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BRAZIL

The Atlantic Rainforest



The stunning Black-and-gold Cotinga was one of the many endemics seen on our 2023 trip to REGUA © David Walsh

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The Atlantic Rainforest

1-10 July 2023

Leader: David Walsh

Local Guide: Adilei Carvalho da Cunha

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 the perfect base from which to explore it. Our flight to Rio was direct, and in under two hours from the airport we were at REGUA and unpacking 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. Once again, early July proved to be an excellent time to visit south-east Brazil, with lots of sunshine, pleasant temperatures throughout, and low humidity.

At REGUA, we enjoyed watching Toco and Channel-billed Toucans in the lodge gardens. In addition, the hummingbird and banana feeders were much used this year. The forest trails gave us opportunities to see skulkers such as Southern Antpipit and Rufous-capped Antthrush as well as striking Black-throated Trogons and a Rufous-capped Motmot. In the grasslands, we watched a Burrowing Owl head down its burrow, and a pair of Red-legged Seriemas put on a remarkable display for us.

The wetlands gave us numerous highlights including a large Cattle Egret roost and a male Bare-throated Bellbird sat out to order on the last morning. After dark on one evening, we had the immense privilege of seeing a Giant Snipe on the ground at point blank range in a marshy area just a few minutes drive from our base.

Close views of several Three-toed Jacamars and White-eared Puffbirds, not forgetting an imposing Chaco Eagle, were the highlights of our visit to the dry forest near Carmo. Our trip to Cabo Frio gave us Restinga Antwren in the restinga plus Roseate Spoonbills and a wide variety of herons, egrets and shorebirds on the lagoons.

We spent two days in the hills and at Macae de Cima found Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Green-crowned Plovercrest and Frilled Coquette, whilst the higher elevations on Pico da Caledonia gave us Black-and-gold Cotinga, Large-tailed Antshrike and Half-collared Sparrow.

Beyond the birds, we enjoyed seeing Sloths, Marmosets and Caimans as well as an array of colourful butterflies.

Our local guide was truly outstanding, helping us to record an impressive 306 bird species during the holiday, once again above expectations. A real feature of this year's tour was the high percentage of birds we saw really well and were able to photograph. It was my fourth tour to REGUA and in many ways, the best of them.

David Walsh

August 2023



REGUA wetlands © David Walsh

Trip Diary

Saturday 1st July

Our early afternoon British Airways flight from Heathrow's Terminal 5 arrived in Rio de Janeiro twenty minutes ahead of schedule. It wasn't long before we were through customs and meeting with Alcení, our minibus driver from REGUA. We were on our way at 8:45pm and, after a smooth journey, arrived at our lodge at 10:25pm. We were given our room keys and there were sandwiches, soft drinks and beers ready for us in the dining room. Very soon, we retired to unpack before some much-needed sleep.

Sunday 2nd July

Mainly sunny, clouding over later, one light afternoon shower, 17-23°C

Birds were calling in the dark from 6:10am and it got light very quickly and we were watching our first birds around twenty minutes later prior to our 7am breakfast. The first morning on tour is always exciting and today was no exception. Around the garden we found Toco and Channel-billed Toucans side by side plus a Pearly-breasted Cuckoo, a real bonus and a lifer for all of us. A Rufous-tailed Jacamar sat out nicely and we correctly identified a Boat-billed Flycatcher, a species we would soon be comparing with Great Kiskadee and Social Flycatcher. Our first tanagers, Yellow-backed and Green-headed, were scoped in the canopy.

Around 8am, we set off on foot with Adilei, our guide for the whole week. We had only gone a few metres when we paused for a Reddish Hermit in the flowers, then an obliging Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and a female White-browed Piculet. A very good start!



Chestnut-backed Antshrike © David Walsh

We strolled down the road to the start of the Yellow Trail which encircles the wonderful wetlands which have been created in the last few years. Completed as recently as 2010, they comprise small lakes, marshland and replanted tapebua trees. In one bush, we had point blank views of Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher and Silvery-flanked Antwren, with both male and female Yellow-legged Thrush in a nearby tree and a Unicoloured Antwren not far away. The first of three Sloths sat motionless above us. The views of all these

species were amazing: we began to fill our memory cards and wondered if Adilei would be able to maintain this standard all week!



Silvery-flanked Antwren © David Walsh

Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Anhinga, Purple Gallinule, Brazilian Teal and wild Muscovy Duck were amongst the birds noted at the first lake, and we compared Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers through the scopes. Masked Water Tyrant and White-headed Marsh Tyrants were enjoyed, two species with which we would become very familiar.

The trail itself produced Streaked Xenops and Chestnut-bellied Euphonia then a tail quivering Sooretama Slaty Antshrike and a fabulous singing Grey-hooded Attila. We sat on a bench to watch the perched Southern Rough-winged Swallows, but eventually fatigue set in after our long journey and short night. We carried on, completed the circuit and arrived back at the lodge at noon. Violet-capped Woodnymphs, Swallow-tailed Hummingbirds and Glittering-throated Emeralds were whizzing around and making use of the feeders.

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 Thomas Locke, our host, and firm up plans for each day of the tour. During our rest period, a group of stunning, if raucous, White Woodpeckers tucked into the bananas in the garden and, somewhat incongruously, a Black Vulture arrived for a drink!

At 3pm we set off again, this time in the truck with which we would become very familiar. Nicholas Locke, the REGUA President and inspiration behind the project, hitched a lift with us back to his home. We would spend the afternoon exploring the wet pastures and agricultural fields not far from our base. Southern Lapwing, Whistling Heron, Smooth-billed Ani and White-browed Blackbird were all scoped, Blue-and-white Swallows fed on the insects and Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and White-collared Swift were noted above us.

Adilei was keen to head on and we made for a marshy area at Boasorte which we would return to later in the tour to look for Giant Snipe. We made three stops, and all were highly productive. At the first, Adilei's Ferruginous Pygmy Owl call enticed Rufous-fronted

Thornbird, Bran-coloured Flycatcher, White-bellied Seedeater and a diminutive Southern Beardless Tyrannulet to show themselves. A little further on, we had great views of Grassland Sparrow, Campo Flicker, Streamer-tailed Tyrants and a pair of Peach-fronted Parakeets: yet more photo opportunities!

At the far end of the marsh, we descended from the truck one more time. A group of Guira Cuckoos and a pair of Brazilian Tanagers were seen up close, whilst a more distant Curl-crested Jay was scoped. Chopi Blackbirds and both Band-tailed and Rufous Horneros were all seen well, but the star attraction here was a Pantanal Snipe. It proved hard to spot until a Wattled Jacana flushed it out into the open, then it flew across the road allowing us all to note its short tail.

We arrived back at 5:30pm. Our first round of complimentary caipirinhas, the Brazilian national cocktail, was well received as we did the bird list at 6:15pm prior to our 7pm dinner. We had had an incredibly productive and enjoyable first full day at REGUA and headed to bed well before 9pm in anticipation of our first excursion the following morning.

Monday 3rd July

Rain overnight, clearing early morning then cloudy with sunny spells, 17-23°C

We met for breakfast at 6:30am in preparation for a 7am departure which would be our routine for the remainder of the tour. Unusually, it was wet first thing with the cloud base as low as I had ever seen it, but this didn't interfere with our plans.

We set off in the minibus on a journey which 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. The weather had improved considerably by the time we made our first stop, by a toll booth. The roadside vegetation and adjacent stream produced a cracking Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, as



well as Green Kingfisher, Southern Yellowthroat and Orange-eyed Thornbird. A little further on, we made a pit stop and, scanning the hillside across the road, spotted two White-tailed Hawks.

Slaty-breasted Wood Rail © Martin Binning

Soon we descended into completely different habitat, dry grassland, and just before reaching Alem Paraiba we stopped for a Crested Black Tyrant on a rock by the road. To our right, two Cliff Flycatchers perched up on a fence.

