

**ECOTOURS – WORLDWIDE TRAVEL TOUR TO BRAZIL**  
**Atlantic Forest Endemics - Superb Week at 1 centre**  
**8 - 15 November 2018**



**Leaders: Gabor O., Andrea K. & Cirilo V.**



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# ATLANTIC FOREST ENDEMIC & WILDLIFE BONANZA - BRAZIL PHOTO TRIP REPORT – 8-15 November 2018



We planned this week as an extension to our end of October, beginning of November Pantanal tour, but actually the Atlantic Forest of Brazil is so rich in birds and wildlife that it should be a prime destination itself. Actually it is one of the richest areas on the entire planet in terms of biodiversity, especially the number of endemic bird species but other wildlife as well.

We stayed at the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge at Reserva Ecologica de Guapiacu which was a great base for on-site birding and also shorter and longer daily adventures during the week.

It was also quite convenient that the driving distance between the Rio airport and the lodge is just 1,5, max 2 hours. Our idea was that we alternate days spent at or nearby our lodge discovering the various trails with shorter or longer daily excursions to the best birding areas in the region.

Arrival (or Ground zero) day was 8 November, arrived from Cuiaba, Pantanal to Rio and then to the lodge

1st Day 9 November exploring the trails on the reserve, at wetlands, lowland pastures, gardens and sections of primary and secondary rainforest

2nd Day 10 November excursion to dry Atlantic Forest near Carmo, 3-toed Jacamar Day

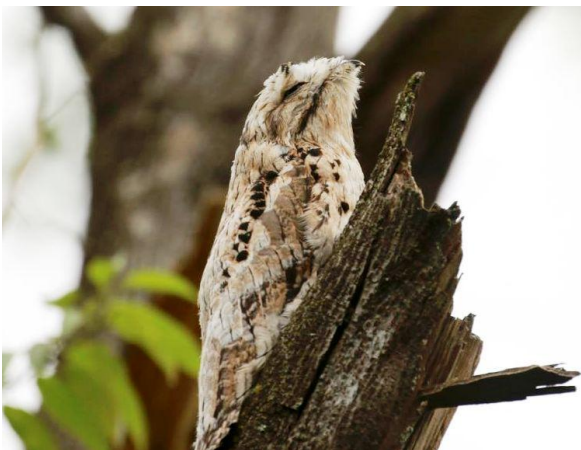
3rd Day 11 November Waldemor Trail

4th Day 12 November full day excursion to Macai de Cima

5th Day 13 November 4x4 trail

6th Day 14 November full day spent at the lush montane forests of Pico de Caledonia

7th Day 15 November Independence Day morning at Maroon trail, late afternoon travel to domestic airport







We were very fortunate with the weather, never really effected our birding days, however it has changed a few times. We were delighted to **record 234 species** including 20 only heard! Out of the 214 seen species we had 63 endemic and out of the 20 heard species 6 were endemic, which means total we **registered 69 endemic species** without a serious effort. This means that **almost every third bird species were endemic!** Quite incredible!

The local guide, **Cirilo** was with us throughout the week and we would never end up with the above results without his excellent local knowledge. But the whole team helped each other not to miss anything. **Gabor** put the scope on the bird quickly and also helped with a lazer pointer with directions, while **Andi** was a good spotter and a cheerful company.

We also had excellent possibilities to photograph not just various birds, but mammals, butterflies, dragonflies and a long list of wildflower species as well. It was perfect birding and wildlife holiday.

