaving nothing to be desired (if that's possible for birders, who always want more)! As was the case with the other tower, one of the first birds of the morning was Marail Guan. But the second bird was a displaying Green Oropendola! Red-billed Pied Tanager, Short-billed Honeycreeper, Red-billed Honeycreeper, and Yellow-throated Flycatcher were all perched in the tree with the Oropendola, which let us know immediately that mixed flocks and fruiting trees were very nearby.



Guianan Puffbird by Forrest Rowland

Several mixed flocks passed the tower that morning, and many of the frugivorous species (Tanagers, Dacnises, Honeycreepers, etc.) came to leisurely eat the berries on one of the trees right beside the tower! Photo ops and views were astonishing. The list of highlights was as follows: King Vulture, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Double-toothed Kite, White Hawk, Black-eared Fairy, Black-tailed,

Green-backed and Guianan Trogons, Guianan Puffbird, Black Nunbird, Red-and-green Macaw, Ashwinged Antwren, Fasciated Antshrike, Olive-green Tyrannulet (guianan endemic), Painted Tody-Flycatcher (guianan endemic; spectacular experience watching them bringing food to a nest!), Spangled Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, Glossy-backed Becard (near endemic to this area), Dotted Tanager (rare throughout its range!), Yellow-green Grosbeak, and Golden-sided Euphonia (guianan endemic). The gold medal of the morning went to the male Crimson Fruitcrow that blew us away! Nobody expected to see this rare, enigmatic species on the tour, least of all the guides and leaders. It



Painted Tody-Flycatcher by Forrest Rowland

hung around for all to get scope views. After finally pulling ourselves away, we birded a wee bit on the way back to the 4x4 trucks we hired to get us into the tower. Guianan Warbling-Antbird and some screaming Screaming Pihas were ample sendoffs.

I would be remiss not to mention "The Junkyard", where we added about 10 trip birds during our 15-minute stop, despite it being...well...a bit of a junkyard. It was a surprisingly pleasant way to break up the drive to Presidente Figuereido, where we got settled in at Iracema Falls Hotel.

Presidente Figuereido

While Manaus is a great place to access the canopy, and sample some riverine and Guianan Shield forest habitats, the small tourist town of Presidente Figuereido, just 120km to the north, is in the heart

of the many ecotones and microhabitats that make up the Shield and northern Amazonia. This hamlet draws tourists from Manaus to its many waterfalls and attractive scenery for a break from the heat and bustle of the city. Though rainfall is much heavier here than in Manaus (which makes the tourist season relatively short), we lost only a few hours one morning to it. In fact, we missed very little at all. Black Curassow (uncommon at best), Painted Parakeet, and White-naped Seedeater were the few we failed to connect with, out of dozens of hopefuls. We began our birding at the Lajes Reserve, near to Figuereido, focusing our efforts here on the campina scrub speciality species.

The campina, or "white sand forest" microhabitat is one of the most exaggerated examples of how habitat-specific and finite some Amazonian species have become. Many, if not most, of the species that are found in these habitats cannot survive in the much lusher, seemingly more rich, forest surrounding the small patches of campina that exist. Given how few of these patches of campina are accessible anywhere in the basin, from Colombia to Peru and Brazil, being able to bird this habitat is a treat. The stunted scrub



Bronzy Jacamar by Ingetraut Kuehn

and low forests at Lajes Reserve are easily-accessed, and we made three passes at this site in search of wanted species. White-naped Seedeater was notably absent and, despite our best efforts, was missed.

However, the others fell in line nicely! Among the many special species, Green-tailed Goldenthroat, White-chinned Swift, Bronzy Jacamar, Southern White-fringed Antwren, Pale-bellied Mourner, Rufous-crested Elaenia, Fuscous "campina" Flycatcher, Black Manakin, Red-shouldered Tanager and Plumbeous Euphonia were amongst the best birds encountered at this site, though the likes of Scaled Pigeon, Blue-and-yellow, Scarlet and Red-bellied Macaws, and Dusky Antbird were certainly welcome.



Yellow-billed Jacamar by Forrest Rowland

We made ample time over the first couple of days to bird around Iracema Falls Hotel, which is situated in good forest with nice tracks to wander. In the few hours spent here, we found more than 100 species, including the remarkable Crimson Topaz, which is always breathtaking! The mixed flocks were fabulous and provided most of the action at this particular site, though some of the resident skulkers here, such as Coraya Wren and Northern "Guianan" Slaty Antshrike, provided a bit of entertainment between flocks. Glimpses of Lined Forest Falcon were exciting for those present. The following species showed nicely for all: Little Chachalaca, Hook-billed Kite, Short-

tailed Nighthawk, Straight-billed Hermit, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Fiery-tailed Awlbill (a pair came in to Pygmy-Owl playback!), Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Versicolored and Glittering-throated Emeralds, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Great Jacamar, Golden-collared and Yellow-throated Woodpeckers, Slender-billed and Plain Xenops, Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Grey-crowned and Zimmer's Flatbills, Wing-barred Piprites, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Cinereous Becard, Long-billed Gnatwren, Guianan Gnatcatcher, White-necked Thrush, and both Golden-bellied and White-vented Euphonias, among others.

Our next place of accommodation in the Presidente Figuereido area was the wonderful Mari Mari Lodge. Though somewhat rustic (can't be that rustic, as it has air conditioning!), this lodge is situated right above a beautiful flowing blackwater stream, next to prime campinarana and terra firme habitats. Undoubtedly, the huge Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek is the main attraction for visiting birders and tourists alike. Before our arrival, we made a fateful stop at Cachoeira da Onca (Jaguar Falls) Natural Park, where we found our #1 bird of the tour.



Musician (Guianan) Wren by Forrest Rowland

Cachoeira da Onca is but one of many waterfall parks in the area. Certainly, many of those sites have great birds, but the pristine trail system and tall forest here is perfect for birders and photographers. While the birding, overall, seemed slow, some of the highest quality birds of the whole tour were found at this awesome site. A pair of Black-faced Hawks was the first to wow us that morning as we made our way down the perfectly-groomed, sandy trail towards the falls. Common Scale-backed and Black-

headed Antbirds were playing along the trail, as were a pair of Yellow-billed Jacamars, as we made our way across the swinging bridge. Our only Black-chinned Antbirds of the tour came from this bridge, as did our first Double-banded Pygmy Tyrants. Whiskered and McConnell's Flycatchers showed nicely near the falls, where we spent a few minutes enjoying the scenery and ambience. A small forested side trail where we hoped to come across an understorey flock or two, but failed to do so, did provide us the



Capuchinbird by Forrest Rowland

most responsive and obliging Ringed Antpipit and Musician (Guianan) Wren of our lives (both sat up in full view, singing, allowing photos) and one very active Pale-throated Three-toed Sloth.

We had spent the majority of the morning searching for one of the most bizarre and fascinating bird species on Earth -Capuchinbird. Currently a member of the Cotingidae family, this chunky, bald-headed, ruffle-necked beast of a bird is unlike anything else. As with any tour that journeys through its range, all participants were very keen to see a Capuchinbird, even those who had seen it before. On our walk back towards the vehicle, at the very end of the morning, we were alerted by a visiting photography group that they had possibly seen one earlier in the morning. We spent a couple of minutes exploring further in the persistent hope that one would turn up. Within but a few minutes of searching, we were enjoying scope views of this fantastic species! It quickly earned "best bird of the tour", and remained so. Over the course of following the individual for about 30 minutes, we managed some great photos, and morethan-satisfying views. A worthwhile stop en route to Mari Mari.

Mari Mari Lodge was, in a word, wonderful. Brilliant birding and great food aside, the swimming hole in front of the dining hall was wonderfully relaxing during the heat of the day. Mari Mari is situated perfectly for visiting two or three other hotspots, which means we easily filled our time here. After Cachoeira de Onca, and the Capuchinbird, we thought we'd press our luck and go ahead and watch the Cock-of-the-Rock lek. As it happens, the lek is most active in the afternoon, when females fly in to visit, and judge, choosing a mate amongst the 20+ displaying males here. *This lek is truly a spectacle!*

The nearest male was less than 30 feet from us, with at least 10 males visible at any given moment. So it was, that both our #1 and #2 picks for top birds of the tour were seen within a 6-hour period. The lek itself is located in campirana forest, home to the recently rediscovered Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant, Saffroncrested Tyrant-Manakin, and many others. Black-faced and Bicolored Hawks both made a pass through the lek during our time there, to boot. Our nocturnal birding efforts turned up little, unfortunately, save for a distant Spectacled Owl that persisted calling before dawn.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock by Forrest Rowland

Our full day birding the Mari Mari Lodge trails was divided between terra firme forest and the Aldea road in the morning, and a return to the campirana forest in the afternoon. It was yet another astonishingly good day, with another antswarm, three mixed flocks, and plenty of new birds added! Among the 130 species recorded over the day, the highlights included Ruddy Quail-Dove (nest w/ 2 eggs), Long-tailed Hermit, Spotted Puffbird (devouring scorpion prey), Brown-bellied, Pygmy, Grey,



Spotted Puffbird by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Long-winged, White-flanked and Rufousbellied Antwrens, Red-billed Woodcreeper, more White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbirds, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (soon to be at least 3 species), Short-tailed, Doublebanded, and Helmeted Pygmy Tyrants, Ruddy-Flycatcher, Guianan (Olivaceous) tailed Schiffornis, White-throated Manakin (3 in a tree together putting on a great show), Saffroncrested Tyrant-Manakin, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, White-fronted Manakins (another of the tour's top ten favorites), Yellow-crowned Manakin (fabulous scope-filling views), and Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, amongst many many others.

On our final morning on the Guianan Shield, we opted to spend time on a forested track that links the highway with a tiny river Aldeia called Tucumanduba. The track between the road and river has shown signs of recent logging, as is the case along almost any improved road in South America, but here

plenty of impressive habitat remains intact. We had a short list of wanted species left to find, including some real gems that would be painful to miss. Arriving just before dawn, we had hoped to catch Black Curassow on the track. We had to settle for a group of Grey-winged Trumpeters instead! Fine by us. Swifts were zooming low over the rainforest canopy early, and included Chapman's, Short-tailed, Band-rumped, Grey-rumped, and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts. It wasn't long after breakfast when a nearby canopy flock started to become active. With the aid of some Amazonian Pygmy Owl playback, we coaxed in two of our most-wanted: Todd's Sirystes and Glossy-backed Becard (bvd), both of which are Guianan Shield endemics that are seen more readily here than in adjacent countries. Cream-colored Woodpecker was a surprise, but it was the 3 Guianan Red Cotingas that were the most exciting. With no small amount of patience, we managed to locate a few calling individuals, and it was well worth the wait! Arguably, the best view of a male was when one flew, relatively hauntingly, across the road after another flew across, drawing our attention to the exact spot. The sun glowed through bright pink feathers!



