

**ECOTOURS – WORLDWIDE TRAVEL TRIP REPORT
BRAZIL**

Atlantic Forest Endemics - Superb Week at 1 centre

7 - 14 November 2024



Three-toed Jacamar – Atlantic Forest Endemic

**1 out of the several dozens of endemic species we had
during a week**

Leaders: Gabor O., Andrea K. & Adelai

ATLANTIC FOREST ENDEMIC & WILDLIFE BONANZA - BRAZIL TRIP REPORT – 7-14 November 2024



White-eared Puffbird – one out of the 268 attractive species we found during the week

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.

We had 65 endemic species during the week out of which 30 was Atlantic Forest endemics.

Arrival (or Ground zero) day was 7 November, arrived from Cuiaba, Pantanal through Sao Paulo and then to Rio where Gabor and Andi arrived before Sally & Greg and Dorothy, so they could wait them with the comfortable minibus and travel together to the lodge.

1st Day 8 November exploring the trails on the reserve, at wetlands, lowland pastures, gardens and sections of primary and secondary rainforest

2nd Day 9 November excursion to dry Atlantic Forest; Carmo, Sumidouro, 3toed Jacamar Day

3rd Day 10 November Waldemor Trail

4th Day 11 November REGUA surroundings; Green Trail & Forest Trail

5th Day 12 November full day excursion to Hans Garlip Road, Nova Freiburg ; Macai de Cima

6th Day 13 November full day, lush montane forests, PN Serra dos Orgaos, Teresopolis

7th Day 14 November morning at REGUA trails, late afternoon travel to Rio airport hotel

8th Day 15th November Independence Day travel home



Brassy-breasted Tanager - one out of the dozens of endemics we encountered during the week

ECOTOURS – Worldwide Travel Services ; EASTERN EUROPE & LATIN AMERICA Specialist
Eastern European Office: Kondor Ecolodge - Balazspusztá 90 Szabadszallas, HUNGARY 6080
Email: ecotoursgabororban@gmail.com Tours: www.ecotours.hu Lodge: www.kondorecolodge.hu
Ph: +36-306459318 FB: www.facebook.com/ECOTOURSKONDOR
Latin American Office seasonally each Nov till April: Central Pacific Region, COSTA RICA
Phone: +506-8496 1012 E-mail: cancuninfo@gmail.com Web: www.ecotours-worldwide.com



Generally we were quite fortunate with the weather, but 1 seriously rainy day effected our plans. We were delighted to **record 268 species** including some only heard! Out of the 268 species we had 65 endemic or regional endemic species without an extreme effort. This means that **about every fourth bird species were endemic or near endemics!** Quite incredible!



The local guide, **Adelei** 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.

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

At the end it was very difficult to pick the best species or the best visited areas and other highlights of the tour, but we all remember **Bare-throated Bellbirds** and the countryside near **Nova Freiburg**, the funny looking **White-tufted Marmosets**, **Swallow-tailed Manakins**, **Giant Snipe**, **Three-toed Jacamars**, **Swallow-tailed Cotingas**, **Curly-crested Jay**, several species of incredibly

colored **Tanagers**, **Masked Duck**, the cryptic **Long-tailed Potoo** in the garden, the breathtaking **Green-crowned Plovercrest** and so many more.

But there were so many more from colourful toucans, through shining tanagers, manakins and various hummingbirds, hiding antbirds, herons and egrets and much 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 we 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 good company!

7th November Arrival day, we arrived from Cuiaba through Sao Paulo to Rio and then to the lodge in the evening

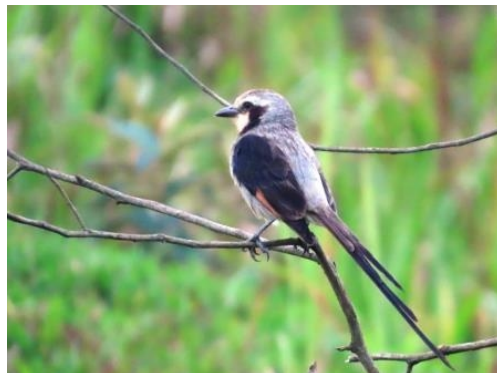
1st Day 8th November Exploring the trails on the reserve, at wetlands, lowland pastures, gardens and sections of primary and secondary rainforest



