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BRAZIL: THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST



Brazilian Laniisoma – one of the highlights of our trip to Regua © David Walsh

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BRAZIL: THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST

29 June – 8 July 2022

Leader and Trip Report: David Walsh

Local guide: Adilei Carvalho da Cunha

Participants: Thomas Bravo, David Garner, Nigel Hewitt, John Sykes and Louise Sykes

Introduction

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil is one of the richest areas on earth for endemic birds and other wildlife, and the lodge at REGUA (Reserva Ecologica de Guapiacu) provided us with an ideal base from which to explore it. Our flight to Rio was direct, and it was wonderful being able to travel less than two hours from the airport and unpack just once for the whole trip!

We spent around half our time in areas not far from the lodge, birding at the newly created wetlands as well as the lowland pastures and sections of primary and secondary rainforest in the foothills which we explored on well-marked trails.

In between, we made four thoroughly rewarding day trips to special habitats: coastal restinga, Atlantic dry forest and the Serra dos Orgaos hills. Early July proved to be a superb time to visit south-east Brazil, with sunny and warm weather throughout, and low humidity.

Our local guide was truly outstanding, helping us to record an astonishing 326 bird species during the holiday, certainly the most I have ever encountered on a one-centre tour of this length and well above expectations.

We managed to find a high proportion of the 'key' species. At REGUA we had amazing views of a Brazilian Laniisoma along the Forest Trail on our first morning and also found a White-necked Hawk near the lodge. Nearby we had the privilege of seeing a Giant Snipe on the ground and, on our last morning, we finally saw several Bare-throated Bellbirds out in the open!

Close views of several Three-toed Jacamars and a soaring pair of Chaco Eagles were the highlights of our visit to the dry forest near Carmo. Our trip to Cabo Frio gave us Black-backed Tanager and Restinga Antwren in the restinga and a variety of more familiar coastal species on the lagoons.

We spent two days in the hills. At Macae de Cima we found Black-and-gold Cotinga and White-bearded Antshrike, whilst the higher elevations on Pico da Caledonia gave us Rufous-tailed Antthrush and our second Green-crowned Plovercrest.

Beyond the birds, we enjoyed seeing Sloths, Marmosets, Cabybaras and Caimans as well as a plethora of colourful butterflies and a number of moths at the lodge.

We were the first group to visit the REGUA lodge since before the pandemic and were warmly welcomed and splendidly looked after. I am very much looking forward to returning in July 2023.

Trip Diary

Wednesday 29th June

The UK-based members of the group met at Heathrow's Terminal 5, excited to be heading abroad for the first time in well over two years! Our British Airways flight departed late but most of the time was made up so, after a little over 10 hours in the air, we arrived in Rio de Janeiro at 8.30pm local time, just 20 minutes behind schedule.

Immigration and baggage reclaim were remarkably quick, so it wasn't long before we met up with Alcenir from REGUA and Tom from our group.

The journey to our lodge took around two hours and was, surprisingly, a rather tortuous affair on this occasion, with the regular REGUA minibus out of action. On arrival we were soon in our rooms with sandwiches, soft drinks and beers ready for us and we retired in eager anticipation of our first day's birding.

Thursday 30th June

Mainly cloudy, light drizzle early morning only, 17-23°C

It was just getting light as we surfaced a little before 6.30am for breakfast. Violet-capped Woodnymphs and Swallow-tailed Hummingbirds were whizzing around the feeders, whilst a group of Common Marmosets tucked into the bananas close to the trees. In general, the garden feeders were much less 'birdy' than on my two previous visits. One theory was that the marmosets were preventing the birds from appearing, but in the past they had fed together. I suspect that it was probably more the fact that the lodge hadn't been able to host visitors for over two years and thus the feeders hadn't been stocked. Time will tell!

For an hour or so we remained in the lodge garden and enjoyed the birds appearing in a nearby fruiting tree. The first birding on any tour is always exciting, and we were pleased to watch Channel-billed Toucans and Scaly-headed Parrots plus our first Picazuro Pigeons. Adilei, our guide for the whole trip, arrived and alerted us to two Orange-winged Amazons flying over.

At 8am we set off on foot, using the shortcut to head down to the wonderful wetlands which have been created in the last few years. Completed as recently as 2010, they comprise small lakes, marshland and replanted tapebuia trees.

Capybara, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, Wattled Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Brazilian Teal, wild Muscovy Duck and Masked Water Tyrant were expected, a Least Grebe less so, my first at the site.

A Capped Heron was scoped in a tree before a cracking Rufescent Tiger Heron was spotted at close range. We found our first Yellow-chinned Spinetails, the call superficially similar to Rufous-sided Crake; we heard the latter, but it remained 'heard only' for all but one of us. In contrast, a Blackish Rail close to the path showed to all, albeit briefly. A stunning Chestnut-backed Antshrike posed for photographs at point blank range before we left the wetlands for a while and headed along a section of the Forest (Brown) Trail. A Brown-throated (Three-toed) Sloth was found, motionless, high in a tree; we couldn't see the brown throat, but confirmed it had three toes!



Chestnut-backed Antshrike © John Sykes

A tour to REGUA in June/July, as opposed to September/October, generally coincides with fine, sunny weather in pleasant temperatures (although today was murky with a little drizzle). It also offers the chance to see species which are altitudinal migrants, spending the southern summer higher up (and out of range) then descending for the winter. One of these is Brazilian Laniisoma (called Shrike-like Cotinga in some guides). It is the top target for many visiting

birders, and our group was no exception. We were fortunate that one had been staked out along the trail and it obliged almost immediately! We had incredible views and I even managed to get a phone-scoped photograph. A candidate for *Bird of the Trip* shortly after 10am on our first morning!



We were on a roll, and Southern Antpipit, Black-necked Aracari, White-bearded and Blue Manakins, Silvery-flanked Antwren, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Sooretama Slaty Antshrike and Long-billed Wren all performed well, in sequence, one at a time, allowing us to enjoy them properly without feeling rushed. Eventually fatigue set in – we had had a short night – so we declared and strolled back to the lodge, delayed only by a fabulous Rufous-tailed Jacamar at eye level. What a morning to start the tour!

Rufous-tailed Jacamar © David Walsh

The pattern on our ‘local’ days was to have a hot lunch at the lodge around 1pm and then a short break until mid-afternoon. Today’s interlude allowed us to meet Nicholas Locke, the REGUA President and inspiration behind the project.

At 3pm we set off again, this time in the truck with which we would become very familiar! An area of local farmland produced our first Guira Cuckoos as well as fly-over Blue-winged Macaws, a species I had only seen previously at some distance from REGUA. We stopped at an area of woodland with various names including Flagmento; it was, we were told, noted for its Bare-throated Bellbirds. Unfortunately, they hadn’t read the script and were totally silent this afternoon. In fact, the path was pretty birdless with Yellow-breasted Flatbill and Sepia-capped Flycatcher our only sightings.

I suggested to Adilei that we should head back to the farmland, and this proved an inspired decision. Here there were ‘too many birds’ so we didn’t know where to look! Southern Lapwing (complete with spurs), Whistling Heron, Red-cowled Cardinal, Smooth-billed Ani and Lineated Woodpecker were seen in the wet pasture on one side of the road before we turned round and tried to lure out a calling Ash-throated Crake. We didn’t succeed, but other birds

were very inquisitive and we had close views of Grey Pileated Finch, the male a real stunner, plus Blue Dacnis and Yellow-bellied Elaenia.

We decided to return to the wetlands for dusk, hoping to find a large roost of Western Cattle Egrets. They had obviously moved to a different location, but we had other rewards including a group of 20 Brazilian Tanagers in the reeds. At 5.15pm, we decided it was time to return to the lodge and headed up the shortcut. A Rusty-margined Guan was feeding on the bananas and one of the recently introduced Brazilian Tapirs came to say hello!

Our first round of complimentary caipirinhas, the Brazilian national cocktail, was well received as we did the bird list at 6.30pm before our 7pm dinner. We had had a very productive and enjoyable first full day at REGUA and headed to bed well before 9pm in anticipation of our first excursion tomorrow.

Friday 1st July

Sunny intervals, dry, 17-24°C

We met for breakfast at 6am in preparation for a 6.30am departure; this would be our routine on excursion days.

Our transport today was a truck and a car, driven by Loan and Alcenir respectively, and the journey would take around three hours each way, our longest drive of the tour. We drove south then west before turning north and crossing the spectacular Serra dos Orgaos mountain range, heading for the town of Teresopolis. Our first stop was unplanned, but the roadside vegetation produced a perched Dusky-legged Guan plus our first Scale-throated Hermit and White-throated Hummingbird.