Guianan Red Cotinga by Dubi Shapiro

West Bank & Anavilhanas NP

The area west/south of the Rio Negro, and west/north of the Rio Solimoes (the two major tributaries that combine to form the Amazon River) is known, in general terms, as the West Bank. The Negro and

Solimoes Rivers form natural borders for many species. Therefore, it is a must that visiting birders spend some quality time birding the various habitats here. Though there is some overlap with species north of the Rio Negro, and south/east of the Solimoes, one of the major attractions to visiting Manaus is that diversity is incredibly high due to the ease of access to these various sites on opposing sides of



Point-tailed Palmcreeper by Ingetraut Kuehn

these rivers that serve as natural borders. Our first birding experiences on the West Bank were en route to Novo Airao, where we would be based for the two nights. Given the recent expansion plans for Manaus, the disturbed areas en route to Novo Airao now provide habitat for the likes of Savannah Hawk, Palevented Pigeon, Great Kiskadee, Short-crested Flycatcher, and other open country species.

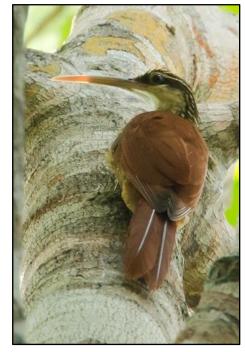
Our first stop was to a little-birded path through some secondary regrowth bordering older forest. Though we didn't arrive until well after dawn, activity here was great! Before encountering an awesome understorey mixed flock, we had great views of Blackfaced, Spot-winged, Yellow-browed, and Peruvian Warbling Antbirds, Gilded Barbets, and stunning male Blue-backed Manakins! A family group of beautiful Chestnut Woodpeckers allowed views after some playback enticed them closer, and we were able to call in a congener of Chestnut, the Scaly-breasted Woodpecker, for wonderful scope views, as well. Then the understorey flock coalesced before us. The main species we were hoping to see in the understorey flock was the Negro Stipple-throated (Fulvous-throated) Antwren. It was the second species

we saw, after Grey Antwren! This range-restricted species was in the company of several White-flanked and Grey Antwrens, Red-crested Ant Tanager, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, and one Collared

Gnatwren that refused to hop up into view, though one or two clients got glimpses of this exceptionally skulking species that seldom forages more than a few feet above the ground. *It was quite an exciting intro to the region*.

A quick bit of birding at our lunch stop turned up an insanely cooperative Point-tailed Palmcreeper that perched, upside-down, on a palm frond not 20 feet from us, as well as great views of the diminutive Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin (which can be a devil to spot), and the ornate "Black-breasted" form of Ringed Woodpecker, which is a probable split from the nominate. Our final birding stop of the afternoon was a spectacular forested track that we would end up returning to again, because of the amazing potential. In less than 2 hours of late-afternoon, swelteringly hot, birding time we had some exceptional finds, including White-chested Puffbird, White-shouldered Antshrike, Common Scalebacked Antbird, and a responsive Rufous-capped Antthrush that wandered around us, allowing us plenty of time to soak up the deep, bold colours and entertaining locomotion of the species.

The following day was spent in the incomparable Anavilhanas



Long-billed Woodcreeper by Forrest Rowland

National Park, visiting a couple of birding sites on two of the forested islands. Of the many types of riparian habitats known from the Amazon Basin, ancient, mature, river islands are amongst the rarest. Anavilhanas NP protects dozens of these islands in a part of the Rio Negro that spans some 14km across. While the area, in total, encompassed by this park is just a bit over 3,300km², which isn't huge, but the quality and type of habitat preserved make it very special. We spent a day in the park, enjoying



Wire-tailed Manakin by Forrest Rowland

the impressive avifauna. The first bird of the day was an adult Crested Eagle perched atop an emergent tree, riverside, that sat there peering around. *It was incredible!* Somehow, the day maintained that high standard throughout.

The highlight birds of today included Crestless Curassow, Green Ibis, Streak-throated Hermit, Green-tailed Jacamar, Little and Spot-breasted Woodpeckers, Festive Parrot, Black-crested, Blackish-grey, and Spot-winged Antshrikes, Cherrie's, Klages's, and Leaden Antwrens, Ashbreasted Antbird, Long-billed, Striped, Straight-billed, and Zimmer's Woodcreepers, Chestnut-

crowned Foliage-gleaner, Speckled Spinetail, Slender-footed and Amazonian Tyrannulets, Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant, Three-striped Flycatcher, Whiskered Myiobius, Wire-tailed Manakin, Varzea Schiffornis, Grey-chested Greenlet, and Buff-breasted Wren. Among these many spectacular birds, of which we had some unforgettable experiences, three male Wire-tailed Manakins displaying within 25 feet of us was right up there with Crested Eagle as one of the top birds of the tour. Today we also had our first, but not our last, encounter with the legendary Boto, otherwise known as Pink River Dolphin. These impressive creatures glow a deep pink in the tannins of the Rio Negro. They are a fairly common sight, though were not as frequently seen as its smaller cousin, the Tucuxi, or Grey River Dolphin. We saw the latter every day on the rivers!

Our other full day's birding the West Bank was spent mostly at the amazing forest track we spent a short time birding on the way in. We knew it would be more productive than in the hot afternoon hours, but we were impressed by the array of species we found here, nonetheless! Great-billed and Reddish Hermits, Black-eared Fairy and Grey-breasted Sabrewing were amongst a few species of hummers recorded. Black-tailed, Amazonian, and Black-throated Trogons all sat nicely for scope views. Orange-cheeked, Blue-headed, Dusky, Mealy, and Black-headed Parrots (very rare here!) were recorded in varying numbers during our few



Boto by Ingetraut Kuehn

hours here. Ringed, Cream-colored, and Scale-breasted Woodpeckers were all accounted for. But the mixed flocks of both canopy and understorey were most exciting! Here, White-fronted Nunbirds usually attract flock species, and the best way to coax in species and get a flock moving was to call the Nunbirds to us, which worked well. Aside from having Nunbirds in view most of the morning, the following species showed for us: Fasciated, Mouse-colored, and Cinereous Antshrikes, Negro Stipple-

throated, Pygmy, White-flanked, Long-winged, Grey, and Spot-backed Antwrens, Spot-throated, Olivaceous, Long-tailed, Plain-brown, Amazonian Barred, Black-banded, and Ocellated Woodcreepers, White-eyed and Zimmer's Tody-Tyrants, Greyish and Cinereous Mourners, White-crowned and Golden-headed Manakins, White-browed Purpletuft, Black-capped Becard, and Lemon-chested Greenlet, among others. The afternoon was relatively quiet, with one notable exception. While visiting a local contact's ranch, we heard the song of an Antshrike not readily known to us. It sounded similar



Sand-colored Nighthawk by Forrest Rowland

to Chestnut-backed Antshrike, which is not found anywhere near, but a bit slurred. We spent a solid 30 minutes recording the bird, and playing it into view. It turned out to be the heterogynus subspecies of Plain-winged Antshrike, already split by Handbook of the Birds of the World to be known as "Tefe Antshrike". Occupying a small range in far north-eastern Peru and adjacent Brazil, this taxon's song is completely dissimilar from that of the two more widely-spread subspecies. We were excited to solve this mystery bird, and see a new taxa for all of us that will likely be a full species soon!

Our final morning's birding the West Bank was hampered by a bit of early morning rain. Though the termite hatch was impressive, attracting a great number of Fork-tailed Flycatchers and other species out into the rain, we were unable to do much birding until after 9:30 am. Though peak hours were lost, we still managed some nice species along another forested track, Ramal do Mutum. This track goes through a couple of kilometres of good forest, before reaching a partially-cleared area around a settlement. The clearing was great for hummingbirds, and we had our best experiences of the tour with Green-tailed Goldenthroat, White-necked Jacobin and Blue-tailed Emerald. Other birds around the

clearing that we enjoyed were Pompadour Cotinga, of which we had 3 males flying around flashing their ivory wings, and two Spangled Cotingas! Yellow-tufted male Woodpeckers, Pied Puffbirds, and gorgeous Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher that gave us two awesome in-flight displays before perching atop a nearby sapling in good light, and a pair of Amazonian Antshrikes that finally showed after some coaxing, were amongst the best birds of the disturbed area here. The best understorey bird was an obliging White-cheeked Antbird male that perched out nicely.



Large-billed Tern by Forrest Rowland

After an afternoon arrival the night before, with some nice downtime at the Novotel in Manaus, we had a full day on the Rio Solimoes to bird the whitewater river islands. The islands near Manaus on the Solimoes range from newly-formed, with only a light layer of vegetation and broad beaches to the aged Marchantaria Island, that has high stands of balsa, ironwood, and is so established as to be inhabited by a stable farming population. It was a long morning in the field, lasting until nearly 2 pm, when we

tracked down the floating platform restaurant where we would enjoy a delicious lunch buffet. But it was a wonderfully productive, most memorable day, ended by checking out the famous "meeting of the waters" where the mighty Amazon is formed.