At the end it was very difficult to pick the best species or the most unforgattable visited areas or other highlights of the tour, but here is a short list with some:

**Bare-throated Bellbird** and the countryside near **Nova Freiburg** was selected by **Monica**, while **Bratt** liked the **Long-tailed Antshrike** and the **Giant Moth** attracted by the moth trap light,

**Barbara** liked the **White-tufted Marmosets** and the **Long-tailed Antshrike** as well, while **Arnold** especially enjoyed the **lush forests of Pico de Caledonia** and of course the **Bare-throated Bellbirds**

**Janet's** favourites were the **Three-toed Jacamars** and the **Tapirs** whether they bit each other legs or not in the garden while **Rob** mentioned **Warbling Finch, White-eyed Foliage-gleaner and Three-toed Jacamar.**

**Andi** was fascinated by the colours of the **Brassy-breasted Tanager** and of course the echoing **Bellbird**, while **Gabor** voted for the not so colorful **Mouse-colored or Serro do Mar Tapaculo** and the leg-biting **Tapirs.**







But there were so many more from colourful toucans, through shining tanagers, manakins and various hummingbirds, hiding antbirds, herons and egrets and so many more...

Surely neither of us were bored and we felt we could easily spend some more relaxing days here and we could easily find even more things. It was also great to learn about the conservation projects here, to feel the success of reforestation.

We enjoyed the food which was made locally and became quite quickly addicted to the pre-dinner caipirinha sessions. The extensive library and the different leaflets were helpful as well.

***It was a memorable holiday in really good company!***

**8 November Arrival day**, we arrived from Cuiaba to Rio and then to the lodge in the evening

**1st Day 9 November** Exploring the trails on the reserve, at wetlands, lowland pastures, gardens and sections of primary and secondary rainforest

Since we had a long day yesterday starting from Pantanal and ending up here late evening we did not start early today. But of course it was not easy to concentrate on breakfast when you had **Fork-tailed Hummingbird, Black Jacobin** and some more species around the feeders.

Later we had **Green Ibis** and heard **Road-side Hawk** and **Picazurro Pigeon**.

We spent most of the day with wondering around the Wetland Trails where the first species were **White-barred Piculet, Rufous-tailed Jacamar** and a female **White-bearded Manakin**.

**Violet-capped Woodnymph, Atlantic Forest endemic** was seen shortly, but **Masked Water-Tyrant** performed really nicely. **Great Kiskadee** was easy and there were several **White-collared Swifts** in the air as well.



We shortly met with a local student group so we were happy to hand over our bins and explain why protecting birds and their habitats are so important.

At and alongside the water we found **Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Cattle Egret** and even some **Boat-billed Herons**. In the meantime we also had **Sayaca Tanager, endemic Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, Chestnut-capped** and **Chopi Blackbirds** and **Rufous-bellied Thrush**.

**Buff-throated Saltator, Social Flycatcher, Brazilian endemic Wing-banded Hornero,**

**Red-rumped Cacique** and a beautiful **Rufous Tiger-Heron** we all found easily, but we just heard **Blackish Rail, Grey-fronted Dove** and **Chestnut-backed Antshrike**.

The next was to find a lovely displaying male **White-bearded Manakin** and another highlights were **Maroon-bellied Parakeets, Atlantic Forest endemic**.





We heard the typical call of a **Gray-bellied Spinetail**, but could not get a glimpse of it, but we had a **Yellow-chevroned Tanager** which was chased away by a **Yellow-headed Caracara**. In the meantime Bratt found an **Atlantic Forest endemic Green-headed Tanager**.

After lunch we had a little siesta before we continued our discovery of the area. We had the cheerfully named **Chivi Vireo**, **Creamy-bellied Thrush** and **White-eyed Parakeet**. We also heard **Yellow-backed Tanager**, **Blue Dacnis** and **Moustached Wren**.

From the tiny **Lemon-chested Greenlet** through the agile **Squirrel Cuckoo** till the beautiful **Swallow-tailed Tanager**, **Golden-chevroned Tanager** and **Blue-winged Parotlet** we found several nice species. Common species were around in good number as well, such as **Pale-breasted Thrush**, **Piratic Flycatcher**, **Streaked Flycatcher**. Everybody waited for the first **Brazilian Tanager** so we were really happy when we found this lovely bird. Pretty soon we had a group of funny **White-tufted Marmosets**. It was much harder to find **Silvery-flanked Antwren** than the noisy, colourful **Red-rumped Cacique**. We had a perfect view of **White-headed Marsh-Tyrant** followed by **Yellow-eared Woodpecker** and **Unicolored Antwren**. We heard another endemic **Antwren**, **Star-throated** and also **Rufous-capped Motmot**.

