

Eastern Brazil
Custom tour

7-27 August 2011

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Report by Nick Athanas
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Silvery-cheeked Antshrike (NA)

Brazil is truly a huge country. It's slightly bigger than the lower 48 US states, yet almost all of it is located within the tropics, resulting in one of the largest and most spectacular birdlists on the planet, including over 200 endemics, more than any other country in the Western Hemisphere by far.

This trip had a specially designed itinerary incorporating parts of southeastern and northeastern Brazil. The organizer of the trip had been to some of the key sites already, both in the Northeast and Southeast, so this tour visited a rather unique set of locations, skipped some of the sites covered on "traditional" itineraries; we covered a huge amount of ground and targeted a very ambitious number of endemics. We started in the city of Vitoria in Espirito Santo, and worked our way north, eventually finishing in Fortaleza in the far Northeast, using a couple of internal flights to speed things along near the end.

By all accounts the trip was very successful; we saw the vast majority of our targets (over 80 Brazilian endemics) and logistically the trip went near perfectly. Like any trip, we had our share of misses, some of them painful, but they were drowned out by very memorable sightings of the likes of **Red-billed Curassow**, **Banded Cotinga**, **Buff-throated Purpletuft**, **Sincorá Antwren**, **Pink-legged Graveteiro**, **Hooded Visorbearer**, **Lear's Macaw**, **Pygmy Nightjar**, and **Gray-breasted Parakeet** to name just a few. Weather was very good for most of the trip, wonderfully cool in some areas, but a couple of days of rain in Pernambuco cost us a couple of key birds and left us feeling rather waterlogged – We could consider ourselves lucky though; if there had been any MORE rain up there, the muddy tracks would have been impassable even in 4WD and we could not have even reached the birding sites.

Despite the long distances, the three weeks went by in a flash thanks to the good accommodations, friendly people, great food, icy *caipirinhas*, and of course the great company! We're already thinking about the next one – there are plenty of more endemics to seek out.

After meeting in the Vitoria airport, we headed out of the city and up into the mountains of Espirito Santo, reaching our hotel just after dark. We met up with Ana and Pedro, the local biologists who would accompany us over the next day and half in our search for the near-mythical Cherry-throated Tanager, a critically endangered species found only in a few patches of forest in this region. We concentrated all of our birding on one forest patch on a private farm (called Caetés) that had proven the most reliable spot for them in recent years. Sadly we did not find the tanager; according to Ana and Pedro they are seeing it less and less as time goes by, and they don't know why. Fortunately, Caetés was a very "birdy" place and there was still a ton of beautiful montane Atlantic Rainforest species for us to see, and there was rarely a dull moment. Some of the highlights included **Saffron Toucanet**, **Red-breasted** and **Channel-billed Toucans**, **Friiled Coquette**, **Golden-tailed Parrotlet**, **Crescent-chested Puffbird**, **Yellow-fronted**, **Yellow-eared** and **White-browed Woodpeckers**, **Pallid Spinetail**, **White-collared Foliage-gleaner**, **Scaled** and **White-throated Woodcreepers**, **Star-throated Antwren**, **Spot-breasted Antvireo**, **Oustalet's** and **Gray-capped Tyrannulets**, **Hooded Berryeater**, **Cinnamon-vented Piha**, and **Brown**, **Rufous-headed**, **Azure-shouldered**, **Golden-chevroned**, and **Brassy-breasted Tanagers**.



White-browed Woodpecker (NA)

We bid goodbye to Ana and Pedro after lunch, and drove the rest of the afternoon east then north to the Linhares Biological Reserve, where we spent two nights in the lodge within the reserve. Linhares protects one of the largest remaining stands of lowland Atlantic Rainforest, and is incredibly important for a number of species, chief among them the endangered Red-billed Curassow. The many miles of straight, flat dirt roads through the forest give great opportunities to see shy terrestrial birds like curassows, as well as mammals, at a large enough distance that they are not immediately scared away by groups of birders. You have to keep your eyes on the road every second since you never know what might cross! We had a full day and a morning to bird here, and the curassow was the #1 target, so we started by driving slowly through the forest hoping to get them in the road. Luck was with us and after an hour or so we have a family group of four **Red-billed Curassows** in the road ahead of us. We got out of the van quietly and watched them for several minutes before they wandered off the road and back into the forest. That was just the beginning of what was perhaps our best day of birding on the tour. Soon after we found the aptly-named **Minute Hermit** at a song perch, but had to pull ourselves away to track down a pair of **Red-browed Parrots** that were perched nearby. **Maroon-faced Parakeets** started screeching and soon they were right over the track glaring down at us, and quickly afterwards a rare **Ringed Woodpecker** put in an appearance. We walked on a bit, found a big flock of **Yellow-green Grosbeaks**, then heard the soft call of a **Black-headed Berryeater**, which was very cooperative and came in close. A **Collared Trogon** was exciting for me since they are super-rare in the Atlantic Rainforest, and then a **White-necked Hawk** flew over, sending us all scattering to find opening in the forest where we could see sky. A bit later, a flock of beautiful **Blue-throated Parakeets** flew in and perched very close to us, giving terrific views of one of our last key targets. There was still more to be seen, and late in the afternoon we struck gold by finding a small muddy puddle in the road that was serving as a watering hole. A **Solitary Tinamou** drank there for ages, then some smaller birds gathered the courage to come in to bathe, like **Red-headed** and **White-crowned Manakins**, **Cinereous Mourner**, and **Cocoa Thrush**. A constant stream of **Minute Hermits** darted in, looked around for a few seconds, plunged straight down into the water, and then shot off into the forest. The day wasn't finished yet – this was one of our best chances on the trip for owling, and it did not take long to find our main quarry, the impressive **Tawny-browed Owl**, to cap off a fantastic day.



Blue-throated Parakeets (NA)

The weather changed over night, and it was threatening rain in the morning. We only had time for a few more hours of birding, and fortunately the rain mostly held off for that. We birded a clearing that was full of **becards** (four species!), a **Yellow-throated Woodpecker**, and many common species, before going back into the forest. We tracked down a fierce-looking **Least Pygmy-Owl** before having to return to the lodge and pack up.

Leaving Linhares late morning, we continued north along the coastal highway for most of the rest of the afternoon, crossing into the state of Bahia, and driving through heavy rain most of the way. We reached the resort town of Porto Seguro in late afternoon, but the rain continued and we headed straight to our comfortable beach hotel, where we stayed two nights. The ocean there was almost birdless, though we did encounter one flock of **Ruddy Turnstones**. The rain continued through the night, and we had a surprise the next morning when our promised early breakfast was nowhere to be found. I improvised, finding a 24 hour bar/café/convenience store that whipped us up a batch of egg, ham, and cheese sandwiches that were surprisingly tasty, as well as the essential hot coffee. It continued to rain as we drove out to the forest reserve at Estação Veracel, but it miraculously stopped as we reached a clearing in the middle of the reserve and got out of the van. Shock and awe! One of the first birds I laid eyes on was a male **Banded Cotinga** perched high up in the top of a tree at the edge of the clearing. It was our #1 target for the reserve, not to mention one of my most wanted birds in all of Brazil. It stayed there for quite a long time so we could all enjoy it in the scope. We didn't see another one for the rest of our time there (a full day and a morning), but there was plenty else to look for. We had good luck with the rare **Hook-billed Hermit** which can be tricky to see, and **White-winged Cotingas** were amazingly abundant. **Bahia**, **Band-tailed**, and **White-fringed Antwrens** showed well, and one clearing was buzzing with hummers such as **Reddish Hermit**, **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**, and **Rufous-throated Sapphire**.



