

ORNITHOLIDAYS TO BRAZIL
Atlantic Forest Special

06 – 15 September 2015



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A Personal Diary

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil is one of the richest areas on earth for endemic birds and other wildlife, and the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge at REGUA (Reserva Ecologica de Guapiacu) once again provided us with a perfect base from which to explore it. Our flight to Rio was direct; REGUA is just 90 minutes from the airport and, this being a one-centre holiday, we only had to unpack once, a real treat on a long haul trip! There was so much to see close to our base that we spent several days simply enjoying the lodge gardens, exploring the trails on the reserve and marvelling at the newly created wetlands, and birding the lowland pastures and sections of primary and secondary rainforest in the foothills. In between, we made three rewarding day-trips to special habitats: coastal Restinga, Atlantic dry forest and the lush Macae de Cima mountains. We were unfortunate to experience above average rainfall during this tour, but the relatively cool conditions and lack of humidity actually had its advantages, and without rushing around we totalled over 300 species!

The local guide, Adelei, was with us throughout the week, as always on top form, sharing his intimate knowledge of the area; he was incredibly sharp at picking out bird calls in the forest. We saw 37 endemics and generally managed to find a high proportion of the 'most-wanted' species, including Giant Snipe in the wetlands, Frilled Coquette on the Waldenoor Trail, Green-crowned Plovercrest and Black-and-gold Cotinga at Macae de Cima, Three-toed Jacamar and Blue-winged Macaw at Carmo and Restinga Antwren near Cabo Frio. From the gaudy toucans, through brightly coloured tanagers, manakins and hummingbirds, to the secretive antbirds of the forest, furtive crakes, roosting owls and the daily spectacle of roosting herons and egrets, there really was something for everyone. As well as seeing wonderful birds, we also enjoyed sloths, marmosets, cabybaras and caimans, not forgetting our amazing encounter with a Crab-eating Fox on a forest trail!

REGUA is an inspiring place, a real success story in the world of conservation. We enjoyed finding out about the work on reforestation, research and education. We were splendidly looked after, with lovely home-cooked food. The new photographic guide to the birds of the region added to our splendidly enjoyable trip, from which each of us have taken so many happy memories.

Sunday 6th September

Our early afternoon British Airways flight from Heathrow's Terminal 5 to Rio de Janeiro arrived on time. Having been warmly greeted by Alcenir, the same driver as on all our recent tours, we made the 90 minute journey to REGUA, seeing a Burrowing Owl on a roadside post, arriving at 10.15pm. Sandwiches and juice were available at the lodge before it was time to settle in to our rooms and look forward expectantly!

Monday 7th September

The first morning on any tour is exciting and today was no exception! Birds started to appear at the feeders in the half-light well before 6am. The hummingbirds all had their favoured perches: a dominant Swallow-tailed Hummingbird was clearly in charge, with Black Jacobin, Violet-capped Woodnymph and Glittering-throated Emerald whizzing around us and all very tame. The tables, positioned on the edge of the trees at the far side of the lawn, were soon filled with bananas and we enjoyed watching the White-tufted Marmosets which came and went in their family groups. We paused for breakfast at 6.45am with the fresh papaya popular alongside the more traditional fare.

At 7.30am we were joined by our guide Adelei and strolled down the hill towards the wonderful wetland which has been created in the last few years. Completed as recently as 2010, it comprises small lakes, marshland and replanted tapebaia trees. Along the way we heard and then glimpsed a Rufous-capped Motmot before scoping the roosting Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Tropical Screech-Owls. A fine start! It was important to get to grips with the common birds this morning and Picazuro Pigeon, House Wren, Sayaca Tanager, Blue Dacnis, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Social Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, Pale-breasted Thrush and Smooth-billed Ani were ten in this category. Lots of birds were perching on bare branches which helped considerably, and a pair of Brazilian Tanagers provided extra colour! In the bushes and reeds around the lakes we saw some colourful butterflies and dragonflies as it warmed up. We also scrutinised Yellow-chinned

Spinetail, Wing-banded Hornero, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, Masked Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant and Black-capped Donacobius. Identifying the birds was actually easier than remembering their long names! Inevitably the birds on the lakes were more familiar and we noted Brazilian Teal, White-faced Whistling Duck, Anhinga, Common and Purple Gallinules and Wattled Jacana. We saw all three species of Kingfisher, Ringed, Amazon and Green: the latter was our only one of the trip. A stunning Striated Heron sat motionless, a Rufescent Tiger-Heron struggled with an eel, whilst the 'spectacle of the morning' was a Yellow-headed Caracara standing on a Capybara! There was time to look at diminutive White-barred Piculets and White-bearded Manakins plus a stunning Channel-billed Toucan before we sensibly made haste for the lodge with rain threatening. It was a very wise decision! A Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the first of the southern summer, flew over, whilst a party of Guira Cuckoos on the lawn greeted us as we returned.

We took advantage of the enforced break and studied the books to reinforce all the wonderful things we had seen during the morning before relaxing over the first of many lovely home-cooked meals. We decided to adjourn until 3pm, some having a siesta, others remaining glued to the feeders! A Rufous-breasted Hermit was an addition to the hummingbird list, Orange-winged Parrots and Red-rumped Caciques made themselves obvious and we compared Violaceous, Orange-bellied and Purple-throated Euphonias. A distant raptor across the valley proved to be a Great Black-Hawk, reward for our patient scanning.

Flexibility was going to be important on this tour given the weather and we decided to make the most of the dryish afternoon and head to the marshy fields and pasture a short drive away. It was a remarkably productive period and the scopes were in constant use. There were new common birds, including Cattle Tyrant, Savanna Hawk, Southern Lapwing, Rufous Hornero and Chalk-browed Mockingbird, but also species of real quality. Campo Flickers and White Woodpeckers were large and obvious, Bran-coloured Flycatcher, White-bellied Seedeater, Grassland Sparrow and Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch smaller and requiring more scrutiny. Stunning Streamer-tailed Tyrants and White-eared Puffbirds were coaxed in, and we were thrilled to locate a Striped Cuckoo before the light began to fade and we turned our attention to the dusk birds. Ash-throated Crakes called around us and one briefly showed itself. We made our way into the field itself and marvelled at the drumming South American Snipe. The best was saved until last. Giant Snipe is perhaps the best-known bird at REGUA and we were delighted to hear several and, eventually, see one in flight at very close range. A view on the ground would have to wait until next time but we returned to the lodge in excellent spirits. Our first round of complimentary caipirinhas, the Brazilian national cocktail, was well received as we reflected on a superb first full day. After dinner we carefully did our bird list before heading to bed well before 9pm. Would the weather be kind for our first excursion tomorrow?

Tuesday 8th September

We met for breakfast at 6am and set off 40 minutes later, heading inland to the hills with the weather set fair: cloudy and windy, but dry. We drove for an hour, passing the sadly defunct roadside tanager feeders, before turning off the main road, making a pit stop at a hotel and then meandering up a track. Alcenir was our 'guide' at this point and he did us proud. First we stopped to admire some Crested Oropendola nests, finding our own Brassy-breasted Tanagers and a Streaked Xenops in the same area. A little further on he located a White-tailed Hawk so we disembarked and had prolonged views.