Another new flycatcher species in the afternoon were **Yellow Tyrannulet** and **Short-crested Flycatcher**. We found some small songbirds as well such as **Violaceous Euphonia**, **Saffron Finch**, **Blue Dacnis** and **Southern House Wren**. **Chestnut-backed Antshrike** and **Chestnut-capped Blackbird** were the last bird species today and mammal-wise we had again the **Marmosets** and **Agouti** was new.

**2nd Day 10 November** Excursion to dry Atlantic Forest near Carmo, 3toed Jacamar Day



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Today we were up early, ready to have breakfast at 6am so we could start half an hour later for a full day long adventure to a dry Atlantic Forest area. On the way a bit more than an hour away we stopped at a picturesque point with huge rocks which the locals call **God's Finger Rock**. It was a perfect timing since a few minutes later all formations and actually the whole hill was covered in clouds. So we just managed to take some pictures in the last minute. But the weather change actually caused a really good bird activity just behind the restaurant area, so we had a regional endemic **Green-headed Tanager** and endemic **Yellow-winged/Golden-chevroned Tanager**, and a **near-threatened Azure-shouldered Tanager**. More common species were around as well such as **Streaked Flycatcher, Black Jacobin, House Wren**, some of them on the lilac-flowered beautiful, but otherwise poisonous **Manacas trees**.

Within less than half an hour we continued from here, but we stopped again after a Federal Police checkpoint to find **White-tailed Hawk**. Where-ever we looked we kept finding various things from **Saffron Finches** through **House Sparrows, Tropical Kingbirds, Hooded Siskins Great Kiskadees, Brown-chested & Gray-chested Martin**. We enjoyed **Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Chalk-browed Mockingbird and Yellow-browed Tyrant. Shiny Cowbird, Brazilian Teal and Fork-tailed Woodnymph** was new. We saw some **near-threatened Blue-winged Macaws** flying in a distant and luckily they landed so Gabor could put the scope on them and we had some great views. We also added **Black-crowned Night-heron** to today's list as well, but became more excited when we saw some raptors, first a **Short-tailed Hawk** and then to our great surprise an excellent view of **Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle**.

Finally we drove a little bit further and so a **White-tailed Hawk** very close to the road. We stopped, got out of the vehicle and realized that we found a nest nearby.



We also had **Crested Black Tyrant** here and again **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** plus **Sayaca Tanager**. Soon we stopped again at a place which gave another restroom possibility. This was

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a site for **White-eyed Parakeet, Toco Toucan, Yellow-headed Caracara and Gray-breasted Wood-rail.**



We continued a bit further with the bus on dirt roads and then started to walk and added **Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Guira Cuckoo, Rufous-tailed Thornbird, Campo Flicker, Pileated Finch**, a female **Blue Dacnis, White-bellied Seed-eater** and yes, suddenly we have found our first **Three-toed Jacamar!** It was really cooperative so all of us had really perfect view and after that we started to photograph this beauty as well. Later on we found some more individuals, so it was interesting that however it is a very localized species, but at the right area it is quite common actually. We could not locate **Ash-throated Crake**, but first we heard and then later on managed to see and even photograph **Blackish Rail**, coming out into a more open area below us. **Red-rumped Caciques** were around.

At midday we stopped under a big tree providing excellent shade for picnic. We saw some beautiful butterflies, including a huge **Morpho**. A young guy passed by with a birdcage which was an alarming sign that illegal capturing and selling birds is still a problem. There are people alongside the road, at bus stops, in villages and towns everywhere selling birds. This, combined with huge habitat destruction is a combined, terrible pressure on bird populations and generally wildlife as well. That emphasizes the importance of protection of large natural areas and corridors between important habitats.