With our 'convoy' back in place, we descended into completely different habitat, dry grassland, and just before reaching Alem Paraiba we stopped suddenly. A group of Curl-crested Jays had been spotted; we were able to scope them for ages. Our only Firewood-gatherer of the tour was an additional bonus.

After making a pit stop, complete with Hooded and Palm Tanagers, we made for our destination, Carmo, and up through the town on a rough road to the top of a hill for our main walk of the day. The remnants of Atlantic dry forest are thoroughly degraded, but still support a wide variety of bird life including several endemics. We had a wonderfully productive hour strolling along a track with our two main targets, Serra Antwren and Three-toed Jacamar both seen early on and very well.



A Ferruginous Pygmy Owl sat out in the open for ages and acted as a magnet for an array of species including Glittering-bellied and Sapphire-spangled Emeralds, White-barred Piculet, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Euler's Flycatcher, Chivi Vireo, Green-winged Saltator, Tropical Parula and Chestnut-vented Conebill. A Magpie Tanager was our first write-in, a real surprise.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl © David Walsh

A little further on we found an obliging Crescent-chested Puffbird, a pair of Burnished-buff Tanagers,

a Squirrel Cuckoo then compared Short-crested and Brown-crested Flycatchers.

A Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture drifted over before we found a patch of shade for the first of our splendid picnic lunches, the drivers having followed with the vehicles. We were on the point of finishing when Nigel became aware of a calling raptor so moved to an open spot and scanned. Right above him was a pair of Chaco Eagles, another of the 'most-wanted' species on our list. We enjoyed superb views: what a bonus!

In the afternoon, we drove along a track on the other side of town, with open grassland and scattered bushes on both sides; this area is in the vicinity of Sumidouro. Birds were few and far between at first, but we found White-bellied Seedeater and Bran-coloured Flycatcher plus our first Savanna and Roadside Hawks. Time was short, so I urged Adilei to concentrate on his main target. At our last stop, he found it with not one but three White-eared Puffbirds sitting up nicely for us! A scopable Toco Toucan was also very welcome, and we enjoyed Common Tody-Flycatcher and Purple-throated Euphonia to our left and Streamer-tailed Tyrants to our right.

At 3pm we began our return journey, soon arriving back on the main road. A Crested Black Tyrant was noted by those in the front vehicle, but unfortunately there was nowhere to stop. A little later, we were more fortunate, finding a pull in just after I spotted a White-tailed Hawk; whilst we were watching it, Adilei found another target bird, Red-legged Seriema; a pity it was miles away!

Breaking our journey with a coffee stop, we arrived home more or less on schedule, at 6.10pm, meeting at 7pm for dinner and tonight doing the list afterwards. It had been a long day, but a thoroughly rewarding one with a host of sought-after species being seen, mostly very well.

Saturday 2nd July

Sunny, calm, 14-27°C

Breakfast today was scheduled for 6.30am. We had just found our first Green-headed Tanagers when Adilei appeared at 7am. He immediately heard the call of a Grey-crowned Flatbill, a bird he had found earlier in the year as a 'first for REGUA'; it was mobile, but we had fine views.

We boarded the truck and headed north-east through the farmland for around six kilometres before stopping at a gate. There were clearly lots of birds about, so we paused. A wise decision! A Crane Hawk flew in and landed on top of a tree behind us, but we were mostly occupied trying to sift through the passerines in a feeding flock. These included White-chinned Sapphire, Streaked Xenops, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Azure-shouldered and Flame-crested Tanagers, female Red-legged Honeycreeper and Chestnut-crowned Becard. Most of us managed respectable views of the key species.

We regrouped and drove the short distance to the start of the Waterfall (Green) Trail. We had no need to aim for the waterfall itself, instead choosing to slowly ascend the relatively wide path and stop when we saw or heard something of interest. The first of these was a Rough-legged Tyrannulet, then it took a while before we successfully tracked down a Rufous-capped Motmot. We had stunning looks at a Grey-hooded Attila but were frustrated by a calling Giant Antshrike. As we continued, Surucua Trogon, Greyish Mourner and Scaled Antbird were all seen well with patience. Just before we made the decision to turn around, we found a party of Black-goggled Tanagers; several other species were calling, but of these only the Whiskered Myiobius was co-operative.

With things warming up, the descent was slower in terms of birds, but we had three 'magic moments', seeing Star-throated Antwren, Yellow-throated Woodpecker and, in between, a Rufous-capped Antthrush. High concentration was required, not to mention a little luck, but we all managed stunning looks at the antthrush as it walked slowly in the undergrowth.

As we got close to the truck, we found two more 'must-see' species, Turquoise Tanager and Saw-billed Hermit, further rewards for our morning exertions. But we weren't quite finished. We had driven only a short distance when we noticed large numbers of birds in the sky to our left. Many were Black and Turkey Vultures, but we found a small *Accipiter* which we identified as Rufous-thighed Hawk, new for everyone. In addition, we tallied over 100 White-

collared Swifts high up and distinguished both White-rumped and Blue-and-white Swallows lower down.

After lunch and a short rest, we set off again at 3pm, driving five kilometres south-west to an area of grassland with marshy patches. Enroute, we made two stops. At the first Adilei showed us a Rat Snake he had discovered earlier. A little further on, we found two Red-legged Seriemas unbelievably close in a roadside field! A Moustached Wren was coaxed out from cover on the other side.



Red-legged Seriema © John Sykes

Chopi Blackbirds and Shiny Cowbirds were seen at our grassland site but White-browed Blackbirds remained leader-only. The skies were filled with Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras as well as more vultures, swifts and swallows. We persevered and found close Yellowish Pipits before, having walked a short way down the road, Grassland Sparrows; the face markings were impressive given good views. A White-rumped Monjita was spotted on distant wires, and we realised that we could get much closer by driving towards it; this proved highly successful and we found our only White Woodpecker of the trip as a bonus.

We returned to base with plenty of time to freshen up before caipirinhas, the bird list and dinner. It had been an excellent, varied, 'local' day.

Sunday 3rd July

Sunny, calm, 16-26°C

As on Friday we set off at 6.30am in a car and a truck. Today we headed south-east, then north-east through the town of Cachoeiras de Macacu and up into the hills. Before we

reached Nova Friburgo we turned south-east off the main road and drove up a track for around 15 minutes. We were at Macae de Cima on the first of our two 'mountain days' and were birding shortly after 8am.

We started at around 1,100 metres altitude and spent the morning walking around three kilometres up the track with the vehicles following behind. It was shady and cool at first, then warm but never hot, and there were birds of interest along the entire stretch. Our first stop produced a singing White-rimmed Warbler, female Rufous-backed Antwren, Pallid Spinetail and a male Brazilian Ruby; we only saw the latter in flight but we were able to see the throat colour when the angle was right. A little further on, we encountered another small group of birds which included the first of several Golden-crowned Warblers, Variable Antshrike, Rufous-crowned Greenlet, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet and, unexpectedly, Grey-bellied Spinetail.

Getting good views of the birds became a little harder in the next section, although we managed to scope a fine Rufous-browed Peppershrike. Nevertheless, with persistence most of us caught up with Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner and Chestnut-crowned Becard. In contrast, our first Brassy-breasted Tanagers were stunning and showy! Round the corner, we found a female Pin-tailed Manakin and both male and female Plain Antvireos.

We made sure we had adequate water supplies before continuing on up; the gradient remained relatively gentle and traffic was light. A photogenic Rufous-capped Spinetail, Lesser Woodcreeper, Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant and, best of all, Rufous Gnatcatcher were next on the menu, followed by Planalto and Grey-capped Tyrannulets. Finally, we reached a sunny patch and, with it, the chance to scan over the wooded hills. Almost at once we found a Black Hawk-Eagle drifting along the ridge!

Could our good fortune continue? The answer was an emphatic yes as we came across a male Green-crowned Plovercrest feeding on flowers by the track. We had excellent views of this awesome hummingbird. I was delighted, but also relieved; on my previous visits we had been able to enter a private garden and see this species with ease on the feeders, but this was no longer possible.

We soon reached a spot at the top of the track and decided it would be a good place for our picnic; however, the birding wasn't quite finished. A Hooded Berryeater remained heard-only, but we had great compensation in the form of a point-blank Orange-eyed Thornbird then a fine Yellow-browed Woodpecker.