Since we had a long day yesterday starting from Pantanal and ending up here during the evening we did not start early today. But after breakfast at 8am we started a slow walk around the large pond at the lodge's trails. With about a bit more than 4 hours comfortable and easy birding walk we gathered our first 66 species. We will not list all here but mention **White-chinned Sapphire, Toco Toucan, Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher.**



Later we had **Green Ibis** and heard **Streaked Xenops** and saw **Picazurro Pigeon. Silvery-flanked Antwren** and **Green-headed**



Tanagers were new, the latter ones **Atlantic Forest endemics** were making a nest. Other colorful birds were still coming in, like **Yellow-backed Tanager, Orange-bellied and Purple-throated Euphonia, Chestnut-vented Conebill.** 2 **White-bellied Tanagers** were new.

We spent most of the day with wondering around the Wetland Trails where **Chestnut-capped** and **Chopi Blackbirds, Masked Water-Tyrant, Yellow-chinned Spinetail** performed really nicely. Suddenly a **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** flew across.

At and alongside the water we found **Purple Gallinule,**

Common Moorhen and loads of **Cattle Egrets. Chestnut-backed Antshrike, White-barred Piculet, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** and **Blue Ground-dove** was new. Everybody waited for the first **Brazilian Tanager** so we were really happy when we found this lovely bird.



On a distant tree but right in the open there were 2 **Green-barred Woodpeckers.** We had **Yellow Tyrannulet** and tried hard to spot 2 active **Moustached Wrens.** The next lovely bird was a **White-bearded Manakin.**

We spent some time with a family of a **Rufous-sided Crakes** which were moving fast, but we could count 2 chicks and 3 adults.



It was followed by **Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Red-rumped Cacique, Lemon-chested Greenlet, Hooded Tanager, Squirrel Cuckoo.** Afterwards we watched 2 **Brazilian endemic Wing-banded Horneros** and a **Reddish Hermit.**

A bit after midday we returned to our rooms and soon had a tasty lunch which was followed by a well-deserved siesta time.

Around 15.30pm we drove out a little truck to the nearby area. Here Adelei new a spot for attracting **Ashy-throated Crake.** The bird run out of the vegetation a few

times to the road, usually so fast that it was very hard to observe or photograph but finally we all had a good view so let the bird return to safety because we were afraid that one of the local farmers will run through accidentally by car.

Other notable birds included **Muscovy Duck, Savanna Hawk and Common Potoo.** The next interesting one was a **Streamer-tailed Tyrant,** followed by **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** and **Wedge-tailed Grassfinch.** Some **Sooty Swift** were new and we also had **Campo Flicker. Burnished-buff, Yellow-backed, Green-headed Tanagers** we all admired. **Violet-capped Woodnymph, Grassland Sparrow** and **White-eyed Parakeet** were all new. But the main

ECOTOURS – Worldwide Travel Services ; EASTERN EUROPE & LATIN AMERICA Specialist
Eastern European Office: Kondor Ecolodge - Balazspuszta 90 Szabadszallas, HUNGARY 6080
Email: ecotoursgabororban@gmail.com Tours: www.ecotours.hu Lodge: www.kondorecolodge.hu
Ph:+36-306459318 FB: www.facebook.com/EcotoursKondorEcolodge
Latin American Office seasonally each Nov till April: Central Pacific Region, COSTA RICA
Phone:+506-8496 1012 E-mail: cancuninfo@gmail.com Web: www.ecotours-worldwide.com

target, why we came to this roadside spot before dusk was **Giant Snipe**. We waited for a while and because of the strong wind after a while we thought we have to give it up when finally we had a few good flight observations of this enigmatic bird.

After a successful afternoon we returned to the lodge, discussed the species list and tomorrow's plan before dinner.

2nd Day 9th November Excursion to dry Atlantic Forest near Carmo, 3toed Jacamar Day



During the night we had an incredibly huge storm. So in the morning everything was a bit foggy, cloudy. So it seemed a good idea to have a longer drive to a normally dry area in a bigger distance.

