

SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL: BEST OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST

OCTOBER 8–22, 2017



A trip first, the rarely seen Buff-fronted Owl – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

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By Andrew Whittaker

Once again, our Brazilian flagship tour visiting the lovely southeast rocked, delivering a bonanza of Atlantic Forest endemics, spectacular scenery, all-around great birding, and wonderful Brazilian cuisine that we have come to expect from this fantastic biologically rich region.

First and foremost we tallied **391 species, a whopping 140 of which were regional and/or Brazilian endemics!** These figures become all the more impressive when you consider that many of the wider ranging species not included as “endemics” in the preceding tallies are represented in southeast Brazil by distinctive subspecies endemic to the Atlantic Forest region, and that at least 15–25 of these subspecies that we recorded during our tours are likely to be elevated to separate species status in the near future!

Beginning in São Paulo, our first destination was Intervalles State Park, my own personal favorite among the many great birding spots included in our southeast Brazil trip. Intervalles never fails to deliver a huge serving of Atlantic Forest endemics and just plain fantastic birding experiences, and such was the case again this trip. We began the first evening with one of my personal highlights, the fabulous and incredibly cooperative male **Long-trained Nightjar**. In fact, the male Long-trained Nightjars put on a show for us on two consecutive nights, treating us to multiple close passes, with two males chasing each other just above our heads. On a couple of occasions the dominant male’s ridiculously long tail almost touched our heads as it danced over us, swooping down and carefully landing right in front of us, and yes, ever so slowly bringing down its white tail streamers (as if in slow motion) so as not to damage them. They are extremely important to attract females. WOW! He then sat frozen in our spotlight beam within 20 feet of us!



Orange-breasted Thornbird, a cute endemic – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

A full recounting of the many highlights from our four full days at Intervalles would require several pages, but a number of special sightings come quickly to mind. There was the unbelievable experience of having a huge **Variegated (Imperial) Antpitta** coming in to feed on worms at our feet! Second to this were the fantastic studies of a huge female **Gray-bellied Hawk** on the nest (this is a rarely seen, poorly-known forest raptor with very few nests even known, so we were exceptionally lucky indeed); scope-filling views of **Swallow-tailed Cotingas** at their nest (thanks to Betinho); the rare **Black-legged Dacnis** on the nest along with multiple others this year, including several cool males (we even found another nest); and the very responsive **White-bearded Antshrike** male for starters! There were also the noisy lek of the stunning male **Purple-crowned Plovercrest**; the covey of extremely tame Spot-winged Wood-Quail along with their cute downy young; point-blank Solitary Tinamou for most; gaudy **Spot-billed Toucanets**; the impressively close large-billed White-throated Woodcreepers; the skulking Slaty Bristlefront, southern vocal type (**in fact a new taxa**) that showed so well, as did both a Cryptic and Short-tailed antthrush performing admirably, the latter even singing off the ground from exposed dead bamboo; in-our-face tiny fearless Sao Paulo Tyrannulet; the unusually bold **Tufted Antshrike** pair and the hard to get **Giant Antshrike**; a super Squamate Antbird and the group of rare endangered **Black-fronted Piping-Guans** that

posed for such an extended time, and the same morning Blue-bellied Parrot too; the singing Bare-throated Bellbirds, colorful **Hooded Berryeater**, and magnificent Chestnut-backed Tanagers; and the day-roosting Common Potoo and Tropical Screech-Owls. And then there were the many magnificent **Red-ruffed Fruitcrows**, close Pileated Parrots, incredibly responsive Orange-breasted Thornbirds, and a very endearing Streamcreeper. Bamboo produced both several great *Drymophila* antbirds and two endemic seedeaters, Buffy-fronted and Temminck's.



Marvelous studies of several Black-fronted Piping-Guans – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Topping everything, however, was the **Helmeted Woodpecker**, which is, arguably, one of the rarest of Atlantic Forest endemics, and almost certainly one of the rarest of South American woodpeckers. Our bird responded to my playback by sneaking in; in fact, I was the only one to see it cross the road before working its way to the top of a nearby tree (but hidden) from which it called repeatedly. After several minutes and some anxious moments moving around with the tape, we found the beauty—a wonderful male! After the woodpecker, everything else was pure gravy.



One of the rarest species, the Helmeted Woodpecker male! – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Intervalles is always a hard act to follow, but the next venue on our itinerary was the lovely coastal resort of Ubatuba, which promised its own set of highlights. But first we had to get there—no mean feat, given that we had to drive all of the way back to São Paulo. On the way we nailed the striking Red-legged Seriema (South America's Secretary-bird). Then on to Biritiba-Mirim for a surgical strike (successful!) on the recently described **São Paulo Antwren**. Next up and a trip first was an evening stop in the lovely forested Serra Do Mar mountain range with its enchanting rich Atlantic Rainforest. However, the mountain greeted us with patchy fog and moisture dripping off its rich epiphytes and moss-clad trees. I quickly became fearful of finding our main target; however, persistence paid off between fog and drizzle, and we finally nailed the mega-rare **Buff-fronted Owl**, even calling it to land low down at eye level! What a cool-looking ever so cute critter and rightly voted top bird from among many other fancy endemics on the trip! Despite multiple attempts at owling on several nights at Intervalles without luck (only hearing Long-tufted Screech-Owl), we hit the motherlode here! We also enjoyed some wonderful hospitality and a great home-cooked meal before descending down to the lovely seaside resort of Ubatuba.

The next morning found us in the rich coastal plains at Fazenda Angelim. Our primary target was a diminutive little endemic called the **Buff-throated Purpletuft**. It is an unobtrusive, canopy-dwelling species of uncertain affinities, formerly placed in the family Cotingidae. Angelim is normally a great place for them, but on this intermittently dull and rainy day, the purpletufts played hard to get. However, while searching for the purpletufts, we entertained ourselves with dynamite studies of a snazzy **Blond-crested Woodpecker**, Green-backed Trogon, Black-throated Grosbeak, an ever so responsive Pale-browed Treehunter, and nailed both the Spot-backed Antshrike and a so close you could almost touch Black-cheeked Gnateater as well! Next up were an unusually cooperative **Spotted Bamboowren** and a group of infrequently seen White-thighed Swallows. We returned in the afternoon still dull and still no Purpletuft, so for a last-ditch effort, I decided to imitate a Brazilian Pygmy-Owl, and lo and behold, one came roaring in to give excellent views, crown raised and showing well!



Very responsive male Black-cheeked Gnateater – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Again, another early dull morning with drizzle made it harder to catch up with some of the Ubatuba specialties; however, we managed a good look at perched and flying **White-necked Hawks**, Unicolored Antwren, and Flame-crested Tanager down to eye level, but despite much effort, sadly, no Buff-bellied Puffbirds. Later this morning and still dull and drizzling, we headed to Folha Seca, where the continuing rain did little to dull a hummingbird show that must be witnessed to be appreciated. Amid the hundreds of hummers (comprising 11 species) at Jonas's house were good numbers of showy **Festive Coquettes** and impressive **Saw-billed Hermits**—we even were able to note the different bill shapes of males and females. If lunch had not called, we might still be there!



Festive Coquette male expressing gorget in threat display – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Later that afternoon we drove a short distance up the coast to Paraty, with a birding stop en route, where the wind was too strong for Eye-ringed Tody. After heading to our charming hotel, we took a pleasant walk to the mangroves where some wet Yellow-crowned Night-Herons showed well before we explored this quaint historic town, learning about how the Portuguese used it as a gold port and how the high spring tides used to clean the streets without entering the houses.



We enjoyed stunning studies of this neat Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

An hour later we pulled into the town of Pereque, which was to provide us with an excellent morning of birding. The highest value target here was the endangered **Black-hooded Antwren**, a species lost to science for over 100 years and only rediscovered in 1987. It took 5 minutes before I had the crippling male antwren parading around in front of us. We also scored wonderful studies of another neat endemic, this time the much-wanted **Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant**. A pleasant stroll along the shady road rewarded us with some confiding Rufous-tailed Jacamars, odd-looking Scaled Antbirds, wing-snapping White-bearded Manakins, a very bold Chestnut-backed Antshrike, and an even bolder Half-colored Sparrow, while a wiry Lemon-chested Greenlet gave us views and a wren on steroids in the form of the endemic Long-billed belted out its rich song from the road's edge, showing off its honking bill! However, for me, the true star of the morning was the **Slaty Bristlefront** that Ricardo got stirred up. Amazingly, after it came in some 300m down the hillside to within 100m, I decided it must be hot to trot. Ricardo and I made an observation hole in thick roadside vegetation using my pruners, even putting in a branch as a perch. We then made a human amphitheater from a few meters back and placed my Bluetooth speaker on the ground. After silence for a minute or two, out jumped the beauty, even briefly perching on the branch and giving repeated great views! We also managed great studies of **Orange-eyed Thornbird**, another super endemic, and found a pair of purpletufts too.



A super cool-looking male Black-hooded Antwren put on a show! – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

After lunch at a good kilo restaurant in town, we headed for Itatiaia, our route initially taking us along a beautiful stretch of coast that really showcased the Serra do Mar. We arrived at the town of Itatiaia with time for a productive birding stop at a nearby marsh, with White-rumped Monjita and some great Streamer-tailed Tyrant displays before winding our way up through the park to the Hotel do Ypé, our home for the next three days.