After lunch, we strolled a little further and were delighted to find a Black-and-gold Cotinga sitting on an open perch; it was relatively distant but provided good views in the scope. Yet another of our top target species safely in the bag!

We then boarded the vehicles and drove on for around three kilometres. A Spot-billed Toucanet was only seen by those in the truck but, having disembarked, we were all present and correct when a group of White-collared Foliage-gleaners was located. Planalto Woodcreeper, Bertoni's and Ochre-rumped Antbirds and Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher were all seen, trumped by a stunning male White-bearded Antshrike, Adilei's top bird of the entire tour! A Spotted Bamboowren tantalised; it was close but hidden from sight.

We added one more new species, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, before beginning our return journey. We paused at the top and had two more near-misses, a noisy group of Spot-winged Wood Quails seen only by Adilei and a calling Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper glimpsed, but only just, by a couple of us. Nevertheless, we had had more than our fair share of luck today and returned to base in good spirits. We arrived back at 5.15pm and met for drinks and the bird list before dinner at the usual time.

Monday 4th July

Sunny, calm, 16-25°C

Our second successive day for an excursion took us south-east to the coast for a change of scene. We made a pit stop enroute and were birding just before 9am. The first two stops were largely unproductive and with no recent 'news', we were largely following the traditional route of Alcenir and Adilei.

At our third site, we were dropped off and walked for around a kilometre with lagoons on our right and the sun behind us. We had an excellent hour here and could easily have spent longer. A Black Skimmer was a surprise, and amongst the 'Cayenne Terns' which reminded us of Lesser Crested, we found Royal and Cabot's Terns and Grey-headed Gulls. Given the time of year, we were amazed to see such a wide range of shorebirds, 11 species in total. Highlights included a Hudsonian Godwit, side-by-side Collared and Semipalmated Plovers, White-rumped Sandpiper, both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Hudsonian Whimbrel. Immaculate White-backed Stilts provided close photo opportunities and there were impressive numbers of White-cheeked Pintail.

A different lagoon produced a single Yellow-billed Tern and a Cocoli Heron plus more Grey-breasted Martins overhead. Then it was time to make the short journey to our main birding spot and we prepared for an hour or so strolling through special habitat. Restinga comprises bushes, ferns and palms rich in bromeliads, all growing on sand dunes. Found only in this corner of Brazil, there is little of it left due to development. The star bird, 'Restinga Antwren', is currently considered to be a subspecies of Serra Antwren but it remains sought-after and was clearly quite numerous at our location. We were thrilled, too, to obtain superb views of several Black-backed Tanagers, the rarest of the endemic tanagers we would see during the tour. Further along the track, we found a Fuscous Flycatcher, a real bonus, as well as Tropical Parula, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, Lemon-chested Greenlet and Glittering-throated Emerald.

Delighted with what we had seen, we continued on and were given permission to eat our picnic in a shaded beach café, duly purchasing some refreshing fruit juices. Kelp Gulls and Magnificent Frigatebirds drifted overhead. Afterwards we walked a short distance to a secluded bay; here more Brown Boobies passed offshore, a pair of American Oystercatchers sat on the rocks and, in the restinga, we spotted Tropical Mockingbirds, a species seemingly overlooked on previous tours. We had excellent views of a Short-tailed Hawk as it passed overhead then potted back to the cars.

We made an unplanned stop to enjoy a Harris's Hawk by the roadside, then a planned one at a lagoon we had visited briefly in the morning, and it provided incredible views of several heron species. Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron and Striated Heron were all within twenty metres of us on one side of the road; many photos were taken! Eventually we crossed the road and scoped a Yellow-crowned Night Heron roosting on a small island.

Around the corner a Pied-billed Grebe came and went. It seemed as if we had dipped on Roseate Spoonbill, but as we passed what had been the morning's birdiest spot on our way home we spotted a group of them so disembarked. Alcenir was delighted as he had been promising this species all day! We tallied 22 spoonbills and also had wonderful views of an immature Snail Kite, before it really was time to begin our return journey.

We arrived with plenty of time to freshen up before caipirinhas, dinner and the list. We had enjoyed two contrasting trips away from REGUA but now looked forward to a local day.

Tuesday 5th July

Sunny, breezy am, 16-28°C

We headed off in the truck at 7am, today heading north-west of the lodge for around nine kilometres. We passed through the village of Matumbo and, leaving the fields behind, climbed into the foothills. Having noticed a flock of birds in front of us, we made an unplanned stop. This proved a good decision; we added Buff-throated Saltator and Velvety Black Tyrant to our ever-growing list, and both Golden-chevroned Tanager and Orange-bellied Euphonia were seen by those who had missed them earlier in the tour.

We drove a little further and parked up by a house with a large garden; the altitude here was already around 250 metres. Our first Grey-rumped Swifts were noted overhead, whilst a Cliff Flycatcher was relatively co-operative. Soon we were beginning our walk up the Waldenoor Trail, on land bought by REGUA relatively recently. The path was a little steeper in places than others we had been on, but by going at a sensible pace we kept together; it helped that the ground was dry.

For the first time during the tour, there was a breeze which meant that finding birds in the canopy was tricky. At first, the birding was slower than elsewhere, but we tracked down

Yellow-eared and Yellow-throated Woodpeckers as well as our first Black-capped Foliage-gleaner and both Red-necked and Olive-green Tanagers. We eventually reached another house and had excellent views of Yellow-olive Flatbill and White-eyed Foliage-gleaner. Having ascended the roughest section of track we paused; I set up the scope which proved invaluable allowing us to enjoy both Tropical Pewee and a female Ruby-crowned Tanager. We continued on a little way and found an Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner; those with extensive experience of birding in South America remarked on how well we had seen the foliage-gleaners during this tour!

Fatigue was beginning to set in, so some of the group decided not to venture further but instead potter down slowly. We had repeat views of a large party of Green-headed Tanagers. Adilei, Nigel and David carried on and walked an additional loop. By doing so, they saw Unicoloured Antwren, a male Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, White-throated Spadebill and, best of all, a diminutive East Brazilian Pygmy Owl!

Once we had all met up again, we headed down to the truck, finding a Rufous-headed Tanager and a group of Yellow-green Grosbeaks which showed splendidly. Then it was time to drive back to the lodge.

Our journey was interrupted by a small raptor in trees by the road: White-necked Hawk! Unfortunately, at this stage it was only seen by those on top of the truck and not inside.

We set off on our afternoon drive at 3pm and, to everyone's great relief, it was found sitting in its favoured tree. What a beautiful raptor! Rarely can such a sought-after species have been caught up so quickly by those who missed it first time round.

We drove south for around seven kilometres to an area of fields which looked similar to others but were in fact wetter. Adilei referred to this location as Boasorte. It was the hottest afternoon of the tour but birds were surprisingly active. From one spot we found a Striped Cuckoo, Streamer-tailed Tyrant, Campo Flicker and Yellow-browed Tyrant and compared Rufous and Wing-banded Horneros. 80 Pale-vented Pigeons headed over, presumably to roost, before we scoped two distant Blue-winged Macaws on a treetop.

Eventually it was time to drive the short distance for one of the main events of the whole tour. Undeterred by the presence of cattle, we left the track and walked into the marshy field. The first of three Giant Snipe began calling at 5.20pm; at this stage it was still relatively light but, as always, darkness fell pretty quickly. We recognised two different calls, one as the birds flew overhead, the other made from positions on the ground. The plan was for Adilei to find one on the ground, spotlight it, and then signal to us to head in his direction to see it. Today this didn't work and, despite our best efforts, disappointingly all we got was a glimpse of one in flight. By way of compensation the dusk sounds were very impressive, with Collared Forest-Falcon, Pauraque, Common Potoo, Ash-throated Crake and Blackish Rail all heard.

We headed off in the truck and stopped at a junction to listen for owls. Past experience suggested this might not be productive, but I should have had more faith! A Tawny-browed Owl flew in and perched in a large tree; we managed brief views in the spotlight. It, and another, called for ages as did a Mottled Owl nearby but the latter remained hidden. At 7pm we declared and headed back to base for our 7.30pm dinner followed by the list. We would have another chance of Giant Snipe and were pleased not only with the birds on the morning walk but the owling.

Wednesday 6th July

Sunny, calm, 16-26°C

Today's excursion was to Pico da Caledonia, at 2,219 metres one of the highest mountains in the Serra dos Orgaos range. The route was similar to the one taken to reach Macae de Cima, but this time we carried on to Nova Friburgo where we made a short pit stop. Those who had travelled in the car transferred to the truck at this point. Our track headed south-west and was very steep, making for an interesting journey for those on the back: suffice to say that we all arrived at the top intact. The track itself reached an altitude of around 2,050 metres and we disembarked, once again in glorious sunshine.