We were up early, ready to have breakfast as soon as possible so we could start for a full day long adventure to a dry Atlantic Forest area. On the way a bit more than an hour and a half away we stopped at a Federal Police checkpoint to bird a little bit alongside the road. Despite the fact that it was actually a busy road still within 45 minutes we had 34 species. What is more that there were not just common species like **Saffron Finches, House Sparrows, Tropical Kingbirds, Hooded Siskins, Great Kiskadees, Brown-chested & Gray-chested Martin, Chalk-browed Mockingbird**, but where-ever we looked we kept finding various new things as well from **Orange-eyed Thornbird** through **Spix's Spinetail** to **Half-collared Sparrow**. We also added here **Black-crowned Night-heron** to today's list as well, but became more excited when 2 **Curl-crested Jays** flew across high above us.



There was a very good movement of several Tanager species including **Atlantic Forest endemic Ruby-crowned, Brazilian, Brassy-breasted, Swallow** and **Sayaca Tanagers**.



Soon we stopped again, this was a site for a group of **White-eyed Parakeets** and **2 Blue-winged Macaws**. There was **Streaked Flycatcher, Pale-breasted Thrush** and **Double-collared Seedeater** as well.

We continued a bit further with the bus, crossing Carmo and stopped at the edge of it from where we continued walking on a first steep, later levelled dirt road. Here we spent almost 2,5 hours and found almost 40 species, including some really special ones.

The first bird here was a White-eared Puffbird showing really well! Wow, what a start!

We continued with **Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Campo Flicker, Pileated Finch, Hang-nest Tody-tyrant, 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 had at least 4 individuals during our walk.

We managed to see **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Red-legged Seriama, Euler's Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tyrant and Golden-crowned Warbler** among many others.

Finally we walked back down to the van just in time before the rain started to reach us. We had our picnic in the bus.

Later on as we drove a bit further and stop alongside the road to check out some hummingbirds. We had **Black Jacobin, Glittering-bellied Emerald** and **White-chinned Sapphire**. Also added **Toco Toucan, Streaked Xenops, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Campo Troupial, Hooded Tanager and Chestnut-vented Conebill**.



Another Carmo-roadside stop was prompted by a **Firewood Gatherer** where we also saw **White-bellied Seed-eater, Road-side Hawk, Wattled Jacana and Southern Lapwing**.

A third stop alongside a main road was made for **Crested Black-Tyrants**. Surprisingly we had 4 **White Woodpeckers** as well plus **Toco Toucans, Guira Cuckoos** and even a **Giant Cowbird**.

We arrived back to our base in time to prepare for our dinner and discuss what we had seen and what we will do next day.

3rd Day 10th November Waldenor Trail



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**, followed by **Azure-winged** and **Flame-crested Tanager**.

There were 3 **Channel-billed Toucans** around plus both **Violaceous** and **Purple-throated Euphonias**. We had good look at a **Violet-capped Woodnymph** and two **Black Jacobins**.

ECOTOURS – Worldwide Travel Services ; EASTERN EUROPE & LATIN AMERICA Specialist
Eastern European Office: **Kondor Ecolodge** - Balazspuszta 90 Szabadszallas, HUNGARY 6080
Email: ecotoursgabororban@gmail.com Tours: www.ecotours.hu Lodge: www.kondorecolodge.hu
Ph:+36-306459318 FB: www.facebook.com/EcotoursKondorEcolodge
Latin American Office seasonally each Nov till April: Central Pacific Region, COSTA RICA
Phone:+506-8496 1012 E-mail: cancuninfo@gmail.com Web: www.ecotours-worldwide.com



Again we saw **Golden-chevroned** and **Sayaca Tanagers**. In the meantime a group of **White-collared Swifts** flew over high above our heads.

There were a couple of **Burrowing Owls** at a nest with chicks. At one point we saw a **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** as well.

Soon we reached the edge of the forest and immediately we started to find exciting forest species such as **White-eyed** and **Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners**. Everybody seen well the **Atlantic Forest endemic Rufous-capped Motmot**. **Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike** was our next special bird but very soon an incredibly

brilliant male **Friilled Coquette** stole the show. Although it perched pretty high it was still an amazing view.