Eventually we reached our destination, Carmo, and drove up through the town on a rough road and then a track to the top of a hill for our main walk of the day. We were pleased to find the gate at the bottom open as the track was steep. Halfway up we stopped as Adilei had seen a raptor on top of a mast. We were thrilled to find it was a Chaco Eagle, one of the most sought-after species in the area. We all got scope views before the bird took off and glided overhead and away to our right, an awesome sight.

The remnants of Atlantic dry forest are thoroughly degraded, but still support a wide variety of bird life including several endemics and we had a highly productive hour strolling along a track. Our two main targets, Serra Antwren and Three-toed Jacamar were both seen early on, the latter very well. Most of the birds were to our right, down the slope, which meant we saw them at eye level. New birds came thick and fast and included Euler's, Brown-crested and Sepia-capped Flycatchers, Golden-crowned Warbler, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Yellow-olive and Ochre-lore Flatbills and Grey Pileated Finch, with a Squirrel Cuckoo looking enormous in comparison to all of these. For the second successive tour, we found a Magpie Tanager; Adilei was both delighted and surprised.



Sapphire-spangled Emerald © David Walsh

In the afternoon, we drove along a track on the other side of town, with open grassland and scattered bushes on both sides in an area in the vicinity of Sumidouro. My recollection from previous visits was that the birding was likely to be slow, but it certainly wasn't today. One of our main targets was White-eared Puffbird, and we saw four together, the birds perching up on wires right next to us. We also found the nest of the aptly named Firewood-gatherer and then three birds which gave excellent views, as did a group of Cobalt-rumped Parrotlets. Once again, we were on a roll, and Adilei managed to lure out an Ash-throated Crake which sat motionless for ages at point blank range.

We had decided to 'declare' at 3pm, which left time for one more planned stop, finding Campo Troupial, yet another quality bird. Shiny and Giant Cowbirds were bonuses, viewed from the bus itself.

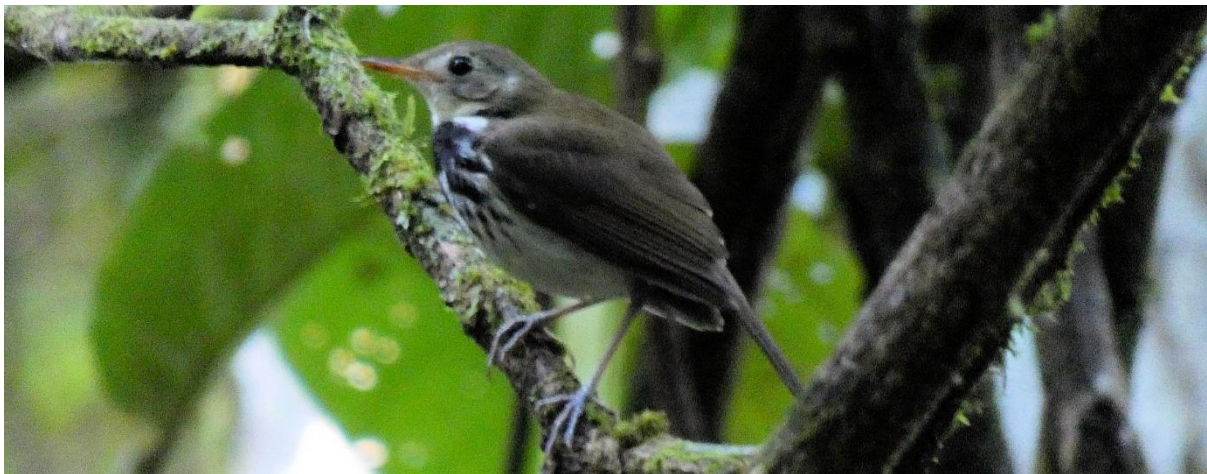
It took around 25 minutes to reach the main road, then we headed for REGUA making just one short stop to give Alceni a break. We arrived back at 6pm, in good time to freshen up

before the list and our 7pm dinner. It had been a long day, but a thoroughly rewarding one with a host of wonderful species, many of which we had seen very well.

Tuesday 4th July

Sunny, 12-23°C

The weather was perfect for another 'local day' and after breakfast, we boarded the truck and headed north-east through the farmland for around six kilometres 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.



Southern Antpipit © David Walsh

We started with a bang, finding White-throated Spadebill and a male Scaled Antbird to our right and then Southern Antpipit and Black-cheeked Gnateater to our left. A pair of Yellow-eared Woodpeckers was seen well and, a little further up, we enjoyed photographing an obliging Black-throated Trogon. A Rufous-capped Antthrush called and called, but we seemed destined not to see it until I recorded it and played the sound back; this had the desired effect and, one by one, we watched it strutting through the undergrowth. As so often on this tour, the fact we were a small group paid dividends.

Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser and Saw-billed Hermit showed to all, but a Golden-tailed Parrotlet wasn't quite so cooperative. A little further up, we reached a point where the trail divides and decided we had gone far enough. Spending a few minutes here worked well, with a number of species added to our list including Spot-billed Toucanet, a female sitting high in the canopy.

With things warming up, the descent was slower in terms of birds, but we had two magic moments, seeing a Star-throated Antwren and, shortly before reaching the truck, a Crescent-chested Puffbird.

We drove off in the truck but stopped almost at once, finding a feeding flock right in front of us. Red-necked Tanager, male Flame-crested Tanager, White-necked Thrush and Black-capped Foliage-gleaner were amongst the species on offer. We declared and headed back for lunch and a rest.

Crescent-chested Puffbird © Cathryn Pritchard



We set off again at 3pm, driving south-west at first and making an anti-clockwise loop through areas which Adilei referred to as Areal and Bastiana. We found

some Pale-vented Pigeons with a large flock of Picazuros, but there was little of note until we reached an area of grassland. Here, we were chuffed to find a Burrowing Owl and amused when, perhaps because of the cattle, it decided to head down its burrow!

Round the corner a Yellowish Pipit showed right by the track then we headed on.

When a Red-cowled Cardinal was spotted, we made an emergency stop and conveniently there was a mixed flock close by and we were pleased to find Green-barred Woodpecker and Lemon-chested Greenlet with a Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift above us.

To an extent the afternoon's proceedings were simply the warm up before the main act, as shortly before dusk we arrived at Boasorte, donned our wellies and headed down into a marshy field. Bang on 5:30pm, the first Giant Snipe started calling from a stationary position and, just a little later, we heard and saw one in its 'roding' display flight. We weren't finished, however, as Adilei found one on the ground and we all had super views. He then went further and located another right at his feet. Seeing it like that was something which I had read about, but on all my previous tours, it hadn't happened. Today it actually had, and it was scarcely believable!

Somewhat stunned by our success, we returned to the truck and stuck to our plan of spending a short time 'owling' at a spot where a number of species were known to be present. We drew a blank with Tawny-browed but heard both Striped and Mottled.

We didn't hang around for long, arriving back at base at 7:05am with just enough time to freshen up before our 7:30pm dinner. We did the list afterwards and it took a while as we

had tallied a long list of species, including some very special ones, and reflected further on one of those very special moments which would live long in the memory.



The stunning views of Giant Snipe were an undoubted highlight of the tour © David Walsh

Wednesday 5th July

Cloudy becoming mainly sunny, breezy, 13-22°C (cooler in the hills)

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 onto a track. We were at Macae de Cima on the first of our two 'mountain days' and were birding at around 8:15am.

A hotel at the bottom was supposed to have rest rooms but we found it abandoned and whilst the Black Jacobin in a flowering tree was lovely, it was not quite what we were after....