At the top we saw our first Diademed Tanager as well as Velvety Black Tyrant, Rufous-collared Sparrows and our only Bay-chested Warbling Finch. Soon it was time to begin our stroll down. Almost immediately, we had the awesome experience of seeing a Rufous-tailed Antthrush in the open close to us; we were very fortunate!

At an open area we scanned unsuccessfully for Grey-winged Cotinga but spotted a Small-headed Elaenia. From the track itself we had more great views of Brassy-breasted Tanagers and, as at Macae de Cima, found a pristine male Green-crowned Plovercrest feeding in front of us.

Adilei continued to weave his magic and, in sequence, winkled out Mouse-coloured Tapaculo, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Rufous-tailed Antbird and Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin. Eventually we reached another spot with a view over the wooded slopes. Here the scope was finally put to good use helping us enjoy a distant Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant. In contrast the Black-billed Scythebill at the same place was splendidly close.

We boarded the truck and descended a fair way before taking a track off to the north-west. Adilei referred to this area as Sao Bernardo; we were now at an altitude of 1,400 metres. We were hoping to find Swallow-tailed Cotinga in and around a garden by the track, but there was no sign; perhaps this species moves elsewhere in the southern winter? We added four species, Scaled Woodcreeper, White-crested Tyrannulet, Spix's Spinetail and, best of all, a calling Rufous-capped Antshrike which we scoped. Hooded Siskins in the garden played hard to get.

Having finished our picnic, we began our quest to find Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, trying numerous spots both along our current track and then back on the main one. We drew a total blank but, over the course of the early afternoon, had a number of good moments, the best of which were when a Slaty-breasted Wood Rail crossed the track in front of us and, nearby, outstanding views of two Half-collared Sparrows.



Half-collared Sparrow © John Sykes

We paused for coffee in Nova Friburgo then began our journey home. The main road was busier than in the morning so it took a while; two Burrowing Owls and some distant Swallow Tanagers gave us cause for a brief leg stretch in Cachoeiras de Macacu, the main town.

We arrived back at base just in time for those who wished to get back on the truck and head to Boasorte. This evening things went to plan and Adilei found a Giant Snipe in the spotlight! We headed towards him and most of us had amazing views before the bird walked off into taller vegetation. This was my fourth visit to these fields and my first view of the species on the ground which made it even more memorable. We returned in high spirits for dinner at our usual time of 7pm.

Thursday 7th July

Sunny, calm, 16-27°C

Our last morning at REGUA. We left at 7am for a 15-minute drive in the truck to the track at Flagmento which we had visited briefly on our first afternoon; we hoped it would be birdier this time around!

We had one very specific target: to see, not just hear, a Bare-throated Bellbird. On arrival bellbirds were calling on both sides, out of sight; there was no real vista and it felt all very frustrating. Finally, a male flew directly over us and everyone saw it. Was this 'mission accomplished'? At best reasonably satisfied, we continued down the track and found a spot with a clearing on the left. This looked much more like the sort of place we were looking for and, sure enough, we were soon in luck. Three adult male Bare-throated Bellbirds were found together in the same tree! We had great scope views, for ages.



Bare-throated Bellbird © David Walsh

Later in the morning we found a female and an immature male to complete the set. Target now 100% achieved and the species was voted *Bird of the Trip* by the group.

In the same trees we had excellent views of several Channel-billed Toucans before turning our attention to a mixed flock. Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, yet another endemic, had eluded us previously so we were pleased to see one this morning. Crested Becard and Yellow Tyrannulets were further additions to our list, and we noted Fawn-breasted Tanager and Double-collared Seedeater which some of us had missed earlier on.

A Russet-crowned Crake called from an impenetrable area. We had no chance of seeing it so drifted back and turned down a side track. There was lots of activity, giving us the chance to enjoy a variety of species including a Squirrel Cuckoo which lived up to its name! A White-winged Becard showed to some in the scope, but soon vanished.

We decided to keep the momentum going by heading back to the lodge and strolling to the wetlands. We made an anticlockwise loop, circling a pond we hadn't previously visited. A Blond-crested Woodpecker was coaxed in; we had a number of flight views, plus a brief sighting of the bird perched. A group of White-faced Whistling Ducks was found, an Amazon Kingfisher came and went, and we had second looks at a number of species seen on our first morning including Broad-snouted Caiman.

The woodlands produced a Turquoise Tanager and Silvery-flanked Antwren, but underfoot conditions were tricky, so we were pleased to reach a spot where the trail was wider. We followed the Wetland (Yellow) Trail for a short distance and found a Limpkin, the 326th and last new bird of our tour. Then, with things warming up, we turned round and wandered back to the lodge, pausing – as on our first morning – to enjoy the showy Rufous-tailed Jacamar.

We had 45 minutes to freshen up before our 1pm lunch. Thereafter we had plenty of time to pack and settle our bar bills. Most importantly, we had a proper chance to say goodbye to

the people who had played a key part in making the holiday an enjoyable and successful one. We thanked the two ladies who had cooked our delicious meals and cleaned our rooms, Loan and Alcenir, our helpful drivers and, last but not least, Adilei, our amazing guide, one of the very best bird finders any of us had ever travelled with.

At 4pm we set off in a modern air-conditioned minibus for our drive to the airport. As dusk fell, we approached Rio de Janeiro and were able to see the statue of Christ the Redeemer in the distance. As we crossed a waterway, we noted dozens of Magnificent Frigatebirds roosting along the roadsides.

We reached the airport at 6.15pm, having said goodbye to Tom who was spending more time in south-east Brazil. It wasn't long before we were checking in, in the priority queue! The terminal has been modernised since my last visit, largely due to the Olympics, so there were plenty of places to find a bite to eat and relax.

Our flight took off on time and we were well looked after by the cabin crew who had clearly enjoyed their three nights in Rio!

Friday 8th July

We touched down at Heathrow around lunchtime, a little ahead of schedule, and having completed the usual formalities and collected our luggage, we said goodbye to each other and headed our separate ways.



Serra dos Orgaos mountains viewed from REGUA © John Sykes

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRD RECORDED

(n=326 species)

Brown Tinamou *Crypturellus obsoletus*

Heard only. One by the main road near Teresopolis enroute to Carmo.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

14 at REGUA wetlands on our last morning.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Small numbers at REGUA wetlands on each visit.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

Up to 10 at REGUA wetlands on each visit. Four at Cabo Frio.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

c.200 in total in the Cabo Frio area.

Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*

Two visited the REGUA lodge garden feeders at dusk on a couple of evenings.

Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura*

One perched up briefly by the road near Teresopolis but disappeared all too quickly.

Spot-winged Wood Quail *Odontophorus capueira*

Heard only. At least four tantalised us close to the track at Macae de Cima.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Heard calling on our first visit to the Giant Snipe fields at Boasorte, then glimpsed by some in the headlights as we returned to the lodge.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

Heard only. One called on our first visit to the Giant Snipe fields at Boasorte.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

c.100 over lowland fields as we drove back from the Waterfall Trail; 10 nearby later the same day.

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

c.10 overhead at the start of the Waldenoor Trail.

Saw-billed Hermit *Ramphodon naevius*

ENDEMIC

Two seen in flight, then perched, at the start of the Waterfall Trail.

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus*

One in the REGUA lodge garden on our first morning.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber*

Singles along the Waterfall Trail and at Flagmento, both in flight.

Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*

One showed well by the roadside near Teresopolis. Another noted at Pico da Caledonia.

Brazilian Ruby *Clytolaema rubricauda*

ENDEMIC

Two at Macae de Cima. One at Pico da Caledonia. All sightings were quick flight views, but some of us were able to see the ruby throat.

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon lucidus*

A female along the track at Carmo.

Green-crowned Plovercrest *Stephanoxis lalandi*

ENDEMIC

Fabulous views at both Macae de Cima and Pico da Caledonia; at each site, a single male posed beautifully by the track. In so many ways it is more exciting to see hummingbirds on flowers in the forest than on garden feeders!

Violet-capped Woodnymph *Thalurania glaucopis*

Seen most days on the REGUA lodge feeders, with odd ones also noted on the nearby trails.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*

Seen most days on the REGUA lodge feeders and occasionally elsewhere around the reserve.