At 8.30am we reached a gate and met up with Adilei who had driven the truck to ferry us up the last part of the route. The recent rains meant the track was rutted and a bit soft but, after a hiatus which saw us walk up a short distance (and find Maroon-bellied Parakeets) we decided that it was driveable: good news! Soon we stopped and, as planned, we walked the last 500 metres or so. Giant Antshrike was one of a number of 'heard-only' species as we got off to a slow start, but soon the birds were more co-operative and we scored well. Olivaceous, Planalto and Lesser Woodcreepers were noted on either side of the road, whilst the tree-tops held Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant and Green-winged Saltator. We were pleased we had our scopes. A Hooded Berryeater was frustratingly brief, but we were thrilled to see Black-and-gold Cotinga through the leaves. Its eerie call was much more enjoyable once we had seen the actual bird! Golden-crowned Warbler and, best of all, Bertoni's Antbird showed low down at very close range.

We arrived at a fine house in a garden, filling up the hummingbird feeders. This was the former home of the late David Miller, renowned for his study of orchids. We had a wonderful couple of hours enjoying the hummers which not only used the feeders but sat up obligingly in the adjacent shrubs. Scale-throated Hermit and White-throated Hummingbird were stunning before being trumped by both Plovercrest and Brazilian Ruby! Eventually we relaxed and enjoyed our picnic, disturbed only by the wonderful Surucua Trogon.

At 1pm we tore ourselves away and spent 45 minutes walking back down to the truck, seeing White-browed Woodpecker along the way. We drove back to the minibus before stopping again in a relatively open area. Here Orange-eyed Thornbird and Cinnamon Tanager were relatively obliging, but the Spix's Spinetail refused to play ball. It wasn't long before morale was restored. One of several Bare-throated Bellbirds sang right out in the open and allowed prolonged scope views: how could a bird be that white? Blue Manakins were equally photogenic and a Rufous-browed Peppershrike came to join the party. Buoyant, we began our return journey, returning to the main road at 4pm and arriving back at base an hour and a half later having stopped for coffee along the way.

A couple of us sat quietly in the tower watching the egrets coming in to their roost and had a bonus in the form of a point blank Rusty-margined Guan. Drinks, bird list and dinner followed in their usual format before we declared, pleased with the many and varied rewards on our day out.

Wednesday 9th September

Breakfast reverted to its normal time of 6.30am, and there was certainly no rush to depart this morning as it was raining heavily. Having donned our waterproofs, we made for the shelter of the hide overlooking one of the lakes. We enjoyed revising some of the species seen earlier but also added new ones. A Black-crowned Night Heron was found roosting, Pale-vented Pigeon and Squirrel Cuckoo were scoped, a White-chinned Sapphire fed at close range to the right and hirundines included Grey-breasted Martin. With the rain easing, the group made for the reserve centre (seeing a Blond-crested Woodpecker along the way) whilst I returned to base to collect walking poles for the trail.

Still patient, we remained close to our vehicle for an hour or so and birded the fields. We had our first proper looks at White-eyed Parakeet, Chestnut-backed Antshrike and Double-collared Seedeater, whilst one particular flowering tree held a multitude of hummingbirds including both Sapphire-spangled and Versicolored Emerald as well as our first Bananaquit.

By 10.15am the rain had stopped, and it was considerably brighter as we started up the Waterfall Trail, named as such because of a spectacular waterfall 2.5 km from the start. It is birdy along the way, and our intention was simply to get as far as a clearing 1.1 km along, picnicking along the way. We started well, with a Temminck's Seedeater by the track and then several birds in an open area including an inquisitive Southern Antpiper and a showy Red-legged Honeycreeper in a mixed feeding flock. After a lull birds came thick and fast, with a sought-after White-bellied Tanager above us and a Black-throated Trogon sitting typically motionless; then a Dusky-capped Flycatcher made way for a Crescent-chested Puffbird on a branch across the track! Azure-shouldered and Golden-chevrons Tanagers were numerous, Flame-crested and others scarcer and harder to see in the foliage. We persevered and, at our lunch spot, found Saw-billed Hermit and Black-capped Becard as well as the day's star bird, a fabulous Spot-billed Toucanet which posed for photographs! Refreshed, we made for the clearing, where a fig tree held loads of birds virtually all of which were good at hiding! Eventually we found Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner as well as a Chestnut-bellied Euphonia and Blue-naped Chlorophonia. A stunning Black-cheeked Gnateater low down restored morale by showing superbly.

We descended gradually, seeing a female Pin-tailed Manakin and a noisy Grey-hooded Attila. Much of the afternoon was spent trying to lure out hard-to-see species which Adelei had located on call. He would tell me what he had heard, I would show the group the relevant picture in the book, and we would stand still, look and hope. From time to time we would come across a feeding flock; Adelei would whistle the call of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, or 'pish', and we would do our best to get onto as many of the birds as possible as they moved through the canopy. He called various thrushes, flycatchers, antbirds and antwrens, many of which proved frustratingly elusive, but we enjoyed Scaled Antbird, the diminutive Streak-capped Antwren and White-throated Spadebill, as well as Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and a number of Yellow-legged Thrushes. A White-eyed Foliage-gleaner remained in the bamboo and a Pale-browed Treehunter posed high above us before, satiated, we headed for the vehicle, pleased to see our only sloth along the way. One further stop at the hummingbird tree produced better views of the same species as well as a couple of Roadside Hawks and our only Green-barred Woodpecker. Via a pair of Burrowing Owls, we returned to the lodge at 5pm, meeting at 6.15pm for drinks and a lengthy bird log! Experience had paid off once again; by staying dry in the first part of the morning we had made the most of the trail and seen a remarkable list of splendid birds, many (if not all) extremely well.

Thursday 10th September

Today we made our eagerly anticipated trip to the coast where, as we hoped, it was mainly dry if rather cloudy. We broke the journey for a quick comfort stop before beginning our birding by a coastal lagoon near the town of Cabo Frio. We particularly enjoyed scrutinising the terns, with yellow-billed resident Cayenne Terns alongside mainly dark-billed migrant Cabot's Terns. The Royal Tern looked enormous by comparison. Kelp Gull, White-cheeked Pintail, Neotropic Cormorant, Snowy Egret and Cocoi Heron were also present, as expected. We made a longer stop just down the road where, although the traffic noise was an irritant, there were lots of birds to occupy us. The small pools close by held good numbers of White-backed Stilts as well as Semipalmated and Grey Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and single Solitary and White-rumped Sandpipers. A dark-rumped Whimbrel was instructive and we found distant Pied-billed Grebes and Yellow-billed Terns before, having tracked down a Yellowish Pipit, it was time to move on. The driver knew which species were missing from our list so diverted to an area of mangroves, which proved an inspired decision. Little Blue Heron and Roseate Spoonbills were both present at close range, but they were trumped by both Clapper and Grey-necked Wood-Rails out in the open on the far side of the pool!

It was only a short drive to our main birding spot. We parked up, donned insect repellent and sunhats (ever-optimistic!) and prepared for a couple of hours strolling through the 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 very little left due to development, which is why the star bird, Restinga Antwren, is classed as 'Endangered' by BirdLife International. At our location, however, it was clearly quite numerous and we had some fine views. Sooretama Slaty Antshrike and Hangnest Tody-Tyrant showed splendidly, whilst those who had previously visited Texas were delighted to recognise Tropical Parula, a wonderfully colourful and obliging bird. Southern Beardless Tyrannulet and Short-crested Flycatcher were also well-watched. Adelei was pleased to find a Black-backed Tanager, the rarest of the 22 species of tanager we were to see during the tour. There were literally thousands of Black Vultures and a few Turkey Vultures. Magnificent Frigatebirds were surprisingly scarce but we had superb views overhead; the Brown Boobies fishing offshore were most distant.