Banded Cotinga (NA)

After another morning of birding, we left Veracel and Porto Seguro, heading north into cacao country. We had one major target to see along the way, the unique **Pink-legged Graveteiro**, which is now almost entirely restricted to cacao plantations with tall, old shade trees. While we would also have a chance the following morning, I hoped to nail it that afternoon and not have to stress about it on what was going to be a long travel day. I had picked a likely side road off of Google Earth the night before, and was gratified to find several graveteiro nests pretty much exactly on my GPS point. It took some patience, but they finally came back to their nests in the late afternoon and we all enjoyed good views. We spent the night in Itabuna and had a great meal at a nearby *churrascaria* (Brazilian steakhouse).

We had some leisurely birding the next day in the cacao plantations, finding a few new species like **Sombre Hummingbird** and **Bright-rumped Attila** before settling in for the long drive north and west into the interior of the vast state of Bahia. Fortunately it was an uneventful trip and we made good time, seeing our first **Campo Troupials** at a gas station, and even having time to bird a patch of forest in late afternoon getting **Planalto Slaty-Antshrike** and **White-naped Jay** among others. We reached our hotel in the touristy town of Lençóis before dark, where we would spend three nights.



White-naped Jay (NA)

We had two days to explore the Chapada Diamantina, a low mountain range with dramatic scenery and a nice variety of habitats. We began our birding early along a dusty road through *caatinga* woodland. *Caatinga* is the name given to the dry, dense, scrubby woodland that covers much of the interior areas of Northeast Brazil between the Amazon basin and the Atlantic. Numerous cool species are restricted to the *caatinga*, and we got a good start on them this morning, finding **Broad-tipped Hermit**, **Spotted Piculet**, **Great Xenops**, **Silvery-cheeked Antshrike**, and **São Francisco Sparrow** (*photo below, NA*). Other more widespread species there worth mentioning include **Stripe-necked Antbird**, **Black-bellied Antwren**, **Gray-eyed Greenlet**, and **Long-billed Wren**. The *caatinga* gets hot quickly, so by 10am we headed up to higher elevations where it was cooler. We stopped in some rocky upland savanna, locally called *campo rupestre*, a habitat preferred by some of the star birds of the region. I played a bit for the recently-described Sincorá Antwren, but when it didn't respond after 15 or 20 minutes, we got distracted by a male **Hooded Visorbearer** perched nearby. This little beauty kept our attention for a while when finally I noticed that the antwren had started to respond – a male **Sincorá Antwren** came in almost to our knees and seemed not afraid of us at all. Soon after another target fell to our bins as a **Pale-throated Pampa-Finch** came up to sing. After lunch near the mountain called *Morro de Pai Inácio*, one of the most recognizable landmarks of the region, we continued birding the upland scrub, finding **White-vented Violetear**, **Rufous-winged Antshrike**, **Collared Crescentchest**, and for some, a **Red-winged Tinamou**.





Sincorá Antwren (NA)



Morro de Pai Inácio (NA)



Next day we made a very long day trip to the other side of the mountains, hoping to find the recently described *Diamantina Tapaculo*. It was cold and windy at my first spot, where came up empty, so we carried on to a patch of *cerrado* not far away. *Cerrado* is a type of savanna that covers much of the interior areas of southeastern and southwestern Brazil. Here it was at about the northeastern limit of its occurrence, but it was well worth a visit as we saw several species that we got nowhere else on the tour: **White-banded Tanager**, **Gray-backed Tachuri**, **Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant** (photo left, NA), **Horned Sungem**, **Black-throated Saltator**, and **Rusty-backed Antwren**. With those in the bag, we carried on to another stakeout for **Diamantina Tapaculo**. This time at least it responded,

but it showed very poorly (and not at all for some), in rather typical tapaculo fashion. After lunch, we started working our way back, making a few stops for **Gilt-edged Tanager**, **Velvety Black-Tyrant**, **Cinnamon Tanager**, and a few others before arriving back at our hotel in time to relax a bit.



Gilt-edged Tanager (NA)



Next day we had our longest drive of the trip as we headed north into the remote reaches of northern Bahia, enduring badly potholed roads (which had deteriorated noticeably since my previous visit just five weeks before) for most of the day before finally reaching the small town of Canudos. We had a bit of time in the afternoon for birding in the *caatinga* near town, and made the most of it by finding **Greater** (photo left, SD) and **Lesser Wagtail-Tyrants**, **Red-shouldered Spinetail**, **Barred Antshrike**, **Ultramarine Grosbeak**, lots of **Cactus Parakeets**, and a few **Blue-crowned Parakeets**. We spent the night in a rather simple hotel, but the owners were very friendly and helpful, preparing a nice dinner and not even flinching at the idea of a 4am breakfast!

That breakfast was surprisingly good, and we headed off east on along the very rough and frustratingly slow road, but we had nothing to worry about. Trees full of gorgeous **Lear's Macaws** were waiting for us as we reached the best spot near a cattle ranch, and we spent an hour or so enjoying them. Several pairs flew circles overhead almost continuously, squawking loudly, while others perched stoically in the trees, and some feasted on cobs of corn. A few birds were on a nearby rock outcrop allopreening and possibly using it as a clay lick - it was a great experience. In the *caatinga* nearby we managed to find **Spot-backed Puffbird**, **White-throated Seedeater**, **Suiriri Flycatcher**, and **Narrow-billed Woodcreeper** before we said our farewells to the macaws and continued east along that horrible road. A couple hours later, we got a respite as we spent time searching for the very localized **Pectoral Antwren**. Finally we got one, as well as a bonus, our only **Ash-throated Casiornis** of the trip. After what seemed like forever we reached the end of the road, had lunch, and drove most of the rest of the afternoon to Estancia in the state of Sergipe, where we spent one night.



Lear's Macaws (NA)



Ash-throated Casiornis (SD)



We birded a patch of forest about 20 minutes south of town for the very local **Fringe-backed Fire-eye**. They were quite easy to see this morning despite a bit of rain, and we also had our only **Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant** of the tour (*photo left, NA*), before driving a few hundred kilometers north through heavy rain, crossing the state of Alagoas and continuing on into Pernambuco. We reached the small town of São Benedito do Sul just before dusk, and checked into our pleasant and conveniently-located ranch hotel, which would be our base for the next four nights. The staff were friendly and quite willingly did great breakfasts at 4am as well as packed lunches that did not involve the usual ham sandwiches – I salute them! We met up with Stephen Jones (steve.jones@hotmail.com), our local guide for the next three days at Frei Caneca.

Frei Caneca is a private reserve in the mountains above a sugar plantation, and one of the largest and most important forest patches left in this region, which has suffered almost total deforestation. It's a last refuge for some of the rarest birds on the continent, some of them so critically endangered that they could go extinct in the near future. Stephen, a Brit who has been living in Brazil since he was ten, has been coming to Frei Caneca for many years to photograph the birds, and with his help we were able to visit this reserve as well as the neighboring Pedra D'Anta reserve, a new reserve run by BirdLife International's Brazilian partner, SAVE. Birding the forest here is tough going since the birds are so rare. Each day we had breakfast at 4:00am, rode in our van for 30 minutes to a sugar mill, switched into a 4WD, and rode another 45 minutes up a steep and muddy track to the forest. We spent the days walking tracks and trails, some of them steep, searching for all the targets of the reserve. Stephen had arranged for us to use a small guesthouse to eat our lunches and take a much needed break in the middle of the day – he even brought a kettle to make coffee. We had great weather the first day, but rain started to become a problem after that, and by the third day we had to leave the reserve early when a steady downpour threatened to make the roads completely impassible. The birding was tough and sometimes frustrating, and we missed a few more birds here than I would have liked, but with persistence we pulled out many of the specialties, including **White-collared Kite**, **Long-tailed Woodnymph**, **Pinto's Spinetail**, **Orange-bellied Antwren**, **Willis's Antbird**, **Scalloped Antbird**, **Alagoas Tyrannulet**, and **Buff-throated Purpletuff**, as well as other more widespread species like **Golden-spangled Piculet**, **Gray-headed Spinetail**, **Olivaceous Woodcreeper**, **Black-capped Antwren**, **Black-cheeked Gnateater**, **Slender-footed Tyrannulet**, **White-bellied Tody-Tyrant**, **Blue-backed Manakin**, **Red-necked Tanager**, **Brazilian Tanager**, and **Pectoral Sparrow**.