White-throated Hummingbird *Leucochloris albicollis*

Three singles: along the road near Teresopolis, from the track at Carmo and as we descended Pico da Caledonia.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Chionomesa fimbriata*

Just one, in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Sapphire-spangled Emerald *Chionomesa lactea*

Male and female noted along the track at Carmo.

White-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes cyanus*

Three sightings: at REGUA lodge on our first morning, at the start of the Waterfall Trail and at Flagmento on our last morning.

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

Up to 10 seen on two dates in the farmland near REGUA.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

Three noted in the REGUA wetlands on our first morning.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Up to 10 seen on three dates, mainly in the farmland near REGUA.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*

We had cracking views of one in the marshlands at Boasorte (just beyond the Giant Snipe fields).

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Singles noted on five dates, one at Carmo, the others in the REGUA area including one behaving like a squirrel jumping through the trees!

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

(Introduced). Casually noted in the larger towns on our excursions.

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*

Common; seen and heard daily, max. c100 in flight over the REGUA farmlands on 2 July.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Noted on three dates in the REGUA area, including a flock of c.80 heading to roost at Boasorte on 5 July.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Noted daily in small numbers.

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*

Heard only. One called deep in the woods at Flagmento on our last morning.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

1-2 heard and occasionally glimpsed on three dates in the REGUA area.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*

Heard only. Singles at Flagmento and REGUA wetlands, both on our last morning.

Ash-throated Crake *Mustelirallus albicollis*

Heard only. Noted on three dates in open marshy areas on our afternoon drives to farmland areas in and around REGUA/Boasorte.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*

One at REGUA wetlands on our first morning was seen by everyone, if only just! Another was heard at Boasorte.

Slaty-breasted Wood Rail *Aramides saracura*

One showed superbly by the track as we descended in the truck from Pico da Caledonia.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

10-20 seen on our visits to REGUA wetlands. At least one noted at Cabo Frio.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*

Up to five seen on each visit to REGUA wetlands.

Russet-crowned Crake *Rufirallus viridis*

Heard only. One calling in the marshland at Flagmento was a surprise.

Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*

One called at close range on our first visit to REGUA wetlands but remained 'heard only' for all but one of us.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

One seen in flight then perched at REGUA wetlands on our last morning.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

One at REGUA wetlands on our first morning.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

One was seen briefly on a lagoon at Cabo Frio.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Two on rocks in the cove at Praia das Conchas.

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*

Widespread in the Cabo Frio area, with c.100 noted at two sites; we had wonderfully close views.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Up to 10 seen daily, mainly in open fields.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two (in non-breeding plumage) at Cabo Frio.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Up to 10 at two sites in the Cabo Frio area.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

At least two at Cabo Frio alongside the preceding species; closer views would have been desirable.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

Up to 20 on each visit to REGUA wetlands and noted in smaller numbers at other farmland/coastal wetland sites.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*

Two at Cabo Frio, on the ground and in flight, when we were able to note the dark rump.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

One at Cabo Frio was the pick of the excellent variety of shorebirds on offer.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Eight at Cabo Frio.

Pantanal Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiæ*

Heard only. One 'drumming' above us whilst we made our first attempt for Giant Snipe at Boasorte perhaps deserved more attention.

Giant Snipe *Gallinago undulata*

At Boasorte on our first visit three called both on the ground and in flight from 5.20pm, but we managed no more than a glimpse in flight. Those who returned the following evening struck gold with a bird seen 'roding' and another spot lit on the ground at remarkably close range thanks to Adilei's expertise. *Bird of the Trip* for one of us.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Four at Cabo Frio.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

At least one at Cabo Frio.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

One at Cabo Frio was much enjoyed as it 'skimmed' before being relocated roosting with the gulls and terns.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

The only 'small gull' at Cabo Frio, with c10 noted.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

100+ seen at both Cabo Frio and Praia das Conchas.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

One roosting with Cayenne Terns at Cabo Frio stood out due to its much larger size.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acufavidus*

Three at Sao Pedro then c.20 at Cabo Frio were yellow-billed 'Cayenne Terns', the breeding subspecies; we also noted one dark-billed Cabot's Tern, the migrant subspecies, at Cabo Frio.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*

One was seen fishing over a lagoon at Cabo Frio.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

50+ seen on our coastal day at Cabo Frio/Praia das Conchas, with similar numbers tallied at dusk in Rio de Janeiro as we headed to the airport.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

One at Cabo Frio, then 10+ feeding offshore at Praia das Conchas.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

One on each visit to REGUA wetlands.

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

One on our first visit to REGUA wetlands. 100+ in the Cabo Frio area.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

22 were much enjoyed at Cabo Frio as we began our return journey, when as far as this species was concerned all had seemed lost!

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Two showed superbly on each visit to REGUA wetlands.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One was heard calling at dusk from REGUA lodge on 3 July. The following day we found an immature roosting on a boat at Cabo Frio.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

One roosting on a small island on a Cabo Frio lagoon was a bonus!

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Two singles at Cabo Frio, one of which gave spectacular close views to the delight of the photographers!

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Widespread in small numbers in suitable habitat. Up to 50 in and around REGUA wetlands but, unlike on some previous visits, no large roosts seen.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

One briefly in farmland near REGUA on 2 July. Another seen by everyone at Cabo Frio.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Sightings of two singles at REGUA, and c.10 at Cabo Frio.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

Noted on each visit to REGUA wetlands, with a maximum of four at dusk on 30 June.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*

1-2 noted on four dates in the REGUA/Boasorte areas, mainly in wet pasture.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

2-3 at three sites in the Cabo Frio area, including a showy adult alongside other 'close-range' herons and an instructive white juvenile with the terns/shorebirds.

Little Blue Heron © David Walsh

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Two near REGUA on our first afternoon. c10 at Cabo Frio.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Widespread and common; seen daily.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Seen daily, mainly in small numbers but 30+ noted near REGUA on 2/7.



Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

One drifted over at Carmo. Another was seen briefly at our first coastal stop near Sao Pedro.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

Superb views of one at Macae de Cima.

Rufous-thighed Hawk *Accipiter erythronemius*

One was thoroughly scrutinised as it soared with other raptors below the Waterfall Trail on 2 July.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

We had excellent views of an immature at Cabo Frio, both perched and in flight, an added bonus of our emergency spoonbill stop!

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

One flew in and perched on top of a tree just before we started our stroll up the Waterfall Trail.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*

First seen at Sumidouro, then noted at REGUA on three dates. We enjoyed fine views of birds both in flight and perched.

White-necked Hawk *Buteogallus lacernulatus*

ENDEMIC

One was seen close to the lodge on 5 July by some but not all of us as we headed back for lunch: very frustrating. So it was truly wonderful when the same bird was relocated the same afternoon as we drove off for our afternoon outing, perched close to the track. A beautiful bird, one of the real highlights of our holiday.

Chaco Eagle *Butorogallus coronatus*

A pair was much enjoyed soaring above the hilltop at Carmo, another of the 'champagne moments' of the tour.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

1-2 noted on five dates.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

We found one perched by the roadside at Cabo Frio, a nice surprise.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*

One soared over the hillside by the main road as we left Sumidouro. Another was seen distantly close to REGUA the following day.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

We had excellent views of one at Praia das Conchas as we began our afternoon birding and were able to note all the key features.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

Two at Cachoeiras de Macacu on our way back from Pico da Caledonia were very co-operative at a 'stake-out'!

East Brazilian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium minutissimum*

Those who went the extra mile on the Waldenoor Trail were rewarded with a number of additional species, best of all this one.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

One was well-watched along the track at Carmo, enjoyed in its own right as well as for its help attracting a number of other birds! We saw another in the lodge garden the following day and heard others both there and nearby during the tour.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*

Heard only. One called close to the lodge on our last two evenings.

Tawny-browed Owl *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*

Two were heard after dark as we drove back to the lodge from Boasorte on 5 July; we managed to see one of them briefly in flight then perched (in the spotlight) before it retreated into cover.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*

Heard only. One called for ages at the same site as the preceding species on 5 July but it remained out of sight.

Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*

Three at Macae de Cima. Two along the Waterfall Trail. Most of us managed reasonable views, although none were especially co-operative!

Surucua Trogon © John Sykes



Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

Heard only. One called distantly along the Waterfall Trail.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Singles at REGUA wetlands on our first and last days.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

One at REGUA on 2/7 was seen by some, but not everyone.

Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*

We were pleased to actually see one along the Waterfall Trail! Its call was a feature of the lodge's dawn chorus, and others were heard from time to time in the REGUA area.

Three-toed Jacamar *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla*

ENDEMIC

We found at least three pairs along the track at Carmo and had superb views.