We drove on for a few minutes and started our stroll at around 1,100 metres altitude. We would spend much of the morning walking around three kilometres up the track with the minibus always close by. Almost at once, we found a feeding flock which included Rufous-headed Tanager, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Plain Antvireo and at least three species of foliage-gleaner and woodcreeper. After this initial rush, the birds kept coming, but at a steady pace. We added White-rimmed Warbler, Variable Antshrike, Pin-tailed Manakin, Rufous Gnatcatcher, Scaly-headed Parrot and Rufous-capped Spinetail, however, these were all trumped by a Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper. On the last tour, we had failed to see this species despite hearing several but this year the first one we tried to see showed itself at once!

Two male Black-throated Trogons showed splendidly before we got on the truck and headed a little higher. A group of 10 Bay-chested Warbling Finches sat out for us. We paused at a specific spot and before long found at least two male Green-crowned Plovercrests feeding on flowers by the track. We had excellent views of this awesome hummingbird. As last year, I

was relieved as on earlier 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.



Black-throated Trogon © David Walsh

We soon reached the top of the track where we heard a Black-and-gold Cotinga and some saw a Mouse-coloured Tapaculo. Adilei decided it was too windy to have our picnic here so we headed down, stopping just once to enjoy some Maroon-bellied Parakeets right by the track.

For the first part of the afternoon, we strolled along a section of track where there was secondary habitat including bamboo. Birding was hard work, but eventually we saw both Ochre-rumped and Bertoni's Antbirds. We glimpsed a female Giant Antshrike but sadly the calling male remained hidden.

We passed a garden with several noisy dogs then found a spot with thrushes feeding on fruit and a small feeding flock. A Black-tailed Flycatcher was unexpected, Olivaceous Woodcreeper less so. As we headed back to the minibus, we found a party of Uniform Finches.

A Velvety Black Tyrant was noted before we disembarked once again. In another incredible spell, we found Rufous-capped Antshrike, Spix's Spinetail, a female Brazilian Ruby and best of all a Frilled Coquette, a species I had never seen previously at Macae de Cima.

We reached the main road shortly before 4pm and, via a pit stop and a pair of Burrowing Owls, headed back to the lodge, arriving at 5:20pm. A power cut made things interesting for a while, but things were back to normal by dinner time. We retired after yet another superb day.

Thursday 6th July

Mainly sunny, breezy, 13-22°C

For the early risers the day began with a Rusty-margined Guan on the banana feeder!

After breakfast, we delayed our departure by ten minutes to photograph Toco Toucans in the sunshine. Soon we headed off in the truck, heading north-west of the lodge for around nine kilometres. We passed through the village of Matumbo where we found Grey-breasted Martins on the wires and, leaving the fields behind, climbed into the foothills. A stop gave us Double-collared Seedeater and great views of several different tanagers but not the White-bellied we were hoping for.

Toco Toucan © David Walsh

We drove a little further and parked by a house with a large garden where the altitude was around 250 metres. From the clearing, we found Olive-green Tanagers, a pair of Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers, Southern Tropical Pewee, Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, Grey-capped Tyrannulet and Purple-throated Euphonia.



Soon we began 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 and it helped that as elsewhere the ground was dry.

The breeze meant that finding birds in the canopy was tricky and it was certainly slower than on previous days. Nevertheless, we managed to see Pale-browed Treehunter and Black-capped Becard, as well as Red-crowned Ant Tanager which Adilei explained acted as 'leader of the pack' in the feeding flocks.

We eventually reached another house and decided not to go any further as the next section was rough and steep. This open area was a lovely spot to spend half an hour or so and we found Grey-rumped Swifts overhead and Plain Parakeets in the garden. There was time to get to grips with species we had seen earlier in the tour and admire the colourful butterflies. Pottering back slowly, we found a group of Yellow-green Grosbeaks and had superb views of Red-necked Tanager and Squirrel Cuckoo.

We got back on the truck and began our return journey but had cause to make three stops. At the first, we finally pinned down a Rufous-capped Motmot and had great looks. At the last,

we had excellent views of a Savanna Hawk with a White-chinned Sapphire being the pick of the species in yet another flock. We arrived back at 12:10pm with plenty of time to relax before lunch; for the first time on the tour it was actually rather warm!

A group of Marmosets by the swimming pool proved photogenic during our break and we decided to do the morning's bird list to save time later.

At 3pm we headed off, stopping at the bottom of the hill to admire the pair of Tropical Screech Owls which Adilei had located a little earlier. We drove to an area of woodland called Flagmento where it was thought we might see bellbirds. We even had to move a car off the track to reach our destination, however, the woods were absolutely birdless so we drove on to a place with a vista over the hills. Adilei was hoping we might find Red-legged Seriema here, and scanning a distant slope we found two. He used playback and, to our astonishment, the birds locked in on the sound, trotting down the hill and across the next meadow before standing and calling right in front of us. Unreal!

Red-legged Seriema © David Walsh



We decided to spend the last hour of daylight at the wetlands where we scoped a Capped Heron and found a Least Grebe before watching a group of Chestnut-capped Blackbirds in the reeds. There was time to head to the hide. Right in front of us were the roosting Western Cattle Egrets I had hoped we would see. Some were still arriving, and I counted over 500. A Coci Heron showed surprisingly well through the scope and we heard Striped Owl and then Grey-cowled Wood Rail. Eventually, we declared and arrived back at 5:55pm. I was really pleased we had made time for a magical dusk visit to the wetlands.

Friday 7th July

Sunny, calm, 14-26°C

Today was the first of two successive days of excursions. We headed south-east to the coast for a change of scene and having made a pit stop en route were birding at 9am.

At Sao Pedro da Aldeia we made two stops and at the first, compared Royal and 'Cayenne' Terns and saw our first Grey-headed and Kelp Gulls. The Magnificent Frigatebirds overhead were much enjoyed as ever. At our second site, we found diminutive Yellow-billed Terns and scoped a Tropical Mockingbird.

Having driven a little further to Cabo Frio, 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 and given the time of year, I was delighted to see such a wide range of shorebirds which included Hudsonian Whimbrel, Willet and Semipalmated Plover as well as side by side White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Pristine White-backed Stilts provided close photo opportunities and there were impressive numbers of White-cheeked Pintail, although the highlight was a flock of 18 Roseate Spoonbills.

Eventually, it was time to make the short journey to a very different birding spot and we spent 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 highly sought-after and was clearly quite numerous at our location. Further along the track, we found a Fuscous Flycatcher as well as Chivi Vireo, Tropical Parula and Hangnest Tody-Tyrant. Back on the main track we lured out a Fulvous-crowned Scrub Tyrant but sadly there was no sign of any Black-backed Tanagers.

Pleased with what we had seen, we drove to the beach and were given permission to eat our picnic in a shaded café, duly purchasing some refreshing fruit juices and other drinks. Afterwards, we walked a short distance to a secluded bay where we watched Brown Boobies passing offshore and scoped a Plain-breasted Ground Dove with a family of Saffron Finches also appearing right in front of us.

After a little more birding in the restinga, we made a planned stop at a lagoon where Adilei soon found our main quarry, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. There was also a group of Lesser Yellowlegs and over 150 White-backed Stilts.

For our final birding, we returned to a spot we had visited in the morning. A nearby pool held a fine array of herons and egrets, with the Snowy Egrets showing especially well. A Brown-chested Martin overhead was our only one of the trip.

We arrived back at base with plenty of time to freshen up before caipirinhas, dinner and the list. It was certainly good to have had a change of scene.

Saturday 8th July

Sunny, breezy, 14-23°C (cooler in the mountains)

Today's excursion was to Pico da Caledonia which at 2,219 metres is 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. Here, we made a short pit stop

before driving a little further to a spot where we transferred from the minibus to the truck, expertly driven by Loan. Our track headed south-west and was very steep and making for an interesting journey; we had to negotiate our way around a broken down minibus on the way! We disembarked at the top of the track at an altitude of around 2,050 metres where it was bright and surprisingly mild, but frustratingly windy.