A stunning male Frilled Coquette at flowers in our hotel garden – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Two of our three days in Itatiaia were spent at middle elevations, a short walk or drive from the Ypé. Perhaps the hardest task was just getting away from the hotel, whose feeders swarmed with activity throughout the day, but especially during the breakfast

hour. Between the bevy of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds at the feeders, the mobs of Dusky-legged Guans parading up and down the driveway, lots of parrots including stunning **Blue-winged Macaws**, and, of course, the stunning **Saffron Toucanets** that had a habit of dropping in to the fruit feeders just as we were sitting down for meals, the gorgeous **Frilled Coquette** males on the flower borders and mixed-species flocks that regularly circulated through the treetops below the swimming pool, it was nearly impossible to get anywhere else on schedule! When we did get away, park trails produced a number of memorable birds, among them, White-bibbed Antbird, very responsive colorful Blue-naped Chlorophonia, yet another actively nesting **Swallow-tailed Cotinga**, male Swallow-tailed Manakin and an immature male Pin-tailed, and snazzy Gilt-edged Tanagers, not to mention up-close-and-personal encounters with Brown (Tufted) Capuchins and Southern Masked Titi-Monkeys (the latter with a so cute baby in tow).



An incredibly tape-responsive Blue-naped Chlorophonia male in all its glory – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

The cherry on top of any visit to Itatiaia has to be the time spent in the higher reaches of the park, where breathtaking scenery constantly competes with many of the most sought-after endemic birds for one's attention. Our second morning saw us leaving well before dawn for the Agulhas Negras Road. By the time we arrived, dawn had long since broken, and the skies were clear as a bell. Amazingly, there were surprisingly few birds singing (I believe the exceedingly long drought had caused this), and, most notably absent from the usual dawn chorus was *the defining voice* of the Itatiaia highlands—that of the **Black-and-gold Cotinga**. The cotinga is the real avian jewel of these mountains, and, on this morning, it remained quiet for an uncomfortably long time before starting to sing. Once the cotinga did begin to sing, it took some anxious moments of scanning before Ricardo spotted the male on a different song-perch from the one that this particular individual usually occupies. A bit more maneuvering was

required to get the bird in the scope, given that the roadside vegetation between us and the bird had grown markedly since my last visit, all but obscuring the once expansive overlook. Later in the afternoon, after more searching higher up, Ricardo found the right spot to place the scope, and we were able to enjoy lengthy, marvelous studies of the cotinga. But it is the voice of this bird that really captures the imagination. Ernest G. Holt, who conducted the first real ornithological survey of the Itatiaia highlands in 1921–22, wrote evocatively of his first encounter with the bird Brazilians call the “*Saudade*.” That account was later republished by David Snow (1982) in his classic monograph *The Cotingas*, and I include an excerpt here:

‘I had been long hours in the saddle. Now, amid lengthening shadows, I was traversing the upper reaches of the forest zone...Unexpectedly there floated out upon the thin, clear air a vibrant note, a long-drawn plaintive whistle that rose in pitch and intensity, and then faded away in a mere thread of sound—withal so sad, so mournful, that it seemed the cry of some languishing wood sprite rather than a vibration of purely organic origin. With every sense alive, I craned my neck to see the tallest treetops. Nothing moved except a great sparkling drop, which fell from a rosette of bromeliads high overhead to splash into a puddle in the trail. After a tense moment, the disembodied voice drifted again through the trees, this time joined by another, the two singing in unison. I turned in my saddle then, and looked back and down as well as up, for the air seemed filled with sound, but the notes died away, leaving on every hand only silent green gloom. It was not until weeks after, when I trudged those high trails day after day, that I stumbled by chance upon the owner of that wonderful voice.’

Slowly, but surely, most of the rest of the highland specialties presented themselves over the course of the morning. Restless groups of immaculate Brassy-breasted Tanagers and Buff-throated Warbling-Finches offered little resistance, whereas skulking **Rufous-tailed Antbirds**, Mouse-colored Tapaculos (northern form) did not show despite several attempts (too dry). However, the Serra do Mar Tyrannulet and a Rufous-tailed Antthrush had to be patiently lured out from hiding but showed well. Smart-looking **Rufous-backed Antvireos** were better behaved than on my last trip here, but Thick-billed Saltators were conspicuous only in their absence as, sadly, were Speckle-breasted Antpittas; despite one coming in, it was invisible and non-vocal. I was particularly pleased to hit on a stunning male **Black-capped Piprites** early on—always a relief to get this important bird under our belts as quickly as possible—and even more pleased when it dropped from the canopy to less than 15 feet above ground to inspect us. Higher up the mountain, we observed Blue-billed and Velvety black-tyrants, located some striking male **Green-crowned Plovercrests** on song-perches, and pinned down some endemic **Itatiaia Spinetails (Thistletails)**, as well as a White-vented Violetear that posed nicely. The improved Agulhas Negras road at Itatiaia National Park got us up to 2400 m, and here I was amazed to hear a **Gray-backed Tachuri** singing in the distance. After much playback this lovely colorful endemic came in some 400 m to land 20 m from us. Yet another new endemic never seen before on this exceptional tour!



First record of the endemic Gray-backed Tachuri for this tour– Photo: Andrew Whittaker

On our way back down the mountain, we secured great studies of a pair of Bay-chested Warbling-Finches followed by in-your-face views of the last of the BIG FIVE antshrikes, the **Large-tailed**, a lovely responsive male. The **Starry-night Antshrike** would be a wonderful name (Jaqueline, the late Ted Parker's partner's idea). This was the first and only one we heard on all the trip; what a relief! And let's not forget the extremely responsive pair of nominate (true) **Barred Forest-Falcons**.



A lovely endemic Bay-chested Warbling-Finch – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Acting on a tip from Ricardo, on our last afternoon we made one last visit out of the park, this time to an open, marshy country, where Ricardo had previously seen Ash-throated Crake and Giant Snipe. We arrived in late afternoon and hung around waiting for dusk, in the hopes of seeing the crepuscular snipe displaying. While waiting for the snipe, we scored big by finding not only the crake but White-eared Puffbird, Band-tailed Hornero, Yellow-rumped Marshbird, and also an animated group/family of lovely Tawny-headed Swallows going in to roost in a bank, putting on a real show and perching for scope views. As dusk settled on the valley, the Giant Snipe emerged on cue, displaying high above us. Standing spellbound on this beautiful spring evening, we enjoyed the bizarre jet-like sound of the courtship display of the male **Giant Snipe** (winnowing made by its specialized outer tail feathers) just above our heads in response to my tape playback. A few minutes later, on hearing a thud in the grass and the chipping notes, I knew it had landed! Switching on my light, I quickly searched the grass for this huge sought after beauty and bingo, there it was in all its beauty! It was voted 4th best bird of our trip.



The much sought after monster Giant Snipe nailed! – Photo: Andrew Whittaker



A Black-capped Piprites gave exceptional views! – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

At last on our final attempt, this time pre-dawn, we nailed Tawny-browed Owl. We enjoyed stellar views of Black-billed Scythebill, multiple huge **Robust Woodpeckers**, and finally the tiny endemic Yellow-eared too, thanks to Ricardo. Observing the bamboo die-off was impressive, as the views along the trail (I know so well) looked like another site! We enjoyed in-your-face looks at Ochre-fronted Tody-Flycatcher and had another trip first, a huge **Collared Forest-Falcon** that crashed in so close above us all to tape playback, catching us by surprise so that only Brian got to see it perched 8m above us, and sadly, we only managed to see it dashing off, flying through the forest, not to be seen again!



We had multiple Robust Woodpeckers like this superb male – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

All too soon, our time at Itatiaia had come to an end, and, along with it, so had our time in Brazil's amazing Atlantic Forest. Again this great trip produced some truly memorable birding. Along the way, we enjoyed numerous wonderful meals (including visits to multiple *churrascarias*), sinfully good icy *caipirinhas*, and loads of famously friendly Brazilian hospitality. All in all, our group saw a bunch of really special birds and had great fun in the process! I particularly want to thank Ricardo and our local guide Faustinho at Intervalos for their keen help and good spotting. It was great fun birding with you all, and I look forward to seeing you on one of my future VENT trips to another exciting birdy destination, be it Peru, Bolivia, Chile, the UK, or again in my beloved Brazil. As always, very happy birding.

Favorite Birds of the Trip (as voted by the group)

1. Buff-fronted Owl
2. Helmeted Woodpecker
3. Long-trained Nightjar (**near endemic**)
4. Giant Snipe
5. Swallow-tailed Cotinga (**endemic**)
6. Purple-crowned Plovercrest (**near endemic**)
7. Brazilian Ruby (**endemic**)



Brazilian Ruby in threat display to a Saw-billed Hermit – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

ITINERARY:

10/08 - Newly arriving Part II pax are in transit to Brazil, or, have arrived in São Paulo a day early to rest up.

10/09 - Introduction talk am at our São Paulo hotel; after a great Brazilian lunch we meet up with Ricardo and our driver at the hotel and then begin the long drive to Intervalles. Late afternoon birding on the entrance road plus dusk for nightjars.

10/10 - Intervalles State Park (São Paulo): Breakfast at 05:30h, followed by birding around the main clearing and marsh for the morning. Post-lunch break from 1330–1530h, with remainder of afternoon split between a search for Spot-winged Wood-Quail and the Sede de Pesquisas. This was followed by nightbirding along the entrance road from 1730–1945h, and then straight to dinner.