We spent quite a lot of time to try to get a **Rufous-capped Antthrush** and our efforts were finally fruited by a few glimpses. **White-bearded Manakin** and **Moustached Wren** were not easy either.



The next was **Violaceous Euphonia** and **White-chinned Sapphire**, before we found **Grayish Mourner**. It was very exciting to spot the smallest owl, **Least Pygmy Owl** which we all could observe very well.

A lovely **Streak-capped Antwren** was seen well which was followed by an **endemic Gray-hooded Attila**. **Red-crowned Ant-tanagers** were noisy and easy to see, while **Pale-browed Treehunter** was

difficult. We only heard Olive-green Tanager, but we saw Spot-breasted Antwreio, Chestnut-crowned Becard, Chivi Vireo.



On the other hand **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, an **Atlantic Forest endemic** were seen by everybody really well. We enjoyed the view of a **Golden-chevroned Tanager** as well and soon found another interesting **Woodpecker**, **Yellow-throated Woodpecker**.

Crested Becard, **Silvery-flanked Antwren**, **Lesser Woodcreeper**, **Black-capped Foliage-gleaner** were added to the list as well.

At one of the corners a female **Pin-tailed** and a male **Blue or Swallow-tailed Manakin**, **Atlantic Forest endemic** performed extremely nicely.

Eye-ringed Tody-tyrant was another near-threatened endemic and **Maroon-bellied Parakeets** were among the trees as well.





White-banded Tanager was new and we heard **Blond-crested Woodpecker, White-necked Thrush, Yellow-green Grosbeak** and **Plain Parakeet**.

The last marvellous bird was **Crescent-chested Puffbird**, another **Atlantic Forest endemic** before we returned to the lodge. Half an hour later around 1pm we had our lunch.

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 **Purple-throated Euphonia, Black Jacobin, Rufous-tailed Jacamar**. At the watery part we had **Common** and **Purple Gallinules**, plus **Blackish Rails**. A female **Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike** was our next find, followed by an adorable **Black-cheeked Gnateater**.

Than Adelei pointed out some cryptic birds, a **Long-tailed Potoo** mom with a good-sized chick, already learned the "how-to-disappear" lesson well. We had a hard time to find a good angle to photograph these amazing birds.

Ochre-bellied and **Sepia-capped Flycatchers** were around as well. Then we heard an owl and soon a large bird flew across and disappeared in the forest. Gabor found a spot from where in quite a distance but was possible to see an enormous **Tawny-browed Owl**. What a find! Later we had a **Channel-billed Toucan** as well.

As we retreated our steps and reached again the ponds we spotted a **Masked Duck** among the water-plants. Luckily it was relatively close so we could observe and even photograph this nice rarity. 2 Dusky-legged Guans were spotted as well on the other side.



Finally we went back, made the birdlist of the day and had dinner.

4th Day 11th November REGUA surroundings; Green Trail & Forest Trail



Our hosts made a bit of confusion with the available vehicles so finally we decided not to the the full day excursion today to the Macai de Cima but discover the Green Trail in the morning and the Forest Trail in the afternoon.



Our first new bird was **Saw-billed Hermit**, followed by **White-barred Piculet**. Then at the lake we had a beautiful **Capped Heron**, **Muscovy Duck** and **Road-side Hawk**. About 30 **White-collared Swifts** flew across as well.



We stopped with the little pickup truck at a small old church and some other abandoned building and from one of them a **Barn Owl** flew out and perched just enough time to have a good look and take a few photos. A bit further we found **Tropical Parula**, **White-flanked**



Wren, **Blue Dacnis** and **Red-legged Honeycreeper**.

Although all these birds were really nice perhaps the funny-looking **Sloth** gathered even more attention.

Later on we heard **Slaty-breasted Wood-rail** and saw **Violaceous Euphonia** and **Bananaquit**.



Another roadside stop resulted in an excellent view of a **Yellowish Pipit**, **Rufous Hornero**, **Rufous-fronted Thornbill** and 3 **Masked Water-Tyrant**.

We heard local endemic **Plain Parakeet** but could not see them, only **Smooth-billed Anis**.