At an open area, we scanned unsuccessfully for Grey-winged Cotinga but spotted a Small-headed Elaenia. From the track itself we saw several Diademed Tanagers, but generally it was remarkably quiet birdwise. We persevered and found a close Black-billed Scythebill followed by a Blue-billed Black Tyrant and a stunningly obliging Large-tailed Antshrike.

At noon, we boarded the truck and descended a fair way before taking a track off to the north-west to an Adilei referred to as Sao Bernardo. We were now at an altitude of 1,400 metres and were hoping to find Swallow-tailed Cotinga in and around a garden by the track, but sadly there was no sign; perhaps this species moves elsewhere in the southern winter? We had good views of White-crested Tyrannulet and Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant, but a Green-winged Saltator vanished all too quickly.

Having finished our picnic, we strolled along two sections of the track and had good views of Scale-throated Hermit and White-throated Hummingbird, as well as seconds of a number of species we had seen at Macae de Cima.

We began our return journey in the truck, thinking that perhaps today wasn't going to be our day. The mood, however, changed in an instant, as we had ace views of two Surucua Trogons and then, against all the odds, a truly wonderful Black-and-gold Cotinga which decided to descend from a distant perch to a tree right in front of us!

Buoyant, we had outstanding views of a Half-collared Sparrow before heading to the spot where Alcení had waited with the minibus. I was keen to begin our return journey at 4pm, which gave us half an hour to stroll along the road. We winkled out another Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper which showed brilliantly and was clearly keen to have its photograph taken, then found a Versicoloured Emerald, our 300th species.

Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper © Cathryn Pritchard

Although we were delayed by traffic in Nova Friburgo, we still managed to arrive back at



base at 6pm and over dinner reflected on a day of contrasting fortunes, the excellent afternoon certainly compensating for a slow morning.

Sunday 9th July

Light rain clearing then overcast but mainly dry, 17-23°C

The early risers took advantage of a last chance to hear the dawn chorus of Rufous-capped Motmot, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and Collared Forest Falcon.

The weather was very different this morning, with a low cloud base and rain threatening. At 7am, we headed down the shortcut to the wetlands and made first for the small pool to the right where we immediately found five White-faced Whistling Ducks with a flock of twelve seen later. We eventually established that both Pied-billed and Least Grebes were present before watching at least three inquisitive Rufous-sided Crakes at close range.

We took the shortcut to the Brown Trail and headed onwards to the Purple Trail, reaching the 600 metre marker. It was dark, with light rain falling, and at first it was very quiet. Unfortunately, there was no sign of Brazilian Laniisoma at any of its favoured areas and Adilei said he had seen it on very few occasions this year, in contrast to 2022. We persevered and were rewarded with a showy Long-billed Wren then a resplendent male Blue Manakin.

Having returned to the wetlands, we found a bench and paused for a well-earned rest. We had one real gap in our list, Bare-throated Bellbird, and no sooner had this been mentioned when we heard one calling. We made for the 'causeway' between the lakes and scanned. Incredibly, I spotted the male perched up in a distant tree! It was the first one I had ever seen at this spot, so we were extremely fortunate.

Jubilant, we headed a little further, to just beyond a small bridge. A Moustached Wren was eventually seen well, and we watched a Rufous-breasted Hermit feeding on flowers in front of another, well-positioned, bench.

Drifting back, we had superb views of a Rufescent Tiger Heron and enjoyed revising the species we had seen earlier in the week. Some spotted an Agouti en route to the hide, from where we saw four Black-crowned Night Herons, a Grey-cowled Wood Rail and a lurking Caiman. Capybaras were once again noticeable by their absence.

We declared a little before midday and headed back to base. The idea was to return to our rooms and start packing but, perhaps because of the cooler conditions, there was a good deal of activity on the feeders. A female Green Honeycreeper was a surprise, our last 'new bird', and there were plenty of opportunities for phone scoping a range of species, including Maroon-bellied Parakeet.



Maroon-bellied Parakeet © David Walsh

We did our final bird list and enjoyed our last lunch together. A female Bare-throated Bellbird was a surprise before we declared to pack and settle our bar bills.

At 3:45pm we had a proper chance to say goodbye to the people who had played a key part in making the holiday such a good one. We thanked Denise and Natalha who had cooked our delicious meals and cleaned our rooms, Alceni who had driven so many miles with us and, last but not least, Adilei, one of the very best guides any of us had ever birded with.

At 4pm we set off in the minibus for our drive to the airport, arriving shortly after 6pm. It wasn't long before we were checking in, in the priority queue, and through into departures for a bite to eat. Our 9:50pm flight took off on time.

Monday 10th July

We touched down at Heathrow around lunchtime, ahead of schedule, before heading our separate ways at the end of a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable tour.

David Walsh

August 2023

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius* [H]

One heard calling along the Waterfall Trail was a trip first.

Brown Tinamou *Crypturellus obsoletus* [H]

One heard calling along the Waterfall Trail.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

12 at REGUA wetlands on our last morning.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Up to 20 at REGUA wetlands on each visit.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

Up to 30 at REGUA wetlands on each visit, with smaller numbers at three other sites.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

c.100 in total in the Cabo Frio area.

Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*

One visited the lodge garden feeders on two occasions.

Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura* [H]

One calling in a tree at Macae de Cima remained hidden.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

We had wonderful views of one on the ground in the lodge garden and glimpsed it again later in the week. It, or another, was heard calling occasionally at dusk nearby.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Singles over the Guapiacu fields and the Waldenoor Trail. 100+ at Cabo Frio.

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

Five overhead from the Waldenoor Trail.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*

One above the Areal/Bastiana lowlands. Two above the REGUA wetlands on our dusk visit.

Black Jacobin *Florisuga fusca*

One at Macae de Cima in a flowering tree next to the abandoned hotel.

Saw-billed Hermit *Ramphodon naevius*

ENDEMIC

One seen in flight, then perched, along the bamboo section of the Waterfall Trail.

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus*

One in the lodge garden on our first morning. Another at the back of REGUA wetlands on our last morning, conveniently feeding on a flower in front of our bench!

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber*

Singles were seen well just outside the lodge garden and along the Brown Trail.

Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*

We had glimpses at three sites then finally saw one well at Sao Bernardo.

Frilled Coquette *Lophornis magnificus*

ENDEMIC

One near the road 'summit' at Macae de Cima was a very welcome surprise!

Brazilian Ruby *Clytolaema rubricauda*

ENDEMIC

Females were seen at Macae de Cima and Pico da Caledonia.

Green-crowned Plovercrest *Stephanoxis lalandi*

ENDEMIC

Fabulous views of three males at Macae de Cima and we even managed to scope one of them! Two were glimpsed at Pico da Caledonia.

Violet-capped Woodnymph *Thalurania glaucopis*

Seen most days on the lodge feeders, with odd ones noted elsewhere.

Violet-capped Woodnymph © Cathryn Pritchard

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*

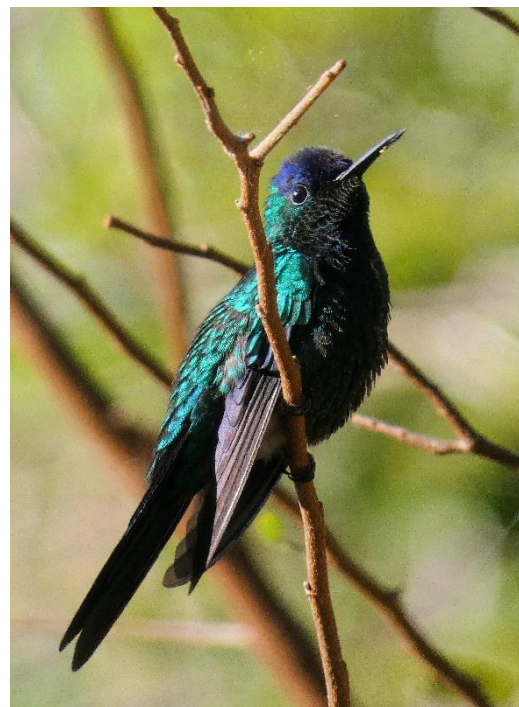
Seen most days on the lodge feeders and occasionally elsewhere around the reserve and nearby.