Three-toed Jacamar © David Walsh

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

Noted on four dates in the REGUA area; we had superb close views at the wetlands on our first and last mornings.

White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru*

Adilei's perseverance paid off when we finally found not one but three at Sumidouro.



White-eared Puffbird © David Walsh

Crescent-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila striata*

ENDEMIC

We had prolonged close views of one at Carmo and found another along the Waldenoor Trail.

Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus aracari*

One perched up along the Forest Trail at REGUA on our first morning, a nice surprise!

Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris*

One at Macae de Cima was seen well by those in the first vehicle.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Recorded on five dates. We had some memorable sightings, including six close to the lodge on our first morning, and four together at Flagmento in the 'bellbird tree'.

Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*

Four at Sumidouro, including one which posed for photographs to the delight of the leader! Another noted near the Waldenoor Trail.



Toco Toucan © David Walsh

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*

One at Carmo. Two along the Waterfall Trail. Further singles at Macae de Cima and Flagmento. Most were seen in mixed flocks.

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

One was scoped, albeit distantly, in an isolated tree in the lowland fields at REGUA.

Yellow-eared Woodpecker *Veniliornis maculifrons*

ENDEMIC

One gave excellent views along the track at Carmo. We found two more along the Waldenoor Trail.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula*

Singles were seen along the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails.

Yellow-browed Woodpecker *Piculus aurulentus*

One at our picnic spot at Macae de Cima took a while to locate but eventually gave excellent scope views high up its favoured tree.

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*

Singles at our coffee stop on the return journey from Sumidouro and at Boasorte were fly-bys, so we were pleased to find three more at Pico da Caledonia.

Blond-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens*

Singles at REGUA wetlands on our first and last mornings; the latter was relatively co-operative.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

One was seen well in flight in the wet pastures close to REGUA. Two more were noted by some close to our lodge.

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*

One was seen from the main road as we drove back from Sumidouro, but at extreme range, so we were very pleased to find two in a field close to the track at REGUA the following day. Two others were heard at Flagmento.

Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Widespread, and seen daily, mostly in small numbers but we tallied 20+ at REGUA on 2 July.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Seen daily, with generally 1-5 noted but 20+ at REGUA on 2 July as we had our 'eyes to the skies'.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

Heard only. Singles called distantly at REGUA and at Praia das Conchas.

Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

Heard only. One called at 5.40pm as we made our first attempt to see Giant Snipe at Boasorte.

Plain Parakeet *Brotogeris tirica*

ENDEMIC

Two at Macae de Cima. Another two on the Waldenoor Trail. Both sightings were of flying birds identified on call by Adilei.

Pileated Parrot *Pionopsitta pileata*

Heard only. One flew over the Waterfall Trail but we couldn't spot it.

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*

We had excellent views of c.10 from the lodge garden at the very start of the tour, with two nearby on our last morning. In addition, three were seen from the main road near Alem Paraiba and two were noted along the Waldenoor Trail.

Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica*

Two flew over the lodge garden on our first morning and were readily identifiable due to their shape.

Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*

One was heard from the Waterfall Trail then, later the same day, a group of six appeared briefly on the banana feeders in the lodge garden.

Blue-winged Macaw *Primolius maracana*

Four were seen in flight not far from the lodge on our first morning, with c.25 over nearby fields later the same day. Two were noted along the Waterfall Trail. Finally, we managed to scope two distantly at Boasorte. A very good showing; this species has become significantly easier to see in recent years.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*

The most common and widespread parakeet. Noted on all but one day, mostly in single figures but we tallied 30+ at Macae de Cima.

Rufous-breasted Leaftosser *Sclerurus scansor*

One at Macae de Cima was eventually seen well by most of us.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Two at Macae de Cima. One along the Waldenoor Trail.

Plain-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla turdina*

Most of our woodcreepers showed remarkably well during the tour; this species, along the Waldenoor Trail, was the exception.

Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*

One at Macae de Cima close to our furthest point.

Lesser Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus fuscus*

Singles at Macae de Cima and along the Waldenoor Trail.

Black-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus falcularius*

We had great views at Pico da Caledonia as we waited for the truck to appear. What a bill!

Scaled Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes squamatus*

ENDEMIC

One near our lunch spot at Pico da Caledonia.

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*

Singles noted on six dates; widespread.

Band-tailed Hornero *Furnarius figulus*

ENDEMIC

Two as dusk fell at REGUA wetlands on our first evening. Two more at Boasorte (just beyond the Giant Snipe fields) which made for an instructive comparison with the following species.

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

1-2 noted on four dates whilst we were birding, with others noted from vehicles on our journeys.

Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper *Lochmias nematura*

One called close to the track as we strolled up the track at Macae de Cima. Later the same day, another called close to the summit of the road; it was at best glimpsed by some of us, but, unfortunately, it remained 'heard only' for most. We tried a number of suitable sites at Pico da Caledonia but drew a blank.

White-collared Foliage-gleaner *Anabazenops fuscus*

ENDEMIC

Two were seen well at Macae de Cima, close to our furthest point.

Pale-browed Treehunter *Cichlocolaptes leucophrus*

ENDEMIC

Heard only. One called along the Waldenoor Trail but proved unresponsive.

Sharp-billed Treehunter *Heliobletus contaminatus*

One gave good views at our lunch spot close to the summit of the road at Macae de Cima.

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor atricapillus*

One was scoped (!) along the Waldenoor Trail.

White-browed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia amaurotis*

We found a group of four at Macae de Cima.

Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia lichtensteini*

One gave respectable views along the Waldenoor Trail.

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*

One noted at Macae de Cima.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Dendroma rufa*

One heard along the Waterfall Trail. One seen the following day at Macae de Cima.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner © David Walsh

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus*

One gave excellent views along the Waldenoor Trail, at the spot where the path is steepest.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons*

Three along the track at Carmo showed well. We found two more at Boasorte.

Orange-eyed Thornbird *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*

ENDEMIC

One near Teresopolis was flighty and frustrating in the roadside vegetation, but it became a distant memory once we had enjoyed point blank views close to our lunch spot at Macae de Cima!

Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius anumbi*

One showed splendidly on a telegraph pole near Alem Paraiba, at the spot where we had stopped to see Curl-crested Jay.

Pallid Spinetail *Cranioleuca pallida*

ENDEMIC

One near Teresopolis. Two at Macae de Cima. One at Pico da Caledonia.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*

Five on each visit to REGUA wetlands. Another briefly at Boasorte.



Grey-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis cinerascens*

One at Macae de Cima was a surprise.

Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla*

Four at Macae de Cima proved incredibly photogenic!

Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi*

One, near our lunch spot, at Pico da Caledonia.

Silvery-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula luctuosa*

ENDEMIC

We had three sightings. Singles on the trails behind REGUA wetlands on our first and last mornings, and another briefly nearby as a bonus whilst we were watching Moustached Wren.

Unicoloured Antwren *Myrmotherula unicolor*

ENDEMIC

One on the Waldenoor Trail for those doing the extra loop.

Streak-capped Antwren *Terenura maculata*

One was glimpsed along the Waterfall Trail.

Serra Antwren *Formicivora serrana*

ENDEMIC

We had cracking views of three along the track at Carmo, a pair plus an additional male. These were subspecies *interposita*. In the restinga at Praia das Conchas, we had equally fine looks at four 'Restinga Antwrens', now considered by the IOC as a subspecies (*littoralis*) of Serra Antwren.

Star-throated Antwren *Rhopias gularis*

ENDEMIC

One gave superb views on our descent along the Waterfall Trail.

Rufous-margined Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*

Two, high in the canopy, along the Waterfall Trail.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*

Four at Macae de Cima included males and females; we had excellent views.

Rufous-backed Antvireo *Dysithamnus xanthopterus*

ENDEMIC

One was seen at Macae de Cima.

Chestnut-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus palliatus*

We found two at REGUA wetlands on our first morning, one of which showed for ages at close range, and noted another there on our last morning.

Sooretama Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus ambiguus*

ENDEMIC

Two along the Forest Trail on our first morning were seen well, but at the time seemed like 'supporting cast' to our star bird!

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

One near Teresopolis. Two at Macae de Cima. One at Pico da Caledonia.

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*

We had excellent scope views of one near our lunch spot at Pico da Caledonia.

White-bearded Antshrike *Biatas nigropectus*

With patience we enjoyed superb views of this stunning species at Macae de Cima, close to our furthest point. Adilei's number one bird of the tour.

Giant Antshrike *Batara cinerea*

Heard only. One called along the Waterfall Trail but never seemed likely to come close.