Pinto's Spinetail (NA)

Next morning we had a "lie in" with a 5:00am breakfast. Dawn comes early here and it was broad daylight by the time we left our hotel. The rain had continued through to the morning, and we weren't going to be able to get back to Frei Caneca, but there was at least one more bird we could target, Forbes's Blackbird. We drove east toward the coast, stopping at a grassy track through some second growth. Luck finally returned to us as the rain stopped and the birds came out. There was a lot of

activity and even some new birds for us like **Black-faced Tanager** and **Solitary Black Cacique**. After a while, I heard the distinctive chatter of a small flock of **Forbes's Blackbird**, and a small flock came in and perched in the trees nearby. This is a surprisingly rare species considering the habitat it prefers. We made a couple more stops before driving north to the Recife airport and catching a short flight west to the town of Juazeiro do Norte at the base of the Chapada do Araripe. Our flight was almost an hour late and there wasn't any time to go birding, so we checked into our hotel and had an early night.

With only a day to bird the Chapada do Araripe, we had to make the most of it. After another early breakfast, we headed up to the top of the escarpment and started birding a trail through the *caatinga*. We quickly found several **Caatinga Antwrens**, but the birding became surprisingly slow after that with **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet** and **Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin** being the only new birds for the next hour or so. A single **White-browed Guan** crossed the trail up ahead, though we wished for better views. It was getting hot so I decided to try a different trail in taller forest. The White-browed Antpittas just wouldn't come in and we didn't see much at all apart from **Flavescent Warbler** and **White-throated Spadebill**. By 10am we bailed and headed back down to the base of the escarpment to look for the stunning **Araripe Manakin**. Fortunately he did not disappoint, showing very well multiple times and even allowing some photos. We took a break for lunch then headed back up the escarpment, where the birding was once again dismally slow and we found nothing new. A White-browed Antpitta came in closer this time, but stubbornly stayed out of sight.



Araripe Manakin (NA)

We had to get up in the middle of the night thanks to a 4AM flight to Fortaleza (why on earth would they schedule it that early?), but at least this flight was on time, and we avoided any traffic in the city as we drove south a couple of hours to the isolated Serra de Baturité mountain range, our last destination of the tour. Our hotel was perfectly located, surrounded by forest and having the best birding trails in the mountains. Even better, they had a terrific breakfast laid out for us when we arrived at 7:30am! Well fed, the early start forgotten, we hit the trails that started just outside our rooms and were greeted by some of the best bird activity of the trip, quickly nailing the key endemics **Ochraceous Piculet** and **Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant**. There were plenty of other birds around too including some beauties like **Gould's Toucanet** and **Blond-crested Woodpecker**, and we won a game of hide and seek with a pair of **Short-tailed Antthrushes**. After that we took a very long break until late afternoon, where we spent some time unsuccessfully looking for Gray-breasted Parakeet, but seeing **Ruby-topaz Hummingbird** and **Orange-headed Tanager** instead.



We had seen most of our targets in the Serra de Baturité already, so after breakfast I changed plans and we drove out of the mountains and a few hours south. We checked a bunch of little ponds along the way finding some waterbirds like **Masked Duck**, **Brazilian Teal**, **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, and **Limpkin** before reaching a small resort up on a very rocky hill. This was perfect habitat for the endemic **Pygmy Nightjar**, and we scoured the rocky *caatinga* looking for one, finally finding a nice male at the 11th hour (*photo left, SD*). It was also a very nice place to have lunch! We headed back up into the mountains in the afternoon, still needing one key

endemic, the critically endangered **Gray-beasted Parakeet**. This time we found the right spot, where a local NGO had put up nest boxes, and enjoyed great views of the rarest parakeet in South America. The family who lived there came home while we were watching, and they happily took us around showing us all the nest boxes and telling us about how a pair had successfully nested in one recently.



Gray-beasted Parakeet (NA)

It was hard to believe it was already the last day. We only had a few hours, so we hit the trails again, which were chilly, windy, and quiet, though we did manage to see a **Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser**. Afterwards, we drove north to Fortaleza, checked in for our flights, had one last tasty lunch, and parted ways, at least for now.

BIRD LIST

This list includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one of the group, including the leader. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow **Clements, James F. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Sixth Edition, 2007, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press***, including all updates through December 2010. This list strictly follows Clements with one exception, White-bellied Tody-Tyrant.

I have included annotations for most of the endemics and other target species, but due to time restrictions I have not annotated everything.

Totals:

393 bird species seen

34 heard only

Abbreviations:

H=Heard only

(I)=Introduced species

(E)=Species endemic to Brazil (follows SACC - <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~remesen/SACCCountryLists.html>)

TINAMOUS

Solitary Tinamou

It's always a treat to see a tinamou this well! One bird was drinking from a mudpuddle in the middle of a dirt track one afternoon in the forest at Linhares

H Little Tinamou

H Brown Tinamou

H Variegated Tinamou

H Tataupa Tinamou

Red-winged Tinamou

Not seen by me (I just heard wingbeats!), but some of the group saw one flush out of the grass on a trail at Chapada Diamantina, showing the distinctive rufous flight feathers.

H Spotted Nothura

WATERFOWL

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Brazilian Teal

Masked Duck

CRACIDS

White-browed Guan (E)

A single bird was seen crossing the trail in the caatinga on the Chapada do Araripe. A bit distant, but better than nothing!

Red-billed Curassow (E)

A family group of four was in the road early in the morning at Linhares. We were far enough away that we could get out of the van without disturbing them and even got them in the scope.

NEW WORLD QUAIL

H Spot-winged Wood-Quail

GREBES

Least Grebe

Pied-billed Grebe

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS

Neotropic Cormorant

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNs

Rufescent Tiger-Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Cattle Egret

TINAMIDAE

Tinamus solitarius

Crypturellus soui albigularis

Crypturellus obsoletus obsoletus

Crypturellus variegatus

Crypturellus tataupa

Rhynchotus rufescens

Nothura maculosa

ANATIDAE

Dendrocygna viduata

Amazonetta brasiliensis

Nomonyx dominicus

CRACIDAE

Penelope jacucaca

Crax blumenbachii

ODONTOPHORIDAE

Odontophorus capueira plumbeicollis

PODICIPEDIDAE

Tachybaptus dominicus

Podilymbus podiceps

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

ARDEIDAE

Tigrisoma lineatum

Ardea alba

Egretta thula

Bubulcus ibis

Striated Heron

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture

OSPREY

Osprey

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

Gray-headed Kite

White-collared Kite (E)

A single bird soared up over the ridge at Frei Caneca. It had just rained and the sky was totally white, making it very difficult to make out the distinguishing field marks without a scope, which was a shame. This is the rarest South American raptor, critically endangered, with an estimated population of only 100 individuals

(<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=9837>).

White-tailed Kite

Snail Kite

Plumbeous Kite

Crane Hawk

White-necked Hawk (E)

One individual was seen flying over the forest at Linhares.