Versicoloured Emerald *Chrysuronia versicolor*

One at Pico da Caledonia was our 300th species.

White-throated Hummingbird *Leucochloris albicollis*

One at Macae de Cima was distant. We tallied three at Pico da Caledonia/Sao Bernardo.



Glittering-throated Emerald *Chionomesa fimbriata*

Two in the lodge garden at lunchtime on our first day. Singles noted at Areal/Bastiana and along the Waldenoor Trail.

Sapphire-spangled Emerald *Chionomesa lactea*

Three noted along the track at Carmo.

White-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes cyanus*

One in a garden from the track below the Waldenoor Trail. Another at Pico da Caledonia.

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

Seen on three dates, with 20+ tallied as we drove our circuit around the Areal/Bastiana lowlands.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

1-2 noted in the REGUA wetlands on both morning visits.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Small numbers noted most days, mainly in the farmland near REGUA.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* [H]

1-2 heard calling on both visits to Boasorte.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

We had brilliant views of one along the Carmo track, and noted others on the Waldenoor Trail and around the REGUA wetlands.

Pearly-breasted Cuckoo *Coccyzus euleri*

One in the REGUA lodge garden on our first morning was a real surprise!

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

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

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*

Common and seen and heard daily with a maximum of c.200 on our Areal/Bastiana circuit.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

At least five were found feeding with a large flock of Picazuro Pigeons on our Areal/Bastiana circuit.

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta*

Two at Areal/Bastiana. One in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Noted daily but generally in small numbers.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

1-2 heard and occasionally glimpsed on four dates, mainly in the REGUA area.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* [H]

One was heard at Macae de Cima.



Ash-throated Crake © David Walsh

Ash-throated Crake *Mustelirallus albicollis*

We had prolonged close views of one at Sumidouro. Heard on three other dates in and around REGUA/Boasorte.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*

Heard calling on both visits to Boasorte – always sounding in pain!

Grey-cowled Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus*

We saw one from the hide at REGUA wetlands on our last morning having heard two there at dusk earlier in the week.

Slaty-breasted Wood Rail *Aramides saracura*

One showed superbly by the main road at Teresopolis as we broke our journey to the dry forest. Another was seen briefly at Sao Bernardo.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

10-20 seen on our visits to REGUA wetlands. Others noted at Cabo Frio.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*

5-10 seen on each visit to REGUA wetlands.

Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*

We had close views of at least three inquisitive individuals at REGUA wetlands on our last morning.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

One at REGUA wetlands on two dates.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Singles at Cabo Frio and REGUA wetlands.

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*

Widespread in the Cabo Frio area with c.200 noted in total where we had wonderfully close views.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Up to 20 seen daily, mainly in open fields.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

c.20 in the Cabo Frio area with close views of two individuals.

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*

One at Cabo Frio was seen on the ground but not in flight, so we weren't able to see the dark rump.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Four at Sao Pedro da Aldeia were extremely distant.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

One at Cabo Frio with the plovers.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

One at Cabo Frio with the above species and plovers, so we were able to get a good size comparison.

Pantanal Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiae*

One was seen well on the ground and in flight in broad daylight on our first visit to Boasorte. It looked noticeably short-tailed.

Giant Snipe *Gallinago undulata*

We noted four calling on the ground at Boasorte from 5:30pm and, soon after, saw one making its 'roding' display flight. A little later, we spot lit one on the ground at remarkably close range thanks to Adilei's expertise. Definitely my *Bird of the Trip!*

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Five on a lagoon at Cabo Frio.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

One at Cabo Frio was a surprise.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

One along the shoreline at Cabo Frio.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

The only 'small gull' at Cabo Frio/Sao Pedro da Aldeia, with c.30 noted in total.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Seen at both Cabo Frio/Sao Pedro da Aldeia and Praia das Conchas, but in very small numbers.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Two roosting with Cabot's Terns at Sao Pedro da Aldeia stood out due to the much larger size.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acutiflavus*

Two at Sao Pedro da Aldeia were yellow-billed 'Cayenne Terns', the breeding subspecies.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*

Three at our second coastal stop at Sao Pedro da Aldeia. This species looks very like our Little Tern.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Relatively small numbers on our coastal day at Cabo Frio/Praia das Conchas, but we had some excellent views of birds overhead.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Three were seen feeding offshore at Praia das Conchas.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

At least two on each visit to REGUA wetlands.

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

Two at REGUA wetlands. 20+ in the Cabo Frio area.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

20 were much enjoyed at Cabo Frio including a flock of 18.

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Singles on two of our visits to REGUA wetlands, with cracking views on our last morning.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One at dusk from the REGUA wetlands hide at dusk on 6 July, with four there on 9 July. Two at Cabo Frio. All but one were immatures.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

One roosting on a lagoon at Cabo Frio was a good find.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Three at Cabo Frio, with good views of birds in the afternoon when the light was better.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Widespread in small numbers in suitable habitat. We tallied over 500 at the roost close to the hide at REGUA wetlands.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Singles at REGUA wetlands near the hide on 6 July and at Sao Pedro da Aldeia the following day.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Regular sightings of 1-2 in and around REGUA. c.10 in the Cabo Frio area.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

Two at REGUA wetlands on 6 July.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*

Two were seen well in the Guapiacu fields on our first afternoon.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Five in total at three sites in the Cabo Frio/Sao Pedro da Aldeia area.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Odd ones in the morning then a roosting group of c.30 in the afternoon at Cabo Frio. We had some wonderful scope views.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Widespread, common and seen daily.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Seen most days, mainly in small numbers, max. c10 as we returned from the Waldenoor Trail.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

Just one, over the Guapiacu lowlands on our first afternoon.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*

1-2 noted in the lowlands not far from REGUA on three dates, with another seen at Sao Bernardo. We enjoyed fine views of birds in flight and perched.

Chaco Eagle *Butorogallus coronatus*

One was scoped perched high on a mast before it flew over us at Carmo, This was another of the trip's real highlights.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Surprisingly we saw just two, from the road en route to Carmo and just below the start of the Waterfall Trail.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*

We had superb views of a pair soaring over the hillside near Teresopolis.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

We were thrilled to see one actually head down its burrow in the lowlands at Areal/Bastiana. Two at Cachoeiras de Macacu on our way back from Macae de Cima the following day were very co-operative at a 'stake-out'!



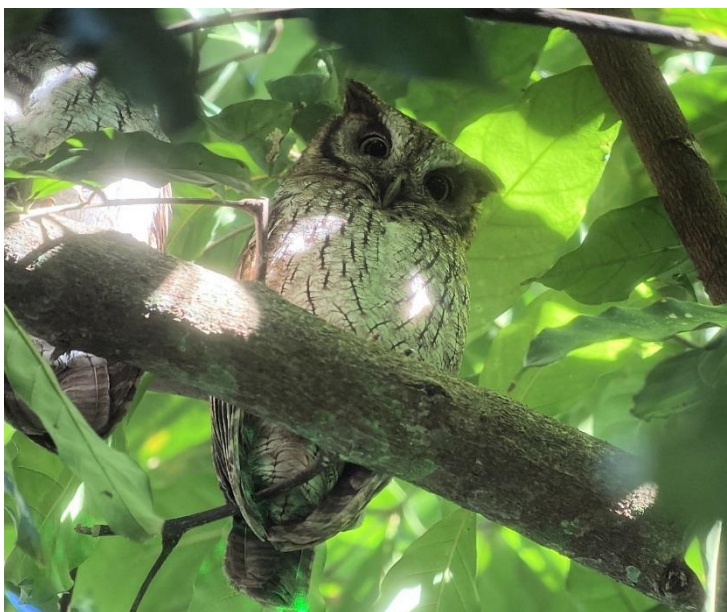
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl © David Walsh

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

We had superb scope views of one perched close to our lodge garden on the first morning. It or another was heard pre-dawn most mornings. Another was heard along the Purple Trail. Whistling its call was a highly effective way of attracting a wide variety of passerines!