10/11 - Intervalles State Park (São Paulo): Breakfast at 05:30h, followed by all morning on the Carmo Road. After lunch and break, we spent the late afternoon birding around Faustinhos house followed by night birding afterwards on entrance road.

10/12 - Intervalles State Park (São Paulo): Breakfast at 0600h, followed by all morning birding along the Lajado Road. After lunch and break, we spent the late afternoon birding the plovercrest lek and vicinity, followed by an owling excursion out the main entrance road to the park.

10/13 - Intervalles State Park (São Paulo): Breakfast at 05:00h, followed by all-morning birding along the Carmo Road and along the trail from Carmo to Sede de Pesquisas. Following lunch & break, we visited the cornmeal feeder for rails, no luck, then went to Estrada Baja Grande before owling at Porteria #2.

10/14 - Intervalles State Park (São Paulo) Early breakfast 04:45 Following breakfast we began the long drive back to São Paulo, with a few opportunistic stops along the way for open-country birds. We ate lunch at a good kilo restaurant along the highway. Later in the afternoon, we detoured through Biritiba-Mirim to make a try for the São Paulo Antwren, after which, we drove on to the Serra Do Mar for late afternoon and owling and dinner before dropping down to the coastal town of Ubatuba.

10/15 - Ubatuba/Itaguá (São Paulo): **Daylight saving time takes effect and we “spring forward”**: breakfast at 0600 h, depart 0645 h for Fazenda Angelim, where we spent the entire morning birding. Lunch in Ubatuba, followed by break until 1500 h; then remainder of afternoon (1545–1800h) returned to Angelim due to holiday traffic returning to SP.

10/16 - Ubatuba/Itaguá (São Paulo): breakfast 0600h, departed 0645h for birding along the Folha Seca road (with the usual incredible hummingbird encore performance at Jonas’s feeders) from 0745–1100h, and then back to Ubatuba for lunch. After lunch, we returned to the hotel, packed up and checked out (1400h), then drove up the coast to Paraty, with brief stops at a couple of birding sites en route, before continuing to our hotel (arriving 1730h). Quick look around the mangroves and the historic town itself where we had a fantastic seafood meal!

10/17 - Paraty (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0500 h, depart 0545 h for Pereque antwren arriving ca. 0730h. Birded trail and road until ca. 1200 h, then, following lunch in, we drove up BR101 to Angra dos Reis and then to BR155 to the Dutra (BR116) and

on to Itatiaia, arriving with time to bird the marsh below the park for about 45 minutes before continuing on to the park and our hotel.

10/18 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0630h, with 0730h departure for the Hotel Simon and the Tres Picos Trail, which we birded until 1245h before returning to the hotel for lunch and break. We had scheduled a 1530h departure for the lowlands below the park, birded till dusk. Tried for owl around hotel after dinner.

10/19 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0500h, departed 0545h for all-day birding (0730–1700h) up the Agulhas Negras Road, to 2300 m elevation (ca. 13 km up the road), and back down before a late arrival in time for dinner at our lodge.

10/20 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 060h, departing at 0645h for the for a couple of hours birding down below the Hotel Donati before returning to the Start of Tres Picos and lower down out of the park. Late 16:00 afternoon run to “Snipe Valley” off the BR-354, where we remained until dusk, before heading back at 1915h and arriving back at the hotel at 2030h after great success.

10/21 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0600h, departing at 0645h pre-dawn owling at last with success! On to the Moromba trail, so different with dead bamboo, after which, we spent the remainder of the morning birding along the main lower Jeep trail. Returning to the hotel to clean up and pack prior to an earlier 12:00 lunch. After lunch at 14:00 we began the drive back to Rio and the airport, where the trip ended. Late evening international flights for some while others stayed in Rio to enjoy the city or took am flights the following day.

10/22 - Morning arrival back in the USA, with connections home.



Surucua Trogon female with breakfast (a moth) – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

KEY:

IN - Intervalles State Park (São Paulo) (including the entrance road)

IT - Itatiaia National Park (Including the Agulhas Negras Road, Snipe Valley, and pastures and marshes below the park on the outskirts of the town of Itatiaia.)

PA - Paraty

PE - Pereque

UB - Ubatuba & Vicinity (Including Fazenda Angelim, Folha Seca and roads in between.)

E - Species endemic to the Atlantic Forest biogeographic region including and surrounding southeast Brazil (including northern Argentina -- mostly Misiones -- and eastern Paraguay). A few of these designated species are endemic to a slightly broader area that includes the Atlantic Forest of northeast Brazil, and/or adjacent Planalto regions of interior southern Brazil. **The names (both English and Latin) of such species are also highlighted in blue.** In several cases, I have **also highlighted in blue, endemic taxa not yet recognized at the species level by the AOU, but which are either already treated as distinct by the Brazilian Check-list Committee, or, which are, in my opinion, particularly likely to be elevated to species level.**

e - subspecies endemic to this biogeographic region (see above). Many of these taxa are geographically isolated from (and morphologically and vocally distinct from) other forms currently considered to be conspecific. Many of these represent potential “splits”, and many are already treated as specifically distinct by some taxonomists.

X - Exotic/Introduced species not native to the region.

***** - heard only

BIRDS:

TINAMOUS (Tinamidae):

Solitary Tinamou (*Tinamus solitarius*) (**E**) - IN

Brown Tinamou (*Crypturellus obsoletus obsoletus*) (**e**) - IN, UB*, IT*

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL (Anatidae):

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) – Biriti Mirim

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

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) - IN

Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) – Biriti Mirim

CHACHALACAS, GUANS & CURASSOWS (Cracidae):

Dusky-legged Guan (*Penelope obscura*) (e) - IN, IT {These birds were of the subspecies *bronzina*, which is not nearly as dusky and dark overall as the nominate birds that are found further south in Rio Grande do Sul}

Black-fronted Piping-Guan (*Pipile jacutinga*) – IN (Excellent studies of several birds feeding and messing around with so many ripe palm fruits they had a feeding bonanza!)

NEW WORLD QUAILS (Odontophoridae):

Spot-winged Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus capueira*) (E) - IN (Simply stunning studies, cute babies too)



A very cute Spot-winged Wood-Quail family – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

FRIGATEBIRDS (Fregatidae):

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificans*) - UB, PE to IT, Rio

BOOBIES & GANNETS (Sulidae):

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) - UB, PA

CORMORANTS (Phalacrocoracidae):

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - São Paulo to IN, UB, Rio

HERONS & EGRETS (*Ardeidae*):

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - São Paulo to IN, IN to UB, PA, PE to IT

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - São Paulo to IN, PA

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - IN, UB to PA, PE to IT

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) - IN

Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*) - UB

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)- PE

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - PE

IBISES & SPOONBILLS (*Threskiornithidae*):

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) - IN

Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*) - IN

NEW WORLD VULTURES (*Cathartidae*):

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - Daily.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - IN, IN to UB, UB, PE to IT

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*)- IT

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – UB (A good find!)

HAWKS, KITES & EAGLES (*Accipitridae*):

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - IN

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) - IN, PE, IT*

Rufous-thighed Kite (*Harpagus diodon*) - IT, UB

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) - IN, PE

Gray-bellied Hawk (*Accipiter poliogaster*) – IN (Wow, a huge female on the nest was a highlight for me of this rare and poorly-known deep forest raptor. So poorly-known, once its immature plumage was considered to be a different species!)

Rufous-thighed Hawk (*Accipiter striatus erythronemius*) - IN (Nice views of a perched adult.), PE

White-necked Hawk (*Buteogallus lacernulatus*) (E) - UB (A wonderful scope study of perched bird then 3 in flight. One to my surprise, presumably a female, looked significantly larger, and I initially figured it would be a Mantled Hawk!) {The transfer of this species from the genus *Leucopternis* to *Buteogallus*, dictated by molecular studies, was somewhat of a surprise given its close resemblance to some of the other species of *Leucopternis*.}

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - IN, IN to UB, PE

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) – PE, IT

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) - IN

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) - IN

RAILS, COOTS & GALLINULES (Rallidae):

Red-and-white Crake (*Laterallus leucopyrrhus*) - IN* (None responsive as they had small young. Sadly not coming in for grain.)

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail (*Aramides saracura*) (E) - IN, IT

Ash-throated Crake (*Porzana albicollis*) - IT (Seen nicely!)

Blackish Rail (*Pardirallus nigricans*)* - IN*

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) - IN to UB {This bird is back to being called a “Gallinule” instead of a “Moorhen,” now that recent molecular studies have demonstrated that the Old World “Common Moorhen” and the New World “Common Gallinule” are not only different species, but also not even closest relatives to one another!}

STILTS & AVOCETS (Recurvirostridae):

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

White-backed Stilt (*Himantopus [mexicanus] melanurus*) - IN to UB {Stilt taxonomy is a mess! Some authorities lump the six taxa of “pied” stilts into a single, near globally distributed species (“Common Stilt”), whereas others break these down into anywhere from one to six different species. The AOU currently treats *melanurus* of southern South America as conspecific with *mexicanus* (Black-necked Stilt), which ranges from North America south all the way to northeastern Brazil. The contact zone between the two forms is worthy of study, to see how much (if any) hybridization occurs.}

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (Charadriidae):

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) - All locales; near daily.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) - PA

JACANAS (Jacanidae):

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) - IN, IN to UB, UB

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES (Scolopacidae):

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) - PE

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) – IN to UB

Giant Snipe (*Gallinago undulata*) - IT (What a treat to hear and have incredible views of this monster as first it flew by displaying with the jet-like noise, and then, better still, crippling views on the ground of this incredible bird at dusk!)