Our driver had organised a table and coffee by the beach, most welcome for our picnic. Pale-breasted and Ruddy Ground-Doves showed splendidly nearby before we headed off. Pausing to admire Grey-hooded Gulls in the bay, we decided to make haste for the lodge but were momentarily delayed by an impromptu demonstration by local youngsters. We were baffled. At REGUA a pair of Whistling Herons were roosting in a tree by the reserve centre, whilst there was time for another look at the Cattle Egret roost, with our first Capped Heron a bonus.

The decision to head to the sea had been a very good one and we were buoyant as we tucked into the caipirinhas in the lounge. We completed the bird list before another enjoyable dinner and an early night, very happy with our sightings at the coast.

Friday 11th September

Our plan today was to head to the high hills, so we set off at 6.45am and made the 90 minute journey to Nova Friburgo where we adjourned for coffee. It was very wet, and cold. What to do? Nicholas Locke, the REGUA owner, had come with us and suggested that we abandon going higher and push on to the dry forest, which we had planned to visit later in the tour, even though that would mean a very long drive. This proved in the end to be another inspired move. Initially progress was very slow, with roadworks in the town a problem. A large group of Saffron Finches feeding by the road at just the right spot entertained us for a while and kept the spirits up.

Once out into the countryside we started seeing new species, making a number of impromptu stops along our journey with the weather gradually improving. An area of bushes and trees held Giant Cowbird, Scaly-headed Parrot and both Ruby-crowned and Burnished-buff Tanagers; a little further along, a Long-tailed Tyrant was found high up in a tree. Our good form continued with several special species. We had splendid views of a group of Black-necked Aracaris, one of which was demolishing a baby pigeon. The aptly named Firewood-gather was located near its nest before a party of Blue-winged Macaws flew over calling noisily. Another White-tailed Hawk gave super views showing its upper- and under-sides.

It seemed to take an eternity to get to the town of Carmo and out the other side, but eventually we made it and relaxed over our picnic, American Kestrel and Yellow-browed Tyrant being welcome distractions. We got into the truck for the short drive to the top of the hill before disembarking and beginning our birding proper. Our

main target, Three-toed Jacamar, was found sitting in the open almost immediately! This species is listed as 'Vulnerable' by BirdLife due to habitat loss and is clearly localised in the degraded remnants of Atlantic dry forest. We were privileged to be able to watch a pair for ages before heading slowly along the track. Despite the drizzle there were plenty of birds to enjoy. Pileated Finch, Blue-black Grassquit and Grey-eyed Greenlet all played supporting cast to the splendid Serra Antwren, Yellow-eared Woodpecker and Crescent-chested Puffbird. Flycatchers were well represented with Boat-billed, Yellow-olive and Sepia-capped all seen well, whilst a pair of Rufous-fronted Thornbirds was especially inquisitive. A Glittering-bellied Emerald was an addition to our hummingbird list.

A short cut along a track provided more excellent birds. Top of the bill was the wonderful Campo Troupial, seen in the vicinity of a thornbird nest: a write-in! Then we returned to the main road and headed towards Teresopolis, seeing a super Crested Black-Tyrant on the way, making haste in order to allow enough time to bird a reedy area near the toll station. It didn't look like a top site, but it was very productive! A Masked Yellowthroat performed splendidly, whilst our first Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail and an unexpected Sooty Tyrannulet were seen on the other side of the road. Hirundines seen during the afternoon included Brown-chested Martin and good numbers of Blue-and-white Swallows.

Inevitably our long day meant that we arrived back at the lodge later than planned, but our revised itinerary had been a masterstroke and we had seen some top quality birds. We enjoyed our dinner and looked forward to a local day tomorrow.

Saturday 12th September

The weather was, once again, looking distinctly threatening this morning but any rain was light and intermittent, at least at first, so as planned we got in the truck and headed in a different direction, through fields and the local village of Malumbo and up into the foothills. The Waldenoor trail starts by a house in a clearing, and we had a productive half hour enjoying some fine birds in the open area. A White-necked Hawk showed well enough for us to confirm its identity, whilst a Blond-crested Woodpecker was nicely responsive. Both Green-backed and Chestnut-crowned Becards were scoped in the tops of the bare trees. Eventually we set off along the trail, Golden-tailed and Blue-winged Parrotlets whizzing over. A quiet period followed before we glimpsed Star-throated Antwren to the left and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager and Grey-hooded Flycatcher to the right.

Soon we reached another house, with yet more birds to scope. A distant hirundine was a White-thighed Swallow, whilst the numerous Plain Parakeets belied their name. A Black-goggled Tanager showed briefly at close range. Round the corner, we stopped to enjoy the marvellous Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers at their nest, also finding Channel-billed Toucans and a Black-necked Aracari sequentially using the same perch! I was eager to push on, so we didn't have long to chase the calling White-tailed Trogon, rare in these parts. The path became steeper and more slippery but Adelei assured me we were 'nearly there'. We had a specific target, and it was important to give it time, despite the onset of rain. Things didn't look promising but, suddenly, that all changed. Initially I wasn't sure whether a flash of colour over the flowers was a bird or an insect, but a second look confirmed I was looking at a Frilled Coquette, a tiny hummer and our 'most-wanted'! I called the group together and not only did we see it in flight but scoped, perched, in a tree. Truly amazing!

The same spot held a number of other goodies, Planalto Hermit and both Red-necked and Rufous-headed Tanagers all too brief but Green-headed, Yellow-backed, Hooded and Olive-green Tanagers more obliging. We gingerly descended the steep section and paused to admire a Dusky-legged Guan by the house before it was time to make for the truck. A little damp, but ecstatic to have achieved our target, we returned for lunch.

The garden was productive in the early afternoon with Chivi Vireo and our first White-winged Becard much enjoyed. Despite the rain we made the short walk down to the wetlands and were pleased to have made the effort, with a superb Rufous-sided Crake showing right by the path, the egrets typically magical and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts overhead.

Sunday 13th September

We woke up to find that it was raining very heavily; the cloud base was so low we couldn't see across the valley. It was another morning to be patient and consider how to make the best of the situation. We decided to take a drive round the lowlands in a vehicle and hope that the rain would ease off. We soon found Red-cowled Cardinal and White-rumped Monjita and even heard a Red-legged Seriema which was most unexpected. The

raptors weren't enjoying the weather any more than us, with numerous Black and small numbers of Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures grounded. Hirundines were finding plenty of food and we studied several species including White-rumped Swallow. Further on, a wetish area right by the road held Whistling Herons so we stopped, and in the distance a large bird was spotted in flight: Limpkin! We were continuing to add new birds, and were still relatively dry and in good spirits.