Yellow-billed Tern by Forrest Rowland

Our first island haulout on a young river island, probably aged a decade or two, produced our first nesting Ladder-tailed Nightjars, White-bellied, Dark-breasted, and Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Lesser Hornero, Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, the scarce Velvet-fronted Grackle, beautiful Oriole Blackbird, numerous Yellow-hooded Blackbirds, and our only White-throated Kingbird of the tour, among others. Flyover species were numerous, as were migrant shorebirds by the dozens. Our best views of many of these came on our second stop of the morning, on a much younger island that had little vegetation at all. While we did pick up a few passerines on this

scantily-vegetated overgrown sandbar, such as Riverside Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, Red-breasted Blackbird, and Blue-black Grassquit, the best birds were Terns, Skimmers, Shorebirds, and waterfowl. Muscovy, Brazilian Teal, and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were aplenty. Sand-colored Nighthawks were in good numbers, and two males were flying around making quite a fuss, putting on an amazing spectacle with their bold patterns. The nearby nesting Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns, Black Skimmer, and Collared Plovers all came by in turn, in good number, to investigate we, the intruders. *It made for some amazing photography in the warm morning light!*

We managed to find both American Goldenand Hudsonian Godwit amongst the dozens of Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs in a lagoon here. A good diversity of Sandpipers was found as well. Several Stilt. Pectoral. and **Solitary** Sandpipers foraged amidst the scores of White-rumped Sandpipers that were beginning their peak migration through the region as the vanguard of North American breeding shorebirds that migrate all the way from the Arctic to Patagonia. The third island we visited was the oldest of the day, thus far, and had the right vegetation for some of the most habitat-specific specialists



Black Skimmer by Forrest Rowland

of the lot: gynerium cane, tessoria willows, and mixed cecropia/balsa stands. Barely a minute after landing on the banks of the island, we were looking at a pair of Parker's Spinetails! Named after perhaps the most iconic contemporary Neotropical ornithologist, Theodore A. Parker III, this species is among some two dozen or so that bear his name in common or scientific nomenclature. We had a great run of sought-after island species here, including Spot-tailed Nightjar (nesting!), Black-and-white Antbird, Wing-banded Hornero, Red-and-white Spinetail, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Swainson's



Parker's Spinetail by Forrest Rowland

Flycatcher, Bicolored and Pearly-breasted (not seen by all) Conebills, as well as some other fine additions like Black-collared Hawk.

The last island of the morning was Ilha Marchantaria, though we didn't arrive there until nearly noon. We had flyby-views only of Brownish Elaenia and missed Pearly-breasted Conebill here, due to our late arrival. However, we managed great looks at all of the other wanted species on the other islands! It was an extremely successful morning. We did have a few very nice finds on Marchantaria, after a steamy stroll past the village: Rufous-breasted Hermit, Olive-spotted Hummingbird,

Glittering-throated Emerald, Castelnau's Antshrike, Rusty-backed Spinetail, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Chestnut-crowned Becard, Masked Yellowthroat, and Hooded Tanager were all notable additions.

Tupana Lodge

After a good night's rest, we elected to depart Manaus early, to cross the river to the south bank in time to bird the varzea and wetlands en route to Tupana Lodge. Thus far on the tour, we had not spent any real time in seasonally flooded varzea or igapo forests, in which many species we had yet to see reside. We had this morning, only, to take advantage. We were greatly rewarded for our efforts!

The show began upon docking south of the Amazon, where a few Speckled Chachalacas flew across the road at the edge of the port village. Just south of the port village, we picked up our first Horned Screamers, which were making an amazing ruckus! A treeful of Hoatzins prompted our first full dismount of the van, which in turn led to Rufescent Tiger Herons, Crane, Great Black, and Grey-lined Hawks, Limpkin, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Tui and White-winged Parakeets, stellar views of both Dull-capped (White-eyed) and Cinnamon Attilas, and a pair of courting Masked Tityras! A few kilometres along, we stopped to scan a



Red-and-white Spinetail by Forrest Rowland

wetland, finding more Limpkin and Screamers, Striped Cuckoo, and a flyby male Bare-necked Fruitcrow. Our next stop was perhaps the most memorable of the morning, despite all the fine species preceding it. A pair of Glossy Antshrikes coming out of the roadside scrub to duet in full view, with dozens of Short-tailed Parrots cruising leisurely by in perfect morning light will be a scene etched in our minds forever! Despite being an Antshrike, which typically isn't the most colourful species, Glossy Antshrike is an impressive species. The final stop of the morning, before covering the remaining distance to Tupana Lodge, was to spend but a few minutes on a small forest track to look for anything else that might turn up. One of the rarest birds of the tour was the Orange-fronted Plushcrown we found

in a mixed flock here. This species was only very recently known from this area, due to its sharing many vocal similarities with the commoner Bar-breasted Piculet which we, somehow, managed to



Hoatzin by Dušan Brinkhuizen

miss. *The plushcrown was a more-than-ample substitute*. Ashyheaded Greenlet and, especially, two beautiful White-chinned Jacamars, made the morning very productive indeed.

Tupana Lodge is nestled at the edge of thousands of square kilometres of primary forest. This rustic, though comfortable, little lodge is infrequently visited, and therefore has suffered little human interference. The mixed flocks, numerous antswarms, and birds are proof enough of that. The trail system consists of but 4 trails, stemming from two main trails, none of which are more than a few miles long. They don't need to be any longer! The range of microhabitats they extend through is all that a visiting birder could want. While we certainly didn't see all of the 300+ species recorded here, we enjoyed an outstanding two-and-a-half days, to end our tour of the central Amazon Basin. With great birding, good food, and a relaxed pace, it was a good final port-of-call. To end the tour, our final tally of birds at Tupana Lodge included the following: Spix's Guan, Russetcrowned Crake (great looks at a pair!), Tawny-bellied Screech Owl (Austral ssp.), Needle-billed Hermit, Pavonine Quetzal (spectacular obliging male), White-necked and Brown-banded

Puffbirds, Blue-cheeked, Bronzy, Paradise and Great Jacamars, Curl-crested Aracari (great scope views of this Top Ten species!), Golden-collared Toucanet, Red-stained and Golden-green Woodpeckers, Kawall's Parrot, Chestnut-shouldered, Madeira, Sclater's, Ihering's (different ssp from nominate), and

Predicted Antwrens, Pearly Antshrike, Black, Humaita, Whitethroated and Hairy-crested Antbirds, Reddish-winged Bare-Eye (all these spectacular antbirds gave killer views at various antswarms), Short-billed Leaftosser, Spot-throated, Long-tailed, Wedge-billed, Cinnamon-throated, Bar-bellied, Elegant and Inambari Woodcreepers, Slender-billed and Rufous-tailed Xenops, Rufous-rumped, Chestnut-winged and Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaners, White-bellied and an undescribed species of Tody-Tyrant, Brownish Twistwing, Olivaceous Flatbill, Cinnamon Neopipo (MEGA good bird, great looks at two), Amazon Royal Flycatcher, Black-tailed Myiobius, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, Citron-bellied Attila (awesome response by this rare bird), Blue-crowned and Red-headed Manakins, Brown-winged Schiffornis, Scaly-breasted Wren, Inambari Gnatcatcher, Rufous-bellied Euphonia, and another 150-odd species. It was a superb visit, with the antswarm experiences being the most memorable by far.

On a personal note: Many thanks go to the wonderful participants of this tour! You were all so kind and helpful to one another, which is certainly applaudable, though it seemed effortless amongst you. Your enthusiasm in the face of the heat



Pavonine Quetzal by Ingetraut Kuehn

and bit of rain was exemplary of how much fun you were to be with in the field. On behalf of the Rockjumper Team, we hope you have at least as much fun on our tours as we do!

Annotated List of Species Recorded BIRDS 531 (495 Species Seen, 36 *Heard)

Tinamous *Tinamidae* (6)

*Great Tinamou Tinamus major *White-throated Tinamou Tinamus guttatus

*White-throated Tinamou

*Cinereous Tinamou Crypturellus cinereus *Little Tinamou Crypturellus soui

Variegated Tinamou Crypturellus variegatus

Individuals flushed on two occasions

Screamers Anhimidae (1)

Horned Screamer

Anhima cornuta

Fantastic experience watching and listening to these bizarre, raucous birds in Varzea en route to Tupana Lodge.

Ducks, Geese, Swans Anatidae (3)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck Dendrocygna autumnali

Numerous on river islands.

Muscovy Duck Cairina moschata

A few flyovers on river islands.

Brazilian TealAmazonetta brasiliensis

Several on the river islands.

Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans Cracidae (5)

Speckled Chachalaca Ortalis guttata

A few en route to Tupana Lodge.

Little (Variable) Chachalaca Ortalis motmot

Reasonably numerous North of Manaus.

Marail Guan Penelope marail

We had great views of this Guianan Shield endemic from both canopy towers North of Manaus.

Spix's Guan Penelope jacquacu

Brief views of a few at Tupana Lodge.

Crestless Curassow - NT Mitu tomentosum

Flight views, twice, as a singing male sailed overhead once he spotted us stalking up on him. Though protected within the National Park, this species is certainly hunted, and quite wary.

New World Quail Odontophoridae (2)

*Marbled Wood-Quail

Odontophorus gujanensis

Starred Wood-Quail

Odontophorus stellatus

Only glimpsed after a covey was flushed in Tupana. Oddly, this species was entirely silent during our visit.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae (1)

Green IbisMesembrinibis cayennensis

Only one spotted in the Anavilhanas area.

Herons, Bitterns Ardeidae (8)

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

A few seen late in the tour.

Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax

A few seen in the varzea.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Numerous in wetlands throughout.

[Western] Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Numerous in riparian and islands.

Cocoi Heron Ardea cocoi

Several along the rivers and islands.

[Western] Great Egret Ardea alba

Several seen on islands.

Capped Heron Pilherodius pileatus

A few spotted in varzea habitats.

Snowy Egret Egretta thula

Fairly common on river islands.

Cormorants, Shags Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Common along rivers and islands.

Anhingas, Darters Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga Anhinga anhinga

Several seen in riparian habitats and islands.

New World Vultures Cathartidae (5)

Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura

Common along rivers and scrub habitats.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture Cathartes burrovianus

Common on river islands.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture Cathartes melambrotus

Numerous over good forest.

Black Vulture Coragyps atratus

Common throughout.

King Vulture Sarcoramphus papa

A few spotted from Canopy Towers.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae (20)

*Grey-headed Kite Leptodon cayanensis

Hook-billed KiteChondrohierax uncinatus

Several seen well on the tour.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Not uncommon throughout.

Crested Eagle Lophaetus occipitalis

Spectacular views of an adult perched in full view in the Anavilhanas Archipelago.

Black Hawk-Eagle Spizaetus tyrannus

One immature seen at the Ducke Reserve.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle Spizaetus melanoleucus

Two of these impressive, scarce, raptors seen!