We went further and found **Olivaceous Woodcreeper**, a female **White-flanked Antwren**, **Violet-capped Woodnymph**, **Lesser Woodcreeper**, **Crested Becard**. Fantastic design and colors we saw on **Golden-chevrons**, **Green-headed** and **Flame-crested Tanagers**, but **Orange-bellied Euphonia** still could add some new colors.

Later on we entered into the forest (Forest Trail/Green Trail) and pretty soon we started to find more exciting species such as **Maroon-bellied Parakeets** and after a while we not just heard, but managed to see a quite

difficult **Southern Antpipit** as well.

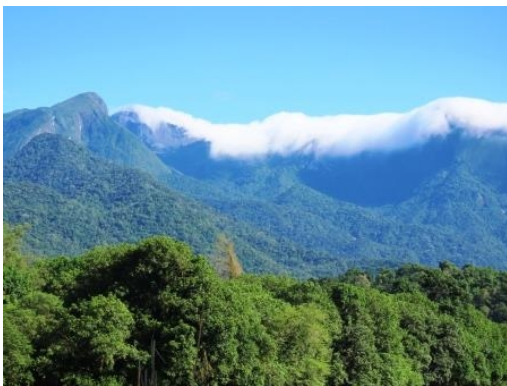


The next major finding was an amazing **Spot-billed Toucanet**, which we all could see very well. The rarity bonanza was far from over, our next jaw-dropping species was **Swallow-tailed Manakins** which we saw 2! We had another **White-eyed Foliage-gleaner** and a group of noisy **Red-crowned Ant-tanagers**.



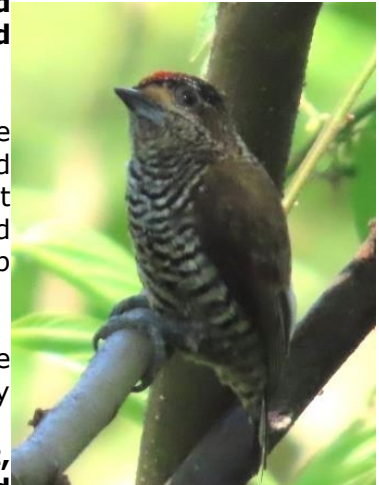
Lesser Woodcreeper and **Whiskered Flycatcher** was around and we heard **Yellow-throated Woodpecker**.

Step by step we gathered more and more forest species such as **White-necked Thrush, Streak-capped Antwren, Rufous-margined Antwren, Chivi Vireo, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Plain-winged/Thrushlike Woodcreeper, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner.**

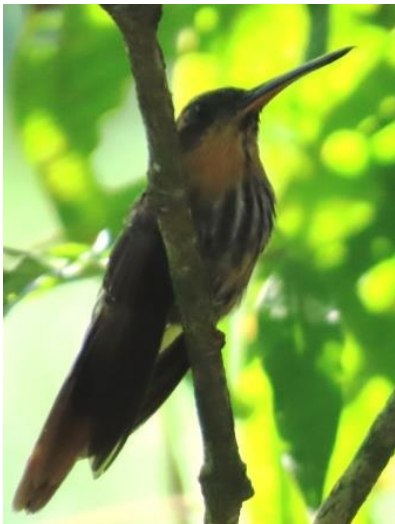


Both Streaked Xenops and **Atlantic Plain Xenops** we had, plus **Chestnut-bellied** and **Purple-throated Euphonias.**

Finally we returned to the lodge, prepared for lunch and we kept the routine with a bit of siesta before we ventured out again with the old pickup truck.



This time we went to a more open area, a mix of grassland and agricultural fields. Accordingly we had completely different set of birds than in the morning.



Started with **Blue-black Grassquit, Grassland Sparrow, Grassland Yellowfinch** and attractive **White-browed Meadowlarks.** We witnessed a **Toco Toucan** carrying a robbed chick. We encountered **White-rumped Monjitas, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Yellowish Pipit** and **Smooth-billed Anis. Brown-chested Martins** flew around. **Chopi Blackbird, Cattle Tyrant, Saffron Finch** and even a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was around. We also found a **Yellow-bellied Elaenia.**

We enjoyed the view of 2 **White Woodpeckers** and some **Burrowing Owls.** Raptors were represented by **Roadside Hawks, Black**



Vultures and **Crested Caracara** but we also heard a **Laughing Falcon.**

At a bit more wet area we had **Brazilian Teals, Southern Lapwing, Jacanas** and **Cattle Egret.** Heard **Striped Cuckoo** and saw **Guira Cuckoos.**



At our last stop around 5pm we had a female **Violet-capped Woodnymph** and a **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**.