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS (Laridae):

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) - UB, PE to IT

PIGEONS & DOVES (Columbidae):

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – (increasing everywhere at all locales)

Picazuro Pigeon (*Patagioenas picazuro*) - Seen almost daily, and at all locales.

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea plumbea*) (e) - IN*, UB, PE*, IT {Keep track of where you see “Plumbeous Pigeons” because vocal differences strongly suggest that more than one species is involved.}

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - IN, IN to UB, UB, PE, PE to IT, IT

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) - * IN

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - IN

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) - São Paulo to IN, IN, PE to IT, IT (This species seems to be undergoing a population explosion in many parts of Brazil, and is now much more frequently encountered than just a few years ago.)

CUCKOOS & ANIS (Cuculidae):

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*) - IN to UB, IT to Rio

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) - IN to UB, UB, PE to IT

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) - IN, UB*, IT

Pavonine Cuckoo (*Dromococcyx pavoninus*) - * (despite much playback it would not show which is unusual for this genus!)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - IN, PE, IT

TYPICAL OWLS (Strigidae):

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) - IN (A pair on a day roost.) **Ferruginous**

Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) - Leader only.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) - IT

Buff-fronted Owl (*Aegolius harrisii*) – (WOW, what can I say, rightly voted top bird of the trip and a lifer for me too; I had heard several but never got them to show)

Least Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium minutissimum*) - * IN (Non responsive outside the park at dusk first afternoon)

Long-tufted Screech-Owl (*Megascops sanctaecatarinae*) - IN * (Tried so hard they had been taped out and were not interested. Only found here outside the park in the last couple of years!)



The star of the tour, the rarely seen Buff-fronted Owl! – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS (Caprimulgidae):

Short-tailed (Chestnut-banded) Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus nattereri*) - IN, IT {Some authorities advocate splitting this species into three allospecies: nominate birds from the lowlands of Central America and northern S. America (= Short-tailed), a highland form that ranges through much of the Andes from Colombia and Venezuela to Bolivia (= Rufous-bellied), and a lowland form that ranges east of the Andes south to Argentina, but which occurs north of the Amazon to Venezuela as an austral migrant (= Chestnut-banded). The AOU hasn't acted on this, mainly because no real analysis has ever been published.}

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) - *IN

Long-trained Nightjar (*Macropsalis forcipata*) (E) - IN (WOW! Different fabulous males seen on successive nights!)

POTOOS (Nyctibiidae):

Common (Gray) Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) - IN (The "Mother of the Moon"!)

SWIFTS (Apodidae):

Sooty Swift (*Cypseloides fumigatus*) (E) - IN, UB

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Sick's Swift (*Chaetura meridionalis*) (E) - IN to UB, UB, PE, IT {This form was previously considered a subspecies of what was called "Ashy-tailed Swift", *C. andrei*.

Reexamination of the type specimen of the nominate race of Ashy-tailed Swift revealed that it was a misidentified Vaux's Swift! Thus, Ashy-tailed Swift ceased to exist as a valid taxon. However, the disjunct Brazilian "race" *C.a. meridionalis* was recognized as distinct from all other taxa, and elevated to separate species status. It is named after Helmut Sick, the Brazilian ornithologist. This form is an endemic breeder, but occurs as an austral migrant to the Amazon.}

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) - PE

HUMMINGBIRDS (Trochilidae):

Black Jacobin (*Melanotrochilus fuscus*) (E) - IN, UB, PE, PA, IT

Saw-billed Hermit (*Ramphodon naevius*) (E) - UB (Point-blank views!)

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsutus*)

Dusky-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis squalidus*) (E) - IN (Seen so well on the leks; numbers have increased since my last trip)

Reddish Hermit (*Phaethornis ruber*) - UB

Scale-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis eurnome*) (E) - IN, IT

White-vented Violet-ear (*Colibri serrirostris*) - IT

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothonax nigricollis*) - UB

Frilled Coquette (*Lophornis magnifica*) (E) - IT

Festive Coquette (*Lophornis chalybeus chalybeus*) (e) - UB (It was a real treat to see 20+ of these fancy little guys at Folha Seca.) {This, the nominate subspecies, is endemic to the Atlantic Forest of e Brazil, and is likely to be split from the highly disjunct subspecies *klagesi* (se Venezuela) and *verreauxii* (w Amazonia), which differ in several plumage characters. Among other differences, males of the other two forms have a fairly pronounced crest, which is lacking in males of the nominate form.}

Brazilian Ruby (*Clytolaema rubricauda*) (E) - IN, UB, IT (Rightly in the top 7 classic birds)

Amethyst Woodstar (*Calliphlox amethystina*) - IN, UB

Green-crowned Plovercrest (*Stephanoxis lalandi*) (E) - IT (Multiple spectacular males on the lek!) {Recently split from the next species. Males of this northern species [Rio de Janeiro and parts of Minas Gerais and São Paulo] differ from those of southern *loddigesii* in having a more extensive and much brighter purple breast patch, and an emerald-green crest. There are also some vocal differences.}

Purple-crowned Plovercrest (*Stephanoxis loddigesii*) (E) - IN (Multiple spectacular males on the lek!) {Recently split from the preceding species. Males of this southern species *loddigesii* [s São Paulo south into NE Argentina and N Paraguay] differ from those of more northerly *lalandi* in having a darker and more restricted breast patch, and a bluish-purple crest. The latter species [endemic to Brazil], which we saw in Itatiaia, are much brighter and more extensively purple on the breast and have a green crest. There are also some vocal differences.}



A stunning Purple-crowned Plovercrest (male) on its lek perch – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupetomena macrourus*) - UB and around the hotel in SP by all.

Violet-capped Woodnymph (*Thalurania glaucopis*) (E) - IN, UB, PA, PE, IT

Sombre Hummingbird (*Aphantochroa cirrochloris*) (E) - UB

White-throated Hummingbird (*Leucochloris albicollis*) - IN, IT

Versicolored Emerald (*Amazilia versicolor*) - IN, UB, IT

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*) - UB

Sapphire-spangled Emerald (*Amazilia lactea*) - IN

White-chinned Sapphire (*Hylocharis cyanus cyanus*) (e) - UB

TROGONS (Trogonidae):

Green-backed Trogon (*Trogon viridis melanopterus*) (e) - UB {Formerly considered part of the wide-ranging “White-tailed Trogon,” but birds on either side of the Andes are now considered separate species.}

Surucua Trogon (*Trogon surrucura*) (E) - IN, IT {We saw the red-bellied southern race *surrucura*.}

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus chrysochloros*) (e) - IN, IT* {This subspecies is endemic to E Brazil, NE Argentina and E Paraguay.}



A lovely well-behaved Black-throated Trogon male – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

MOTMOTS (Momotidae):

Rufous-capped Motmot (*Barythengus ruficapillus*) (E) - IN *, IT (Took some work but at our hotel it gave great looks)

KINGFISHERS (Alcedinidae):

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

PUFFBIRDS (Bucconidae):

White-eared Puffbird (*Nystalus chacuru*) – IT (Great looks at this cool species)

Crescent-chested Puffbird (*Malacoptila striata*) (E) - PE (Would not come into tape; we heard several, finally one came in but leader only as it flew away across the trail)

JACAMARS (Galbulidae):

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) - PE

TOUCANS & ARACARIS (Ramphastidae):

Saffron Toucanet (*Pteroglossus bailloni*) (E) - IN, IT {Recently subsumed to genus *Pteroglossus* from the monotypic *Baillonius*. These cool birds are much more reliable visitors to the Ypé feeders in August, when there are fewer fruiting trees in the forest. Nonetheless, we had great views.}

Spot-billed Toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*) (E) - IN (Insanely great views of both sexes!)

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*) - IT (increasing) (Good find Jeff)

Red-breasted Toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*) (E) - IN, IT (This cool bird is actually the correct answer to a movie trivia question: What Atlantic Forest endemic appears in the original version of “The Wizard of Oz”? That was the moment when Dorothy really knew she wasn’t in Kansas anymore!)

WOODPECKERS (Picidae):

White-barred Piculet (*Picumnus cirratus cirratus*) (E) - UB, PE, IT

Ochre-collared Piculet (*Picumnus temminckii*) (E) - IN, IN to UB

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes flavifrons*) (E) - IN, UB*, IT*

White-spotted Woodpecker (*Veniliornis spilogaster*) (E) - IN, IT

Yellow-eared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis maculifrons*) (E) - IT

White-browed (Yellow-browed) Woodpecker (*Piculus aurulentus*) (E) - IN (“White-browed Woodpecker” is a most misleading name, given that the brow, in most individuals, is distinctly yellowish.)