Bertoni's Antbird *Drymophila rubricollis*

Two were noted at Macae de Cima.

Rufous-tailed Antbird *Drymophila genei*

ENDEMIC

One was seen at Pico da Caledonia.

Ochre-rumped Antbird *Drymophila ochropyga*

ENDEMIC

One was recorded at Macae de Cima.

Scaled Antbird *Drymophila squamata*

ENDEMIC

We heard one behind REGUA wetlands on our first day, then had cracking views of a male along the Waterfall Trail.

White-shouldered Fire-eye *Pyriglena leucoptera*

One was heard and glimpsed along the Waterfall Trail. Another showed well to some at Pico da Caledonia during one of our numerous streamcreeper attempts.

Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma*

One eventually calmed down and showed briefly but superbly to all as we strolled back down the Waterfall Trail.

Rufous-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza ruficauda*

One gave stunning views by the track at Pico da Caledonia; another of the tour's 'wow' moments!

Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata*

Singles seen well at Macae de Cima and heard at Pico da Caledonia.

Black-cheeked Gnateater *Conopophaga melanops*

ENDEMIC

Stunning views of one on the Forest Trail behind REGUA wetlands on our first morning. Another heard along the Waterfall Trail.

Spotted Bamboowren *Psilorhamphus guttatus*

Heard only. One called by the track at Macae de Cima at the furthest point we reached, but clearly had no intention of showing itself.

Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *Scytalopus speluncae*

ENDEMIC

Surprisingly good views of one at Pico da Caledonia.

Planalto Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias fasciatus*

Two noted at Macae de Cima.

Rough-legged Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*

Singles on the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trail. Even for Adilei, hearing the call seemed essential to distinguish this from similar looking species.

Grey-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseocapilla*

ENDEMIC

Two along the track at Macae de Cima.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

One in the wet pasture not far from REGUA showed well on our first afternoon.

Small-headed Elaenia *Elaenia sordida*

One seen at Pico da Caledonia.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Two were seen well along the track at Carmo, and one was found at the start of the Waterfall Trail. Both were in mixed flocks.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

One seen at Pico da Caledonia.

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*

One at Flagmento on our last morning, part of the mixed flock by the track.

Southern Antpipit *Corythopsis delalandi*

Two were found along the Forest Trail behind REGUA wetlands on our first morning, one of which showed superbly. Another was glimpsed from the Waterfall Trail.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*

Two were seen as we strolled up the track at Macae de Cima.

Serra do Mar Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes difficilis*

ENDEMIC

One gave good views as we walked down the track at Pico da Caledonia.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*

Singles on the trails behind REGUA wetlands on our first and last mornings.

Grey-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*

One was found in the canopy as we walked down the Waterfall Trail.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*

Singles at Flagmento on our first afternoon and along the Waldenoor Trail.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

One was well-watched from the Sumidouro track.

Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant *Hemitriccus diops*

Two at Macae de Cima.

Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus orbitatus*

ENDEMIC

One briefly at Flagmento on our last morning.

Hangnest Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus nidipendulus*

ENDEMIC

Two along the track at Carmo. One in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps*

One at Macae de Cima.

Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum poliocephalum*

ENDEMIC

1-2 at REGUA wetlands, Carmo, the Waldenoor Trail and Flagmento; we had several excellent views.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

One at Sumidouro. Two in trees adjacent to the marshlands at Boasorte.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

One showed superbly by the garden towards the upper end of the Waldenoor Trail.

Grey-crowned Flatbill *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*

One in the lodge garden early on 2 July was a long-staying individual found by Adilei earlier in the year as a 'first for REGUA'. A proper 'write-in'!

Ochre-lored Flatbill *Tolmomyias flaviventris*

One was seen and heard along the track at Flagmento on our first afternoon. (Adilei called it Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, as per our field guide).

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*

Two were seen by those doing the extra loop on the Waldenoor Trail. One remained largely hidden at Pico da Caledonia at the last of our streamcreeper spots.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*

One distantly at Macae de Cima. Three along the Waldenoor Trail, at least one of which showed well to all.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri*

One was seen well along the track at Carmo.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*

One in the restinga at Praia das Conchas was a welcome bonus; it showed superbly, at eye level.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*

We had prolonged views of one by the garden towards the upper end of the Waldenoor Trail.

Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*

One was scoped at Boasorte in the marshy area beyond the Giant Snipe fields.

Blue-billed Black Tyrant *Knipolegus cyanirostris*

Singles at Macae de Cima and Pico da Caledonia.

Crested Black Tyrant *Knipolegus lophotes*

One was spotted on a post as we drove along the main road on our return from Sumidouro, sadly seen by those in one vehicle but not the other.

Velvety Black Tyrant *Knipolegus nigerrimus*

ENDEMIC

One at Macae de Cima was leader-only, but we all saw another enroute to the Waldenoor Trail and two more at Pico da Caledonia.

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velatus*

Two on wires above the grasslands not far from REGUA showed well through the scope.

Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa*

One at Sumidouro. Two more in the marshlands at Boasorte.

Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant *Muscipipra vetula*

One distantly at mid-altitude on Pico da Caledonia.

Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*

Widespread and common; seen most days in small numbers.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*

1-2 noted at REGUA wetlands, Boasorte and Cabo Frio.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

Two along the track at Carmo. Another in the marshlands at Boasorte.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

Noted on five dates, including five at Cabo Frio. One near our coffee stop in Nova Friburgo was incredibly tame!

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Common in small numbers at REGUA and nearby. In addition, two were seen at our lunch stop at Pico da Caledonia.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Common and widespread.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua*

One showed well in the lodge garden on our first morning. Another was noted en route to Carmo the following day.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Widespread and common; seemed to become even more numerous towards the end of the tour.

Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex*

One in the canopy as we ascended the Waterfall Trail was eventually seen well by everyone.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

Singles at Carmo, Cabo Frio, Flagmento and REGUA wetlands.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Just one, along the track at Carmo.

Grey-hooded Attila *Attila rufus*

ENDEMIC

A showy singing bird was one of the highlights of our stroll up the Waterfall Trail.

Hooded Berryeater *Carpornis cucullata*

ENDEMIC

Heard only. One at Macae de Cima remained frustratingly distant, one of very few disappointments on an otherwise excellent day.

Black-and-gold Cotinga *Lipaugus atra*

ENDEMIC

We scoped one of the two birds located at Macae de Cima, which meant we could simply enjoy the calls of the three we found at Pico da Caledonia!

Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*

Heard at REGUA wetlands on our first morning, then along the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails. Seeing one was our main target on the last morning and, eventually, we had great success at Flagmento scoping three adult males (together), an immature male and a female. Voted *Bird of the Trip!*

Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin *Neopelma chrysolophum*

ENDEMIC

One showed surprisingly well as we walked down the track at Pico da Caledonia.

Blue Manakin *Chiroxiphia caudata*

1-2 noted along the Forest, Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails and at Macae de Cima. Some were heard only, but with patience we had excellent views of both males and females.

Pin-tailed Manakin *Ilicura militaris*

ENDEMIC

Two at Macae de Cima, but no adult males seen this time.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*

1-2 on the trails at the back of REGUA wetlands on both visits, including a stunning adult male. Two in the wet pasture nearby on our first afternoon at the spot where we tried to see Ash-throated Crake. One along the Waterfall Trail.

Whiskered Myiobius *Myiobius barbatus*

Singles noted on the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails.

Brazilian Laniisoma *Laniisoma elegans*

ENDEMIC

We had stunning views of one on the Forest (Brown) Trail behind REGUA wetlands on our first morning. *Bird of the Trip* for two of us, and one of the tour's highlights for everyone.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus*

Singles at the start of the Waterfall Trail, at Macae de Cima, along the Waldenoor Trail and at Flagmento; the best views were saved until last.

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*

A male on the far side of a forest clearing at Flagmento was scoped by some but soon vanished.

Black-capped Becard *Pachyramphus marginatus*

Singles heard on the Waterfall Trail then seen high in the canopy on the Waldenoor Trail.

Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus*

One appeared with a mixed flock at Flagmento on our last morning.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Five at Macae de Cima, one of which was scoped. One at Pico da Caledonia.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis*

One was seen briefly at Macae de Cima.

Lemon-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus thoracicus*

One was found in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*

One along the track at Carmo. Three in mixed flocks along the Waterfall Trail. Further singles on the Waldenoor Trail and at the back of REGUA wetlands.