Striped Owl *Pseudoscops clamator*

Singles were heard after dark at Boasorte and on our dusk visit to REGUA wetlands.



Tropical Screech Owl © David Walsh

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*

Adilei showed us a roosting pair not far from REGUA lodge on 6 July.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*

One was heard calling after dark at Boasorte. It wasn't a call any of us recognised but *xeno-canto* came to the rescue!

Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*

We heard one on the Waldenoor Trail and saw two, female then male, at Sao Bernardo.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

We had splendid views of one along the Waterfall Trail then even better looks at two males at Macae de Cima.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

We saw a female at REGUA wetlands on our first and last days.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

One perched out in the open at Teresopolis was a real bonus.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

We scoped a female at REGUA wetlands on our first morning and saw others there on each subsequent visit. One was noted at Sao Pedro da Aldeia on our day at the coast.

Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*

We glimpsed one along the Waterfall Trail then had wonderful views just below the start of the Waldenoor Trail. Its call was a feature of the lodge's dawn chorus, and others were heard from time to time elsewhere.

Three-toed Jacamar *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla*

ENDEMIC

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

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

Noted on three dates. We had excellent views in the lodge garden on our first morning and as we ascended the Waldenoor Trail.



White-eared Puffbird © David Walsh

White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru*

We found four at Sumidouro and had outstanding views as they sat out calling and tail-wagging.

Crescent-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila striata*

ENDEMIC

We found one close to the start of the Waterfall Trail on our descent, and had prolonged views.

Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris*

Despite being high in the canopy, a female was seen well at our furthest spot along the Waterfall Trail, its call having alerted us to its presence.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Recorded on three dates, with our best views in and around the grounds of our lodge.



Toco Toucan © David Walsh

Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*

On previous tours this species had been hard to find, but it has clearly established itself in and around the lodge garden, and we had some memorable sightings especially as birds sat out in the early morning sunshine. Others were noted at Boasorte. What an amazing beak!

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*

We scoped both male and female birds on our first morning between the lodge and REGUA wetlands and had two more nearby on our last day. Others were noted at Macae de Cima and along the Waldenoor Trail. A very good haul!

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

A group of four interrupted our siesta on the first afternoon, perching up and calling before tucking into the bananas. We found two more on our lowland circuit drive through Areal/Bastiana.

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons*

Two showed splendidly at the start of the Waldenoor Trail.

Yellow-eared Woodpecker *Veniliornis maculifrons*

ENDEMIC

We saw this species on three consecutive days, with two noted along the Waterfall Trail and at Macae de Cima then one along the Waldenoor Trail.

Yellow-browed Woodpecker *Piculus aurulentus*

Two showed well at the road summit at Macae de Cima. We found another at Sao Bernardo.

Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*

Singles were found at Areal/Bastiana and Macae de Cima.

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*

We had excellent views of up to three birds on each visit to Boasorte.

Blond-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens*

Singles at REGUA wetlands on our first and last mornings with the latter a little more cooperative.

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*

One of the most extraordinary events of the whole tour was watching a pair descend at speed from a distant hillside at Flagmento all the way to the meadow right next to us, stopping at regular intervals to call very loudly indeed. It will live long in the memory!

Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Widespread, and seen daily, mostly in small numbers, but we tallied 10+ on our lowland drive through Areal/Bastiana.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* [H]

Heard from the lodge at dusk on our first full day and by the early risers in the dawn chorus later in the tour.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

One was seen at Sumidouro. It was distant but readily identifiable through the scope.

Golden-tailed Parrotlet *Touit surdus*

ENDEMIC

One along the Waterfall Trail was heard by everyone but, unfortunately, only seen by some of us.

Plain Parakeet *Brotogeris tirica*

ENDEMIC

One was glimpsed at Macae de Cima. We had good views of four in total on the Waldenoor Trail.

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*

We heard one along the Waterfall Trail then saw three at Macae de Cima the following day.



Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet © David Walsh

Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius*

A group of six gave stunning views along the track at Sumidouro.

Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*

Seven showed at point blank range from the minibus at Macae de Cima. Four were glimpsed at Sao Bernardo. Two arrived to feast on the lodge bananas during our last lunch together.

Peach-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula aurea*

Two were seen at close range along the track at Boasorte.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*

Traditionally the most common and widespread parakeet, but on this tour it proved to be local; we tallied 30 at Teresopolis with smaller numbers at just two other sites.

Rufous-breasted Leaftosser *Sclerurus scansor*

Two along the Waterfall Trail were, eventually, seen very well by everyone.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Two at Macae de Cima. Two more along the Waldenoor Trail. One at Sao Bernardo.

Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*

One at Macae de Cima as we started our stroll up the track.

Lesser Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus fuscus*

Singles on the Yellow Trail at REGUA and along the Waterfall Trail. Two at Macae de Cima.

Black-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus falcularius*

It took a while, but eventually we all had good views of one at Pico da Caledonia.

Scaled Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes squamatus*
ENDEMIC

Two at Macae de Cima. One at Sao Bernardo.

Scaled Woodcreeper © Cathryn Pritchard

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*

Noted at REGUA wetlands on two dates, with others along the Waterfall Trail and at Pico da Caledonia.

Band-tailed Hornero *Furnarius figulus*
ENDEMIC

One on our first visit to Boasorte, just beyond the Giant Snipe fields.

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

Up to three noted on three dates whilst we were birding, with others noted from vehicles on our journeys.



Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper *Lochmias nematura*

We had excellent views at our first attempt to see this highly sought-after species at Macae de Cima. Just for good measure, we had even better looks at one at Pico da Caledonia.

White-collared Foliage-gleaner *Anabazenops fuscus*

ENDEMIC

One in a mixed flock at Macae de Cima.

Pale-browed Treehunter *Cichlocolaptes leucophrus*

ENDEMIC

One was seen in the canopy along the Waldenoor Trail.

Sharp-billed Treehunter *Heliobletus contaminatus*

Two were seen well at Macae de Cima.

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor atricapillus*

Two singles along the Waterfall Trail. One along the Waldenoor Trail.

White-browed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia amaurotis*

We found a group of five at Macae de Cima.

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*

A total of three were located at Macae de Cima.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Dendroma rufa*

1-2 were recorded on the Waterfall Trail, at Macae de Cima and at Sao Bernardo.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus*

Singles along the Waterfall Trail and the Purple Trail behind REGUA wetlands.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons*

Four at Boasorte, on the same branch! Two at Sumidouro.

Orange-eyed Thornbird *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*

ENDEMIC

We had great views of two in the roadside vegetation near Teresopolis.



Firewood-gatherer © David Walsh

Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius annumbi*

Three showed well for ages at Sumidouro. We also saw a nest.

Pallid Spinetail *Cranioleuca pallida*

ENDEMIC

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

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*

Noted on five dates, with our best views at REGUA wetlands.

Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla*

Singles at Macae de Cima and Sao Bernardo, both of which showed really well.

Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi*

One at Macae de Cima on our return drive.

Silvery-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula luctuosa*

ENDEMIC

We had stunning views of two males and two females on our first morning, at the start of the Yellow Trail around REGUA wetlands and tallied seven in total. Another was glimpsed along the Waterfall Trail.

Unicoloured Antwren *Myrmotherula unicolor*

ENDEMIC

We managed to scope a calling bird on the Yellow Trail and saw another along the Waldenoor Trail.