Great Black-Hawk

Savanna Hawk

Roadside Hawk

Gray Hawk

Short-tailed Hawk

Black Hawk-Eagle

Ornate Hawk-Eagle

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

Southern Caracara

Yellow-headed Caracara

Laughing Falcon

American Kestrel

Aplomado Falcon

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS

H Gray-breasted Crake

H Gray-necked Wood-Rail

H Ash-throated Crake

Common Moorhen

LIMPKIN

Limpkin

SERIEMAS

H Red-legged Seriema

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

Southern Lapwing

STILTS AND AVOCETS

Black-necked Stilt

JACANAS

Wattled Jacana

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

Ruddy Turnstone

Butorides striata

CATHARTIDAE

Coragyps atratus

Cathartes aura

Cathartes burrovianus

PANDIONIDAE

Pandion haliaetus

ACCIPITRIDAE

Leptodon cayanensis

Leptodon forbesi

Elanus leucurus

Rostrhamus sociabilis

Ictinia plumbea

Geranospiza caerulescens

Leucopternis lacernulatus

Buteogallus urubitinga

Buteogallus meridionalis

Buteo magnirostris

Buteo nitidus

Buteo brachyurus

Spizaetus tyrannus

Spizaetus ornatus

FALCONIDAE

Caracara plancus

Milvago chimachima

Herpetotheres cachinnans

Falco sparverius

Falco femoralis

RALLIDAE

Laterallus exilis

Aramides cajanea

Porzana albicollis

Gallinula chloropus

ARAMIDAE

Aramus guarauna

CARIAMIDAE

Cariama cristata

CHARADRIIDAE

Vanellus chilensis

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Himantopus mexicanus

JACANIDAE

Jacana jacana

SCOLOPACIDAE

Arenaria interpres

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon (I)
Pale-vented Pigeon
Scaled Pigeon
Picazuro Pigeon
H Plumbeous Pigeon
Eared Dove
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove
Ruddy Ground-Dove
Scaled Dove
Picui Ground-Dove
White-tipped Dove
Ruddy Quail-Dove

PARROTS

Blue-throated Parakeet (E)

Terrific views of a flock perched at close range at Linhares. A beautiful and threatened parakeet, endemic to eastern Brazil. We also had a brief view of one in cacao plantation near Itajuípe.

Maroon-bellied Parakeet

Gray-breasted Parakeet (E)

COLUMBIDAE

Columba livia
Patagioenas cayennensis
Patagioenas speciosa
Patagioenas picazuro
Patagioenas plumbea plumbea
Zenaida auriculata
Columbina minuta
Columbina talpacoti
Columbina squammata
Columbina picui
Leptotila verreauxi
Geotrygon montana

PSITTACIDAE

Pyrrhura cruentata

Pyrrhura frontalis

Pyrrhura griseipectus

We spent about an hour watching a small flock of these critically endangered parakeets on the last afternoon of the tour near Pacotí in the Serra de Baturité. It's the rarest parakeet in South America, with population estimates as little as 80 individuals.

(<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=32204>). Lack of nest cavities is apparently one of the reasons for its decline, and we talked to a family that was working with a local NGO to put of nest boxes for them, which they were starting to use successfully.

Maroon-faced (White-eared) Parakeet (E) *Pyrrhura leucotis*

One small flock was seen superby in Linhares.

Blue-crowned Parakeet

Aratinga acuticaudata haemorrhous

White-eyed Parakeet

Aratinga leucophthalma

H Golden-capped Parakeet (E)

Aratinga auricapillus

Peach-fronted Parakeet

Aratinga aurea

Cactus Parakeet (E)

Aratinga cactorum

A common bird in the caatinga of northeastern Brazil.

Indigo (Lear's) Macaw (E)

Anodorhynchus leari

We went far out of our way to see these endangered birds, but there was absolutely no doubt it was well worth it. Like the other blue macaws, these birds are just stunning! We saw over 50 individuals on our morning between Canudos and Jeremoaba.

Blue-winged Macaw

Primolius maracana

Red-shouldered Macaw

Diopsittaca nobilis

Blue-winged Parrotlet

Forpus xanthopterygius

Plain Parakeet (E)

Brotogeris tirica

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet

Brotogeris chiriri

Golden-tailed Parrotlet (E)

Touit surdus

This is usually a scarce species, but we had ridiculous numbers on this tour, recording them on seven days. Our best views came early at Caetés when Ana taped a small flock into a tree right overhead, certainly the best views I've ever had of it!

Blue-headed Parrot

Pionus menstruus reichenowi

Scaly-headed Parrot

Pionus maximiliani

Red-browed Parrot (E)

Amazona rhodocorytha

Close perched views of a pair at Linhares, and we also had a flyby at Estação Veracel. An endangered species endemic to eastern Brazil.

Orange-winged Parrot

Amazona amazonica

Mealy Parrot

CUCKOOS

Squirrel Cuckoo

Guira Cuckoo

H Striped Cuckoo

Smooth-billed Ani

OWLS

Tropical Screech-Owl

Tawny-browed Owl

We tracked down what I think was a young bird at Linhares, and had a nice view in the spotlight.

Least Pygmy-Owl

It took a couple of tries, but we finally nailed this one down at Linhares for scope views.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Burrowing Owl

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES

Common Pauraque

Pygmy Nightjar (E)

A very localized endemic in NE Brazil, restricted to rocky areas of caatinga. We made a special day trip to Quixadá to see them, and at the eleventh hour finally found one trying to rest on a rock ledge.

SWIFTS

White-collared Swift

Sick's Swift

Gray-rumped Swift

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS

Hook-billed Hermit (E)

A rare, local, a rarely seen species endemic to eastern Brazil. We had good luck with this one, encountering it several times at its stronghold at Estação Veracel; on one occasion it even showed quite well, fanning its tail out and even perching for a few seconds.

Rufous-breasted Hermit

Broad-tipped Hermit (E)

Endemic to the caatinga of NE Brazil. It didn't like to stay still for long, though most of the group saw it reasonably well at Palmeiras.

Minute Hermit (E)

Very local in SE Brazil; Linhares is one of the best places to find it, and we enjoyed great views of one perched, then later saw several more taking baths in a puddle in the dirt track.

Reddish Hermit

Planalto Hermit

Scale-throated Hermit

Hooded Visorbearer (E)

One of the star birds of the Chapada Diamantina, and it sure didn't disappoint. We tracked down a singing male in the campo rupestre, and enjoyed all his colors as he kept returning to that same perch over and over...

White-vented Violetear

Horned Sungem

We saw a female perched in the cerrado south of +B363. The other one we saw briefly there was probably a male. A very local species of the cerrado.

Black-eared Fairy

Ruby-topaz Hummingbird

Black-throated Mango

Amazona farinosa

CUCULIDAE

Piaya cayana

Guira guira

Tapera naevia

Crotophaga ani

STRIGIDAE

Megascops choliba

Pulsatrix koenigswaldiana

Glaucidium minutissimum

Glaucidium brasilianum

Athene cunicularia

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Nyctidromus albicollis

Caprimulgus hirundinaceus

APODIDAE

Streptoprocne zonaris

Chaetura meridionalis

Chaetura cinereiventris

Panyptila cayennensis

Tachornis squamata

TROCHILIDAE

Glaucis dohrnii

Glaucis hirsutus

Anopetia gounellei

Phaethornis idaliae

Phaethornis ruber

Phaethornis pretrei

Phaethornis eurynome

Augastes lumachella

Colibri serrirostris

Heliactin bilophus

Heliophryx auritus

Chrysolampis mosquitus

Anthracothorax nigricollis

Frilled Coquette (E)

A couple of females were feeding in a flowering tree our second morning at Caetés.

Amethyst Woodstar**Glittering-bellied Emerald****Blue-chinned Sapphire****Swallow-tailed Hummingbird****Fork-tailed Woodnymph****Long-tailed Woodnymph (E)**

Endemic to the northernmost reaches of the Atlantic Rainforest. We saw them several times, at Frei Caneca, near our hotel at São Benedito, and at Saltinho.