Double-toothed KiteHarpagus bidentatus

Several seen in good habitat.

Bicolored Hawk Accipiter bicolor

Great looks at a confiding individual, Mari Mari Lodge, Presidente Figuereido.

Plumbeous Kite Ictinia plumbea

Several spotted during the tour.

Black-collared Hawk

Busarellus nigricollis

Great looks in the varzea habitats south of Manaus.

Snail Kite Rostrhamus sociabilis

Fairly common in wetlands.

Crane Hawk Geranospiza caerulescens

ssp. caerulescens recorded en route to Tupana.

Great Black Hawk

Buteogallus urubitinga

Only a few seen around Anavilhanas.

Savanna Hawk Buteogallus meridionalis

Recorded in cutover, scrubby, habitats.

Roadside Hawk Rupornis magnirostris

Regular along roads and rivers.

White Hawk Pseudastur albicollis

ssp. albicollis "Black-backed" type seen well on a few occasion north of Manaus.

Black-faced Hawk Leucopternis melanops

Spectacular looks at a pair near Presidente Figuereido, and a lone bird near the Cock-of-the-Rock lek at

Mari Mari!

*White-browed Hawk Leucopternis kuhli Short-tailed Hawk Buteo brachyurus

Several seen at various locations.

Zone-tailed Hawk

Buteo albonotatus

Presumably the same individuals seen twice, during lunch, soaring low over Pousada Tarantaula.

Sungrebe Heliornithidae (1)

Sungrebe

Heliornis fulica

Nice encounter in varzea near the Rio Solimoes.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae (3)

Russet-crowned Crake

Anurolimnas viridis

Amazing views of a pair at Tupana Lodge!

*Grey-breasted Crake *Grey-cowled Wood Rail Laterallus exilis

Aramides cajaneus

Trumpeters Psophiidae (1)

Grey-winged Trumpeter

Psophia crepitans

An unforgettable experience near President Figuereido, when we accidentally divided a flock that was creeping along the path. With patience, we had great views of the birds crossing the track, walking and flying!

Limpkin Aramidae (1)

Limpkin

Aramus guarauna

A few seen en route to Tupana Lodge.

Plovers Charadriidae (4)

Southern Lapwing

Vanellus chilensis

Only a few seen on river islands and in the farmlands en route to Tupana.

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica

Great find of a few birds on the river islands.

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus

One migrant seen on the river islands.

Collared Plover

Charadrius collaris

Many seen on the river islands, where nesting!

Jacanas Jacanidae (1)

Wattled Jacana

Jacana jacana

Numerous in wetlands.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae (8)

Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

Seven of this scarce species seen on the river islands of Rio Solimoes!

Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

A few migrants on the river islands.

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes

Dozens on the river islands.

Solitary Sandpiper Tringa solitaria

A few seen on ponds and small wetlands.

Spotted SandpiperActitis macularius

A few seen on ponds and wetlands.

White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis

Well over a hundred seen on the river islands!

Pectoral SandpiperCalidris melanotos

A dozen or so on the river islands.

Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus

Ten seen amongst the numerous migrants on river islands.

Terns, Skimmers Laridae (3)

Yellow-billed Tern Sternula superciliaris

Spectacular looks of birds on a nesting colony.

Large-billed TernPhaetusa simplex

Numerous close encounters with this unique species!

Black Skimmer Rynchops niger

Stellar views and photos of several nesting pairs.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae (10)

Common (Rock) Pigeon Columba livia

In Manaus.

Scaled Pigeon Patagioenas speciosa

Beautiful pigeon seen often in forest habitats!

Pale-vented Pigeon Patagioenas cayennensis

Common in open secondary habitats.

Plumbeous Pigeon Patagioenas plumbea

Several seen in forested habitats.

Ruddy Pigeon – Vu Patagioenas subvinacea

ssp. recondite recorded at a few locations.

Common Ground Dove Columbina passerina

The default Ground Dove of the tour.

Ruddy Ground Dove Columbina talpacoti

Common on river islands.

Ruddy Quail-Dove Geotrygon montana

One nest of this skulking species found, with eggs, but only views of flushing birds had.

White-tipped Dove Leptotila verreauxi

Relatively numerous.

*Grey-fronted Dove Leptotila rufaxilla

Hoatzin Opisthocomidae (1)

Hoatzin *Ophisthocomus hoazin*

A tree full of these iconic Amazonian, prehistoric, beauties was seen on the way to Tupana Lodge.

Cuckoos Cuculidae (5)

Greater Ani Crotophaga major

Numerous in riparian hábitats.

Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani

Common in scrubby, secondary habitats.

Striped Cuckoo Tapera naevia

One seen en route to Tupana Lodge.

Squirrel Cuckoo Piaya cayana

Fairly common throughout.

Black-bellied Cuckoo Piaya melanogaster

Great views of this elegant bird from canopy towers.

Owls Strigidae (3)

Tawny-bellied Screech Owl Megascops watsonii

Two distinct subspecies seen, **watsonii** north of the Amazon river, and **usta** south of the Amazon. A sure split due to obvious morphological and vocal differences!

*Black-banded Owl Ciccaba huhula

*Crested Owl Lophostrix cristata

Spectacled OwlPulsatrix perspicillata

Brief views as this large owl flew away just before dawn at Mari Mari Lodge.

Amazonian Pygmy Owl Glaucidium hardyi

Heard almost daily, due to our use of playback to draw in mixed flocks species. Seen well twice!

Potoos Nyctibiidae (2)

Common Potoo Nyctibius griseus

Great views in Presidente Figuereido.

Rufous Potoo Nyctibius bracteatus

Once-in-a-lifetime experience watching this rare bird from no more than 15m distance while foraging at night at Ducke Reserve.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae (7)

Sand-colored Nighthawk Chordeiles rupestris

One of the top bird experiences of the tour was having a few males flying around us, calling, while several loafed on nearby on one of the river islands we visited.

Short-tailed Nighthawk Lurocalis semitorquatus

Several seen foraging low over forested areas.

Band-tailed Nighthawk Nyctiprogne leucopyga

Several seen before dusk at Anavilhanas NP.

Pauraque Nyctidromus albicollis

A few on the trail at the Ducke Reserve, and at Presidente Figuereido.

Blackish Nightjar Caprimulgus nigrescens

Several found on day roosts!

Spot-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus maculicaudus

One on a nest on a river island in the Solimoes! Perhaps a first nesting record for the area.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar Hydropsalis climacocerca

Females on nests on every river island we visited, and a few lovely males seen, as well.

Swifts Apodidae (7)

White-chinned Swift Cypseloides cryptus

Nice views of this rare species at Presidente Figuereido!

Band-rumped Swift Chaetura spinicaudus

The default small swift North of Manaus.

Grey-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris

A few seen over forests during the tour.

Chapman's Swift Chaetura chapmani

The default small swift South of Manaus and along the river.

Short-tailed Swift Chaetura brachyura

A few seen at a variety of forested sites.

Neotropical Palm-Swift Tachornis squamata

Fairly common, especially where moriche palms proliferated.

Lesser Swallow-tailed SwiftPanyptila cayennensis

Only encountered once near Presidente Figuereido.

Hummingbirds Trochilidae (22)

Rufous-breasted HermitGlaucis hirsutus

A few flybys, with our best view on Marchantaria Island.

White-bearded HermitPhaethornis hispidus

One seen briefly near Novo Airao.

Long-tailed HermitPhaethornis superciliosus

Great views of the **ssp. superciliosus** at Mari Mari Lodge.

Great-billed Hermit Phaethornis malaris

ssp. ochraceiventris seen a few times near Novo Airao.

Needle-billed Hermit Phaethornis philippii

Smashing looks, including a roosting bird, at Tupana Lodge!

Straight-billed Hermit Phaethornis bourcieri

Several encounters North of Manaus.

Streak-throated HermitPhaethornis rupurumii

Great looks at Anavilhanas NP!

Reddish HermitPhaethornis ruber

A few seen at a variety of sites.

Grey-breasted SabrewingCampylopterus largipennis

Numerous on the tour!

White-necked Jacobin Florisuga mellivora

Not uncommon throughout.

Black-throated Mango Anthracothorax nigricollis

A few seen well at Tupana Lodge.

Fiery-tailed Awlbill Avocettula recurvirostris

Two of these incredibly rare birds seen near Presidente Figuereido!

Crimson Topaz Topaza pella

A male of this spectacular species put on an unforgettable show for us at Iracema Falls, playing well

for several scope views!

*Fiery Topaz Topaza pyra

Blue-tailed Emerald Chlorostilbon mellisugus

A few seen at open, scrubby sites.

Fork-tailed WoodnymphThalurania furcata

The most commonly seen hummer of the tour.

Rufous-throated SapphireHylocharis sapphirina

Several seen in good forest.

White-chinned Sapphire Hylocharis cyanus

One seen well at Las Lajes, Presidente Figuereido.

Green-tailed GoldenthroatPolytmus theresiae

Not uncommon at campina and open country sites.

Versicoloured EmeraldAmazilia versicolor

Numerous North of Manaus.

Glittering-throated Emerald Amazilia fimbriata

Only two found, both around Novo Airao.

Black-eared FairyHeliothryx auritus

Nearly a dozen of these beauties seen well!

Trogons Trogonidae (8)

Pavonine Quetzal Pharomachrus pavoninus

One absolutely stunning male allowed scope-filling views and photos at Tupana Lodge!

Black-tailed Trogon melanurus

Several seen well, the species recorded from nearly every site.

Green-backed Trogon Trogon viridis

The most commonly seen Trogon on the tour.

Amazonian Trogon Trogon ramonianus

Wonderful views near Novo Airao and again at Tupana Lodge.

Guianan Trogon Trogon violaceus

Several seen well North of Manaus.

*Blue-crowned Trogon Trogon curucui
Black-throated Trogon Trogon rufus

ssp. sulphureus sat up for image-filling scope views and sang!

*Collared Trogon Trogon collaris

Kingfishers Alcedinidae (3)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Numerous.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

A few seen en route to Tupana and on the river.

Green Kingfisher Chloroceryle americana

A few around Anavilhanas.

Motmots Momotidae (2)

Amazonian MotmotMomotus momota

One pair seen at Ducke Reserve, heard often elsewhere.