Curl-crested Jay *Cyanocorax cristatellus*

A flock of eight along the main road near Alem Paraiba led to an emergency stop by our vehicles! Fortunately, the birds lingered for ages which was a real bonus. Two others flew over the track at Sumidouro.

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*

Two were picked out feeding over fields below the Waterfall Trail; we found three others over the nearby wet pasture later the same day.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Up to 10 seen on two dates in the REGUA area. Five others noted at Pico da Caledonia.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Seen most days in small numbers; certainly the most widespread hirundine on this tour.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Five at Cabo Frio. 20 on wires as we drove to the Waldenoor Trail.

Moustached Wren *Pheugopedius genibarbis*

Fabulous views of one by the road as we drove from the lodge to the lowland fields on 2 July.

Long-billed Wren *Cantorchilus longirostris*

ENDEMIC

One on the Forest Trail behind REGUA wetlands showed well to all on our first morning.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Two were amongst other passerines mobbing the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl along the track at Carmo. Thereafter noted daily; more often heard than seen, with most records being in and around the lodge garden.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Two found close to the cove at Praia das Conchas showed well. Our field guide indicates it is confined to coastal areas and that restinga is its preferred habitat. A 'write-in' for us but clearly one to expect on future tours.

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

1-2 noted on five dates, mainly in the REGUA area.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

One at REGUA wetlands on our first day. Two near Boasorte.

Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes*

1-4 recorded on four dates, with sightings at REGUA wetlands, the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails and Flagmento.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*

One briefly at Macae de Cima.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

One on our first afternoon in the agricultural lowlands not far from REGUA.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

1-3 seen on five dates; the most widespread of the thrushes.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Introduced. Sightings included five near Teresopolis and 10 at Praia das Conchas.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Introduced. Two seen by everyone at REGUA wetlands on our first morning, another noted at Cabo Frio.

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus chii*

Two showed well in an area of wet pasture near REGUA. Subsequently, we had brief sightings of 1-2 at Cabo Frio and Boasorte.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*

Two near Teresopolis, by the main road. Two others at our lunch spot at Pico de Caledonia. Both sightings were frustratingly brief.

Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea*

Heard only. One called repeatedly along the Waterfall Trail but wouldn't show itself.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*

One in mature trees along the track at Sumidouro was our only sighting.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*

1-2 noted at REGUA wetlands, the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails and Flagmento.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*

One in the lodge garden. Two en route to the Waldenoor Trail. One at Boasorte.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*

1-2 noted on both the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails, at Macae de Cima and Flagmento.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*

Four in the wet pasture near REGUA showed superbly as they fed right by the road.

Half-collared Sparrow *Arremon semitorquatus*

ENDEMIC

We had excellent views of two by the track as we descended from Pico da Caledonia.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

One at Boasorte and two at Pico da Caledonia were our only sightings. Adilei commented on the fact that this species has become much scarcer in recent years.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*

1-2 were seen on five dates, both at REGUA and on our forest excursions. Sightings included one in the lodge garden on the banana feeder.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

Recorded most days, mainly in small numbers but we noted 20+ in the wet pasture close to REGUA on our first afternoon.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

1-5 on two dates in the wet pasture near REGUA. Five along the main road near Alem Paraiba enroute to Carmo.

Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*

One near Alem Paraiba and c.10 at Sumidouro later the same day. Five in the wet pasture near REGUA.

Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus*

Two at REGUA wetlands. One near Alem Paraiba. A large flock numbering around 50 was seen in flight over fields near REGUA as we headed back from the Waterfall Trail.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitaiyumi*

1-2 noted on five dates, including a singing male along the Waldenoor Trail.

White-rimmed Warbler *Myiothlypis leucoblephara*

One seen and another heard at Macae de Cima. One heard at Pico da Caledonia.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Five at Macae de Cima. One at Pico da Caledonia.

Olive-green Tanager *Orthogonys chloricterus*

ENDEMIC

Four, high in the canopy, along the Waldenoor Trail.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica*

Five noted along the Waldenoor Trail, heard only at first then seen, with a male much enjoyed by those doing the additional loop.

Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis*

A party of 12 welcomed us back to the truck at the end of our walk along the Waldenoor Trail.

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*

Two at our morning coffee stop in Alem Paraiba en route to Carmo.

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis*

One briefly in the lodge garden. Four on the Waterfall Trail. One on the Waldenoor Trail. Two at Flagmento.

Rufous-headed Tanager *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*

ENDEMIC

One briefly in the canopy along the Waldenoor Trail.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*

Three distantly at Cachoeiras de Macacu (at the spot where we had stopped to look at the Burrowing Owls).

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

A female was seen briefly in a mixed flock at the start of the Waterfall Trail.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

1-5 seen on five dates, with some excellent views.

Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*

One along the track at Carmo.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Singles enroute to the Waldenoor Trail and behind REGUA wetlands.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

Seen in ones and twos on five dates.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

Two in the wet pasture not far from REGUA.

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*

c.10 along the Waterfall Trail. Two along the Waldenoor Trail.

Flame-crested Tanager *Loriotus cristatus*

One briefly in the lodge garden. Two along the Waterfall Trail. One en route to the Waldenoor Trail.

Grey Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus pileatus*

An inquisitive pair showed at point blank range in the wet pasture near REGUA on our first afternoon; the male was keen to show us his stunning red 'crest'!

Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*

Two near Teresopolis. Three on and around the Waldenoor Trail.

Brazilian Tanager *Ramphocelus bresilia*

ENDEMIC

Two singles at REGUA, in the wetlands and in the wet pasture, then 20 roosting in the wetlands, all on our first day. Two others at Boasorte later in the tour.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*

Brief views of singles enroute to the Waterfall and Waldenoor Trails and two in the scrub at Flagmento.

White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera*

A pair by the track at Sumidouro showed well.

Bay-chested Warbling Finch *Castanozoster thoracicus*

ENDEMIC

Great views of one at the top end of the track at Pico da Caledonia.

Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum*

Two in the mixed flock at Carmo. One along the Waterfall Trail.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

Common and widespread; seen daily.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*

Singles at REGUA wetlands on our first morning and in a mixed flock at Flagmento on our last morning.

Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus*

Two at the top end of the track at Pico da Caledonia.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*

One found along the track at Carmo was perhaps the biggest surprise of the trip.

Red-cowled Cardinal *Paroaria dominicana*

ENDEMIC

One was scoped in the wet pasture not far from REGUA on our first afternoon.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*

Seen on four dates including five at Sumidouro, our maximum day count.

Azure-shouldered Tanager *Thraupis cyanoptera*

ENDEMIC

Singles at the start of the Waterfall Trail and enroute to the Waldenoor Trail.

Golden-chevroned Tanager *Thraupis ornata*

ENDEMIC

One in the REGUA wetlands on our first morning was missed by most, so the two seen enroute to the Waldenoor Trail were very welcome.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Perhaps surprisingly, just three sightings. One at our coffee stop in Alem Paraiba. Two at Praia das Conchas. One along the Waldenoor Trail.

Black-backed Tanager *Stilpnia peruviana*

ENDEMIC

Wonderful views of four in the restinga at Praia das Conchas. The rarest of the tanagers seen on this tour.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Stilpnia cayana*

Two along the track at Carmo. Two at Pico da Caledonia.

Green-headed Tanager *Tangara seledon*

A total of five in the lodge garden and along the Waterfall Trail later the same day. A group of 10 followed us down the Waldenoor Trail.

Red-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanocephala*

One in the canopy along the Waldenoor Trail.

Brassy-breasted Tanager *Tangara desmaresti*

ENDEMIC

Five at Macae de Cima. Two at Pico da Caledonia. A stunning bird, seen very well!

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana*

Excellent views of one at the bottom of the Waterfall Trail. Another seen briefly at the back of REGUA wetlands on our last morning. 'White-bellied Tanager' (endemic subspecies *brasiliensis*) is now considered conspecific with Turquoise Tanager.



REGUA wetlands © David Walsh

SELECTED OTHER SPECIES

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

One seen well on the Forest Trail on our first morning. Another noted on the Waterfall Trail.

Common Marmoset *Callithrix jacchus*

Seen most days on the lodge banana feeders. We also saw one at Flagmento on our last morning.

Guianan Squirrel *Sciurus aestuans*

One at Macae de Cima.

Capybara *Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*

Seen on each visit to REGUA wetlands.

Brazilian Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*

Introduced. Close views of one in the lodge garden at dusk on our first full day.



Brazilian Tapir © David Walsh

Broad-snouted Caiman *Caiman latirostris*

Seen on both morning visits to REGUA wetlands.