Violet-capped Woodnymph**Sombre Hummingbird (E)**

Not the gaudiest of hummers, but it is endemic to SE Brazil. We had a single bird in a cacao plantation near Itajuípe.

Glittering-throated Emerald**Rufous-throated Sapphire****White-chinned Sapphire****TROGONS****Green-backed (White-tailed) Trogon****Blue-crowned Trogon****Surucua Trogon****H Black-throated Trogon****Collared Trogon**

Collared Trogons are common in most of their range, but they are super-rare in the Atlantic Rainforest, so I did get excited about it when one turned up at Linhares! It's an endemic subspecies here, but I wouldn't expect a split.

MOTMOTS**H Rufous-capped Motmot****KINGFISHERS****Ringed Kingfisher****Amazon Kingfisher****PUFFBIRDS****Spot-backed Puffbird**

A fierce-looking pair showed well near the Lear's Macaws east of Canudos. The northern and southern subspecies are split by some authorities, though his has not yet been considered by the SACC. If split, a suggested name is "Caatinga Puffbird".

Crescent-chested Puffbird (E)

Always one of my favorite Atlantic Rainforest birds. One flew in front of the van as we were driving up to Caetés one afternoon, and it stayed around long enough for us to get out and see it.

H White-fronted Nunbird**Swallow-winged Puffbird****JACAMARS****Rufous-tailed Jacamar****TOUCANS****Saffron Toucanet**

Several came in to a tree overhead to feed on fruits at Caetés. Truly a unique and unforgettable bird!

Lettered Aracari**Black-necked Aracari*****Lophornis magnificus******Calliphlox amethystina******Chlorostilbon aureoventris******Chlorestes notata******Eupetomena macroura******Thalurania furcata******Thalurania watertonii******Thalurania glaucopsis******Aphantochroa cirrochloris******Amazilia fimbriata******Hylocharis sapphirina******Hylocharis cyanus*****TROGONIDAE*****Trogon viridis melanopterus******Trogon curucui******Trogon surrucura aurantius******Trogon rufus chrysochloros******Trogon collaris eytoni*****MOMOTIDAE*****Baryphthengus ruficapillus*****ALCEDINIDAE*****Megaceryle torquata******Chloroceryle amazona*****BUCCONIDAE*****Nystalus maculatus maculatus******Malacoptila striata******Monasa morphoeus morphoeus******Chelidoptera tenebrosa brasiliensis*****GALBULIDAE*****Galbula ruficauda rufoviridis*****RAMPHASTIDAE*****Pteroglossus bailloni******Pteroglossus inscriptus inscriptus******Pteroglossus aracari***

Gould's Toucanet***Selenidera gouldii***

Truly gaudy. A cooperative pair showed well near the start of the trails at the Remanso Hotel. An isolated population occurs here in the Serra de Baturité; otherwise it is restricted to the eastern part of the Amazon. It originally was described as an endemic subspecies, baturitensis, but most authorities now consider that taxon to be invalid.

H Spot-billed Toucanet***Selenidera maculirostris*****Channel-billed Toucan*****Ramphastos vitellinus ariel***

We had this species and the next together at Caetés, something I had not observed before. Farther south they seem to separate out by elevation. They are quite similar apart from bill color and voice

Red-breasted Toucan***Ramphastos dicolorus*****WOODPECKERS****PICIDAE****Golden-spangled Piculet*****Picumnus exilis exilis*****Golden-spangled Piculet*****Picumnus exilis pernambucensis***

We saw the nominate at Veracel, and pernambucensis at Frei Caneca. The races are rather similar, but I include them separately as there could be some taxonomical revisions in the future.

Spotted Piculet (E)***Picumnus pygmaeus***

A very cute piculet of the caatinga, which we saw well near Palmeiras.

Ochraceous Piculet (E)***Picumnus limae***

Another very local endemic, restricted to the state of Ceará. We saw a pair well in the Serra de Baturité, and another bird near Quixadá.

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker***Melanerpes flavifrons*****Little Woodpecker*****Veniliornis passerinus*****Red-stained Woodpecker*****Veniliornis affinis affinis***

Just one bird at Veracel.

Yellow-eared Woodpecker (E)***Veniliornis maculifrons***

A pair showed well in a mixed flock at Caetés.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker***Piculus flavigula erythropis***

A nice view near the tower at Linhares. This subspecies is endemic to the Atlantic Rainforest, and has a red throat.

White-browed Woodpecker***Piculus aurulentus***

Formerly called Yellow-browed Woodpecker, which is a far more appropriate name! We saw it in a flock at Caetés.

Blond-crested Woodpecker***Celeus flavescens ochraceus***

A pair gave us the run-around at the Hotel Remanso, but they finally settled down and showed themselves.

Ringed Woodpecker***Celeus torquatus tinnunculus***

We located a singing bird at Linhares for nice scope views, and heard another at Veracel. A very rare bird here that we were lucky to see. This subspecies is endemic to Atlantic Forest of eastern Brazil.

H Lineated Woodpecker***Dryocopus lineatus*****H Robust Woodpecker*****Campephilus robustus*****OVENBIRDS****FURNARIIDAE: FURNARIINAE****Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser*****Sclerurus scansor cearensis***

One of our last birds of the trip. A responsive bird flew up into the lower branches of a tree in response to playback. This subspecies endemic to NE Brazil seems a good candidate for a split.

Wing-banded Hornero (E)***Furnarius figulus***

A few good views. Endemic to NE Brazil.

Pale-legged Hornero***Furnarius leucopus assimilis*****Rufous Hornero*****Furnarius rufus*****H Rufous-capped Spinetail*****Synallaxis ruficapilla***

Pinto's Spinetail (E)***Synallaxis infuscata***

I think we must have tried about five times before finally finding a response bird in the Pedra D'Anta reserve; it showed reasonably well. An endangered species now found only in a few patches of forest in NE Brazil.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail***Synallaxis frontalis*****Pale-breasted Spinetail*****Synallaxis albescens*****Spix's Spinetail*****Synallaxis spixi*****Cinereous-breasted Spinetail*****Synallaxis hypospodia*****Ochre-cheeked Spinetail*****Synallaxis scutata*****Red-shouldered Spinetail (E)*****Gyalophylax hellmayri***

A unique, monotypic spinetail endemic to the caatinga, notable for being much more terrestrial than other spinetails, often scurrying along the ground. The genus apparently means, roughly, "watcher of the valley". After hearing one at Palmeiras, we had good views of a pair near Canudos.

Pallid Spinetail (E)***Cranioleuca pallida***

This endemic was common in the mixed flocks at Caetés.

Gray-headed Spinetail (E)***Cranioleuca semicinerea***

Endemic to the far NE, where we had good views at Frei Caneca, Chapada do Araripe, and Serra de Baturité.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird***Phacellodomus rufifrons rufifrons*****Pink-legged Graveteiro (E)*****Acrobatornis fonsecai***

Good views of at least three birds near their stick nests in a cacao plantation near Buerarema. This species was only described in 1996 despite their very conspicuous nests!

Caatinga Cacholote (E)***Pseudoseisura cristata***

Several sightings - the first was a bird that came in to eat grain at our hotel in Lençois, which seemed rather odd.

H Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner***Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*****Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner*****Philydor lichtensteini*****Black-capped Foliage-gleaner*****Philydor atricapillus*****Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner*****Philydor rufum rufum*****White-collared Foliage-gleaner (E)*****Anabazenops fuscus***

We saw this distinctive foliage-gleaner in a bamboo patch at Caetés.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner***Automolus leucophthalmus leucophthalmus*****Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper*****Lochmias nematura nematura*****Great Xenops (E)*****Megaxenops paraguayae***

A very shy caatinga species; it took some work but eventually the whole group saw it well near Palmeiras. We had another brief view up on the Chapada do Araripe.