After the meal and some ice-cold refreshments we were ready to discover more and soon we found stunning **White-lored Blackbird, Short-crested Flycatcher, Pileated Finch, White-tipped Dove and Olivaceous Woodcreeper.**



Finally we reached the Carmo road which became quite wet and slippery because of a sudden rain. In this area we had again **Crested Black Tyrant, Pileated Finch**, but **Olivaceous**





**Woodcreeper, Golden-crowned Warbler** and a beautiful **Crescent-chested Puffbird** were new. We also found **White-winged Becard, Atlantic Forest endemic Ruby-crowned Tanager, Bananaquit** and **Brazilian endemic White-collared Foliage-gleaner**. We had mixed luck with the endemics here since we heard 3 really good species, **Serra Antwren, Southern Antpitt and Suruca Trogon**, but not managed to see them. Still altogether we had a marvellous day with visiting several different areas, beautiful landscapes and saw a long list of birds and other wildlife.



### 3rd Day 11 November Waldenor Trail



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After yesterday's excursion with longer drives today we opted for local trails which needed just half an hour transfer on the plateau of a truck till the beginning of the trail. As soon as we started to walk we noted the first birds such as **Atlantic Forest endemic Green-headed Tanagers**, **Brazil endemic Plain Parakeets** and a **Blond-crested Woodpecker**. At one of the corners a male **Blue or Swallow-tailed Manakin**, **Atlantic Forest endemic** performed extremely nicely. In the meantime a large group of **White-collared Swifts** flew over high above our heads. **Grey-headed Tanager** was new and we had a good look at a female **Violet-capped Woodnymph**.

Everybody seen well the **Atlantic Forest endemic Rufous-capped Motmot** and **Olive-green Tanager** and we had **Ochre-bellied** and **Sepia-capped Flycatchers** as well. Gabor had very shortly a bird which he believed was a **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow**, but unfortunately it remained a leader only bird since we could not relocate it. On the other hand **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, **Saw-billed Hermit**, **both Atlantic Forest endemics**, **the hermit is near-threatened** and **Yellow-billed Groesbeak** were seen by everybody really well.







After crossing this forested section we ended up at some gardens and at a lovely house. It turned out that was the mayor's weekend house. It was obvious someone knows how to live... After this point the trail became for a while a bit steeper and rocky, but soon we were rewarded by founding a **Crested Becard** at nest, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** and a group of noisy **Red-crowned Ant-tanagers**. It was a bit harder to see **Silvery-flanked Antwren** and **the near-threatened endemic Spot-breasted Ant-vireo**.

We also heard **White-throated Woodcreeper** and an **endemic Grey-hooded Attila**, plus a **vulnerable Atlantic Forest endemic, Buffy-fronted Seed-eater**. Our last bird we noted before heading back was **Rufous-bellied Thrush**.



We arrived back around 1pm and soon we were ready for lunch. We were happy after that to enjoy a couple of hours siesta again, before going out in the afternoon around 15.30. This time we decided to make a circle with Cirillo on the **Wetland trail**. It was silent, we felt quite a strong air pressure, everything pointed towards a strong possibility of a rain or even storm.



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So we decided not to wonder too far, still we had some nice birds such as **Chestnut-vented Conebill**, **Atlantic Forest endemic Green-headed Tanager**, **Sayaca Tanager**, **Channel-billed Toucan**, **Masked Water-Tyrant**, **Band-winged Hornero** and a group of **Greater Anis**. We had excellent views of **White-bearded Manakin** and **Brazilian Tanager**, 2 really memorable species. Just before we decided to return quickly not to get wet we heard **Rufous-capped Motmot** as well.



#### 4th Day 12 November full day excursion to **Macai de Cima**

Today we had another excellent full day excursion up in the mountainous Macai de Cima region. We started around 7.15 am and arrived back to our lodge around 18pm. It was a day full with a long list of new birds and again some really different landscapes and habitats.