*Broad-billed Motmot Electron platyrhynchum

Jacamars Galbulidae (7)

Yellow-billed Jacamar Galbula albirostris

Two gorgeous pairs North of Manaus!

Blue-necked Jacamar Galbula cyanicollis

One pair of this scarce, through widespread species, showed well at Tupana Lodge.

Green-tailed Jacamar Galbula galbula

A few seen on the Anavilhanas NP islands.

White-chinned Jacamar Galbula tombacea

Lovely pair found in the varzea en route to Tupana Lodge.

Bronzy Jacamar Galbula leucogastra

A few pairs found in campina and campinarana habitats both North and South of the Amazon.

Paradise Jacamar Galbula dea

Numerous and widespread canopy species; gorgeous and always fun to watch!

Great Jacamar Jacamerops aureus

We had great luck to run into a confiding few individuals near Presidente Figuereido, as well as a pair at Tupana Lodge.

Puffbirds Bucconidae (12)

White-necked Puffbird Notharchus hyperrhynchus

Seen south of the Amazon.

Guianan Puffbird Notharchus macrorhynchos

A few seen from the canopy towers north of Manaus.

Brown-banded PuffbirdNotharchus ordii

A pair seen well at Tupana Lodge.

Pied PuffbirdNotharchus tectus

ssp. tectus seen on several occasions.

Spotted Puffbird

Bucco tamatia

Awesome experience watching on dismantling and devouring a scorpion near Mari Mari Lodge!

*Collared Puffbird

Bucco capensis

White-chested Puffbird

Malacoptila fusca

A great surprise find near Novo Airao, very scarce in Brazil.

*Rufous-necked Puffbird

Malacoptila rufa

Black Nunbird

Monasa atra

Common North of the Amazon.

Black-fronted Nunbird

Monasa nigrifrons

Several seen in riparian and varzea habitats.

White-fronted Nunbird

Monasa morphoeus

Not uncommon around Novo Airao and Tupana Lodge.

Swallow-wing[ed Puffbird]

Chelidoptera tenebrosa

Seen nearly every day.

Barbets Capitonidae (2)

Black-spotted Barbet

Capito niger

A few seen North of the Amazon.

Gilded Barbet

Capito auratus

Fairly numerous South of the Amazon.

Toucans Ramphastidae (8)

Green Aracari

Pteroglossus viridis

Great views of a few North of Manaus.

Chestnut-eared Aracari

Pteroglossus castanotis

Only one flock encountered en route to Tupana Lodge.

Black-necked Aracari

Pteroglossus aracari

A few seen near Manaus; atricollis ssp.

Curl-crested Aracari

Pteroglossus beauharnaesii

One of the top birds of the tour! We had exceptional scope views of a few at Tupana Lodge.

Guianan Toucanet

Selenidera piperivora

Numerous great views from the canopy towers near Manaus.

Golden-collared Toucanet

Selenidera reinwardtii

Seen well at Tupana Lodge.

Channel-billed Toucan - Vu

Ramphastos vitellinus

Both **vitellinus** and **culminatus** ssp. Seen.

White-throated Toucan

Ramphastos tucanus

Common throughout.

Woodpeckers Picidae (18)

*Bar-breasted Piculet Picumnus aurifrons
*LaFresnaye's Piculet Picumnus lafresnayi

Golden-spangled PiculetPicumnus exilis

The endemic **buffoni ssp.** seen near Manaus.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker Melanerpes cruentatus

Beautiful woodpecker seen at several sites.

Little Woodpecker Veniliornis passerinus

Common on river islands.

Red-stained WoodpeckerVeniliornis affinis

A few in flocks at Tupana Lodge.

Golden-collared Woodpecker Veniliornis cassini

Two seen North of Manaus.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker Piculus flavigula

Surprisingly, seen often with mixed flocks.

Golden-green Woodpecker Piculus chrysochloros

A few seen in flocks at Tupana Lodge, ssp. laemosticus.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker Colaptes punctigula

Beautiful views at Anavilhanas NP.

Waved Woodpecker Celeus undatus

Seen from canopy towers North of Manaus.

Scaly-breasted Woodpecker Celeus grammicus

Replaces the previous species South of the Amazon, seen well on several occasion.

Chestnut Woodpecker Celeus elegans

Only one family group encountered near Novo Airao.

Cream-colored Woodpecker Celeus flavus

Gorgeous species! Great looks near Presidente Figuereido and Tupana Lodge.

Ringed Woodpecker Celeus torquatus

Amazing encounter with this scarce species near Novo Airao.

Lineated Woodpecker Dryocopus lineatus

Fairly common in edge and secondary areas.

Red-necked WoodpeckerCampephilus rubricollis

Outstanding looks at this impressive species on a few occasions.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker Campephilus melanoleucos

Only three seen during the tour, given we spent little time in open, disturbed areas.

Caracaras, Falcons Falconidae (6)

Northern Crested Caracara Cheriway

A few seen in scrubby areas.

Black Caracara Daptrius ater

A few flybys.

Yellow-headed Caracara Milvago chimachima

Common throughout

Laughing FalconHerpetotheres cachinnans

One spotted en route to Tupana Lodge.

Lined Forest Falcon *Micrastur gilvicollis*

One seen briefly near Presidente Figuereido.

Bat Falcon Falco rufigularis

A few turned up at various places.

Parrots Psittacidae (25)

Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet - Vu Touit huetii

One pair flying high over Presidente Figuereido.

Sapphire-rumped ParrotletTouit purpuratus

One flyby near Presidente Figuereido was all we had of this scarce species.

Tui Parakeet Brotogeris sanctithomae

Fairly numerous in riparian and varzea habitats.

White-winged Parakeet Brotogeris versicolurus

Numerous around Manaus and the river islands.

Golden-winged Parakeet Brotogeris chrysoptera

The default parakeet of good forest habitats.

Cobalt-winged ParakeetBrotogeris cyanoptera

One pair seen near Novo Airao.

Orange-cheeked Parrot - NTPyrilia barrabandi

Brief flyby views only, unfortunately.

Caica Parrot Pyrilia caica

Great perched views near Mari Mari Lodge.

Dusky Parrot Pionus fuscus

Fantastic views of this species North of Manaus.

Blue-headed Parrot Pionus menstruus

Common throughout.

Short-tailed Parrot Graydidascalus brachyurus

Awesome flight views of dozens of these special parrots in varzea and riverine habitats.

Festive Amazon Amazona festiva

Many at Anavilhanas islands.

Diademed Amazon - E, EnAmazona diadema

Recently split from Red-lored Amazon.

Southern Mealy Amazon - NTAmazona farinosa

Fairly numerous throughout.

Kawall's Amazon - E, NT Amazona kawalli

Several flybys of these fun, garrulous birds at Tupana Lodge.

Orange-winged Amazon Amazona amazonica

A few seen near the big rivers and Manaus.

Black-headed ParrotPionites melanocephalus

Great scope views near Novo Airao.

Red-Fan Parrot Deroptyus accipitrinus

accipitrinus ssp. seen several times North of Manaus!

Maroon-tailed Parakeet

Pyrrhura melanura

melanura ssp. seen briefly in flight near Novo Airao.

Red-bellied Macaw

Orthopsittaca manilata

Dozens of these small macaws turned up at several sites during the tour.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw

Ara ararauna

A few flybys of these gorgeous creatures North of Manaus.

Scarlet Macaw

Ara macao

Many of these spectacular huge parrots seen.

Red-and-green Macaw

Ara chloropterus

A few seen at various locations.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw

Ara severus

One pair seen from the river islands.

White-eyed Parakeet

Psittacara leucophthalma

Huge flocks near Manaus.

Ovenbirds Furnariidae (44)

Lesser Hornero Furnarius minor

Great views of a few on river islands.

*Pale-legged Hornero Furnarius leucopus
Band-tailed Hornero – E Furnarius figulus

Nice looks on one of the river islands.

Dark-breasted SpinetailSynallaxis albigularis

Seen singing through the scope on river islands.

White-bellied Spinetail Synallaxis propinqua

Numerous on river islands.

Rusty-backed Spinetail Cranioleuca vulpina

A responsive pair on one of the river islands.

Parker's Spinetail Cranioleuca vulpecula

Nice looks at about a half dozen of these island specialists.

Speckled Spinetail *Cranioleuca gutturata*

A few seen very well at Anavilhanas NP.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail Certhiaxis cinnamomeus

Common on the river islands.

Red-and-white Spinetail Certhiaxis mustelinus

One very responsive individual showed very well for us on a river island.

Orange-fronted Plushcrown *Metopothrix aurantiaca*

Only recently discovered in the lower Amazon, we tracked down a calling individual in a mixed flock en route to Tupana Lodge!

Point-tailed PalmcreeperBerlepschia rikeri

Best-ever views of a responsive bird that flew right in on top of us were spectacular.

Eastern Woodhaunter *Hyloctistes subulatus*

This tricky species showed up on our final morning at Tupana Lodge.

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner

Philydor ruficaudatum

Exceptional views of this scarce species at Tupana Lodge.

Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner

Philydor erythrocercum

A few seen in mixed flocks.

Chestnut-winged Foliage-gleaner

Philydor erythropterum

Two seen in mixed flocks at Tupana Lodge.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner

Automolus ochrolaemus

ssp. turdinus showed nicely at Mari Mari.

*Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner Automolus infuscatus

*Dusky Leaftosser Sclerurus obscurior

Short-billed Leaftosser Sclerurus rufigularis

Awesome looks at Tupana Lodge!

Rufous-tailed Xenops

Microxenops milleri

Form South of the Amazon seen feeding young at Tupana Lodge; a likely split from the north and west

Amazonian form.

Slender-billed Xenops

Xenops tenuirostris

Seen twice on the tour!

Plain Xenops

Xenops minutus

A few in mixed flocks.

Plain-winged Woodcreeper

Dendrocincla turdina

Several seen at various sites.

Long-tailed Woodcreeper – NT

Deconychura longicauda

ssp. longicauda and **connectens** seen; these vocally distinct forms are a probable split, as this taxa likely involves at least 3 species.