Miraculously, the heavy rain stopped (it had been forecast to continue all day). This allowed us to stop and scan at various points, and the next couple of hours were sensationally good, especially as we were only in this area because of the weather. At one spot we found Long-billed Wren, Sooty Grassquit, Lemon-chested Greenlet and another Masked Yellowthroat; all four showed superbly. A group of Peach-fronted Parakeets whizzed over before a Harris's Hawk perched up for us, whilst one of the many Southern Caracaras had a wing-tag. Chopi, Chestnut-capped and White-browed Blackbirds were noted at various stages and allowed good comparison. From a slightly elevated vantage point we surveyed a large area of fields and some big trees. A pigeon in one of them looked 'different' so we scoped it: Eared Dove, a life bird for Adelei! His beaming smile was testament to his excitement. We were perhaps even more thrilled with the Toco Toucan which flew in and sat up for us: what a beak! Grassland Yellow-Finches were rather more subtle. We were on a roll, and the guide had one more bird up his sleeve. Incredibly, a Blackish Rail responded to his tape and paraded itself in the open in a grassy field. We headed back for lunch almost in shock. Things had seemed so bleak when we had set off, seemingly 'going through the motions', but we had had a wonderful morning by any standards.

Our good form continued in the afternoon, with the trees in and around the garden full of birds. Some proved elusive, but a Buff-throated Saltator and yet another Crescent-chested Puffbird showed well. We were also pleased to get good looks at Chestnut-vented Conebills. Black-legged Dacnis is one of the rarest birds at REGUA and is thought of as a winter visitor, so we were very surprised to find at least two in the tree tops. Adelei was on fire as we headed into the wetland from the reserve centre, producing new species to order, with Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Moustached Wren, Yellow Tyrannulet and Yellow-breasted Flycatcher all seen splendidly. We were particularly pleased with the jacamar as this beautiful bird was the most obvious gap on our list. We finally found a Muscovy Duck but were more impressed with the views of Channel-billed Toucan. Sick's Swifts were plentiful as we positioned ourself to savour the sights and sounds of the Cattle Egrets coming in to their roost. We did our bird list feeling very fortunate to have had another excellent day.

Monday 14th September

The weather was set fair! As a result, we decided to spend our final morning having a leisurely walk from the lodge, which allowed us to have another look at the wetlands but also explore new territory on the circular Forest Trail. Adelei found a Swallow Tanager in the garden, and a Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail in the open continued our cracking start! We scoped the roosting owls by the reserve centre and had seconds of both Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Black-legged Dacnis before feeling very privileged to find a Common Pauraque on its nest. A Yellow-bellied Elaenia was well-watched before we spent time comparing Biscutate and White-collared Swifts as they whizzed over the lake and wondered where they had been on previous days! It was great to feel confident in identifying virtually all the birds as we ambled between the lakes; so many had been totally new to us only a week ago. We were also pleased that the caimans were providing excellent photo opportunities.

We entered the forest and, inevitably, the birding was harder, but eventually we added a new species as a Greyish Mourner sat out obligingly for us. A foray up a side trail proved very productive with Yellow-throated Woodpecker seen splendidly; we also managed better looks at Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, Whiskered Flycatcher and both White-flanked and Rufous-winged Antwrens. We returned to the main path and turned right; almost immediately came one of the highlights of the tour as a Crab-eating Fox was spotted in front of us. We moved into position and, although it was very much aware of our presence, it remained in view for ages: awesome! Eventually it disappeared allowing us to move on, and after another lull we added both Plain-winged Woodcreeper and Black-capped Foliage-gleaner to our list. A White-bibbed Antbird remained hidden, but a splendidly birdy tree held both White-winged and Crested Becards, Yellow-green Grosbeak and Piratic Flycatcher. As we headed for home a Unicolored Antwren allowed wonderfully close views. A distant perched raptor detained us before, with the temperature rising, it was time to declare.

We thoroughly enjoyed our final lunch and there was plenty of time to pack and enjoy last looks at the hummers. Then it was time to say our goodbyes and head off with Alcenir to the airport. Our senior status

meant that we were moved to the front of the queue and, in some cases, upgraded! We did our last bird list and found the total had moved well past 300 species.

Tuesday 15th September

The flight itself went smoothly and we landed in London at lunchtime before going our separate ways at the end of an excellent tour which had been full of birds despite the weather. I will be hoping to make return visits to REGUA, somewhere I found hugely inspiring as well as wonderful for its bird life.

Acknowledgements

Our holiday was highly successful, and a number of people played their part. At REGUA Thomas Locke was a thoroughly professional host, whilst his father Nicholas kept an eye on our itinerary and offered sage advice to ensure we made the best decisions given the weather. The ladies cooked us super meals and cleaned our rooms beautifully. Alcenir not only drove carefully but attended to us courteously and Adilei was a premier division bird guide, finding and showing us the birds and understanding what each of us were looking for. The other guests in the lodge also added to our tour, and we were extremely fortunate to have the services of Clive Saunders, one of the volunteer bird guides, for virtually the whole trip. Thanks to all of you for being so positive and interested, and simply being good company both when birding and over dinner: I look forward to travelling with you again. Special thanks to Gill Flinn and Paul Davis for allowing us to use some of their photos in this report.

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October 2015



Dusky-legged Guan

Itinerary and Weather

- 6th Sep Flight from London Heathrow to Rio de Janeiro; onward drive to REGUA.
- 7th Sep Morning in REGUA wetlands; lunch and early afternoon in and around the lodge; late afternoon/dusk at the Giant Snipe fields.
Cloudy with rain/thunder late am and occasional showers pm, 19-22°C.
- 8th Sep Whole day visit to Macae de Cima (mountain forest).
Cloudy, windy but dry, clear skies by the evening, 18-24°C in lowlands, 14°C in the mountains.
- 9th Sep Early morning in the wetlands hide; late morning until mid-afternoon along the Waterfall Trail as far as 1100m.
Rain until mid-morning then cloudy but mainly dry, 20-23°C.
- 10th Sep Whole day visit to Cabo Frio (coastal lagoons, Restinga and mangroves); lunch at Praia de Conches beach.
Cloudy, mainly dry, 20-23°C.
- 11th Sep Whole day visit via Nova Friburgo to Sumidouro (grasslands) and Carmo (dry forest), returning via Teresopolis.
Heavy rain then cloudy with occasional showers, 18-23°C in lowlands, cooler in the hills.
- 12th Sep Morning along the Waldenoor Trail; lunch at the lodge; afternoon in the wetlands.
Cloudy with showers, 19-21°C.
- 13th Sep Morning driving a local circuit through fields via Boa Sorte; lunch at the lodge; afternoon in the wetlands.
Rain then drizzle, 19-20°C.
- 14th Sep Morning along the Forest Trail; lunch at the lodge; late afternoon transfer to Rio de Janeiro for evening flight to London.
Cloudy, bright intervals, 17-21°C.
- 15th Sep Arrive at London Heathrow early afternoon.



Campo Troupial

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN

No of days recorded
1 2h means seen on 1
day and heard on 2
other days

Locations
R = REGUA trails, wetland & local area
M = Macae de Cima (mountains)
C = Cabo Frio (coastal area)
S = Sumidouro & Carmo (dry forest)

Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day)
1 = 1 - 4
2 = 5 - 9
3 = 10 - 99
4 = 100 - 999
5 = >1,000

The order and nomenclature mainly follows 'A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil' by Ber van Perlo, but the taxonomy of Brazil's birds has advanced considerably since its publication; see the notes at the end of the checklist for the species marked. Species marked **in bold** are endemic to Brazil.