On the way we stopped shortly at a pharmacy and also to buy some fresh bananas; the latter stop resulted **Sombre Hummingbird**, **another endemic**. Before driving up on the steep mountain roads we also stopped at a small local hotel to use the facilities but this offered the first birds as well such as **Crested Oropendola**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Atlantic Forest endemic**, **Scaled Woodcreeper**, **Streaked Flycatcher**, **Saffron Finch**, **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, **White-tipped Dove** and **Olivaceous Woodcreeper**.







Later on we drove higher up and at around 1100 meters we started to find different species starting with **a near-threatened Atlantic Forest endemic, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, Burnished-buff Tanager, Scale-throated Hermit, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** and **Grey-capped Tyrannulet**. In the sky we found again an amazing **Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle**. We started to hear the echoing calls of the **vulnerable Atlantic Forest endemic, Bare-throated Bellbirds** and soon we managed to put the scope on it.



**Spotted Bamboowren, a near threatened Atlantic Forest endemic** and **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** was heard first, but later on we had a good view of the latter and we added **Green-backed Becard, Streaked Xenops, Piratic Flycatcher** to the list as well. Then we found three different species which all had very good, really describing names: **Whiskered Flycatcher, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Dusky-tailed Antbird** and **Rufous-capped Spinetail, all Atlantic Forest endemics**. During driving Alceni pointed out a **Tarantula** species crossing in front of us and also a **Slaty-breasted Woodrail, an Atlantic Forest endemic** disappeared fast as we approached on the road with the bus.







Finally we continued on the **Bacchus Road** where we got out of the van again. We heard from a distance **Brown Tinamu** and several **endemics**, such as **Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser**, **Criptic Antthrush** and **Rufous-tailed Antthrush**, all really hard to see species. We had excellent views of **Cliff Flycatcher** and **Swainsons' Flycatcher** and we worked hard to have a glimpse of **Spix's Spinetail**. The **near-threatened endemic Cinnamon Tanager** was new and in the meantime we heard **near-threatened endemic Hooded Berry-eater** and **White-rimmed Warbler**. We had a quick view of **Ametyst Woodstar** and those who were tall enough could see a **Long-tailed Tyrant**.



We heard **Brazilian Antthrush** and **Tufted Antshrike**, **Atlantic Forest endemic** plus had an excellent view of **Mottled-cheeked Tyrannulet**.

We decided to have a somewhat early lunch at 11.45 and then we started to walk up at 12.15. The first birds we heard were **Atlantic Forest endemic Rufous-crowned Greenlet**, **Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** and **Pale-vented Pigeon**. Then on a large tree we found **Dusky-legged Guan** and soon on the same tree **Spot-billed Toucanet**, **Atlantic Forest endemic** landed as well. Nearby we found after some search a **Hooded Berry-eater** as well.



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A few hundred yards further up as we looked back on a huge tree we localized a **Yellow-browed Woodpecker**, a near threatened Atlantic Forest endemic. Soon we had much closer excellent views of **Brazilian Ruby** and **Pallid Spinetail**, both endemics plus **Squirrel Cuckoo**. We heard again **Brown Tinamu**, **Yellow-legged Thrush** and also **Serra de Mar Tapaculo**. The next new thing was **Chestnut-crowned Becard**, followed by **Burnished-buff Tanager**. We had incredibly great views of the endemic **Brassy-breasted Tanager** and **Golden-chevroned Tanager**. **Maroon-bellied Parakeets** were among the trees as well. We heard **Pale-browed Treehunter** and when we looked up in the sky we found to our great surprise a superb **Black Hawk-Eagle**. A female **Blue-billed Black-Tyrant** was the last bird at this area.



After 14pm we went back and drove a little bit further on the main dirt road just a few miles where we had a short walk. This resulted more **Maroon-bellied Parakeets**, but **Greenish Schiffornis**, Atlantic Forest endemic was new. We also managed to find **Ochre-rumped Antbird**, a near-threatened endemic and **White-bearded Antshrike**, a vulnerable Atlantic Forest endemic. We heard **Ochre-faced Tody-tyrant** and the last birds here were **Ruby-crowned Tanager**, **White-throated Hummingbird** & **Black Jacobin**, all Atlantic Forest endemics.