Plain Xenops***Xenops minutus minutus*****Streaked Xenops*****Xenops rutilans rutilans*****WOODCREEPERS****FURNARIIDAE: DENDROCOLAPTINAE****Plain-brown (Thrush-like) Woodcreeper*****Dendrocincla fuliginosa turdina***

Currently lumped with Plain-brown Woodcreeper by the SACC, but it certainly deserves species status.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper***Sittasomus griseicapillus sylviiellus***

This species is badly in need of a taxonomic revision, so it's a good idea to keep track of where you see them. This is the subspecies we saw in the Southeast.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper***Sittasomus griseicapillus olivaceus***

I'm not clear on where the division is between this subspecies and the previous, but apparently the one we saw near Lençois is referable to this one.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper***Sittasomus griseicapillus reiseri*****Wedge-billed Woodcreeper*****Glyphorynchus spirurus cuneatus*****White-throated Woodcreeper*****Xiphocolaptes albicollis***

This giant showed very well at Caetés, quickly followed by the next species, which was nice for comparison.

Planalto Woodcreeper***Dendrocolaptes platyrostris***

Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>
Lesser Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus tenuirostris</i>
<i>Seen well at Caetés.</i>	
Lesser Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus atlanticus</i>
<i>Unfortunately only Robert and I saw this one on one of our last mornings, near the Remanso.</i>	
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus guttatus</i>
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris bahiae</i>
Scaled Woodcreeper (E)	<i>Lepidocolaptes squamatus squamatus</i>
<i>Seen best at Caetés, where it was fairly common with the flocks.</i>	
H Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhynchus trochilirostris</i>
TYPICAL ANTBIRDS	THAMNOPHILIDAE
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>
Silvery-cheeked Antshrike (E)	<i>Sakesphorus cristatus</i>
<i>A truly striking antbird endemic that is quite common in the caatinga. Our best views were near Palmeiras.</i>	
Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus capistratus</i>
<i>A subspecies endemic to the caatinga, slightly darker and with a red iris. Some authorities split it as Caatinga Antshrike. Our best views were near Canudos.</i>	
H Rufous-capped Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus r. ruficapillus</i>
Rufous-winged Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus torquatus</i>
<i>Another handsome antshrike, fairly widespread but always nice to see. We saw a cooperative male at the Chapada Diamantina.</i>	
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus palliatus vestitus</i>
Planalto Slaty-Antshrike (E)	<i>Thamnophilus pelzelni</i>
<i>A few sightings near Lençóis and at Chapada do Araripe.</i>	
Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike (E)	<i>Thamnophilus ambiguus</i>
<i>Especialty numerous at Estação Veracel.</i>	
Variable Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens caerulescens</i>
<i>We saw the nominate at Caetés near the beginning of the trip.</i>	
Variable Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens cearensis</i>
<i>This one is an endemic subspecies restricted to NE Brazil. Females are rather distinctive with their unmarked wings.</i>	
Spot-breasted Antwren (E)	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>
<i>One male at Caetés stayed way up in the canopy, so the views could have been better...</i>	
Plain Antwren	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>
Star-throated Antwren (E)	<i>Myrmotherula gularis</i>
<i>One of the first birds of the trip. One bird responded well at Caetés, though lighting conditions at the time did not allow for great views.</i>	
White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris luctuosa</i>
<i>A distinctive and "sure to be split" subspecies.</i>	
Band-tailed Antwren (E)	<i>Myrmotherula urosticta</i>
<i>A bit of bushwhacking finally got us to where we could see a little family: male, female, and juvenile male.</i>	
Stripe-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmorchilus strigilatus strigilatus</i>
<i>Common but secretive in the caatinga. One finally showed itself near Palmeiras.</i>	
Caatinga Antwren (E)	<i>Herpsilochmus sellowi</i>
<i>Missed it in Bahia, but caught up with it at the Chapada do Araripe where it was quite common.</i>	
Bahia Antwren (E)	<i>Herpsilochmus pileatus</i>
<i>Nice views on a couple of occasions at Veracel.</i>	
Black-capped Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus atricapillus</i>
Pectoral Antwren (E)	<i>Herpsilochmus pectoralis</i>
<i>Persistence paid off... Great views of a male in the end after close to an hour of searching at a "traditional" spot west of Jeremoaba.</i>	

Rufous-winged Antwren***Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus scapularis***

We saw them at Veracel and Frei Caneca. The ranges given in HBW and Clements indicate that they should both be *scapularis*, but the ones at Frei Caneca sound different, and I suspect that some research would show that this treatment is incorrect. There could even be a new taxon involved.

White-fringed Antwren***Formicivora grisea grisea*****Black-bellied Antwren*****Formicivora melanogaster bahiae***

What a beauty! While it has a large range reaching parts of Bolivia and Paraguay, it is easiest to find in the caatinga. We saw a male near Palmeiras.

Rusty-backed Antwren***Formicivora rufa rufa***

It took a while, but we finally found a male in the cerrado near Mucugê.

Sincora Antwren (E)***Formicivora grantsau***

This species was only described in 1997 due to its similarity with the previous species. It differs in voice and habitat, occurring in rocky, upland campo rupestre in and around the Chapada Diamantina. We saw just one male, that finally came in 15 minutes after I stopped playing for it - we had to drag ourselves away from a Hooded Visorbearer to see it!

Orange-bellied Antwren (E)***Terenura sicki***

A male showed quite well at Frei Caneca, coming down lower than they usually do. An endangered species with a miniscule range and very fragmented range. Very similar to the next species, which is clearly a very close relative.

Streak-capped Antwren***Terenura maculata***

One was following a mixed flock at Caetés.

Willis's Antbird (E)***Cercomacra laeta sabinoi***

A single male at Frei Caneca. It was a scramble to get down to where we could see it, but well worth it!

H White-backed Fire-eye***Pyriglena leuconota pernambucensis*****Fringe-backed Fire-eye (E)*****Pyriglena atra***

Our main target near Santa Luzia, but they were easy this time - just about the most common bird we saw! I would have traded one for that darn foliage-gleaner...

Scalloped Antbird (E)***Myrmeciza ruficauda soror***

We spent some time tracking down a pair at Frei Caneca, and they eventually showed pretty well.

H White-bibbed Antbird (E)***Myrmeciza loricata*****ANTTHRUSHES****FORMICARIIDAE****Rufous-capped Antthrush*****Formicarius colma ruficeps***

Posing for us on a log at Linhares.

Short-tailed Antthrush***Chamaeza campanisona campanisona***

A pair finally came in on the trails at the Remanso. The population in the Serra de Baturité is quite isolated and the song is a bit different, but it is still currently considered part of the nominate race.

H Such's Antthrush (E)***Chamaeza meruloides*****ANTPITTAS****GRALLARIIDAE****H Variegated Antpitta*****Grallaria varia*****H White-browed Antpitta (E)*****Hylopezus ochroleucus***

So close!

GNATEATERS**CONOPOPHAGIDAE****Rufous Gnatcatcher*****Conopophaga lineata cearae***

I had a brief glimpse while calling in the antthrushes at the Remanso, but I think it was "heard only" for everyone else. For some reason it was totally unresponsive.

Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher (E)***Conopophaga melanops***

Great views of a male at Linhares. The pair we saw at Frei Caneca was much shyer and they kept their distance. They are currently regarded as different races (nominate in SE, *nigrifrons* in NE), but the races are not well defined.

TAPACULOS

White-breasted Tapaculo (E)

This can be a tough one, but they were very vocal this time at Caetés, allowing us to try a couple of territories and eventually getting a decent view.

Diamantina Tapaculo (E)

Wish I could say the same about this one. We had a great spot to see it and it came right in, but it gave poor views at best. Tapaculos can be like that...