Spot-throated Woodcreeper

Certhiasomus stictolaema

Shockingly, we had great views, including through the scope, of this very rare species twice! **Ssp. clarior** and **stictolaema** seen, probable splits.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper

Sittasomus griseicapillus

amazonus and **axillaris** subspecies seen; this taxa involves at least 3 species, possibly 5 or more eventual splits.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper

Glyphorynchus spirurus

A few seen during the tour.

Long-billed Woodcreeper

Nasica longirostris

Spectacular species we saw a few times at Anavilhanas NP.

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper

Dendrexetastes rufigula

After heading several, we ended up with great looks ta Tupana!

Red-billed Woodcreeper

Hylexetastes perrotii

Stunning, huge woodcreeper that we ended up getting great views of North of Manaus.

Bar-bellied Woodcreeper

Hylexetastes stresemanni

Equally impressive to its congener, the previous species, we had views of a responsive pair of these rare birds at Tupana Lodge.

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper

Dendrocolaptes certhia

Three vocally distinct subspecies recorded, each of which is a possible split: certhia, radiolatus, and

juruanus.

Black-banded Woodcreeper Dendrocolaptes picumnus

Nice looks at this huge woodcreeper at antswarms.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper Dendroplex picus

Seen at Anavilhanas and the river islands.

Zimmer's Woodcreeper - NTDendroplex kienerii

Leisurely views of this scarce species at Anavilhanas NP.

Striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*

A few seen near Manaus at Anavilhanas NP.

Ocellated Woodcreeper Xiphorhynchus ocellatus

Fairly numerous in mixed flocks around Novo Airao.

Elegant Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus elegans*

Replaces Ocellated in mixed flocks South of the Amazon.

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*

Flock constituent of Guianan Shield forests seen often North of Manaus.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*

A few seen on the tour.

Guianan Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes albolineatus

Several showed nicely from canopy towers North of Manaus; this species is the result of the recent split of Lineated Woodcreeper.

Duida WoodcreeperLepidocolaptes duidae

Poor looks at this canopy dweller in a mixed flock near Novo Airao; this species is the result of the recent split of Lineated Woodcreeper.

Inambari Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes fatimalimae

Great views at Tupana where this species is common in mixed flocks; this species is the result of the recent split of Lineated Woodcreeper.

Antbirds Thamnophilidae (58)

Fasciated Antshrike Cymbilaimus lineatus

Common on this tour, where ubiquitous in good forest.

*Black-throated Antshrike Frederickena viridis

Black-crested Antshrike Sakesphorus canadensis

Obliging pair at Anavilhanas NP.

Glossy Antshrike - E Sakesphorus luctuosus

Fantastic, beautiful pair this varzea specialist put on an incredible show for us en route to Tupana

Lodge.

Barred Antshrike Thamnophilus doliatus

A pair in scrub near Tupana Lodge.

Blackish-grey Antshrike - NT Thamnophilus nigrocinereus

A pair of this often difficult river island specialist responded well to playback, posing for a photo even!

Castelnau's Antshrike - NT

Thamnophilus cryptoleucus

Wonderful looks at a pair of this island specialist.

White-shouldered Antshrike

Thamnophilus aethiops

Fine views of the **injunctus ssp.**; this species is a likely candidate for split, due to vocal and plumage differences.

Plain-winged "Tefe" Antshrike

Thamnophilus schistaceus

An exciting find near Novo Airao, the **heterogynus ssp.** sounds utterly distinct from any other antshrike, completely different from other subspecies in the taxon, and is a sure split once studied; likely named "Tefe Antshrike".

Mouse-colored Antshrike

Thamnophilus murinus

Common in all forested habitats.

Northern Slaty "Guianan" Antshrike

Thamnophilus punctatus

The four disjunct, distinct, subspecies within this taxon are all likely species in their own rites.

Punctatus ssp. recorded North of Manaus.

Amazonian Antshrike

Thamnophilus amazonicus

Only one pair seen near Novo Airao.

Pearly Antshrike

Megastictus margaritatus

After hearing a few we had fine views of a singing male at Tupana Lodge!

Dusky-throated Antshrike

Thamnomanes ardesiacus

Seen on several occasions, though outnumbered by the following species.

Cinereous Antshrike

Thamnomanes caesius

Many seen, and the core understorey and mid-storey flock species.

*Saturnine Antshrike

Thamnomanes saturninus

Spot-winged Antshrike

Pygiptila stellaris

Several pairs encountered at Anavilhanas NP and again at Tupana Lodge.

Brown-bellied Antwren

Epinecrophylla gutturalis

Great looks at a pair near Mari Mari Lodge!

 $Negro\ Stipple-throated\ (Fulvous-throated)\ Antwren$

Epinecrophylla pyrrhonota

Several seen well near Novo Airao; result of the split of Stipple-throated Antwren.

Madeira Stipple-throated (Madeira) Antwren

Epinecrophylla amazonica

A few pairs showed very well at Tupana; result of the split of Stipple-throated Antwren.

Rufous-bellied Antwren

Isleria guttata

Awesome views of this Guianan Shield endemic at Mari Mari Lodge.

Pygmy Antwren

Myrmotherula brachyura

Many of these canopy dwellers heard, with a few taped in for nice looks.

Cherrie's Antwren

Myrmotherula cherriei

Fine views of a pair of this range-restricted species at Anavilhanas NP.

Klages's Antwren - E, NT

Myrmotherula klagesi

One of the first birds of the tour, seen on Tropical Hotel grounds, and seen again at Anavilhanas NP.

Sclater's Antwren

Myrmotherula sclateri

A few of this canopy species seen at Tupana Lodge in mixed flocks.

White-flanked Antwren

Myrmotherula axillaris

Common in understorey flocks.

Long-winged Antwren

Myrmotherula longipennis

Different subspecies seen North and South of the Amazon: longipennis and transitiva recorded.

Ihering's Antwren

Myrmotherula iheringi

Interesting situation with this scarce species, as we very likely saw a pair, but did not get clear vocal confirmation, the final morning at Tupana Lodge. The subspecies here (**heteroptera**)is an isolated, disjunct, population that does not share any similarity to the bamboo specialist taxa to which it has been assigned, save plumage likenesses, and is therefore likely a valid species "Purus Antwren" of its own.

Grey Antwren

Myrmotherula menetriesii

Common in understorey flocks throughout.

Leaden Antwren

Myrmotherula assimilis

Fairly common at Anavilhanas NP and in varzea forest en route to Tupana Lodge.

Predicted Antwren - E

Herpsilochmus praedictus

A recently-described species of the "Black-capped Antwren" complex that is confined to mostly stunted forests of the Madeira interfluvial plain.

Spot-backed Antwren

Herpsilochmus dorsimaculatus

Several seen well from canopy towers North of Manaus.

Southern White-fringed Antwren

Formicivora grisea grisea

Campina specialist seen at Las Lajes Reserve near President Figuereido.

Chestnut-shouldered Antwren

Terenura humeralis

Views of this neck-breaking canopy dweller obtained with some effort in mixed flocks at Tupana Lodge.

Ash-winged Antwren

Euchrepomis spodioptila

Amazing looks at a pair cavorting right next to one of the canopy towers we visited North of Manaus.

Grey Antbird

Cercomacra cinerascens

Nice views near Novo Airao.

Dusky Antbird

Cercomacra tyrannina

A few of the **saturatior** subspecies showed nicely North of Manaus.

*Blackish Antbird

Cercomacra nigrescens

Black Antbird

Cercomacra serva

A few nice looks at Tupana Lodge.

Ash-breasted Antbird - Vu

Myrmoborus lugubris

Spectacularly good views of two pairs of these island specialists at Anavilhanas NP.

Black-faced Antbird

Myrmoborus myotherinus

Uncommonly awesome views of individuals ta antswarms.

Guianan Warbling Antbird - NT

Hypocnemis cantator

Decent looks at this handsome species North of Manaus.

Peruvian Warbling Antbird

Hypocnemis peruviana

The default Warbling Antbird South of the Amazon on this tour.

Yellow-browed Antbird

Hypocnemis hypoxantha

Awesome views of this colourful, sassy, little antbird!

Black-chinned Antbird

Hypocnemoides melanopogon

Only seen near Presidente Figuereido.

Black-and-white Antbird

Myrmochanes hemileucus

This difficult river island specialist put on an impressive show for us!

Black-headed Antbird

Percnostola rufifrons

We enjoyed spectacular looks at a responsive pair near Manaus, and heard many around Presidente Figuereido; **rufifrons ssp.** recorded.

Spot-winged Antbird

Schistocichla leucostigma

Seen near Manaus, and again near Novo Airao.

Humaita Antbird - NE

Schistocichla humaythae

Great views of two pairs at Tupana Lodge; result of a recent split of Spot-winged Antbird.

Ferruginous-backed Antbird

Myrmeciza ferruginea

One of the most amazing experiences of the tour was watching a singing male in the scope at length near Manaus!

*Black-throated Antbird

Myrmeciza atrothorax

White-plumed Antbird

Pithys albifrons

Yet another antswarm specialist that appeared at two of the many antswarms we encountered on this special tour.

White-cheeked Antbird

Gymnopithys leucaspis

A responsive male came in to playback near Novo Airao.

Rufous-throated Antbird

Gymnopithys rufigula

We had awesome looks at this scarce species North of Manaus at an antswarm.

White-throated Antbird

Gymnopithys salvini

Outstandingly good looks at this beautiful species at an antswarm at Tupana Lodge!

Hairy-crested Antbird

Rhegmatorhina melanosticta

A male seen at an antswarm at Tupana Lodge. What a bird!

*Spot-backed Antbird

Hylophylax naevius

Common Scale-backed Antbird

Willisornis poecilinotus

Several seen well at antswarms at Tupana, and on a night roost there, too!

Reddish-winged Bare-eye

Phlegopsis erythroptera

Unbelievably good views of this rare antswarm obligate at an antswarm at Tupana Lodge!

Antthrushes Formicariidae (1)

Rufous-capped Antthrush

Formicarius colma

Cripplingly good views of a responsive bird that wandered around us showing itself very well!

Antpittas Grallaridae (1)

*Variegated Antpitta

Grallaria varia

Gnateaters Conopophagidae (1)

*Chestnut-belted Gnateater

Conopophaga aurita

Tapaculo Rhinocryptidae (1)

*Rusty-belted Tapaculo

Liosceles thoracicus

Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae (71)

Wing-barred Piprites

Piprites chloris

Several of these encountered in mixed flocks.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet Tyrannulus elatus

Common in open and mixed forest areas.