We started our drive back around 16.30, hit the main road around 17.20 and our final noted species was **Variable Antshrike**. Finally arrived back to our base around 18pm. After refreshing ourselves as usual we called out the list, enjoying caipirinha and had a great home-made dinner before we felt off our perch. The most interesting insect we

had today was found on the porch: a strange **Peanut-headed Bug**.





**5th Day 13 November** Morning **4x4 trail**; afternoon **Maroon Trail**



We had breakfast at 6.30 and started at 7am first with a short drive till the **Burrowing Owls** where we also had **Blue-winged Parotlets**. We also witnessed how a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** tried desperately to chase away a **Yellow-headed Caracara**.



Monica and Janet decided to take a brake and skip the 4x4 trail, but they were not really lucky because strangely enough the truck travelled all the way with all of us on seriously steep and bumpy forest track till a dead end where we all get out and they finally were taken down back to the accommodation.

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We started to walk in the forest around 8.45am. The first bird to mention was a **Rufous-capped Motmot**, **Atlantic Forest endemic** followed by a lovely **Scaled Antbird**, **Brazilian endemic**. Through the canopy we managed to see a pair of circling **Mantled Hawks** which is quite a rare raptor species, a **near-threatened Atlantic Forest endemic**. Even if we could not find most of them Cirilo identified many of the bird calls from **Tufted Anthshrike** through **Tropical Parula**, **Rufous-winged Antwren**, **Chivi Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Woodpecker**, **Red-crowned Ant-tanager** till **Sepia-capped Flycatcher**.



We also saw **Yellow-eared Woodpecker**, **White-eyed Foliage-gleaner**, **Black-cheeked Gnat-eater** and **Streak-capped Antwren**, all **Atlantic Forest endemics**. **Near-threatened endemics** were **Spot-breasted Antvireo** and **Eye-ringed Tody-tyrant**.

We had good view of both **Blue** and **White-bearded Manakins**. The last birds we noted before reaching the truck which was waiting for us a few hours later lower down were **Rufous-breasted Hermit**, **Yellow-backed** and **Golden-chevroned Tanagers** and **Maroon-bellied Parakeets**.



After the great lunch as usual we enjoyed a break till 3.30pm when we decided to walk out and visit the **Maroon Trail**. We found quite a lot of the birds we had seen before like **Masked Water-tyrant**, **Crescent-chested Puffbird**, **Atlantic Forest endemic**, **Sepia-capped Flycatcher** and **Squirrel Cuckoo** among many others. But we had new Hummingbirds like **White-**

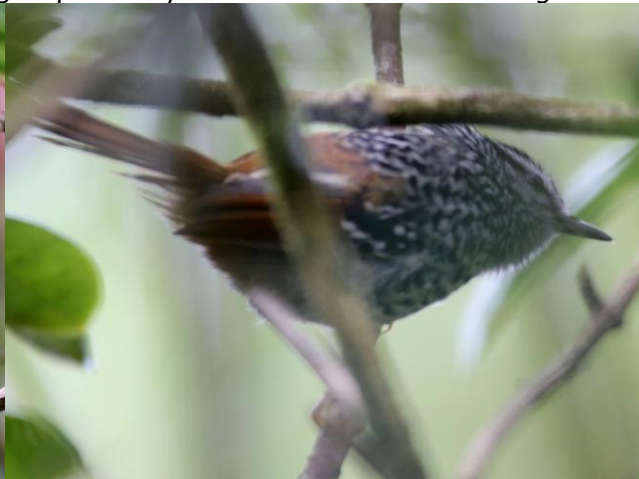


**chinned Sapphire** and **Glittering-throated Emerald**. But perhaps the most interesting creature we found was a very strangely shaped spider which managed to catch a dragonfly. We took a video of the skillfull process it strangled and packed it in its delicate web.

**6th Day 14November full day *Pico de Caledonia***



Today we had our last full day excursion to high elevation lush montane forests of Pico de Caledonia. Although previous day we discussed with everybody that we will have 6am breakfast and we plan to leave 6.30 somehow between the management and the stuff there was a miscommunication since apart from our group nobody was around in the morning.