CRESCENTCHESTS

Collared Crescentchest

We chased down its deceptive song at Chapada Diamantina, eventually pinpointing the exact bush it was hiding in. It showed OK if you happened to be looking at the right hole in the vegetation.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

White-lored Tyrannulet

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet

Suiriri Flycatcher

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet

Yellow Tyrannulet

Gray-backed Tachuri (E)

A responsive pair seen well in the cerrado near Mucugê.

Gray Elaenia

Yellow-bellied Elaenia

Large Elaenia

Plain-crested Elaenia

White-crested Tyrannulet

Gray-hooded Flycatcher

A single at Caetés showed well.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher

Alagoas Tyrannulet (E)

Oustalet's Tyrannulet (E)

One of the key birds at Caetés, where it is usually pretty common with the flocks. It wasn't until fairly late on our last morning before we finally found several in a mixed flock, tails quivering. Then they seemed to be everywhere!

Rough-legged Tyrannulet

Greenish Tyrannulet

Several at Caetés.

Planalto Tyrannulet

Gray-capped Tyrannulet (E)

Good scope views at Caetés.

Slender-footed Tyrannulet

Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant

A rare and local species of the cerrado. One bird responded nicely and posed for photos south of Mucugê.

Lesser (Bahia) Wagtail-Tyrant

Greater (Caatinga) Wagtail-Tyrant

We saw both wagtail-tyrants one afternoon in the caatinga near Canudos. Both are well deserving of being split, and some books already do it. The names in parentheses are the ones used by Ridgely.

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant

Regularly seen during the first week of the trip, and heard at Frei Caneca.

Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant

They were quite common at Caetés.

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Eleoscytalopus indigoticus

Scytalopus diamantinensis

MELANOPAREIIDAE

Melanopareia torquata

TYRANNIDAE

Ornithion inerme

Camptostoma obsoletum

Suiriri suiriri bahiae

Phaeomyias murina

Capsiempis flaveola

Polystictus superciliaris

Myiopagis caniceps

Elaenia flavogaster

Elaenia spectabilis

Elaenia cristata

Serpophaga subcristata

Mionectes rufiventris

Leptopogon amaurocephalus

Phylloscartes ceciliae

Phylloscartes oustaleti

Phyllomyias burmeisteri burmeisteri

Phyllomyias virescens

Phyllomyias fasciatus

Phyllomyias griseocapilla

Zimmerius gracilipes

Euscarthmus rufomarginatus

Stigmatura napensis bahiae

Stigmatura budytoides gracilis

Myiornis auricularis

Hemitriccus diops

White-bellied Tody-Tyrant <i>A few at Frei Caneca. Note that the Clements list incorrectly includes this subspecies (naumburgae), with White-eyed Tody-Tyrant H. zosterops, which only occurs north of the Amazon.</i>	<i>Hemitriccus griseipectus naumburgae</i>
Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus striaticollis</i>
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer wuchereri</i>
Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant (E) <i>Endemic to the mountains of NE Brazil. We had good views along the trails at the Remanso Hotel.</i>	<i>Hemitriccus mirandae</i>
Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps</i>
Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher (E) <i>A few at Caetés.</i>	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Olivaceous Flatbill <i>One came into playback at Veracel.</i>	<i>Rhynchocyclus olivaceus olivaceus</i>
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens sulphurescens</i>
Gray-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus sclateri</i>
Yellow-breasted (Ochre-lored) Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris flaviventris</i>
White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus cancomus</i>
Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea bellicose</i>
Bran-colored Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
H Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>
Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>
Fuscous Flycatcher	<i>Cnemotriccus fuscatus bimaculatus</i>
Velvety Black-Tyrant (E) <i>One male seen well near Mucugê.</i>	<i>Knipolegus nigerrimus</i>
White Monjita <i>A few individuals en route to Candudos and between Canudos and Jeremoaba.</i>	<i>Xolmis irupero niveus</i>
Masked Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola nengeta nengeta</i>
White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
Gray-hooded Attila (E) <i>I called one in for a good view on our first morning at Caetés.</i>	<i>Attila rufus</i>
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus uropygiatus</i>
Sirystes	<i>Sirystes sibilator sibilator</i>
Ash-throated Casiornis (E) <i>This scarce caatinga endemic turned up as we finally located the Pectoral Antwren between Canudos and Jeremoaba.</i>	<i>Casiornis fuscus</i>
Grayish Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna simplex simplex</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Variiegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
White-throated Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus albogularis</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>

SHARPBILL**Sharpbill**

We saw them a few times at Caetés, always nice.

COTINGAS**Hooded Berryeater (E)**

Ditto for this one.

Black-headed Berryeater (E)

They can sometimes be hard to find, but fortunately they were vocal at Linhares and one came in for a great view.

Banded Cotinga (E)

My favorite of the trip! One male was perched on the top of a tall tree at Veracel.

H Screaming Piha**Cinnamon-vented Piha (E)**

Caetés is a great spot for this very local endemic, and it didn't let us down.

H Bare-throated Bellbird**White-winged Cotinga (E)**

Numerous at Veracel. Most were females or juveniles, but we saw several gorgeous adult males too. We also had a single bird at Frei Caneca.

MANAKINS**Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin**

It was literally the most common bird along one track we walked after lunch at the Chapada do Araripe.

Pin-tailed Manakin (E)

"Just" a female at Caetés.

White-bearded Manakin**Araripe Manakin (E)**

Awesome. One of my all-time favorites, and always a tour highlight. It would be worth going to the Chapada do Araripe even if no other birds were there!

Blue-backed Manakin

Heard a few places but only seen at Frei Caneca.

H Swallow-tailed (Blue) Manakin**White-crowned Manakin**

Several at Linhares and Veracel. Best seen taking a bath in a mud puddle one afternoon at Linhares.

Band-tailed Manakin

A few females around the Remanso Hotel, an isolated population. For some reason I never see any males there!

Red-headed Manakin

Common in the rainforest.

Wing-barred Piprites

One responded to playback at Caetés.

TITYRAS AND ALLIES**Black-tailed Tityra****Black-crowned Tityra****Thrush-like Schiffornis****Cinereous Mourner**

One came in to bathe in the puddle at Linhares.

Buff-throated Purplethroat (E)

One was perched up on a treetop on a ridge at Frei Caneca. The northeastern population is exceedingly rare, and this was even a lifer for Stephen, our local guide.

Green-backed Becard

We saw this species as well as White-winged, Black-capped, and Crested Becards all within a few minutes of each other in the tower clearing at Linhares. Becard central...

OXYRUNCIDAE**Oxyruncus cristatus****COTINGIDAE****Carpornis cucullata****Carpornis melanocephala****Cotinga maculata****Lipaugus vociferans****Lipaugus lanioides****Procnias nudicollis****Xipholena atropurpurea****PIPRIDAE****Neopelma pallescens****Ilicura militaris****Manacus manacus****Antilophia bokermanni****Chiroxiphia pareola pareola****Chiroxiphia caudata****Pipra pipra cephaleucus****Pipra fasciicauda****Pipra rubrocapilla****Piprites chloris chloris****TITYRIDAE****Tityra cayana****Tityra inquisitor****Schiffornis turdina turdina****Laniocera hypopyrra****Iodopleura pipra leucopygia****Pachyramphus viridis viridis**

Chestnut-crowned Becard
White-winged Becard
Black-capped Becard
Crested Becard

VIREOS

Red-eyed Vireo
Rufous-crowned Greenlet

Several with the mixed flocks at Caetés.

Gray-eyed Greenlet (E)

Replaces the previous in drier habitats to the north, where we saw them three times in scattered locations.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES

White-naped Jay (E)

Common but always fun to see (and listen to!).

SWALLOWS

Blue-and-white Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray-breasted Martin
White-winged Swallow
White-rumped Swallow

WRENS

Thrush-like Wren
Moustached Wren
Long-billed Wren (E)

We saw a responsive pair at Palmeiras, and heard them a few other places. This subspecies prefers caatinga, whereas the nominate, which occurs farther south, is found at the edge of rainforest. They sound a little bit different too. Suspicious?