Green-barred Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanochloros*) - IN, IT*

Campo Flicker (*Colaptes campestris campestris*) - IN, UB, PE to IT, IT {Most authorities treat this black-throated form as conspecific with *C. campestroides*, the “Field Flicker,” which participants on Part I saw in Rio Grande do Sul. In that case, “Campo Flicker” would have nomenclatural priority.}

Blond-crested Woodpecker (*Celeus flavescens*) (E) - IN*, UB, PE

Helmeted Woodpecker (*Celeus galeatus*) (E) - IN (Fabulous views of a male! Voted second most “Favorite Bird” of the trip.) As I explained, Kevin was an author on a paper in *The Auk* showing that this woodpecker, formerly placed in the genus *Dryocopus*, is actually a *Celeus* [as confirmed by molecular data] and suggesting that the striking plumage parallels between this species and the larger Lineated and Robust woodpeckers is a case of Interspecific Social Dominance Mimicry (ISDM).}

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus erythrops*)* (e) - IN*

Robust Woodpecker (*Campephilus robustus*) (E) - IN, PE, IT (Fantastic studies of this monster)

Yellow-eared Woodpecker - (E) IN (*Veniliornis maculifrons*)

SERIEMAS (Cariamidae):

Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*) – IN (On way to Intervalles seen by some on roadside then all seen well on way out in agricultural hill side.)

FALCONS & CARACARAS (Falconidae):

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis ruficollis*) (e) - IN*, IT (Nice show crossing the road and perching from a pair)

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) – IN (a trip first I think but quick)

Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) - IN, IN to UB, PE, IT {This is now officially split from Crested Caracara, *C. cheriway* group, of northern S. America, Central America and the southwestern U.S.}

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - IN, IN to UB, PE to IT, IT

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) - Leader only.

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) - IT

MACAWS, PARROTS & PARAKEETS (Psittacidae):

Plain Parakeet (*Brotogeris tirica*) (E) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*) - IT

Pileated (Red-capped) Parrot (*Pionopsitta pileata*) (E) - IN, IT* (Good looks at a pair feeding in a fruiting tree right beside our cabin on that first morning at IN. It is a rare treat to see these high-flyers perched, especially at close range, for an extended period.)

Blue-bellied Parrot (*Triclaria malachitacea*) (E) – IN (Great looks in the scope after some work with tape. Can easily be missed and not as vocal as most years)

Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*) - IN, UB*, IT

Blue-winged Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthopterygius*) - IN, UB*, PE*, IT

Maroon-bellied Parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis frontalis*) (e) - Seen every day; all locales. {We saw nominate *frontalis* on this segment. On Part I we encountered the subspecies *chiripepe*, which lacked red on the upper surface of the tail and had red-orange at the bend of the wing.}

Blue-winged Macaw (*Primolius maracana*) - IT (Stunning and inspecting nesting holes at the hotel!)

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*) - PE to IT, IT

TYPICAL ANT BIRDS (Thamnophilidae):

Spot-backed Antshrike (*Hypodaleus guttatus*) (E) - IN*, UB, PA*, PE* (Good looks at this one.)

Giant Antshrike (*Batara cinerea*)* - IN (Seen but was not being easy, it was only heard that one time despite playback at multiple sites where the species is known to occur. Amazingly we didn't even hear one at IT, where we often see them.)

Large-tailed Antshrike (*Mackenziaena leachii*) (E) - IN (This one was tougher than usual; also, we left it till the eleventh hour but enjoyed stellar views of the male, despite much effort. In general, the big antshrikes were not nearly as vocal as they usually are at this time.)

Tufted Antshrike (*Mackenziaena severa*) (E) - IN (Great studies of a male and female.), PE*, IT*

White-bearded Antshrike (*Biatas nigropectus*) (E) - IN, IT (The rarest of the “Big Five,” although you wouldn’t know it from this tour. We had excellent studies of a male at IN and some saw a female at IT, making it 22 years in a row [and counting] for showing this rarity to folks on this tour.)

Rufous-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ruficapillus*) (e) - IN

Chestnut-backed Antshrike (*Thamnophilus palliatus*) - PE (wonderful in your face views as it ate breakfast)

Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens caerulescens*) (e) - IV, IT

Star-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula gularis*) (E) - IN, IT

Spot-breasted Antvireo (*Dysithamnus stictothorax*) (E) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Plain Antvireo (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) (e) - IN, UB, IT

Rufous-backed Antvireo (*Dysithamnus xanthopterus*) (E) - IT (great looks at this classy bird).

Unicolored Antwren (*Myrmotherula unicolor*) (E) - UB (Excellent close studies of this localized, endemic antwren.)

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus rufimarginatus*) (e) - IN*, UB {This, the nominate subspecies, is a near-certain split from other members of this complex.}

Black-hooded Antwren (*Formicivora erythronotos*) (E) - PE {This species, which was known from ca. 20 specimens collected in the latter half of the 1800s, was lost to science until rediscovered in 1987. We enjoyed crippling studies of several pairs.}

São Paulo Antwren (*Stymphalornis sp. novum*) (E) - IN to UB (It took some work, but we eventually cobbled together several looks at a pair that kept playing hide-and-seek in the reeds.) {This species, although discovered several years ago, was just formally described in the last year. I still have some doubts as to whether or not it should be treated as a distinct species, or, as a subspecies of its very close relative, the Marsh (or Paraná) Antwren. Females of the two forms are essentially indistinguishable, and each form responds well to playback of the other -- I know I can’t tell their voices apart! However, males of São Paulo Antwren are nearly black below, whereas male Marsh Antwrens are medium gray. The two forms are disjunctly distributed with respect to one another, so, barring an unlikely range expansion by one or the other, they are likely on different evolutionary trajectories.}

Ferruginous Antbird (*Drymophila ferruginea*) (E) - IN, UB*, IT

Bertoni’s (Rufous-necked) Antbird (*Drymophila rubricollis*) (E) - IN, IT

Rufous-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila genei*) (E) - IT (Perhaps the most striking of the six species of beautiful and endemic members of this genus that were seen on the trip.)

Ochre-rumped Antbird (*Drymophila ochropyga*) (E) - IN

Dusky-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila malura*) (E) - (Seen briefly by some; despite much effort they would not pop up well and show)

Scaled Antbird (*Drymophila squamata*) (E) - UB, PE

Streak-capped Antwren (*Terenura maculata*) (E) - IN, UB*, PE*, IT (down to eye level a couple of times!)

White-shouldered Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leucoptera*) (E) - IN, UB, PE*, IT (Even jogging on the road!)

White-bibbed Antbird (*Myrmeciza loricata*) (E) - IT (A stunner)

Squamate Antbird (*Myrmeciza squamosa*) (E) - IN, UB, PE* (This species was much less conspicuous than usual but seen very well.)



We again nailed one of my favorite antbirds, the rare White-bearded Antshrike (male) –
Photo: Andrew Whittaker

GNATEATERS (Conopophagidae):

Rufous Gnateater (*Conopophaga lineata*) (E) - IN, IT* (This was another species that was amazingly quiet and inconspicuous throughout the tour. We did not even manage to see it except for a blur and a couple of us saw it briefly perch. Despite playback used a lot only a handful of birds were even heard, which is more than a bit scary given that we typically hear/see multiple individuals at most stops on the tour. {Sibley & Monroe treat this taxon of se Brazil, Paraguay, and ne Argentina as distinct from birds of ne Brazil, *C. cearae*, to which they apply the common name of “Caatinga Gnateater”. They use “Silvery-tufted” as the modifier for southern birds. The AOU has elected to stand pat on this one for the time being.})

Black-cheeked Gnateater (*Conopophaga melanops*) (E) - UB (Crippling views of this attractive little endemic!)

ANTPITTAS (Grallaridae):

Variegated Antpitta (*Grallaria varia imperator*) (e) - IN, IT* (WOW WOW one of the trip highlights for me. I still cannot believe they have got it to come in for worms! {This much larger race from e Brazil differs vocally from other populations, and may well be a valid species, *G. imperator*, the “Imperial Antpitta”.})

Speckle-breasted Antpitta (*Hylopezus nattereri*)* (E) - IT* (As we talked about during the tour, these birds are actually pretty different looking and sounding from the birds to the south. Unfortunately, we just couldn’t get any birds at Itatiaia to respond this year and our worm-eating individual never came in, just sung back. Kevin and colleagues, in fact, are in the process of describing the southern birds as a new species.)



What views of this Variegated (Imperial) Antpitta – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

TAPACULOS (Rhinocryptidae):

Spotted Bamboowren (*Psilorhamphus guttatus*) (E) - UB (Amazingly well-seen pair that responded to my speaker so well in the bamboo) Some of you amazingly even got great photos!

"Northern" Slaty Bristlefront (*Merulaxis ater*) (E) - PE (Fabulous views!) {As I explained at the time, this "species" is on the brink of being split. Southern and northern populations, although morphologically nearly indistinguishable, are very different in all of their various vocalizations. The break between the two forms occurs in central São Paulo.}

"Southern" Slaty Bristlefront (E) (*Merulaxis sp. novum*) – IN (We had great encounters with the as-yet-unnamed southern form in Intervalles.