Finally we had breakfast half an hour later and went out as well later than we planned. We arrived to Freiburg after a 90 minutes ride where we stretched our legs, drove further up to a point where we had to abandon the comfortable bus and change vehicles using the truck from this point. We went higher up another 20 minutes so finally we started to walk and bird around 9.30.







The first birds we saw were **Brassy-breasted Tanager**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** and we heard the *near-threatened endemic Black & Gold Cotinga*. **Orange-eyed Thornbird** and **White-browed Warbler** were both new **Atlantic Forest endemics**, plus we also had **Olivaceous Eleania** and **Fawn-breasted Tanager**. We heard **Planalto Woodcreeper** and of course **Bare-throated Bellbird**.

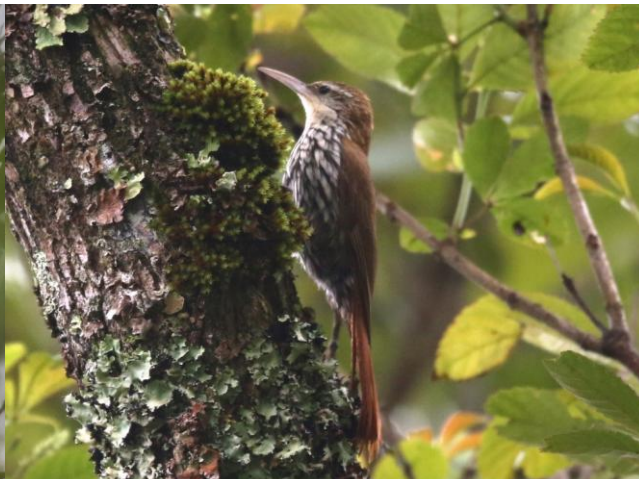


We found again **Squirrel Cuckoo**, had excellent view of the **Brazilian endemic Scaled Woodcreeper** and even photographed **Black & Gold Cotinga**. We worked hard for the chance to examine **endemic Pallid Spinetail** and **near-threatened endemic Serra do Mar Tyrannulet**. **Rufous-capped Antthrush** we just heard, but we saw and photographed perfectly **Brazilian Ruby**, **Atlantic Forest endemic. Rufous-tailed Antbird**, a **near-threatened Brazilian endemic** and **Brazilian Antthrush** were nice surprises.





We managed to see really well **Diademed Tanager**, **Serro de Mar Tapaculo** and another great **Atlantic Forest endemic**, **Thick-billed Saltator**.



We were at about 1800 meters at a stream when we heard **Sharp-tailed Streamkeeper** and found **Plovercrest**, **Atlantic Forest endemic**. Another nice surprise was a male **Large-tailed Anthshrike**, also **Atlantic Forest endemic**. We still have not run out of endemics since the next bird was a lovely **Bay-chested Warbling-Finch**, followed by **Rufous-tailed Antbird** and **Diademed Tanager**.



Later on we descended to lower elevation and at that area we had **Variegated Flycatcher**, **Green-backed Becard**, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Great Kiskadee**.



We met with another group of birders at a point where we all enjoyed upclose views of an exhibicionist **Red-legged Serriama** shouting of its head. This was the area where we had **Planalto Tyrannulet**, **Swainson's Flycatcher**, **Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant** which is an