Streak-capped Antwren *Terenura maculata*

1-2 were recorded on four dates with our best view on the Waldenoor Trail.

Serra Antwren *Formicivora serrana*

ENDEMIC

We had scope views of one along the track at Carmo which is the subspecies *interposita*. In the restinga at Praia das Conchas we had good looks at three 'Restinga Antwrens', now considered by the IOC as a subspecies (*littoralis*) of Serra Antwren.



Star-throated Antwren © David Walsh

Star-throated Antwren *Rhopias gularis*

ENDEMIC

One gave superb views on our descent along the Waterfall Trail and I even managed a photograph!

Rufous-margined Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*

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

Spot-breasted Antwren *Dysithamnus stictothorax*

One was seen well along the Waterfall Trail.

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*

One in a mixed species flock at Macae de Cima.

Rufous-backed Antwren *Dysithamnus xanthopterus*

ENDEMIC

One was seen at Macae de Cima.

Chestnut-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus palliatus*

We had frame filling views of a pair at REGUA wetlands on our first morning and noted another there on our last morning. Another was heard at Carmo.

Sooretama Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus ambiguus*

ENDEMIC

We had multiple views during the week, eventually identifying it on jizz because of the quivering tail! Two males and a female on the Yellow Trail. Pairs on the Waterfall Trail and in the restinga at Praia das Conchas. One along the Brown Trail.

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

Singles at Macae de Cima and Sao Bernardo.

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*

We had excellent views of one on our return drive at Macae de Cima.



Large-tailed Antshrike © David Walsh

Large-tailed Antshrike *Mackenziaena leachii*

Sensational views of one on our descent from Pico da Caledonia.

Giant Antshrike *Batara cinerea*

At Macae de Cima we saw a female in flight and heard a male calling for ages. It was so close it seemed certain to show, but sadly it didn't.

Bertoni's Antbird *Drymophila rubricollis*

Perseverance paid off at Macae de Cima with one eventually seen well.

Rufous-tailed Antbird *Drymophila genei* [H]

ENDEMIC

Two at Pico da Caledonia had no intention of showing themselves.

Ochre-rumped Antbird *Drymophila ochropyga* **ENDEMIC**

One was noted at Macae de Cima.

Scaled Antbird *Drymophila squamata* **ENDEMIC**

We had cracking views of a male along the Waterfall Trail.

White-shouldered Fire-eye *Pyriglena leucoptera*

Two were heard and glimpsed at Sao Bernardo.

Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma*

One eventually showed superbly to all along the Waterfall Trail and was definitely one of the tour's 'wow' moments!

Rufous-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza ruficauda* [H]

Singles heard at Macae de Cima and Pico da Caledonia.

Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata*

One at Macae de Cima showed well to most.

Black-cheeked Gnateater *Conopophaga melanops* **ENDEMIC**

Stunning views of one, at close range, along the Waterfall Trail.

Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *Scytalopus speluncae* **ENDEMIC**

One near the road summit at Macae de Cima was seen by some but remained 'heard only' for others.

Planalto Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias fasciatus*

Widespread with 1-2 noted on four dates.

Rough-legged Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*

One along the track at Macae de Cima.

Grey-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseocapilla* **ENDEMIC**

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

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Two at Boasorte on our first afternoon.

Small-headed Elaenia *Elaenia sordida*

One was seen well at Pico da Caledonia, shortly after we began our descent.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Singles at Boasorte, along the Waldenoor Trail and in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

One was seen at Sao Bernardo.

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*

One was heard and glimpsed at the back of REGUA wetlands on our last morning.

Southern Antpipit *Corythopis delalandi*

One was seen and photographed (!!) along the Waterfall Trail.

Fulvous-crowned Scrub Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus*

One in the restinga at Praia das Conchas was certainly the most inquisitive bird of the week!

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*

One was seen as we strolled up the track at Macae de Cima.

Grey-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*

Singles at Macae de Cima, along the Waldenoor Trail and near REGUA wetlands.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*

Singles at Carmo, Macae de Cima and along the Waldenoor Trail.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

One was well-watched at Boasorte on our first afternoon.

Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus orbitatus*

ENDEMIC

One was glimpsed in the canopy along the Waterfall Trail. We had much better views of one at the start of the Waldenoor Trail.

Hangnest Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus nidipendulus*

ENDEMIC

Singles were noted along the track at Carmo and in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Eared Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis auricularis*

Two at the junction of paths on the Waterfall Trail. One on the Purple Trail at the back of REGUA wetlands.

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps* [H]

One was heard calling at Macae de Cima.

Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum poliocephalum* ENDEMIC

We had awesome views of one at REGUA wetlands on our first morning and noted others on three further dates.

Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher © Martin Binning



Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

One was seen by a marshy pool at Cabo Frio.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphureus*

Three at Carmo. One at Macae de Cima.

Ochre-lored Flatbill *Tolmomyias flaviventris*

Two were heard along the Yellow Trail on our first morning. One was seen at Carmo the following day. (Adilei called it Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, as per our field guide).

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*

We found two along the Waterfall Trail, the first of which showed very well.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*

Two from the main road near Alem Paraiba. One at Macae de Cima.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri*

One was seen and photographed along the track at Carmo. Another was glimpsed on the Purple Trail.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*

One in the restinga at Praia das Conchas showed splendidly, at eye level.

Southern Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*

We had prolonged views of two at the start of the Waldenoor Trail.

Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*

Two at REGUA wetlands. One at Sumidouro.

Blue-billed Black Tyrant *Knipolegus cyanirostris*

Two on our descent at Pico da Caledonia.

Crested Black Tyrant *Knipolegus lophotes*

One was spotted on a rock as we drove along the main road near Alem Paraiba.

Velvety Black Tyrant *Knipolegus nigerrimus*

ENDEMIC

We found a pair at Macae de Cima, on our return drive.

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velatus*

Singles at Teresopolis, Sumidouro and in lowland fields not far from our lodge.

Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa*

Pairs in the marshlands at Boasorte and along the Sumidouro track: spectacular birds!

Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant *Muscipipra vetula*

One distantly at Macae de Cima. Two scoped from our lunch spot at Sao Bernardo.

Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*

Widespread and common and seen most days in small numbers.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*

1-6 noted on four dates with our best views being at REGUA wetlands.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

First seen at Teresopolis and noted on two further dates, including five at Cabo Frio.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Common in small numbers at REGUA and nearby. In addition, one was seen at our lunch stop at Sao Bernardo.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Common and widespread.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua*

One showed well in the lodge garden on our first morning. Others were noted at Carmo and along the Waldenoor Trail.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Widespread and fairly common.

Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex*

A total of three in the canopy along the Waterfall Trail.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

Singles at Teresopolis, Carmo, below the Waldenoor Trail and at Praia das Conchas.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

One along the track at Carmo and two at Sumidouro later the same day.

Grey-hooded Attila *Attila rufus*

ENDEMIC

A showy singing bird was one of the highlights of our walk along the Yellow Trail on the first morning. We heard one on the Waterfall Trail and glimpsed another on the Brown Trail.

Black-and-gold Cotinga *Lipaugus atra*

ENDEMIC

Singles heard at Macae de Cima and Pico da Caledonia. Outstanding views of one at Sao Bernardo which was a real 'Champagne Moment'!

Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*

Five were heard calling at Macae de Cima. A male was seen superbly at REGUA wetlands on our last morning, with a female in the lodge garden a little later.

Blue Manakin *Chiroxiphia caudata*

Two females along the Waterfall Trail. We had cracking views of a male on the Purple Trail behind REGUA wetlands on our last morning.

Pin-tailed Manakin *Ilicura militaris*

ENDEMIC

Three at Macae de Cima including an adult male.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*

1-6 notes on five dates, with males seen at Carmo and on the Waldenoor Trail.

Whiskered Myiobius *Myiobius barbatus*

One on the Waterfall Trail. Two on the Purple Trail.