White-breasted Tapaculo (*Eleoscytalopus indigoticus*)* (E) - IN* (Not much vocalization this trip...we tried)

“Northern” Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus speluncae*) (E) - *IT {There is some support for splitting this species based on differences in pace of the loudsongs between northern and southern populations, but to this point the published evidence hasn’t been sufficient to swing the AOU. We saw one of the southern birds in IN and only heard the northern birds on the Agulhas Negras road in IT.}

“Southern” Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus sp. novum*) (E) - IN {See taxonomic note above.}



New species of Bristlefront soon to be named – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

ANTTHRUSHES (Formicariidae):

Rufous-capped Antthrush (*Formicarius colma*) - UB*

Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona*)* (e) - IN (Seen so well)

Cryptic (Such’s) Antthrush (*Chamaeza meruloides*)* (E) - IT (Wow, nailed to its bamboo perch, could not get better looks) {E. Willis, who first pointed out the presence of this previously “nested” taxon, proposed the English name “Such’s Antthrush,” which the AOU has followed. We are following Ridgely & Tudor.}

Rufous-tailed (Brazilian) Antthrush (*Chamaeza ruficauda*) (E) - IT (Also good views of this one classed the Chamaeza on the trip not an easy feat!) {This taxon is restricted to se Brazil, and is now considered to be specifically distinct from the geographically far-removed *C. turdina* and *C. chionogaster* of the Colombian and Venezuelan Andes. The latter two forms are currently lumped under the common name of “Scalloped Antthrush,” although they too may prove to be distinct! Sibley & Monroe use the

common name of “Brazilian Antthrush” for nominate *ruficauda*, whereas the AOU and Ridgely & Tudor retain the established name of Rufous-tailed.}

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS (Furnariidae):

Rufous-breasted Leaftosser (*Sclerurus scansor*) (E) - IN, IT*

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus sylvellus*) (e) - IN, UB, IT {This subspecies is so different in voice and plumage from more northern and western populations of “Olivaceous Woodcreeper” as to be unrecognizable. This is a sure candidate for future splitting.}

Planalto Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes platyrostris platyrostris*) (e) - IN, IT

White-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes albicollis*) (E) - IN, IT (Great looks at the “Beast of the East”!)

Lesser Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus fuscus fuscus*) (E) - IN, IT {Recently moved to the genus *Xiphorhynchus* from *Lepidocolaptes*, and likely to be split into multiple species in the near future. We saw nominate *fuscus*.}

Black-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus falcularius*) (E) - IT (Fabulous studies of this improbable looking bird!)

Scaled Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes squamatus*) (E) - IT

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus minutus*) - PE

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) (e) - IN, IT

Wing-banded Hornero (*Furnarius figulus*) (E) - IT (Nailed this one which has become increasingly common with regional deforestation.)

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*) - IN, IN to UB, PE, IT

Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper (*Lochmias nematura*) - IN (great looks feeding along the trail)

White-collared Foliage-gleaner (*Anabazenops fuscus*) (E) - IN, IT

Pale-browed Treehunter (*Cichlocolaptes leucophrus holti*) (E) - IN {This polytypic species will likely be split. Birds from the southern part of the range, *C. l. holti*, which we saw at IN, are morphologically and vocally distinct from the nominate birds, which we sometimes see (but not this year) in IT. The break between the two forms seems to be in northern São Paulo state.}

“Northern” Sharp-billed Treehunter (*Heliobletus contaminatus contaminatus*) (E) - IT {We saw two subspecies on this segment of the tour: nominate *contaminatus* (unstreaked mantle and lightly streaked underparts, without strong yellowish or buff tones to the face, throat and supercilium) at IT, and the more southerly *camargoi* (distinguished by its more extensively streaked back and underparts, and by the stronger yellowish tinge to the supercilium, face and throat) at IN. The two forms supposedly intergrade in n São Paulo state, but vocal and morphological differences suggest that they could represent distinct species.}

“Southern” Sharp-billed Treehunter (*Heliobletus contaminatus camargoi*) (e) - IN {See taxonomic note under preceding account.}

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor atricapillus*) (E) - *UB

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufus*) - IN, IT

White-browed Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia amaurotis*) (E) - IN, IT (Excellent views!
On a few occasions we were even shown its nest!)

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) (e) - IN, IT* (Non
responsive)

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus leucophthalmus*) (E) - IN, UB, PE* {This
species was recently split into two: birds from Bahia south (= White-eyed), and birds
from Sergipe north to Pernambuco in ne Brazil (= Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner). The
two look nearly identical in the field, but have very different voices.}

Orange-eyed Thornbird (*Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*) (E) - UB, PE, IT {What was
called “Red-eyed Thornbird” is now recognized to have consisted of two species that are
very distinct vocally and morphologically. The two forms are even known to nest in
many of the same marshes in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo states without interbreeding.
We had excellent studies of both species. This, the species with the glaring orange eye
and less orange on the underparts, was seen nicely at UB, PE and IT. Both species are
endemic to the Atlantic Forest region.}

Orange-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*) (E) - IN {See preceding
taxonomic discussion.}

Firewood-gatherer (*Anumbius annumbi*) – IT (Two great looks one constructing its
nest!)

Itatiaia (Spinetail) Thistletail (*Oreophylax moreirae*) (E) - IT (It took some work, but
we eventually got nice views of this highland endemic.)

Pallid Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pallida*) (E) - IN, IT

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomea*) - IT

Rufous-capped Spinetail (*Synallaxis ruficapilla*) (E) - IN, IT

Gray-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis cinerascens*) (E) - *IN

Spix's (Chicli) Spinetail (*Synallaxis spixi*) - IT

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

Araucaria Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura setaria*) (E)– IN (Great studies)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (Tyrannidae):

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) - IN, IT

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) - IT

Gray-backed Tachuri (*Polystictus superciliaris*) - (E) (Wow, a trip first and a real
surprise to me. I had no idea this cool-looking and very localized endemic was here.
When I heard it so far away I even doubted myself, thinking it could be a frog that
sounded similar. Only in the last year has it been found here by a local bird guide with
only 2 previous records!)

Gray Elaenia (*Myiopagis caniceps caniceps*)* (e) - IT {This race shows relatively little
sexual dimorphism, and differs vocally from Amazonian birds. A split seems likely.}

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - IN, PA, IT

Small-billed Elaenia (*Elaenia parvirostris*) - IN

Olivaceous Elaenia (*Elaenia mesoleuca*) - IN*, IT* (Just come in and non-responsive,
very few heard declining?)

Highland Elaenia (*Elaenia obscura sordida*) (e) - IN

White-crested Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga subcristata*) - IT

Gray-hooded Flycatcher (*Mionectes rufiventris*) (E) - IN, IT

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) - IN, UB*, PE*, IT

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes ventralis*) - IT

São Paulo Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes paulistus*) (E) - IN, PE (Great looks at this rare and hyperactive little sprite, whose Brazilian nickname (*ele não pode parar*) means “he can’t stop.” Not the bird that posed for us!)

Oustalet’s Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes oustaleti*) (E) - IN (The tail shiverer!)

Serra do Mar Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes difficilis*) (E) - IT

Bay-ringed Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes sylviolus*) (E) - IN (Watched building its nest)

Rough-legged Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias burmeisteri burmeisteri*) (e) – IN, UB* {Generic and species limits within this group remain controversial. This species was formerly placed in a monotypic genus, *Acrochordopus* (named for a type of wart, and referencing the rough-scaled appearance of the legs of these tyrannulets), which was later subsumed into *Phyllomyias*. That genus, as currently constituted, is almost certainly polyphyletic, and will likely be split up. Meanwhile, taxonomists cannot agree on species limits within “Rough-legged Tyrannulet,” with some authorities recognizing only a single, wide-ranging species (Rough-legged Tyrannulet) from Central America to Argentina, whereas others treat *zeledoni* of Costa Rica/Panama as one species, the various Andean populations as another, and the nominate birds, which are largely restricted to the Atlantic Forest region, as a third. I personally favor this latter approach, but, pending a published analysis, the AOU is sticking with the one-species treatment for the time being.}

Greenish Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias virescens*) – IN, IT

Planalto Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias fasciatus brevirostris*) (e) - IN, IT

Gray-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseocapilla*) (E) - IN, UB, IT (Found building a nest)

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis auricularis*) (E) - IN, IT (So cute)

Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus diops*) (E) - IN, IT (The “Wicked Witch of the East”) {Also known as “Drab-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant”.}

Brown-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus obsoletus*)* (E) - IN*, IT* (The “Wicked Witch of the West.”) {Also known as “Brown-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant.” We saw the subspecies *obsoletus* at IT.}

Hangnest Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus nidipendulus*) (E) - IN

Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus furcatus*) (E) - UB (Crippling looks at this attractive and rare little flycatcher.), IT*. {Also known as “Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant.”}

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum plumbeiceps plumbeiceps*) (e) - IN, IT

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - IT

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphureus sulphureus*) (e) - IN*, UB, PE, IT {Look for this complex to be split multiple ways in the near future.}

White-throated Spadebill (*Platyrrhinus mystaceus*) - IN, IT*

Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea bellicosa*) - IN, UB to IT, IT {Sibley & Monroe treat this taxon as distinct from nominate *ferruginea*, calling these eastern/southern birds “Swallow Flycatcher,” a treatment that hasn’t gained much support.}

Whiskered (Yellow-rumped) Flycatcher (*Myiobius barbatus mastacalis*) (e) - IN {The taxonomy of this whole genus is a mess. Some taxonomists lump all of the members of this species complex into a single species, “Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher.” Others split the birds east of the Andes as Whiskered Flycatcher. Still others split the isolated Atlantic Forest population from the Amazonian birds, and call them “Yellow-rumped Flycatcher.” I think the latter is the best treatment, but the AOU is waiting for a published vocal analysis before making this move.}

Black-tailed (Buff-rumped) Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus ridgwayi*) (e) - IT {This is yet another case in which an endemic, disjunctly distributed “subspecies” is considered by many to be worthy of recognition as a distinct species, separate from widespread “Black-tailed Flycatcher.” But, as with the preceding species, there is still no published analysis on which to hang our taxonomic hats!}

Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) - IN, IT

Euler’s Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus euleri*) - IN, UB, PE, IT {Formerly placed in the genus *Empidonax*.}

Blue-billed Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus cyanirostris*) - IT

Crested Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus lophotes*) - IN to UB, UB to IT, IT

Yellow-browed Tyrant (*Satrapa icterophrys*) - IN

Velvety Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus nigerrimus*) (E) - IT

Gray Monjita (*Xolmis cinereus*) - IT *

White-rumped Monjita (*Xolmis velatus*) - IT

Streamer-tailed Tyrant (*Gubernetes yetapa*) - PE to IT, IT (Not an endemic, but this one is always a big hit due to its wild display!)

Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant (*Muscipira yetapa*) (E) - IN, IT

Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*) - UB to IT, IT (The “washer woman.”)

Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosus*) - IN, PE to IT, IT

Large-headed Flatbill (*Ramphotricon megacephala megacephala*) (e) - IN, IT {This subspecies differs vocally and morphologically from the more widespread Amazonian populations, and represents a potential split.}

Rufous-tailed Attila (*Attila phoenicurus*) - IN, IT* (This species is an austral migrant, and one of the last breeders to arrive.)

Gray-hooded Attila (*Attila rufus*) (E) - IN, PE, IT

Sibilant Sirystes (*Sirystes sibilator*) (E) - IN, IT* {What was called simply “Sirystes” has now been split into 4 species, a move that was long overdue given the significant vocal and morphological differences between the various populations. Ridgely had long treated the complex as two species, with the break on either side of the Andes, but the situation was clearly more complicated than a simple two-way split. This, the nominate form, is essentially a regional endemic that extends from the Atlantic Forest into adjacent southcentral Brazil.}

Swainson’s Flycatcher (*Myiarchus swainsoni*) - IN, IT

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - Seen daily; all locales.

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) - IN, PE

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - Seen at all locales; nearly daily.

Three-striped Flycatcher (*Conopias trivirgatus trivirgatus*) (e) - IN

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus solitarius*) - Seen daily; all locales.

{More than one species is almost certainly included within the “Streaked Flycatcher complex.” The birds we saw are austral migrants that breed throughout se Brazil, but range widely (particularly to the Amazon Basin) during the austral winter. They are much more boldly streaked and darker overall than are other populations from Central America and northern South America.}

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) - IN, UB

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - Daily; all locales.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) - IN, IN to UB, PE to IT, IT

SHARPBILL (*Oxyruncidae*):

“Sooretama” Sharpbill (*Oxyruncus cristatus cristatus*) (e) - IN {Sharpbill has a large, but highly fragmented distribution, and there are marked plumage and [especially] vocal differences between some of the populations. The isolated Atlantic Forest population [nominate subspecies] is very different from all of the others, and I have little doubt that it will prove to be a distinct species.}

COTINGAS (*Cotingidae*):

Hooded Berryeater (*Carpornis cucullatus*) (E) - IN (A real cool looker, exceptional views)

Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (*Pyroderus scutatus scutatus*) (e) - IN (Incredible; we saw 4 one morning before getting away from our lodgings! An absolutely spectacular bird!)

Cinnamon-vented Piha (*Lipaugus lanioides*) (E) - IN * (None responded to tape sadly)

Black-and-gold Cotinga (*Tijuca atra*) (E) - IT (Prolonged scope views of a wonderful singing male.)

Bare-throated Bellbird (*Procnias nudicollis*) (E) - IN, UB, IT* (Good looks at this always-easy-to-hear but often difficult-to-see species.)

Swallow-tailed Cotinga (*Phibalura cristata*) (E) - IN, IT (We had great looks at adults attending active nests in both IN and IT.) {With the recent rediscovery of the isolated Bolivian population, and possible elevation of those birds to species-level, the nominate birds will represent yet another Atlantic Forest endemic.}

MANAKINS (*Pipridae*):

Serra Tyrant-Manakin (*Neopelma chrysolophum*) (E) - IN, IT* (Fabulous close studies!) {This form has recently been treated as specifically distinct from Wied’s Tyrant-Manakin,

N. aurifrons. For a time, it was known as “Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin”, but that name was not really accurate, since the species is not confined to the Serra do Mar.]

Swallow-tailed (Blue) Manakin (*Chiroxiphia caudata*) (E) - IN, UB*, PE, IT

Pin-tailed Manakin (*Illicura militaris*) (E) - IN*, IT

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*) - UB, PE

TITYRAS & ALLIES (Tityridae):

Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*) - IN

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - IN, PE

Greenish Schiffornis (*Schiffornis virescens*) (E) - IN {Formerly called “Greenish Manakin” or “Greenish Mourner.”}

Buff-throated Purpletuft (*Iodopleura pipra*) (E) - UB (After much work I managed to call one in with owl imitations. Then we nailed a pair at PE where we had great scope views of them!)

Green-backed Becard (*Pachyramphus viridis*)

Chestnut-crowned Becard (*Pachyramphus castaneus castaneus*) (e) - IN, UB, PE, IT

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) - IN, PE

Black-capped Becard (*Pachyramphus marginatus*)

Crested Becard (*Pachyramphus validus*) - IN, UB, IT

TYRANNI INCERTAE SEDIS (which means we don’t know where they belong taxonomically!):

Wing-barred Piprites (*Piprites chloris*) - IN

Black-capped Piprites (*Piprites pileata*) (E) - IT (Prolonged, close studies of this handsome endemic – the best group experience with this bird that I’ve ever had!)

VIREOS, GREENLETS & ALLIES (Vireonidae):

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus chivi*) (e) - Daily; all locales visited. {As we talked about during the tour, these are not migrants from North America. Rather, they are a separate taxon that breeds in this region and spends the austral winter in Amazonia. Some authorities already treat this as a separate species (= Chivi Vireo); others are waiting for a more comprehensive analysis.}

Rufous-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus poecilotis*) (E) - IN, IT

Lemon-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus thoracicus thoracicus*) (e) - PE {This endemic subspecies could be split from birds of the Amazonian lowlands, based primarily on vocal and ecological differences.}

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis ochrocephala*) (e) - IN*, UB*, PE, IT

JAYS, CROWS & MAGPIES (Corvidae):

Curl-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax cristatellus*) - IT (very briefly by some)

SWALLOWS (Hirundinidae):

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) - Daily; all locales.

Tawny-headed Swallow (*Alopochelidon fucata*) – IT (Wonderful show of family going to sleep in nesting hole)

White-thighed Swallow (*Atticora tibialis*) - UB

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - Almost daily.

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - IN, IN to UB, UB, PE

White-rumped Swallow (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*) - IN, IT

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)- UB

WRENS (Troglodytidae):

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - Daily.

Long-billed Wren (*Thryothorus longirostris longirostris*) (E) - PE

GNATWRENS & GNATCATCHERS (Sylviidae):

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - IN, UB

THRUSHES (Turdidae):

Yellow-legged Thrush (*Turdus flavipes*) (e) - IN, UB, IT

Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*) - UB, IT

Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*) - Daily.

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*) - IV, IT, RE

(Eastern Slaty Thrush) (*Turdus nigriceps subalaris*) (E)– IN * IT (Very interesting to see this plumage, a first for me. A presumably first year male moulting from female into male plumage with a partial gray back! Seen very well in scope feeding on palm fruits)

White-necked Thrush (*Turdus albicollis albicollis*) (e) - IV, UB {This, the nominate race, along with *crotopezus*, is much brighter in coloration, having rich rufous flanks and an extensively bright yellow bill, than are northern and western populations, although vocalizations do not seem to differ much.}

THRASHERS & MOCKINGBIRDS (Mimidae):

Chalk-browed Mockingbird (*Mimus saturninus*) - IN IN to UB, UB, PE to IT, IT

WAGTAILS & PIPITS (Motacillidae):

Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*) - IT (Fabulous responsive bird walked almost into our feet!)

NEW WORLD WARBLERS (Parulidae):

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis velata*) - IN, IT (Vocal differences suggest some possible splits in this complex. In Brazil nominate birds north of the Amazon are very different vocally)

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) - IN, PE*

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) - IN, IT

White-rimmed (White-browed) Warbler (*Basileuterus leucoblepharus*) (E) - IN, IT

Riverbank Warbler (*Phaeothlypis rivularis*) - UB* {Previously known by the names of “River Warbler” and “Neotropical River Warbler.”} (Non responsive blighters).

TANAGERS, HONEYCREEPERS & ALLIES (Thraupidae):

Brown Tanager (*Orchesticus albeillei*) (E) - IN, IT

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leverianus*) - IN, IT

Olive-green Tanager (*Orthogonys chloricterus*) (E) - IN, UB, IT

Chestnut-headed Tanager (*Pyrrhocomma ruficeps*) - IN *

Black-goggled Tanager (*Trichothraupis melanops*) - IN, IT

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus brunneus*) (e) - UB, PE {This is a disjunct race that occurs only in coastal Brazil from Paraíba to São Paulo.}

Ruby-crowned Tanager (*Tachyphonus coronatus*) (E) - All locales; seen daily.