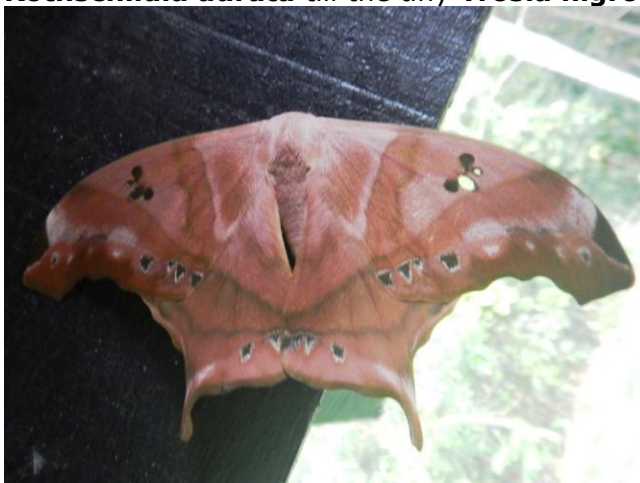


**Atlantic Forest endemic, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Sapphire-spangled Hummingbird** and we also heard an **Ochre-faced Tody-flycatcher**.



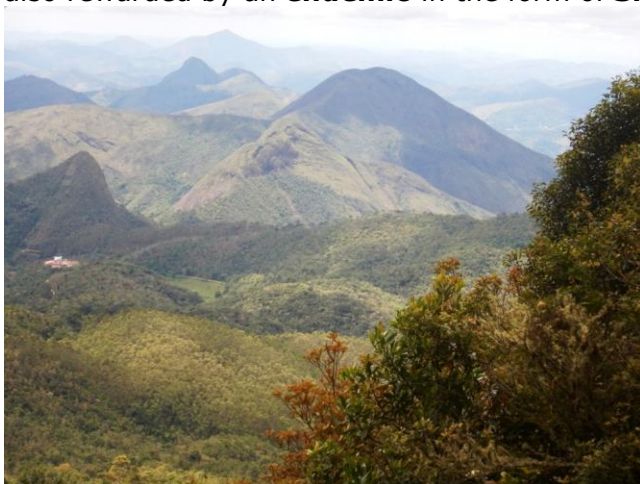
Finally we went back to Freiburg where Janet and Monica visited some shops in the meantime and shared some stories with Alcení.

After arriving back soon we had our last supper together during this holiday. We also checked the moth trap again tonight and found some great variety of species from the huge **Rothschildia aurata** till the tiny **Trosia nigropunctigera**.



### **7th Day 15 November Independence Day; Marron Trail; transfer to airport**

Since today it was Independence Day we gave the chance to spend the morning free and have a later than usual breakfast at 8am. Still the die-hard types were out on the Maroon Trail from 6am till 8am. We heard **Rufous-sided Crane** and **Blond-crested Woodpecker** and we were also rewarded by an **endemic** in the form of **Silvery-flanked Antwren**.

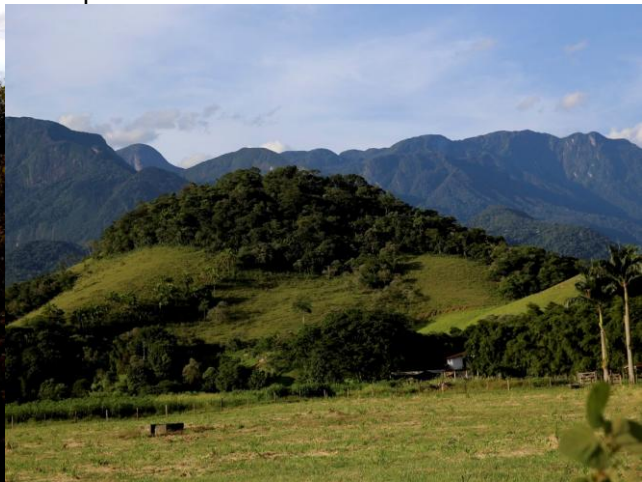






We also really worked hard to get a glimpse of a continuously calling but skulking. Some of us were lucky, some not as it happens from time to time.

The rest of the morning we spent with discussing things, packing and preparing to leave around 3.45pm to the domestic airport. During the ride we have discussed the many highlights of the tour and finally arrived to the airport around 6pm.



We sadly said goodbye to each other and we went to several different directions, Barbara and Arnold to Canada, Monica & Bratt and Janet & Rob to UK while Gabor and Andi to Mexico where within days they started to lead another exciting tour, Yucatan & Belize for Heatherlea.