Black-tailed Myiobius *Myiobius atricaudus*

One at Macae de Cima, at the furthest spot we visited. A trip first.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus*

Three at Teresopolis. Singles at Macae de Cima, the Waldenoor Trail and Pico da Caledonia.

Black-capped Becard *Pachyramphus marginatus*

One seen high in the canopy on the Waldenoor Trail.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Five at Macae de Cima. Three at Pico da Caledonia. One (heard only) on the Waterfall Trail.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis*

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

Lemon-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus thoracicus*

One in a mixed flock at Areal/Bastiana. Another in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*

One glimpsed along the Yellow Trail. Two seen well in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Curl-crested Jay *Cyanocorax cristatellus*

One scoped on our first afternoon, at Boasorte. Another nearby on our follow-up visit.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Noted on five dates with a maximum of c.20 in the lowland fields at Areal/Bastiana.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

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

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*

One seen overhead at Cabo Frio.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

40 on wires as we drove to the Waldenoor Trail.

Moustached Wren *Pheugopedius genibarbis*

On our last morning we heard one on the Purple Trail and saw another on the Yellow Trail, both behind REGUA wetlands.

Long-billed Wren *Cantorchilus longirostris*

ENDEMIC

One on the Brown Trail behind REGUA wetlands eventually showed well to all on our last morning.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Noted most days but more often heard than seen. A constant presence in and around the lodge garden.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Two at Sao Pedro da Aldeia where we had good scope views. Our field guide indicates it is confined to coastal areas and that restinga is its preferred habitat.

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

Noted in small numbers on four dates and most often on roadside wires.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

Two at Boasorte on our first afternoon in the 'Pantanal Snipe field'.

Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes*

We scoped a pair at REGUA wetlands on our first morning. A female was glimpsed along the Waterfall Trail. We tallied five at Macae de Cima.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*

Singles were seen near the start of the Waterfall Trail and midway up Macae de Cima.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

Singles were recorded at Areal/Bastiana and Macae de Cima.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

1-5 seen on four dates and the most widespread of the thrushes.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Introduced. Sightings in the expected places.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Introduced. One glimpsed at REGUA wetlands on our first morning, then c.20 seen at Sao Pedro da Aldeia.

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus chii*

Singles in an area of wet pasture near REGUA and at Cabo Frio.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*

Two along the Waldenoor Trail was our only sighting.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*

1-2 noted in the lodge garden, at REGUA wetlands, and on the Waldenoor Trail.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*

1-2 seen regularly in the lodge garden with other sightings en route to the Waldenoor Trail and on the Yellow Trail.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*

We had excellent views of two along the Waterfall Trail and saw others on the Yellow and Waldenoor Trails.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*

Singles seen well on two dates in grassland not far from REGUA.



Half-collared Sparrow © David Walsh

Half-collared Sparrow *Arremon semitorquatus*

ENDEMIC

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

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Two at Macae de Cima and five at Pico da Caledonia/Sao Bernardo were our only sightings. Adilei commented on the fact that this species has become much scarcer in recent years.

White-browed Blackbird *Leistes superciliaris*

We found a flock of 20 in a lowland field near Guapiacu on our first afternoon.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*

Very scarce on this tour and only seen where the Macae de Cima track met the main road.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

Recorded in small numbers on the days we spent in and around REGUA. A common sight at the lodge garden feeders.

Campo Troupial *Icterus jamacaii*

Three were much enjoyed along the track at Sumidouro: stunning birds!

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

A group of eight as we left Sumidouro, accompanied by the following species.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Two at Sumidouro. Another two at Cabo Frio.

Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*

1-6 noted on two dates in the lowlands not far from REGUA.

Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus*

10 were seen on our dusk visit to REGUA wetlands. A similar sized flock was noted at Cabo Frio.

Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata*

We had superb views of one in the roadside vegetation at Teresopolis.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiaiyumi*

Two along the Yellow Trail. One at Carmo. Three in the restinga at Praia das Conchas. We had several cracking views, with some birds in song.

White-rimmed Warbler *Myiothlypis leucoblephara*

One seen well at Macae de Cima. Two others noted at Sao Bernardo.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Five along the track at Carmo. One at Macae de Cima. Three at Pico da Caledonia/Sao Bernardo.

Olive-green Tanager *Orthogonys chloricterus*

ENDEMIC

Five, high in the canopy, along the Waldenor Trail.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica*

We found a pair on the Waterfall Trail and a female along the Waldenor Trail.

Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis*

A group of five were well-watched on our descent along the Waldenoor Trail.



Green Honeycreeper © David Walsh

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

A female on the lodge garden feeders at lunchtime on our last day was a surprise! Our last 'new bird' of the tour.

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis*

Three in the lodge garden on our first morning. Two in a mixed flock below the Waterfall Trail. One en route to the Waldenoor Trail.

Rufous-headed Tanager *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*

ENDEMIC

Two were seen well at Macae de Cima.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

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

Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*

One at our Sao Bernardo lunch spot was one of very few birds on the tour to be seen by some but not all of us.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

1-5 seen on five dates.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

One at Boasorte. Five in a burnt area on our Areal/Bastiana loop. Two females along the Waldenoor Trail.

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*

Singles were noted on the Waterfall, Waldenoor and Purple Trails and at Sao Bernardo.

Flame-crested Tanager *Loriotus cristatus*

1-5 in and around REGUA on four dates included some splendid males.

Grey Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus pileatus*

We found two along the track at Carmo.

Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*

1-3 on five dates, with both males and females seen well.

Brazilian Tanager *Ramphocelus bresilia*

ENDEMIC

We tallied five at Boasorte on our first afternoon. A pair were seen and photographed as we drove towards the Waldenoor Trail. Just odd ones around the REGUA wetlands but at least five in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*

We had good views of a pair en route to the Waldenoor Trail.

White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera*

A pair at Boasorte showed very well.

Bay-chested Warbling Finch *Castanozoster thoracicus*

ENDEMIC

Great views of 10 at Macae de Cima, with two others seen at Pico da Caledonia.

Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum*

Up to three seen on four dates, with our best views along the track at Carmo.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

Common and widespread; seen daily.

Uniform Finch *Haplospiza unicolor*

A flock of 10 was discovered at Macae de Cima.

Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus*

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

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*

One found along the track at Carmo was a surprise despite it having appeared for a second successive tour!

Red-cowled Cardinal *Paroaria dominicana*

ENDEMIC

One was spotted on wires from the truck as we drove through the lowland agricultural areas at Areal/Bastiana. Its discovery meant we then saw a whole host of other species!

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*

Singles seen on four dates with the first being our last new bird along the Sumidouro track.

Azure-shouldered Tanager *Thraupis cyanoptera*

ENDEMIC

We scoped two at REGUA wetlands on our first morning, and saw singles on a further three dates.

Golden-chevroned Tanager *Thraupis ornata*

ENDEMIC

Up to four seen on five dates, with our best views at the lodge garden feeders.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Perhaps surprisingly, just two sightings. Two around REGUA wetlands. One in the restinga at Praia das Conchas.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Stilpnia cayana*

Eight along the track at Carmo. 1-5 at two other sites.



Green-headed Tanager © David Walsh

Green-headed Tanager *Tangara seledon*

Two in the lodge garden on our first morning. Five at Macae de Cima. Five along the Waldenoor Trail where we saw them very well indeed.

Red-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanocephala*

One on the Yellow Trail. Two on the Waterfall Trail and another two along the Waldenoor Trail. Generally, a canopy species but we had surprisingly good views.

Brassy-breasted Tanager *Tangara desmaresti*

ENDEMIC

Two on the Yellow Trail. Five at Macae de Cima. One on the Waldenoor Trail. Five at Pico da Caledonia.

SELECTED MAMMALS

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*

Common Marmoset *Callithrix jacchus*

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporina*

Broad-snouted Caiman *Caiman latirostris*



Common Marmoset © David Walsh