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Brown Booby	1	C	3	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	C	3	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	1	C	1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Anhinga	5	R	1	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	5	R C	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	1	C	1	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	3	R	1	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	4	R C	2	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	4	R C	2	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Cattle Egret	8	R C	4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Cocoi Heron	4	R C	1	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	7	R C	S 3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Whistling Heron	4	R	S 2	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
Capped Heron	4	R	1	<i>Ptilerodius pileatus</i>
Snowy Egret	5	R C	2	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	1	C	2	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
White-faced Whistling-Duck	2	R	3	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Muscovy Duck	2	R	1	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
White-cheeked Pintail	1	C	3	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
Brazilian Teal	7	R C	S 2	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
Turkey Vulture	5	R M C	S 2	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	3	R	2	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
Black Vulture	8	R M C	S 5	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
White-necked Hawk	1	R	1	<i>Buteogallus lacernulatus</i>
Savanna Hawk	3	R	S 1	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
Great Black-Hawk	1	R	1	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>
Harris's Hawk	1	R	1	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
Roadside Hawk	5	R	S 1	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
White-tailed Hawk	2	M	S 1	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>
Southern Caracara	6	R C	S 3	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	6	R	S 3	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Laughing Falcon	1	C	1	<i>Herpetheres cachinnans</i>
American Kestrel	1		S 1	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Brown Tinamou	- 1h	M	1	<i>Crypturellus obsoletus</i>
Limpkin	2	R	1	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
Rusty-margined Guan	1	R	1	<i>Penelope superciliaris</i>
Dusky-legged Guan	1 1h	R M	1	<i>Penelope obscura</i>
Red-legged Seriema	- 2h	R	S 1	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
Mangrove (Clapper) Rail ¹	1	C	1	<i>Rallus longirostris crassirostris</i>
Grey-necked Wood-Rail	1 1h	R C	1	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>
Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail	2 2h	R	S 1	<i>Aramides saracura</i>
Rufous-sided Crake	1 1h	R	1	<i>Laterallus melanophaius</i>
Ash-throated Crake	1 1h	R	2	<i>Porzana albicollis</i>
Blackish Rail	1	R	1	<i>Pardirallus nigricans</i>
Common Gallinule ²	6	R C	3	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
Purple Gallinule	4	R	1	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>
Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt ³	1	C	3	<i>Himantopus mexicanus melanurus</i>
Southern Lapwing	8	R C	S 3	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>

Grey Plover	1			C	1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Semipalmated Plover	1			C	2	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	
Wattled Jacana	6	R		C	3	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	
South American Snipe	1	R			1	<i>Gallinago paraguayae</i>	
Giant Snipe	1	R			1	<i>Gallinago undulata</i>	
Whimbrel ⁴	1			C	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	
Greater Yellowlegs	1			C	1	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1			C	2	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
Solitary Sandpiper	1			C	1	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	
White-rumped Sandpiper	1			C	1	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	
Yellow-billed Tern	1			C	2	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>	
Royal Tern	1			C	1	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	
Sandwich Tern (Cabot's) ⁵	1			C	2	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis acutiflavus</i>	
Sandwich Tern (Cayenne) ⁵	1			C	3	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnathus</i>	
Kelp Gull	1			C	3	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	
Grey-hooded Gull	1			C	2	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	
Plain-breasted Ground Dove	1			C	1	<i>Columbina minuta</i>	
Ruddy Ground-Dove	7	R		C	S	3	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
Rock Dove	2			C	S	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Picazuro Pigeon	8	R	M	C	S	3	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	4	R			S	1	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
White-tipped Dove	2	3h	R		S	1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Grey-fronted Dove	-	3h	R	M		1	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
Eared Dove	1	R				1	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
Blue-winged Macaw	2	R			S	2	<i>Primolius maracana</i>
White-eyed Parakeet	4	R			S	3	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>
Peach-fronted Parakeet	1	R				3	<i>Eupsittula aurea</i>
Maroon-bellied Parakeet	4	R	M			3	<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>
Plain Parakeet	1	1h	R			3	<i>Brotogeris tirica</i>
Blue-winged Parrotlet	1	R				1	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>
Golden-tailed Parrotlet	-	1h	R			1	<i>Touit surdus</i>
Scaly-headed Parrot	2		M		S	2	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
Orange-winged Parrot	3	R				2	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>
Squirrel Cuckoo	2	R				1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Greater Ani	2	R				2	<i>Crotophaga major</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	8	R		C	S	3	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Guira Cuckoo	4	R			S	2	<i>Guira guira</i>
Striped Cuckoo	1	2h	R		S	1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
Tropical Screech-Owl	3	R				1	<i>Megascops choliba</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	3	5h	R			1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Burrowing Owl	2	R				1	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Common Pauraque	1	3h	R			1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
White-collared Swift	3	R	M		S	4	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Biscutate Swift	1	R				3	<i>Streptoprocne biscutata</i>
Grey-rumped Swift	4	R			S	3	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Sick's Swift	3	R		C		4	<i>Chaetura meridionalis</i>
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	2	R				3	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>
Saw-billed Hermit	1	R				1	<i>Ramphodon naevius</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	2	R				1	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Reddish Hermit	1	R				1	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>
Planalto Hermit	1	R				1	<i>Phaethornis pretrei</i>
Scale-throated Hermit	1		M			1	<i>Phaethornis eurynome</i>
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	8	R				2	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>
Black Jacobin	8	R				2	<i>Florisuga fusca</i>
Green-crowned Plovercrest⁶	1		M			1	<i>Stephanoxis lalandi</i>
Frilled Coquette	1	R				1	<i>Lophornis magnificus</i>
Violet-capped Woodnymph	8	R	M			2	<i>Thalurania glaucopis</i>
White-chinned Sapphire	2	R				1	<i>Hylocharis cyanus</i>
White-throated Hummingbird	2	R	M			1	<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>
Versicolored Emerald	2	R				1	<i>Amazilia versicolor</i>
Glittering-throated Emerald	5	R				1	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
Sapphire-spangled Emerald	1	R				1	<i>Amazilia lactea</i>
Glittering-bellied Emerald	1				S	1	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>
Brazilian Ruby	1		M			1	<i>Clytolaema rubricauda</i>