Forest Elaenia Myiopagis gaimardii

Fairly common by voice, but only a few seen.

Grey Elaenia Myiopagis caniceps

Common in canopy flocks.

Yellow-crowned Elaenia *Myiopagis flavivertex*

Seen only on mature river islands and varzea.

Small-billed Elaenia Elaenia parvirostris

One seen the first day of the tour in Manaus.

Plain-crested ElaeniaElaenia cristataRufous-crowned ElaeniaElaenia ruficeps

This rarely seen bird of campina forests showed well at Las Lajes Reserve near Presidente Figuereido.

Brownish Elaenia Elaenia pelzelni

One came streaking in to playback, but perched only briefly, before slipping back into the dense

understorey on one of the river islands.

White-lored Tyrannulet Ornithion inerme

Seen well from the canopy towers.

Southern Beardless TyrannuletCamptostoma obsoletum

Common in disturbed areas.

River Tyrannulet Serpophaga hypoleuca

Fabulous views of this little sprite on the river islands.

Mouse-colored TyrannuletPhaeomyias murina

A few seen in campina and disturbed areas.

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant Stigmatura napensis

Nice looks at a responsive pair of the nominate **napensis** subspecies.

Ringed Antpipit Corythopis torquatus

This spectacular songster showed amazingly well near Presidente Figuereido.

Slender-footed TyrannuletZimmerius gracilipes

A few of this canopy dweller seen well.

Guianan TyrannuletZimmerius acer

This regional endemic was seen from both canopy towers.

Olive-green Tyrannulet Phylloscartes virescens

This rare regional endemic species was seen very well amongst a mixed flock at INPA canopy tower.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher Mionectes oleagineus

Only a few seen south of the Amazon.

McConnell's Flycatcher Mionectes macconnelli

For the most part, replaces previous species on the Guianan Shield north of Manaus.

Amazonian Inezia (Tyrannulet)Inezia subflava

Seen in Anavilhanas NP.

Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant Hemitriccus minor

A few seen near Novo Airao.

"Unnamed" Tody-Tyrant

A species as of yet undescribed.

White-eyed Tody-Tyrant

Hemitriccus zosterops

Two subspecies seen this tour: **rothschildi** of the Guianan Shield forests north of Manaus, and

nominate **zosterops** elsewhere. **White-bellied Tody-Tyrant**

Hemitriccus griseipectus

Seen the final morning of the tour at Tupana.

Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant

Hemitriccus minimus

Brief, poor looks at this widespread species near Novo Airao.

Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant

Hemitriccus inornatus

We enjoyed lengthy views of this recently re-discovered campirana forest specialist.

Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant

Myiornis ecaudatus

Several heard, but we had nice views of one after efforts made at Mari Mari Lodge.

Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant

Lophotriccus vitiosus

A few seen north of Manaus.

Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant

Lophotriccus galeatus

Common by voice north of Manaus, two seen.

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher

Todirostrum maculatum

Common on islands and riparian areas.

Painted Tody-Flycatcher

Todirostrum pictum

Amazing views from the canopy towers, including a nest built right next to INPA tower 2.

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher

Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum

Common by voice, we had one displaying, in wing-snapping flight, and perched beautifully.

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher

Poecilotriccus latirostris

Seen briefly on the river islands.

Brownish Twistwing

Cnipodectes subbrunneus

Nice views at Tupana Lodge.

Olivaceous Flatbill

Rhynchocyclus olivaceus

One turned up in a flock at Tupana Lodge.

Yellow-olive Flatbill

Tolmomyias sulphurescens

Seen at Anavilhanas NP.

Zimmer's Flatbill

Tolmomyias assimilis

Common canopy species that we sow on a few occasions.

Grey-crowned Flatbill

Tolmomyias poliocephalus

Only a few seen, though widespread.

Ochre-lored Flatbill

Tolmomyias flaviventris

Seen in varzea and island habitats.

*Golden-crowned Spadebill

Platyrinchus coronatus

White-crested Spadebill Platyrinchus platyrhynchos

Great views near Novo Airao!

Cinnamon Neopipo

Neopipo cinnamomea

This widespread, though everywhere rare, enigmatic bird put on a delightful show for us on the final morning of the tour at Tupana Lodge!

Fuscous Flycatcher Cnemotriccus fuscatus

A few seen in drier and island habitats.

Riverside Tyrant Knipolegus orenocensis

Four seen on our day visiting river islands.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant Arundinicola leucocephala

A few at wetlands.

Piratic Flycatcher Legatus leucophaius

Fairly common throughout.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*

Seen almost daily.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Only a few around Manaus.

Great Kiskadee Pitangus sulphuratus

Fairly common.

Lesser Kiskadee Pitangus lictor

Common in wetlands and riverine habitats.

Yellow-throated Flycatcher Conopias parvus

Common canopy flock leader seen often.

Three-striped Flycatcher Conopias trivirgatus

Only a few seen in varzea and stream habitats.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Both maculatus and solitarius subspecies seen.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Heard often, and I think we might've looked at one or two, but our focus was on rarer species.

Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*

A few seen in moriche stands.

Variegated Flycatcher Empidonomus varius

More than a few seen.

White-throated Kingbird Tyrannus albogularis

One turned up on one of the river islands.

Tropical Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus

Common.

Fork-tailed FlycatcherTyrannus savana

We saw many migrating individuals, especially along the rivers.

Greyish Mourner Rhytipterna simplex

A subcanopy flock constituent that was heard daily, and seen on several occasions.

Pale-bellied Mourner Rhytipterna immunda

One of these rare birds was seen in the campina scrub at Lajes Reserve near Presidente Figuereido.

Todd's Sirystes Sirystes subcanescens

Oustanding looks at this scarce canopy dweller is a regional endemic here.

Swainson's Flycatcher Myiarchus swainsoni

Two seen on the river islands.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

Common in disturbed areas.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Seen only in campina scrub at Lajes Reserve.

Rufous-tailed FlatbillRamphotrigon ruficauda

Nice looks at Tupana, including discovering a nest!

Cinnamon Attila Attila cinnamomeus

One seen in varzea en route to Tupana Lodge.

Citron-bellied Attila Attila citriniventris

A responsive individual at Tupana Lodge flew right in and allowed awesome views!

White-eyed (Dull-capped) Attila Attila bolivianus

One seen in varzea en route to Tupana Lodge.

Bright-eyed Attila Attila spadiceus

One seen north of Manaus, though heard regularly throughout the tour.

Cotingas (Cotingidae) 9

Guianan Cock-of-the-RockRupicola rupicola

Voted the #2 bird of the tour, the lek we visited at Mari Mari is perhaps the most spectacular in the world!

Guianan Red Cotinga Phoenicircus carnifex

We ended up getting great looks, after some effort, near Presidente Figuereido, of this awesome regional endemic.

Purple-breasted CotingaCotinga cotinga

Only a female decided to show for us this year.

Spangled Cotinga Cotinga cayana

Several beautiful males and a few females.

Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans*

Heard daily, with nice views at a few sites.

Pompadour Cotinga Xipholena punicea

A commonly seen species on this tour!

Bare-necked Fruitcrow Gymnoderus foetidus

Two flyby males en route to Tupana Lodge.

Crimson Fruitcrow Haematoderus militaris

An astonishing find from the INPA tower – a male perched up for scope views!

Capuchinbird Perissocephalus tricolor

The bird of the tour! One exceptionally obliging individual near Presidente Figuereido allowed spectacular lengthy views and photos.

Manakins Pipridae (13)

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin *Tyranneutes stolzmanni*

Several of these cute little birds encountered, though many more heard than seen.

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin

Tyranneutes virescens

Scope views of this tiny, often difficult to see, Guianan Shield endemic.

Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin

Neopelma chrysocephalum

Many of these campinarana habitat specialists present at Mari Mari Lodge.

Blue-backed Manakin

Chiroxiphia pareola

Awesome looks at these beauties had at a few sites.

White-throated Manakin

Corapipo gutturalis

A few of these regional endemics seen at Mari Mari Lodge and Tucumanduba.

Black Manakin

Xenopipo atronitens

This white sand forest (campina) specialist was seen at Lajes Reserve near Presidente Figuereido.

Blue-crowned Manakin

Lepidothrix coronata

A few at Tupana Lodge.

White-fronted Manakin

Lepidothrix serena

Arguably one of the most interesting Manakins, this scarce regional endemic wasn't seen well until Mari Mari Lodge.

Yellow-crested Manakin

Heterocercus flavivertex

Crippling scope views in campinarana forest at Mari Mari Lodge.

Wire-tailed Manakin

Pipra filicauda

One of the top ten birds of the tour, the lek at Anavilhanas NP is probably the best in the world for this stunning species!

White-crowned Manakin

Dixiphia pipra

Fairly numerous throughout the tour; **pipra** and **microlofa** subspecies seen.

Golden-headed Manakin

Ceratopipra erythrocephala

Numerous throughout.

Red-headed Manakin

Ceratopipra rubrocapilla

What a beauty! A few at Tupana Lodge.

Tityras, Becards Tityridae (18)

Amazonian Royal Flycatcher

Onychorhynchus coronatus coronatus

Nice views of a responsive bird at Tupana.

Whiskered Myiobius

Myiobius barbatus

A few in mixed flocks showed nicely.

Black-tailed Myiobius

Myiobius atricaudus

Just one seen at Tupana the final morning.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher

Terenotriccus erythrurus

Great looks at a few of these.

Black-tailed Titvra

Tityra cayana

Common, seen especially well from canopy towers.

Masked Tityra

Tityra semifasciata

Only one pair found in varzea en route to Tupana Lodge.

Varzea Schiffornis

Schiffornis major

Anavilhanas NP yielded up one of these tricky understorey birds!

Guianan (Olivaceous) Schiffornis

Schiffornis olivacea

Glimpsed, as it flew right through our group, almost hitting one of the participants in the face at Mari Mari! This species is the result of the recent split of Thrush-like Schiffornis.

Schiffornis turdina

Brown-winged Schiffornis

Awesome scope views at Tupana Lodge!