A long list of common species what we had before were around but we also found **Red-cowled Cardinal**, **Burnished-buff Tanager** and a male **White-bearded Manakin** later on was nice as well.

We heard **Rufous-capped Motmot** and **Tataupa Tinamu** from the distance.



5th Day 12th November full day excursion to **Macai de Cima**



Today we had and another excellent full day excursion up in the mountainous Macai de Cima region. 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 for a restroom and then continued up in the mountains.

We started our first birding walk around quarter to 9am. Our first birds were **Brassy-breasted Tanagers** and **Golden-crowned Warblers**. We also added 2 **Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners**, **House Wren** and **Violet-capped Woodnymph** to the list. Heard **Slaty-breasted Wood-rail** and started to hear the echoing

calls of the **vulnerable Atlantic Forest endemic, Bare-throated Bellbirds**, but despite some effort to see them as well we were not successful yet.



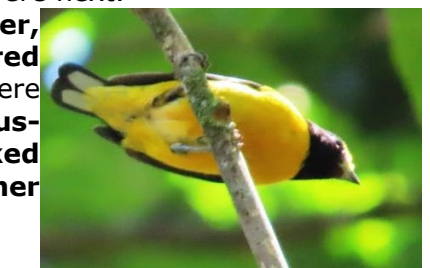
Squirrel Cuckoo and **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** was next and then we had some exciting **Black-goggled Tanagers** which we photographed as well. After that we had **Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Black-tailed Flycatcher** and **Streaked Flycatcher**. Heard **Rufous-capped Spinetail** but could not see it.



We spent some time with 3 **Surucua Trogons**, **Atlantic Forest endemic** - 2 female and a male. **Rufous-bellied Thrush**, **Yellow-browed Woodpecker** and **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** were next.



White-collared Foliage-gleaner, **Variable Antshrike**, **Yellow-eared Woodpecker**, **Pallid Spinetail** were all new. We had again **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Streaked Xenops** and **Boat-billed Flycatcher**



but we could forget about these easily when we finally managed to see **Bare-throated Bellbird**.

As we continued we added **Golden-crowned Warbler**, **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet**, **Plain Antvireo** and **Rufous-collared Sparrows**. We also heard **Such's Antthrush** and **Variiegated Antpitta**.

A large group of **White-collared Swifts** passed over.



Our next bird was a **White-throated Hummingbird** followed by 2 gorgeous **Magpie Tanagers**. Then we tried hard to get a good view of an amazing male **Green-crowned Plovercrest**. New, exciting birds turned up steadily such as **White-browed Foliage-gleaner**, **Pin-tailed Manakin**, **Sharp-tailed Stream-keeper**, **Greenish Schiffornis**, **Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher**.



ECOTOURS – Worldwide Travel Services ; EASTERN EUROPE & LATIN AMERICA Specialist
Eastern European Office: Kondor Ecolodge - Balazspusza 90 Szabadszallas, HUNGARY 6080
Email: ecotoursgabororban@gmail.com Tours: www.ecotours.hu Lodge: www.kondorecolodge.hu
Ph:+36-306459318 FB: www.facebook.com/EcotoursKondorEcolodge
Latin American Office seasonally each Nov till April: Central Pacific Region, COSTA RICA
Phone:+506-8496 1012 E-mail: cancuninfo@gmail.com Web: www.ecotours-worldwide.com

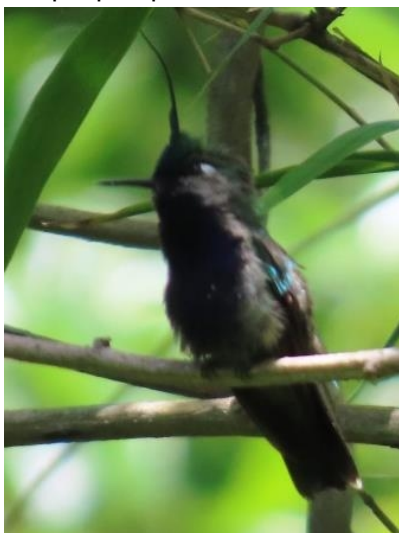
But perhaps the biggest adrenaline rush was caused by 2 **Swallow-tailed Cotingas**. Unfortunately they were continuously moving and although we kept relocating them they never sit out too long.