Green-backed (White-tailed) Trogon ⁷	-	1h	R		1	<i>Trogon viridis</i>		
Surucua Trogon	1	1h	R	M	1	<i>Trogon surrucura</i>		
Black-throated Trogon	1		R		1	<i>Trogon rufus</i>		
Rufous-capped Motmot	1	3h	R		1	<i>Baryphthengus ruficapillus</i>		
Ringed Kingfisher	4		R		S	1	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	
Amazon Kingfisher	4		R		S	1	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	
Green Kingfisher	1		R			1	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	2		R			1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	
Three-toed Jacamar	1				S	1	<i>Jacamaralcyon tridactyla</i>	
White-eared Puffbird	1		R			1	<i>Nystalus chacuru</i>	
Crescent-chested Puffbird	3		R		S	1	<i>Malacoptila striata</i>	
Black-necked Aracari	2		R		S	1	<i>Pteroglossus aracari</i>	
Channel-billed Toucan	4		R			2	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	
Toco Toucan	1		R			1	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>	
Spot-billed Toucanet	1		R			1	<i>Selenidera maculirostris</i>	
White-barred Piculet	4		R		S	1	<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>	
White Woodpecker	2		R			1	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>	
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker	1		R			1	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>	
Yellow-eared Woodpecker	1				S	1	<i>Veniliornis maculifrons</i>	
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	1		R			1	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>	
White-browed (Yellow-browed) Woodpecker ⁸	1			M		1	<i>Piculus aurulentus</i>	
Green-barred Woodpecker	1		R			1	<i>Colaptes melanochloros</i>	
Campo Flicker	2		R			1	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>	
Blond-crested Woodpecker	3		R			1	<i>Celeus flavescens</i>	
Plain-winged Woodcreeper	1		R			1	<i>Dendrocincla turdina</i>	
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	2		R	M		1	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	
Planalto Woodcreeper	1			M		1	<i>Dendrocolaptes platyrostris</i>	
Lesser Woodcreeper	3		R	M		1	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus</i>	
Wing-banded Hornero ⁹	4		R		S	1	<i>Furnarius figulus</i>	
Rufous Hornero	5		R		C	S	2	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
Rufous-capped Spinetail	1		R			1	<i>Synallaxis ruficapilla</i>	
Spix's Spinetail	-	1h		M		1	<i>Synallaxis spixi</i>	
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	6		R		C		1	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>
Rufous-fronted Thornbird	1				S	1	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons</i>	
Orange-eyed Thornbird¹⁰	1			M		1	<i>Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus</i>	
Firewood-gatherer	1				S	1	<i>Anumbius annumbi</i>	
Black-capped Foliage-gleaner	1		R			1	<i>Philydor atricapillus</i>	
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	1		R			1	<i>Philydor rufum</i>	
White-eyed Foliage-gleaner	1	1h	R			1	<i>Automolus leucophthalmus</i>	
Pale-browed Treehunter	1		R			1	<i>Cichlocolaptes leucophrus</i>	
Streaked Xenops	3		R	M		1	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>	
Giant Antshrike	-	1h		M		1	<i>Batara cinerea</i>	
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	3		R		S	1	<i>Thamnophilus palliatus</i>	
Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike	1	1h	R		C	2	<i>Thamnophilus ambiguus</i>	
Variable Antshrike	-	1h		M		1	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens</i>	
Star-throated Antwren	1		R			1	<i>Rhopias gularis</i>	
White-flanked Antwren ¹¹	2		R			1	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris luctuosa</i>	
Unicoloured Antwren	2		R			1	<i>Myrmotherula unicolor</i>	
Streak-capped Antwren	1		R			1	<i>Terenura maculata</i>	
Rufous-winged Antwren	1	1h	R			1	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>	
Restinga Antwren	1				C	2	<i>Formicivora littoralis</i>	
Serra Antwren	1				S	1	<i>Formicivora serrana</i>	
Bertoni's Antbird	1			M		1	<i>Drymophila rubricollis</i>	
Scaled Antbird	2		R			1	<i>Drymophila squamata</i>	
White-bibbed Antbird	-	1h	R			1	<i>Myrmeciza loricata</i>	
Rufous-tailed Antthrush	-	1h		M		1	<i>Chamaeza ruficauda</i>	
Black-cheeked Gnateater	1		R			1	<i>Conopophaga melanops</i>	
Bare-throated Bellbird	1	2h	R	M		3	<i>Procnias nudicollis</i>	
Black-and-gold Cotinga	1			M		2	<i>Tijuca atra</i>	
Hooded Berryeater	1			M		1	<i>Carpornis cucullata</i>	
Green-backed Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus viridis</i>	
Chestnut-crowned Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus castaneus</i>	
White-winged Becard	3		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	
Black-capped Becard	1		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>	

Crested Becard	2		R			1	<i>Pachyramphus validus</i>	
Pin-tailed Manakin	1		R			1	<i>Ilicura militaris</i>	
White-bearded Manakin	4		R			2	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	
Swallow-tailed (Blue) Manakin ¹⁴	2	1h	R	M		1	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>	
Yellowish Pipit	3		R		C	1	<i>Anthus lutescens</i>	
Southern Antpipit	1		R			1	<i>Corythopis delalandi</i>	
Planalto Tyrannulet	2		R			1	<i>Phyllomyias fasciatus</i>	
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	3	1h	R			1	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	
Highland Elaenia	1			M		1	<i>Elaenia obscura</i>	
Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant	-	1h			C	1	<i>Euscarthmus meloryphus</i>	
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	2				C	S	1	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
Sooty Tyrannulet	1					S	1	<i>Serpophaga nigricans</i>
Yellow Tyrannulet	1		R				1	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	2		R				1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Grey-hooded Flycatcher	2		R				1	<i>Mionectes rufiventris</i>
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	3		R			S	1	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>
Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant	1			M			1	<i>Hemitriccus diops</i>
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant	1	1h	R				1	<i>Hemitriccus orbitatus</i>
Hangnest Tody-Tyrant	2				C	S	2	<i>Hemitriccus nidipendulus</i>
Grey-headed (Yellow-lored) Tody-Flycatcher¹⁵	3		R			S	1	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	1		R				1	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	3		R	M		S	1	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	1	1h	R				1	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>
White-throated Spadebill	1		R				1	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>
Bran-coloured Flycatcher	2		R		C		1	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Whiskered (Sulphur-rumped) Flycatcher ¹⁶	2		R				1	<i>Myiobius barbatus mastacalis</i>
Crested Black-Tyrant	1					S	1	<i>Knipolegus lophotes</i>
Yellow-browed Tyrant	1					S	1	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>
White-rumped Monjita	1		R				1	<i>Xolmis velatus</i>
Streamer-tailed Tyrant	1		R				1	<i>Gubernetes yetapa</i>
Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant	1			M			1	<i>Muscipipra vetula</i>
Masked Water-Tyrant	7		R		C	S	2	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	3		R		C		1	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	2		R			S	1	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Cattle Tyrant	4		R		C		1	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	1		R				1	<i>Legatus leucophaius</i>
Social Flycatcher	6		R			S	3	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Great Kiskadee	8		R		C	S	3	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	3		R			S	1	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	5		R			S	1	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>
Variegated Flycatcher	1		R				1	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
Tropical Kingbird	8		R		C	S	2	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	5		R			S	1	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Greyish Mourner	1		R				1	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	2		R				1	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	3		R		C		1	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Grey-hooded Attila	1	1h	R				1	<i>Attila rufus</i>
Tropical Parula	1	1h	R		C		1	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Masked Yellowthroat ¹⁸	2		R			S	1	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis velata</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler	2			M		S	1	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
White-browed Warbler	-	1h		M			2	<i>Basileuterus leucoblepharus</i>
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	2		R	M			1	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo ¹⁹	2		R				1	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Lemon-chested Greenlet	1	1h	R		C		1	<i>Hylophilus thoracicus</i>
Grey-eyed Greenlet	1					S	1	<i>Hylophilus amaurocephalus</i>
Blue-and-white Swallow	5		R		C	S	4	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
White-thighed Swallow	1		R				1	<i>Neochelidon tibialis</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	6		R			S	3	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Brown-chested Martin	1					S	1	<i>Progne tapera</i>
Grey-breasted Martin	2		R		C		1	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
White-rumped Swallow	4		R				1	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>
Black-capped Donacobius	3		R				1	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
House (Southern House) Wren ²⁰	7	1h	R		C	S	1	<i>Troglodytes aedon musculus</i>
Moustached Wren	1		R				1	<i>Thryothorus genibarbis</i>