House Wren

GNATCATCHERS

Long-billed Gnatwren
Tropical Gnatcatcher

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Yellow-legged Thrush

One at Caetés, but it may have been "guide only"

Pale-breasted Thrush

Cocoa Thrush

They were often feeding in the forest roads at Linhares.

Rufous-bellied Thrush

Creamy-bellied Thrush

White-necked Thrush

MOCKINGBIRDS

Chalk-browed Mockingbird

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Tropical Parula

Golden-crowned Warbler

Flavescent Warbler

This was becoming a nemesis bird for Stephen, but he finally nailed one at the Chapada do Araripe.

BANANAQUIT

Bananaquit

Pachyramphus castaneus castaneus
Pachyramphus polychopterus spixii
Pachyramphus marginatus marginatus
Pachyramphus validus validus

VIREONIDAE

Vireo olivaceus chivi
Hylophilus poicilotis

Hylophilus amaurocephalus

Cyclarhis gujanensis

CORVIDAE

Cyanocorax cyanopogon

HIRUNDINIDAE

Pygochelidon cyanoleuca
Stelgidopteryx ruficollis
Progne chalybea
Tachycineta albiventer
Tachycineta leucorrhoa

TROGLODYTIDAE

Campylorhynchus turdinus turdinus
Pheugopedius genibarbis
Cantorchilus longirostris bahiae

Troglodytes aedon

POLIOPTILIDAE

Ramphocaenus melanurus
Polioptila plumbea atricapilla

TURDIDAE

Turdus flavipes

Turdus leucomelas

Turdus fumigatus

Turdus rufiventris

Turdus amaurochalinus

Turdus albicollis

MIMIDAE

Mimus saturninus

PARULIDAE

Parula pitiayumi

Basileuterus culicivorus

Basileuterus flaveolus

COEREBIDAE

Coereba flaveola

TANAGERS AND ALLIES

Brown Tanager (E)

Several of these foliage-gleaner look-alikes were moving with one of the mixed flocks at Caetés.

Black-faced Tanager

Cinnamon Tanager (E)

We saw them at the Chapada Diamantina and the Chapada do Araripe.

Magpie Tanager

White-banded Tanager

A cerrado specialty that we saw well south of Mucugê. Ridgely has coined a new name for it, "Shrike-like Tanager", which is a more appropriate name. Remains to be seen as to whether it catches on.

H Scarlet-throated Tanager (E)

Frustratingly close... They must have flown right below us along that little watercourse, but we just couldn't see through the trees and they never responded to playback. They are scarce and you rarely get more than one shot at them on a trip.

Hooded Tanager

Orange-headed Tanager

Black-goggled Tanager

Chestnut-vented Conebill

Guira Tanager

Rufous-headed Tanager (E)

This handsome bird was quite numerous at Caetés.

Yellow-backed Tanager

Flame-crested Tanager

Ruby-crowned Tanager

White-lined Tanager

Brazilian Tanager (E)

Amazingly we only saw this on just one occasion, a pair at Pedra D'Antra.

Sayaca Tanager

Azure-shouldered Tanager (E)

A few at Caetés.

Golden-chevroned Tanager (E)

Ditto.

Palm Tanager

Fawn-breasted Tanager

Turquoise (White-bellied) Tanager

We could not get away from them at Est. Veracel. A few were also with mixed flocks at Linhares. Split by some authorities, though the SACC has not yet considered it.

Green-headed Tanager

One was with a mixed flock at Linhares, not seen by all.

Red-necked Tanager

Isolated subspecies corallina (Frei Caneca) and cearensis (Serra de Baturité).

Brassy-breasted Tanager (E)

Gilt-edged Tanager (E)

A bright and beautiful bird even by tanager standards. We had one pair up on the Chapada Diamantina.

Burnished-buff Tanager

Blue Dacnis

Red-legged Honeycreeper

Black-throated Saltator

One bird in the cerrado near Mucugê.

Green-winged Saltator

Buff-throated Saltator

THRAUPIDAE

Orchesticus abeillei

Schistochlamys melanopis

Schistochlamys ruficapillus

Cissopis leverianus major

Neothraupis fasciata

Compsothraupis loricata

Nemosia pileata

Thlypopsis sordida

Trichothraupis melanops

Conirostrum speciosum

Hemithraupis guira

Hemithraupis ruficapilla

Hemithraupis flavicollis

Tachyphonus cristatus

Tachyphonus coronatus

Tachyphonus rufus

Ramphocelus bresilius

Thraupis sayaca

Thraupis cyanoptera

Thraupis ornata

Thraupis palmarum

Pipraeidea melanonota

Tangara mexicana brasiliensis

Tangara seledon

Tangara cyanocephala

Tangara desmaresti

Tangara cyanoventris

Tangara cayana

Dacnis cayana

Cyanerpes cyaneus

Saltator atricollis

Saltator similis

Saltator maximus

SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS

Blue-black Grassquit

Yellow-bellied Seedeater

Double-collared Seedeater

White-throated Seedeater (E)

Several between Canudos and Jeremoaba.

White-bellied Seedeater

H Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch

Uniform Finch

A couple at Caetés in the bamboo.

Saffron Finch

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch

Pale-throated Pampa-Finch (E)

We saw single birds on two occasions on the Chapada Diamantina.

Red-cowled Cardinal (E)

A common and beautiful endemic of NE Brazil. The one we saw in Espirito Santo was almost certainly one of a feral population descended from escaped cage birds.

Pileated Finch

Pectoral Sparrow

Sao Francisco Sparrow (E)

One showed well in the caatinga near Palmeiras. This species was only described in 2007.

Grassland Sparrow

Rufous-collared Sparrow

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

Yellow-green Grosbeak

Ultramarine Grosbeak

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

White-browed Blackbird

Chopi Blackbird

Forbes's Blackbird (E)

A rare and endangered species now found mainly in NE Brazil. It seems to prefer disturbed habitats, so it is a mystery as to why it is so scarce. We found one small flock at a stakeout near Barreiros in Pernambuco.

Chestnut-capped Blackbird

Bay-winged Cowbird

Shiny Cowbird

Variable Oriole

A recent split from Epaulet Oriole.

Campo Troupial (E)

A common but strikingly handsome bird throughout the Northeast.

Solitary Black Cacicue

Red-rumped Cacicue

Yellow-rumped Cacicue

Crested Oropendola

SISKINS, EUPHONIAS, ALLIES

Purple-throated Euphonia

Violaceous Euphonia

Orange-bellied Euphonia

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow (I)

EMBERIZIDAE

Volatinia jacarina

Sporophila nigricollis

Sporophila caerulescens

Sporophila albogularis

Sporophila leucoptera

Oryzoborus angolensis

Haplospiza unicolor

Sicalis flaveola

Emberizoides herbicola

Embernagra longicauda

Paroaria dominicana

Coryphospingus pileatus

Arremon taciturnus

Arremon franciscanus

Ammodramus humeralis

Zonotrichia capensis

CARDINALIDAE

Caryothraustes canadensis

Cyanocompsa brissonii

ICTERIDAE

Sturnella superciliaris

Gnorimopsar chopi

Curaeus forbesi

Chrysomus ruficapillus

Agelaioides badius fringillarius

Molothrus bonariensis

Icterus pyrrhopterus tibialis

Icterus jamacaii

Cacicus solitarius

Cacicus haemorrhous

Cacicus cela

Psarocolius decumanus

FRINGILLIDAE

Euphonia chlorotica

Euphonia violacea

Euphonia xanthogaster xanthogaster

Euphonia pectoralis

PASSERIDAE

Passer domesticus