Planalto Tyrannulet and **Pallid Spinetail**, both endemics were around and we had again 2 **Surucua Trogons**.



Ruby-crowned Tanager and **Chestnut-crowned Becard** were really nice to see. There was no proper place for either restroom or at least a picnic area, so we had our lunch in and around the van.



Later on we continued a bit further on the mountainous dirt road and at our next stop we managed to find **Ochre-rumped Antbird**, a **near-threatened endemic** and also **Spotted Bamboo Wren**, plus a few **Yellow Tyrannulets**.

This was followed by an **Amethyst Woodstar** and 2 **Long-tailed Tyrants**. **Uniform Finch** was new and we also had **Rufous-capped**



Spinetail, Variable Antshrike, Black Jacobin, Streaked Xenops and Scale-throated Hummingbird.

Around 3pm we were at the **Nido de Aquila** area where we found 2 **Spix's Spinetails**, **Brassy-breasted Tanager**, **Rufous-bellied Thrush**, **Rufous-capped Spinetail** and a female **Ruby-crowned Tanager**. But the most exciting bird was again a **Swallow-tailed Cotinga**.

As we were travelling back we stopped alongside a private property and first we heard and later we spotted 2 **Slaty-breasted Woodrails** which is an **Atlantic Forest endemic**.



Later on we witnessed a fierce battle among 2 **Tropical Kingbirds** trying to kill each other. Met and chat shortly with Andy Foster from Itororo Lodge on the way back. We stopped again to watch a bit more a **Bellbird** before we travelled back to our lodge.

Although this was a long and somewhat tiresome day we saw plenty of unique birds and panoramic scenery today.

6th Day 13th November full day, lush montane forests, PN Serra dos Orgaos, Teresopolis

Today weather effected our plans again. Whichever direction we looked there were enormous clouds everywhere. Originally we wanted to go to **Pico de Caledonia** but it was obvious that it was not possible. Even during dry days those roads were very difficult but during rain it is impossible and with heavy rain we would not see anything anyway.



So after some discussions we decided to go to a bit closer and lower destination, a **National Park of Serra Dos Orgaos at the edge of Teresopolis town**.



This turned out to be a good decision since at least till almost 11am we could bird. We drove up to the highest possible point of the National Park and made our way step by step down.

At the beginning at the top birding started slow, but then we started to find species like **White-browed Warbler, Sharp-billed Treehunter, White-throated Woodcreeper, Blue-billed Black Tyrant**. We tried to attract **Sharp-tailed Stream-keeper**, heard it, but could not see it. But we found 2 **Rufous-crowned Greenlets** and 3



Golden-crowned Warblers. Olivaceous Woodcreeper was easy and we had a female **Pin-tailed Manakin** as well. **Rufous-bellied Thrush** and **Sepia-capped Flycatcher** was found as well.



As we were walking down we heard several times **Hooded Berry-eater** and although Adelei try hard to attract it closer, unfortunately it did not react.

White-throated Spadebill was around us and then on a large tree we found **Dusky-legged Guan** and soon on a nearby tree 2 **Spot-billed Toucanets, Atlantic Forest endemic** landed as well. Nearby we found after some search a **Rufous Gnateater** as well.

Heard **Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Streaked Flycatcher, Azure-hooded Tanager** and **Squirrel Cuckoo** as well.



Our last birds were **Buff-browed Foliagegleaner** and **Gray-hooded Attila** before it was obvious that a huge storm reached our area as well so we quickly got back to the bus and left the forest during heavy rain. It was raining continuously on the way back and not much stopped later either.

When we arrived back soon we had lunch and the rest of the day we worked on our lists, notes and photos. There was not much possibilities to bird.