Long-billed Wren	1	R			1	<i>Thryothorus longirostris</i>	
Yellow-legged Thrush	3	R	M		2	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>	
Rufous-bellied Thrush	3	R		S	2	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>	
Pale-breasted Thrush	3	R		S	2	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>	
Creamy-bellied Thrush	3	R			1	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>	
White-necked Thrush	-	1h	R		1	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>	
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	5	R		C	S	2	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
Crested Oropendola	2		M		S	2	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Red-rumped Cacique	6	R			S	3	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>
Campo Troupial	1				S	1	<i>Icterus jamacaii</i>
Chopi Blackbird	2	R			S	3	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
Chestnut-capped Blackbird	4	R		C	S	1	<i>Chrysomus ruficapillus</i>
Giant Cowbird	1				S	1	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
Shiny Cowbird	4	R			S	1	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
White-browed Meadowlark (White-browed Blackbird) ²¹	1	R				2	<i>Sturnella superciliaris</i>
Cinnamon Tanager	1		M			1	<i>Schistochlamys ruficapillus</i>
Hooded Tanager	2	R				1	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>
Olive-green Tanager	1	R				1	<i>Orthogonys chloricterus</i>
Black-goggled Tanager	1	R				1	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	1	R				1	<i>Habia rubica</i>
Flame-crested Tanager	4	R				1	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>
Ruby-crowned Tanager	2	R			S	1	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>
Brazilian Tanager	6	R		C		1	<i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>
Sayaca Tanager	7	R		C	S	3	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>
Azure-shouldered Tanager	3	R	M			3	<i>Thraupis cyanoptera</i>
Golden-chevroned Tanager	6	R	M		S	3	<i>Thraupis ornata</i>
Palm Tanager	6	R			S	2	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Fawn-breasted Tanager	1	R				1	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
Turquoise (White-bellied) Tanager ²²	1	R				1	<i>Tangara mexicana brasiliensis</i>
Green-headed Tanager	3	R				2	<i>Tangara seledon</i>
Red-necked Tanager	1	R				1	<i>Tangara cyanocephala</i>
Brassy-breasted Tanager	1		M			3	<i>Tangara desmaresti</i>
Burnished-buff Tanager	2	R			S	1	<i>Tangara cayana</i>
Black-backed Tanager	1			C		1	<i>Tangara peruviana</i>
Swallow Tanager	1	R				1	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
Black-legged Dacnis	2	R				2	<i>Dacnis nigripes</i>
Blue Dacnis	6	R			S	3	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Red-legged Honeycreeper	1	R				1	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>
Rufous-headed Tanager	2	R				1	<i>Hemithraupis ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-backed Tanager	3	R				1	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>
Chestnut-vented Conebill	5	R				3	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>
Bananaquit	4	R		C		1	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Yellow-green Grosbeak	2	R				2	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	1	R				1	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Green-winged Saltator	1		M			1	<i>Saltator similis</i>
Common Waxbill	3	R		C		2	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
House Sparrow	5	R	M	C	S	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Purple-throated Euphonia	5	R				1	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>
Violaceous Euphonia	5	R				3	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	3	R				1	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia	1	R				1	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	1	R				1	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	2		M		S	3	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Grassland Sparrow	1	R				1	<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>
Grassland Yellow-Finch	1	R				3	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>
Saffron Finch	8	R	M	C	S	4	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch	1	R				1	<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	2	R			S	2	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Temminck's Seedeater	1	R				1	<i>Sporophila falcirostris</i>
Double-collared Seedeater	2	R				2	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>
White-bellied Seedeater	1	R				1	<i>Sporophila leucoptera</i>
Sooty Grassquit	1	R				1	<i>Tiaris fuliginosa</i>
Pileated Finch	2	R			S	1	<i>Coryphospingus pileatus</i>
Red-cowled Cardinal	2	R				2	<i>Paroaria dominicana</i>

OTHER SPECIES

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
Crab-eating Fox
Capybara
White-tufted (Common) Marmoset
Broad-snouted Caiman

Bradypus variegatus
Cerdocyon thous
Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris
Callithrix jacchus
Caiman latirostris

Notes on the bird list

This gives some further information on the taxonomy and nomenclature of the species listed on the Ornitholidays' checklist for the REGUA area, including some which were not seen on the 2015 tour. The sources referred to are listed in the references section at the end of the notes.

1 Mangrove Rail (Clapper Rail)

Both the South American Classification Committee (SACC) and Clements split Mangrove Rail *Rallus longirostris* of coastal South America from Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans* of North and Central America. The race *R. l. crassirostris* occurs in coastal east Brazil from the Amazon estuary to Santa Catarina.

2 Common Gallinule

It is generally recognised that Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* of the Western Hemisphere is now split as a distinct species from Eurasian Moorhen *G. chloropus* on the basis of morphological, genetic and vocal differences.

3 Black-necked Stilt (White-backed Stilt)

Many authorities split White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*, found in north Chile and east-central Peru to south-east Brazil and Argentina, from the Black-necked Stilt *H. mexicanus* of western and southern USA to Ecuador, south-west Peru and north-east Brazil. Mello follows this split but the SACC and Clements are awaiting the outcome of further study and still consider *melanurus* as a race of *mexicanus*.

4 Whimbrel

The SACC and Clements consider the dark-rumped *hudsonicus*, breeding in Alaska and north Canada and wintering as far as southern South America, as a race of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. However, other authorities, including the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), consider it as a full species Hudsonian Whimbrel *N. hudsonicus*, split from the Whimbrel breeding in Europe and Asia.

5 Sandwich Tern (Cabot's/Cayenne Tern)

Clements lists three subspecies of Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, including Cabot's Tern *T. s. acutiflavidus* and Cayenne Tern *T. s. eurygnathus*. Cabot's, with a black, yellow-tipped bill, breeds in east North America to the south Caribbean, wintering to south Peru and Uruguay (including south-east Brazil). The yellow-billed Cayenne Tern is a South American breeder on the islands off Venezuela, the Guianas, east Brazil and north Argentina. Other authorities, including the BOU, split Cabot's/Cayenne from Sandwich Tern, leaving the latter purely as the bird of Europe, north Africa, the Persian Gulf and India. They use the name Cabot's Tern *T. acutiflvida* and treat Cayenne *T. a. eurygnatha* as a subspecies of Cabot's. It is possible to see both Cabot's and Cayenne in Brazil in September, so they are listed separately on the checklist.

6 Green-crowned Plovercrest

In accord with the recent SACC proposal 664, Clements splits Plovercrest into two species: Green-crowned Plovercrest *Stephanoxis lalandi* and Violet-crowned Plovercrest *Stephanoxis loddigesii*. Green-crowned is endemic to east Brazil (south Minas Gerais to Espírito Santo and north-east Sao Paulo), with Violet-crowned occurring in east Paraguay and north-east Argentina (Misiones) to southern Brazil.

