

Brazil

2–12 October 2013

Participants

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Streamer-tailed Tyrant

Day 1 Departure from the UK, Turkey, Canada and Sweden!

Day 2 Arrival into Rio de Janeiro and transfer to Serra dos Tucanos Lodge, the base for the tour for the next eight nights. On the journey to the lodge the following were recorded: Neotropic Cormorant, Magnificent Frigatebird, Cocoi Heron, Cattle, Great and Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Heron, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and Roadside Hawk. Upon arrival at the lodge it was difficult to know where to look first! The hummingbird feeders were busy with Black Jacobins, Violet-capped Woodnymphs and Sombre Hummingbirds, the banana feeders were regularly visited by Brazilian Tanager, Ruby-crowned Tanager, Chestnut-bellied and Violaceous Euphonias, the dazzling Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Azure-shouldered, Golden-chevroned, Green-headed, Olive-green, Ruby-crowned and Sayaca Tanagers and Maroon-bellied and Plain Parakeets. We also had our first sightings of Spot-billed Toucanet and the stunning Blond-crested Woodpecker! During the first day we saw a total of 69 species, most of which were seen from the lodge verandas!

Day 3 Portao Azul and Macae de Cima full day excursion. Today we spent the morning birding the Portao Azul trail, approximately an hour's drive from the lodge, through the town of Nova Friburgo. This is a great trail that offers a variety of habitats including primary forest, open farmland/scrub and drier secondary forest. The afternoon was spent birding the Macae de Cima Trail. Highlights of the day included Short-tailed Hawk, Planalto Hermit, Plovercrest, White-throated Hummingbird, Saffron Toucanet, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Pallid Spinetail, Orange-eyed Thornbird, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Black-billed Scythebill, Dusky-tailed Antbird, Ochre-faced Tody-flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Greenlet, Cinnamon, Fawn-breasted and Magpie Tanagers and Green-winged Saltator.

Day 4 Wetlands and Cedae Trail. Today we spent the morning at the Regua wetlands, spending a couple of hours around the main wetland area then heading into the forest to pick up some lowland specialities. We returned to the lodge for lunch and then headed just 10 minutes up the road to the Cedae Trail for the rest of the afternoon. Highlights from today included Capped Heron, Rufous-sided Crake, Common Potoo, Common Pauraque, Channel-billed Toucan, Tail-banded Hornero, Lesser Woodcreeper, Sooretama Slaty-antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Streak-capped and White-flanked Antwrens, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Eared Pygmy-tyrant, White-

headed Marsh-tyrant, Black-capped Donacobius, Lemon-chested Greenlet, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Red-necked Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, White-bellied Seedeater and Black-throated Grosbeak.

Day 5 Serra dos Tucanos trails and lodge grounds. The morning was spent up on one of the lodge's trails with the afternoon free for photography on the lodge feeders and around the lodge grounds etc. Highlights included Maroon-bellied and Plain Parakeets, Dusky-throated Hermit, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Versicolored Emerald, Brazilian Ruby, Surucua Trogon, Rufous-capped Motmot, Spot-billed Toucanet, Blond-crested and Yellow-eared Woodpeckers, Planalto and Thrush-like Woodcreepers, Spot-breasted Antwren, Star-throated Antwren, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Blue Manakin and Pin-tailed Manakins, Eye-ringed Tody-tyrant, Grey-hooded Attila, Chestnut-bellied and Orange-bellied Euphonias, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Azure-shouldered, Brazilian, Burnished-buff, Flame-crested, Golden-chevroned, Olive-green, Red-necked, Ruby-crowned, Swallow and Yellow-backed Tanagers, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager and Black-throated Grosbeak.

Day 6 Three-toed Jacamar excursion. Always a great excursion, some easy open-country birding to make a change to the forest birding over the last few days! Plenty of target birds for this day, ending up mid afternoon at the site for the endemic Three-toed Jacamar. We had a great day, seeing a total of 110 species, many highlights including three Whistling Herons, Plumbeous Kite, Blackish Rail, Red-legged Seriema, Blue-winged Macaw, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Glittering-bellied Emerald, no less than six Three-toed Jacamars (!), Green-barred, Lineated and White Woodpeckers, Firewood-gatherer, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Serra Antwren, Grey and White-rumped Monjitas, great views of Streamer-tailed Tyrant, Tawny-headed and White-rumped Swallows, Curl-crested Jay, Gilt-edged and Magpie Tanagers, Pileated Finch and Half-collared Sparrow. After a long day, we returned back to the lodge for a well-earned cold beer!

Day 7 Serra dos Orgaos National Park. Located approximately an hours drive from the lodge is the Serra dos Orgaos National Park, a dramatically formed mountain range gives this park its name (the organ mountains)! We spent the first couple of hours in the lower section of the Park, situated at an altitude of 400m, returning to the minibus for a 30-minute drive to the upper section of the park where we spent the remainder of the day at an altitude of approximately 1200m. The days highlights included Black Hawk-eagle, Tawny-browed Owl, White-throated Hummingbird, Black-throated Trogon, Rufous-capped Motmot, Spot-billed Toucanet, Yellow-browed and Yellow-throated Woodpeckers, Pale-browed Treehunter, White-browed and White-eyed Foliage-gleaners, Scaled and White-throated Woodcreepers, Unicoloured Antwren, Rufous Gnateater, White-thighed Swallow, Fawn-breasted, Flame-crested and Rufous-headed Tanagers, Uniform Finch and Yellow-green Grosbeak.

Day 8 Luckily the weather was good enough today to make it up to Pico de Caladonia, our high altitude excursion. The birding in this area is quality rather than quantity, being the highest area for miles around at 2300m, this area provides us with the opportunity of finding some of the Atlantic forests high altitude endemics, found nowhere else during the tour. We had an incredible day seeing nearly all of the target species for this excursion including Dusky-legged Guan, Red-legged Seriema, Scale-throated Hermit, Plovercrest, Pallid Spinetail, Itatiaia Thistletail, Large-tailed Antshrike, Rufous-tailed Antbird, Mouse-coloured Tapaculo, Black-and-gold Cotinga and Grey-winged Cotingas, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Blue-billed and Velvety Black-tyrants, Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant, White-necked Thrush, White-rimmed Warbler, Diademed Tanager, Bay-chested Warbling-finch and Green-winged and Thick-billed Saltators.

Day 9 Theodoro Trail and Serra dos Tucanos grounds. We spent the morning on the Theodoro Trail, just a 20-minute drive from the lodge at an altitude of 1079m. We returned to lodge for lunch and spent the rest of the day within the lodge grounds. Highlights from today included Solitary Tinamou, Scale-throated Hermit, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Pale-browed and Sharp-billed Treehunters, Black-capped, Ochre-breasted and White-browed Foliage-gleaners, Bertoni's and Ferruginous Antbirds, Brazilian Antthrush, Variegated Antpitta, Eared Pygmy-tyrant, great views of Sharpbill and Uniform Finch.

Day 10 The free time before the departure back to Rio was spent within the lodge grounds. Additions to the tour trip listed today included Frilled Coquette and Scaled Antbird.

Day 11 Return home!

These last two sightings gave a total group trip list of 269 species seen, of which 84 were Atlantic rainforest endemics! A further 11 species were heard-only making a grand total of 280 species.