Cinereous Mourner Laniocera hypopyrra

One responded beautifully to playback and perched right up for us near Novo Airao.

Dusky Purpletuft Iodopleura fusca

One of the rarest birds of the tour, this Guianan Shield endemic species is seldom recorded in Brazil!

White-browed Purpletuft Iodopleura isabellae

A few seen south of Manaus.

Cinereous Becard Pachyramphus rufus

Two pairs seen on the tour.

Chestnut-crowned Becard Pachyramphus castaneus

Cooperative birds on the river islands.

Black-capped BecardPachyramphus marginatus

Seen in canopy mixed flocks at Tupana Lodge.

Glossy-backed Becard Pachyramphus surinamus

A star bird of the tour that perched up in gorgeous light at Tucumanduba.

Pink-throated Becard Pachyramphus minor

Several pairs seen, including attending a nest!

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae (9)

Rufous-browed PeppershrikeCyclarhis gujanensis

Heard often, with a few seen.

Slaty-capped Shrike-VireoVireolanius leucotis

Incredible views from the canopy towers!

Red-eyed "chivi" Vireo Vireo olivaceus

Both non-migratory and austral migrant subspecies encountered.

Lemon-chested GreenletHylophilus thoracicus

Nice looks at a singing male in the scope at Novo Airao.

Grey-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus semicinereus*

A few seen at Anavilhanas NP.

Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis*

A couple seen in varzea en route to Tupana.

Dusky-capped Greenlet *Hylophilus hypoxanthus*

Several singing individuals seen in mixed flocks.

Buff-cheeked GreenletHylophilus muscicapinus

Many nice views of this species north of Manaus at the canopy towers.

*Tawny-crowned Greenlet Hylophilus ochraceiceps

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae (8)

White-winged Swallow Tachycineta albiventer

Fairly common along rivers.

Purple Martin Progne subis

A surprising good many of these recently-arrived migrants from the North.

Grey-breasted MartinProgne chalybea

Common.

Brown-chested MartinProgne tapera

Common.

White-thighed Swallow Neochelidon tibialis

Numerous at a few sites.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx ruficollis

Common.

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

Only a few seen.

Bank Swallow Riparia riparia

One seen on the river islands.

Wrens Troglodytidae (7)

*Thrush-like Wren Campylorhynchus turdinus

Coraya Wren Pheugopedius coraya

A cooperative pair near Iracema Falls gave our only looks at this skulky species.

Buff-breasted WrenCantorchilus leucotis

Not uncommon in riparian, varzea, and seen well at Anavilhanas NP.

(Southern) House Wren Troglodytes musculus

Common

Southern Nightingale- (Scaly-breasted) Wren *Microcerculus marginatus*

marginatus ssp. came right out for unforgettable views our last morning at Tupana Lodge.

*Wing-banded Wren Microcerculus bambla

Musician Wren Cyphorhinus arada

several species involved in this taxa; we had unbelievable looks at a singing male near Presidente

Figuereido of the arada ssp.

Gnatcatchers *Polioptilidae* (4)

Collared Gnatwren *Microbates collaris*

One of the most difficult birds to see, one or two participants managed brief views.

Long-billed GnatwrenRamphocaenus melanurus

Another species sure to be split into a few, we managed views of the **albiventris** and **amazonum ssp.**

Guianan GnatcatcherPolioptila guianensis

views of one in a mixed flock near Iracema!

Inambari Gnatcatcher - E Polioptila attenboroughi

We saw a few of these canopy dwellers in canopy flocks at Tupana Lodge!

Thrushes Turdidae (2)

Pale-breasted ThrushTurdus leucomelas

Numerous in disturbed areas.

Black-billed Thrush Turdus ignobilis

A few seen near Manaus and on river islands.

White-necked Thrush Turdus albicollis

A few seen well around Presidente Figuereido.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow Passer domesticus

Around Manaus.

Waxbills Estrildidae (1)

Common Waxbill Estrilda astrild

Established introduced species near Manaus.

Finches Fringillidae (5)

Plumbeous Euphonia Euphonia plumbea

One male showed amazingly well at Lajes Reserve near Presidente Figuereido.

White-lored (Golden-bellied) Euphonia Euphonia chrysopasta

Seen often during the tour.

White-vented Euphonia Euphonia minuta

One turned up near Iracema in a mixed flock!

Rufous-bellied EuphoniaEuphonia rufiventris

A few birds seen at Tupana Lodge.

Golden-sided Euphonia Euphonia cayennensis

Several of this regional endemic seen north of Manaus.

New World Warblers Parulidae (1)

Masked Yellowthroat Geothlypis aequinoctialis

Several seen on the river islands.

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds Icteridae (11)

Red-breasted BlackbirdSturnella militaris

Several displaying males on the river islands!

Crested Oropendola Psarocolius decumanus

Common around Manaus north of Manaus.

Green Oropendola Psarocolius viridis

Awesome views from the INPA tower.

Yellow-rumped Cacique Cacicus cela

Common at most sites.

Red-rumped CaciqueCacicus haemorrhous

A few seen near Presidente Figuereido.

*Orange-backed Troupial Icterus croconotus

Giant Cowbird Molothrus oryzivorus

A few at Oropendola nest trees.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Very few seen.

Velvet-fronted GrackleLampropsar tanagrinus

Several found on the younger river islands.

Oriole Blackbird Gymnomystax mexicanus

A few of these beauties showed on the islands!

Yellow-hooded Blackbird Chrysomus icterocephalus

Gorgeous! Large flocks of the **icterocephalus ssp** seen on the islands.

Bananaquit Coerebidae (1)

Bananaquit Coereba flaveola

Common in disturbed areas.

New World Sparrows & Allies Emberizidae (2)

Yellow-browed Sparrow Ammodramus aurifrons

Common in disturbed areas.

*Pectoral Sparrow Arremon taciturnus

Tanagers and Allies Thraupidae (36)

Red-capped Cardinal Paroaria gularis

Quick flyby looks en route to Tupana.

Black-faced Tanager Schistochlamys melanopis

A few seen at Tupana Lodge.

Red-billed Pied TanagerLamprospiza melanoleuca

Several groups seen from the towers.

Hooded Tanager Nemosia pileata

A pair on the islands.

Flame-crested Tanager Tachyphonus cristatus

Many seen well throughout.

Fulvous-crested TanagerTachyphonus surinamus

Several north of Manaus.

White-shouldered TanagerTachyphonus luctuosus

Only a few seen south of Manaus.

White-lined TanagerTachyphonus rufus

A few north of Manaus.

Red-shouldered TanagerTachyphonus phoenicius

Great views of this campina specialist at Lajes Reserve.

Fulvous Shrike-TanagerLanio fulvus

Several heard, two seen briefly north of Manaus.

Silver-beaked Tanager Ramphocelus carbo

Almost daily.

Blue-grey Tanager Thraupis episcopus

Daily.

Palm Tanager Thraupis palmarum

Almost daily.

Turquoise TanagerTangara mexicana

A few near Manaus.

Paradise TanagerTangara chilensis

This absolutely mind-blowing species gave the most amazing show from both towers!

Spotted TanagerTangara punctata

Several in mixed flocks north of Manaus.

Dotted Tanager Tangara varia

This rare, seldom seen species hung around the INPA tower for lengthy views!

Opal-rumped TanagerTangara velia

Several seen at various sites on the tour.

Black-faced Dacnis Dacnis lineata

Nice looks north of Manaus.

Blue Dacnis Dacnis cayana

Almost daily.

Short-billed Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes nitidus*

This typically scarce species was seen often during the tour, and exceptionally well from the towers.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*

Common.

Red-legged HoneycreeperCyanerpes cyaneus

Fairly common.

Green HoneycreeperChlorophanes spiza

Common.

Yellow-backed Tanager Hemithraupis flavicollis

Quite a few seen in canopy mixed flocks.

Rufous-headed Tanager - EHemithraupis ruficapilla*Chestnut-vented ConebillConirostrum speciosumBicolored ConebillConirostrum bicolor

Seen well on the river islands.

Orange-fronted Yellow Finch Sicalis columbiana

Not uncommon in disturbed areas.

*Slate-colored Grosbeak Saltator grossus

Buff-throated Saltator Saltator maximus

A few seen well.

Greyish Saltator Saltator coerulescens

A few in disturbed areas.

Blue-black Grassquit Volatinia jacarina

Fairly common in disturbed areas.

Wing-barred Seedeater Sporophila americana

A few showed in disturbed areas.

Chestnut-bellied SeedeaterSporophila castaneiventris

Several of these little beauties seen near Manaus and on the river islands.

Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch Oryzoborus angolensis

Only one pair seen on the tour, though heard in a few disturbed areas and on the islands.

Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies Cardinalidae (3)

Red-crowned Ant Tanager

Habia rubica

One seen near Novo Airao in an understorey mixed flock.

Yellow-green Grosbeak

Caryothraustes canadensis

We had nice looks at a responsive pair at the INPA tower.

*Rothschild's Grosbeak

Cyanocompsa rothschildii

Mammals (20 species)

Boto (**Pink River Dolphin**) – **DD**Iniia geoffrensis **Tucuxi** (**Grey River Dolphin**) – **DD**Sotalia fulviatilis

Long-nosed BatRhynchonycteris nasoLeaf-nosed BatPhyllostomidae, sp.Sac-winged Bat, sp.Saccopteryx, sp.Pale-throated SlothBradypus tridactylusGolden-handed TamarinSaguinus midas

Red-chested Moustached TamarinSaguinus labiatusGuianan Red HowlerAlouatta mcconnelliLarge-headed CapuchinSapajus macrocephalusGuianan Brown CapuchinSapajus apella apella

Guianan Spider Monkey - VU

Ateles paniscus

Bearded Saki Chiropotes chiropotes

Golden-backed Squirrel Monkey - NT
Spix's Night Monkey
Aotus vociferans
Black-headed Night Monkey
Aotus nigriceps

Red-rumped Agouti

Giant Otter

Dasyprocta leporina

Pteronura brasiliensis

South American CoatiNasua nasuaCollared PeccaryPecari tajacu

Rockjumper Birding Ltd

Labourdonnais Village

Mapou Mauritius **Tel:** (USA & Canada) toll-free: 1-888-990-5552

Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com

Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com