7 Green-backed Trogon (White-tailed Trogon)

Clements and the SACC both list the trogon of the REGUA region as Green-backed Trogon, still using the scientific name *Trogon viridis*. Its full range is Colombia east of the Andes to north Bolivia and Brazil, as well as Trinidad. They use the name White-tailed Trogon *T. chionurus* for the bird occurring in the lowlands of east Panama to west Colombia and west Ecuador. Both van Perlo and Mello also use *T. viridis*, but retain the English name White-tailed Trogon.

8 White-browed (Yellow-browed) Woodpecker

Mello uses Yellow-browed Woodpecker as its English name for the species called White-browed Woodpecker by the SACC and Clements. Both are used in van Perlo.

9 Wing-banded Hornero

Furnarius figulus appears to have a variety of English names, most authorities using Wing-banded Hornero but the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) and others using Band-tailed Hornero.

10 Orange-eyed Thornbird

The birds seen on Macae de Cima are Orange-eyed Thornbird *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus* as opposed to Orange-breasted Thornbird *P. ferrugineigula* which occurs further south. Previously both were lumped as Red-eyed Thornbird, and Orange-breasted is still called Red-eyed in van Perlo, a potential source of confusion amongst our guides, compounded by the fact that *erythrophthalmus* actually translates as 'red-eyed'!

11 White-flanked Antwren

Ridgely/Tudor follows the IOC, splitting Silvery-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula luctuosa* of east Brazil from White-flanked Antwren *M. axillaris* of Columbia, Venezuela, Amazonia and the Guianas. Van Perlo illustrates both: 'Silvery-

flanked', found in the REGUA area, is shown as 107.3b. The book, along with Mello and the SACC, follows Clements in listing *luctuosa* as a race of White-flanked.

12 Brown-winged Schiffornis (Thrush-like Schiffornis)

Clements and the SACC use the name Brown-winged Schiffornis, whilst van Perlo and Mello use Thrush-like Schiffornis.

13 Shrike-like Cotinga

Ridgely/Tudor follows the IOC, splitting this into two species, Brazilian Laniisoma *Laniisoma elegans* of eastern Brazil and Andean Laniisoma *L. buckleyi* of Venezuela to Bolivia. Clements, the SACC, Mello and van Perlo lump the two together as *L. elegans*.

14 Swallow-tailed Manakin (Blue Manakin)

Van Perlo's alternative name Swallow-tailed Manakin is used by Clements, the SACC and Mello. Blue Manakin is also given in the checklist as it is the name most often used by the guides at REGUA.

15 Grey-headed (Yellow-lored) Tody-Flycatcher

The English name Grey-headed Tody-Flycatcher is used by the SACC and Clements, but Mello uses Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher so both names are given in the checklist.

16 Whiskered Flycatcher (Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher)

The taxonomy and nomenclature of this is somewhat confusing. Van Perlo, Mello and Clements list *Myobius barbatus mastacalis* as the subspecies found in south-east Brazil and it is illustrated as 142.6a in van Perlo. The SACC lumps Whiskered with Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, split by Clements as *M. sulphureipygius*, occurring in Columbia and Ecuador. To my knowledge it is the only species on our REGUA tour checklist where the SACC currently doesn't follow Clements.

17 Tropical Pewee

The nominate subspecies *Contopus cinereus cinereus* which occurs in south-east Brazil, south-east Paraguay and north-east Argentina is darker/greyer than the ones in the rest of its range. It is illustrated in Ridgely/Tudor but not in van Perlo.

18 Masked Yellowthroat

The race which occurs in south-east Brazil is *G. a. velata*, split as a full species Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata* by some authorities although not by Clements, the SACC, Mello or van Perlo.

19 Red-eyed Vireo (Chivi Vireo)

Van Perlo mentions two forms, the nominate subspecies which is a migrant from North America (with red eyes and white vent) and the 'chivi' group (with brown eyes and yellow vent) which is a resident/local migrant. The latter is the one most likely to be seen at REGUA. Mello treats it as a full species Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi* but Clements and the SACC consider it as one of ten subspecies of Red-eyed.

20 House Wren (Southern House Wren)

Mello splits Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus* from the House Wren of North America *T. aedon*. However, the SACC and Clements continue to consider them conspecific, Clements listing *T. a. musculus* of south-east Brazil as one of 33 subspecies of House Wren!

21 White-browed Meadowlark (White-browed Blackbird)

Clements and the SACC (in accord with Proposal 641) have changed the English name of *Sturnella supercilialis* from White-browed Blackbird to White-browed Meadowlark. The former is still used in van Perlo and Mello.

22 Turquoise Tanager (White-bellied Tanager)

Both van Perlo and Mello split White-bellied Tanager *Tangara brasiliensis* from Turquoise Tanager *T. mexicana*, thus making the former a Brazilian endemic. However, both the SACC and Clements lump the two, considering White-bellied as a race of Turquoise Tanager *T. m. brasiliensis*.

23 Copper Seedeater (Capped Seedeater)

This species is named Capped Seedeater in both van Perlo and Mello, but has been renamed as Copper Seedeater by the SACC and Clements. The scientific name remains the same.

24 Hepatic Tanager

Ridgely/Tudor splits Lowland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* from Highland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga lutea*. These are lumped as one species by the SACC and this is followed in van Perlo. The former, which is the one illustrated/mapped in van Perlo, occurs in the REGUA area. The IOC splits the two, but calls *flava* Red Tanager and *lutea* Tooth-billed Tanager. Interestingly, this species, along with Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, is no longer considered as a true tanager but is placed with cardinals and allies.

References:

- [A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil](#) by Ber van Perlo (Oxford University Press, 2009)
- [Field Guide to the Birds of the Serra dos Orgaos and Surrounding Area](#) by Daniel Mello, Gabriel Mello and Francisco Mallet-Rodrigues (Rio de Janeiro, 2015)
- [The Birds of South America Passerines](#) by Robert S Ridgely and Guy Tudor (Christopher Helm, 2009)
- The online species list of the South American Classification Committee (SACC)
- Clements world checklist
- The online World Bird List of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) (<http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>)
- The British list of the BOU (<http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/>)
- <http://museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop664.htm> (Plovercrest)



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl



Striated Heron



White-eared Puffbird



Bertoni's Antbird



Scale-throated Hermit



Green-crowned Plovercrest



Green-headed Tanager



Black-and-gold Cotinga



Capybara and Yellow-headed Caracara



Blue Manakin



Roseate Spoonbill



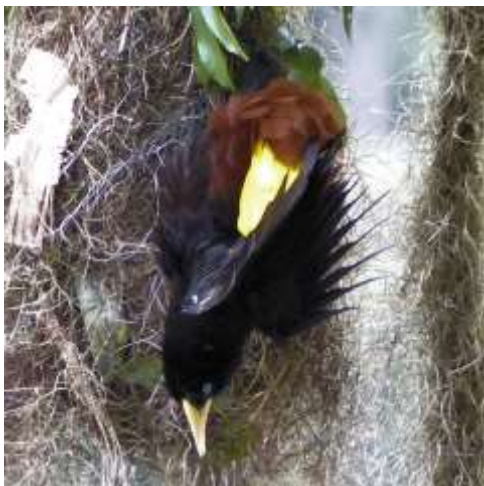
Three-toed Jacamars



Yellow-fronted Woodpecker



Rufous-tailed Jacamar



Crested Oropendola



Surucua Trogon

Front cover: Wetland at REGUA

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