Brazilian Tanager (*Ramphocelus bresilius*) (E) - UB, PE, IT

Diademed Tanager (*Stephanophorus diadematus*) (E) - IN, IT

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) - All locales; seen daily.

Azure-shouldered Tanager (*Thraupis cyanoptera*) (E) - IN

Golden-chevroned Tanager (*Thraupis ornata*) (E) - IN, UB, IT

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - UB, IT

Chestnut-backed Tanager (*Tangara preciosa*) - IN

Burnished-buff Tanager (*Tangara cayana*) - IN, IT

Green-headed Tanager (*Tangara seledon*) (E) - All sites; near daily.

Red-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanocephala*) (E) - IN, UB (This is my personal favorite of eastern Brazil’s many flashy endemic tanagers!)

Brassy-breasted Tanager (*Tangara desmaresti*) (E) - IN, IT (Incredible views of this knockout!)

Guilt-edged Tanager (*Tangara cyanoventris*) (E) - IT (Stunning too!)

Swallow-Tanager (*Tersina viridis*) - IN, PE, IT

Black-legged Dacnis (*Dacnis nigripes*) (E) - IN (Hard to believe, but this is in fact one of the rarest of the Atlantic Forest endemics. We were shown a nest and amazingly found a nest of our own, and also saw multiple cool-looking males!)

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - UB

Rufous-headed Tanager (*Hemithraupis ruficapilla*) (E) - IN, IT

Blue-and-yellow Tanager (*Pipraeidea bonariensis*) – IN (A trip first)

Chestnut-vented Conebill (*Conirostrum speciosum*) - IT

Bay-chested Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza thoracica*) (E) - IT

Buff-throated Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza lateralis*) (E) - IT {As we talked about extensively during the tour, what was called “Red-rumped Warbling-Finch [*Poospiza lateralis*] has recently been split into two species: the more northern *lateralis*, and the more southern *cabanisi*. The former, which is restricted to the mountains of coastal se Brazil (states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro), has very little supercilium, and is grayer-backed with a buffy throat and extensively deep-rufous chest and flanks. The latter form is found farther south and into Paraguay, Uruguay, and n Argentina, and is browner-backed with a distinct white superciliary and a gray throat and chest. The AOU has accepted the split. Ridgely suggested the modifiers of “Buff-throated” for *lateralis* and “Gray-throated” for *cabanisi*, and the AOU has adopted these as well.}

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) - All locales; seen daily.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - PE, IT

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) - IN *

Double-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*) - IN, UB, IT

Temminck's Seedeater (*Sporophila falcirostris*) (E)– IN (nice looks)

Buffy-fronted Seedeater (*Sporophila frontalis*) (E) - IN, IT (What a songster, great looks.)

Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*Sporophila angolensis*) - PE

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - IN, UB, PE, IT (Right on Dorothy)

Green-winged Saltator (*Saltator similis*) (e) - IN, PE, IT

Black-throated Grosbeak (*Saltator fuliginosus*) (e) - UB

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES (Emberizidae):

Grassland Sparrow (*Ammodramus humeralis*) - IT

Half-collared Sparrow (*Arremon semitorquatus*) (E) – PE, IT (Super cool looks at this great looking colorful sparrow. I was amazed to hear several at IT, as I had never recorded them here before in almost 30 years!)

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - IN, IT

CARDINALS & ALLIES (Cardinalidae):

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) - IN, UB

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES (Icteridae):

Chopi Blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*) - IT
Chestnut-capped Blackbird (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*) - IT
Yellow-rumped Marshbird (*Pseudoleistes guirahuro*) - IT
Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) - All sites; near daily.
Golden-winged Cacique (*Cacicus chrysopterus*) - IN, IT
Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*) - UB, PE, IT
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) - UB

SISKINS, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES (Fringillidae):

Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*) - UB
Green-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chalybea*) - IN
Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*) – IN (wonderful looks at this not too common stunner!)
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia pectoralis*) **(E)** - IN, UB, PE, IT
Blue-naped Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia cyanea cyanea*) **(e)** - IT (Fantastic tape responsive male down to eye level) {This endemic race is more extensively blue above than some of the more northern races, which are green-backed with blue restricted to the nape. SE Brazil birds also lack the yellow frontlet that characterizes most other races.}
Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*) - IT
Hooded Siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*) - IN, IT

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (Passeridae):

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) **X** - Widespread in cities and towns.

WEAVERS & ALLIES (Ploceidae):

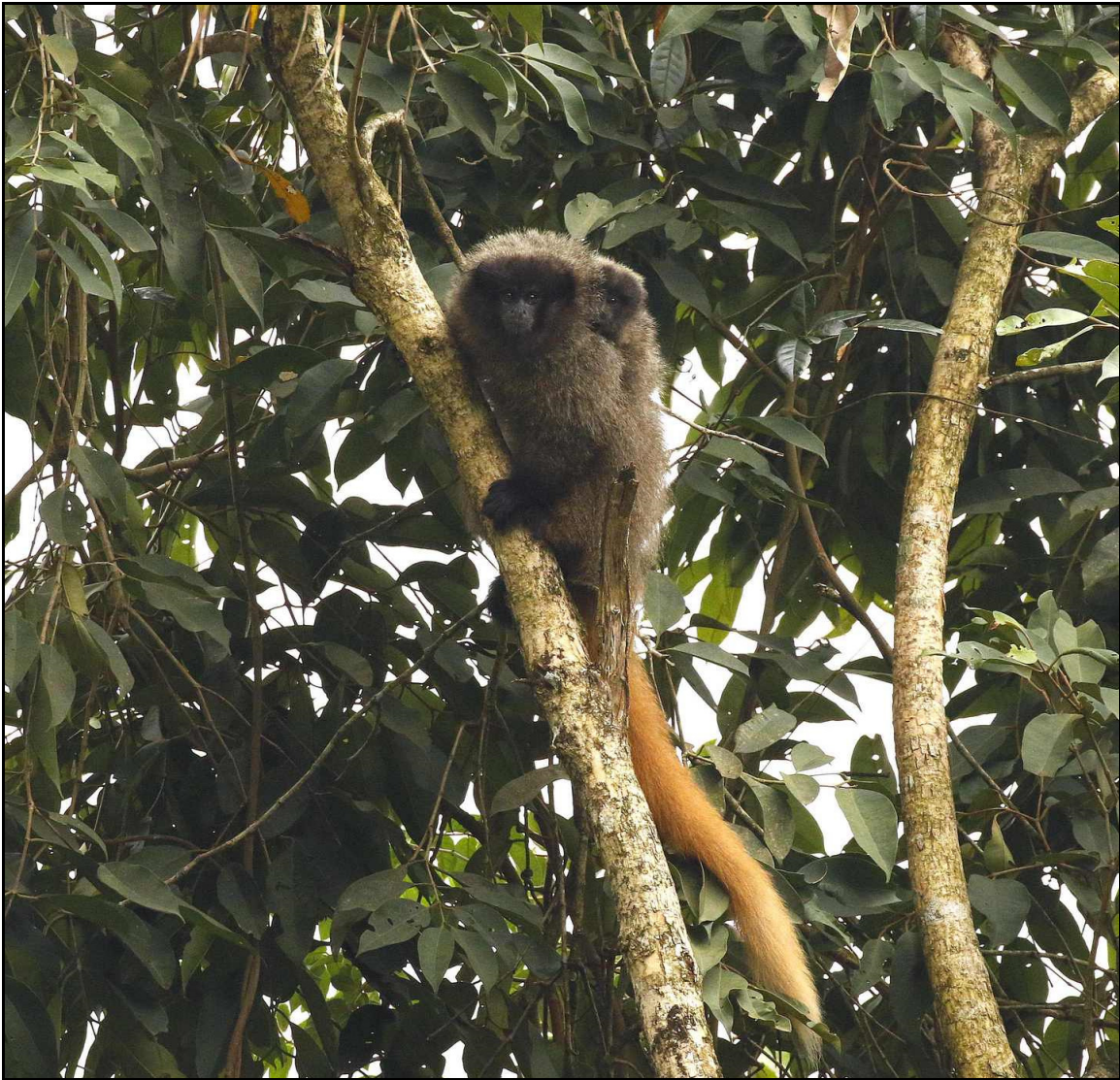
Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) **X** - IT

TOTAL = 391 species, including 140 regional (mostly Atlantic Forest) and/or Brazilian endemics (Not to mention many more endemic subspecies that are certain to be split in future taxonomic changes.)

MAMMALS:

Maned Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypterus torquatus*)
Southern Masked Titi Monkey (*Callicebus personatus*) - IT
Brown (Tufted) Capuchin (*Cebus apella*) - IT
Brazilian (Guianan) Squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*) - IN, IT

Tropical Cottontail (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*)
Crab-eating (Savanna) Fox (*Cerdocyon thous*)



Southern Masked Titi with baby – Photo: Andrew Whittaker

HERPS:

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu Lizard (*Tupinambis merianae*) - IN

Black-eared Toad (*Bufo icterotis*) - IT

Smooth-horned Frog (*Proceratophrys boiei*)

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:

unidentified huge snails - 2 different species at IN