7th Day 14November morning at REGUA trails, later afternoon travel to Rio airport hotel



On our last morning birding we had plenty of birds again, after a rainy day there was a very good activity. Most of the species we had seen before but we found new ones as well.



We started with several tanager species, namely **Palm, Azure-winged, Green-headed and Golden-chevroned Tanagers**. We also had **White-eyed Parakeets** and a **Cliff Flycatcher**. **Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet** showed very well. This was followed by **White-barred Piculet** and **Chestnut-vented Conebill**. We



counted 5 **Toco Toucans!** **Masked Water-Tyrant** and **Purple-throated Euphonia** was around. We added to the list **Wing-banded Hornero, Shiny Cowbird, Greater Ani, Short-crested Flycatcher** and **Ruddy Ground-dove** as well.



A really great surprise was a **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**, this time we all could see it well, even photograph. As we scanned the sky we realized **Gray-rumped Swifts** around as well.

A female **Yellow-backed Tanager** was followed by **Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**.

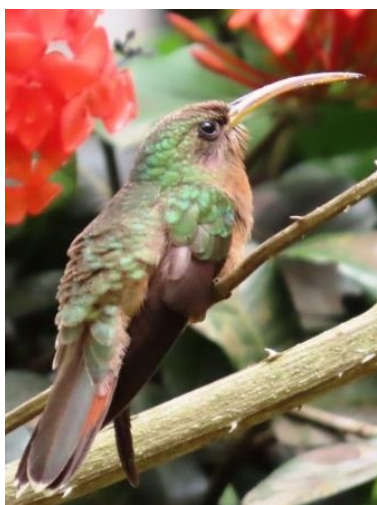
Hummingbirds were represented by **Glittering-throated Emerald** and **White-chinned Sapphire** plus later **Reddish Hermit**. **Chestnut-backed Antshrike** was next and we counted 4 female **White-bearded Manakins** around.

At one tree 5 **Swallow Tanagers** gathered, giving excellent views. **Green Ibis** was loud, **Greater Ani** flew across and we saw a female **Anhinga** as well.



Later on we had 2 **Yellow Tyrannulets**, a striking **Brazilian Tanager** and finally a male **White-bearded Manakin**. A few male **Red-legged Honeycreepers** were nice and **Variegated Flycatcher** was new. **Red-rumped Caciques** were loud. We enjoyed a good view of **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** and **Saw-billed Hermits**. Then a **Sloth** baby diverted our attention from birds for a while.

Later on we watched **Black-capped Donacobius**, 2 **Rufescent Tiger-herons** and a **Capped Heron**. The 2 **Purple Gallinules** were outnumbered again by the 30 **Common Gallinules**. **Great Egret** and **Jacana** was present as well. We had the usual **Yellow-chinned Spinetails** around but also had a **Rufous-capped Motmot** as well.



We watched again 2 **Moustached Wrens**, the omnipresent **Masked Duck** and many **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**. Both **Yellow-headed** and **Crested Caracaras** were around.

Last forest birds were **White-flanked Antwren**, **Streaked Xenops**, **Buff-throated Saltator** and **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**. Both **Boat-billed** and **Piratic Flycatchers** were around.

The last bird we noted was **Chalk-browed Mockingbird** before we went back for the final packing and our last lunch.

After 2pm we started our transfer to Rio but before we hit the tarmac road we stopped for our last new species in this region, **White-faced Whistling Ducks**. Finally we had to say goodbye

and after 1,5 hours travel we reached Rio which had as chaotic traffic as it can be. We struggled about another hour to reach the airport hotel where we said goodbye to each other.



8th Day 15th November Independence Day travel home



ECOTOURS – Worldwide Travel Services ; EASTERN EUROPE & LATIN AMERICA Specialist
Eastern European Office: Kondor Ecolodge - Balazspuszta 90 Szabadszallas, HUNGARY 6080
Email: ecotoursgabororban@gmail.com Tours: www.ecotours.hu Lodge: www.kondorecolodge.hu
Ph:+36-306459318 FB: www.facebook.com/ECOTOURSKONDOR
Latin American Office seasonally each Nov till April: Central Pacific Region, COSTA RICA
Phone:+506-8496 1012 E-mail: cancuninfo@gmail.com Web: www.ecotours-worldwide.com