

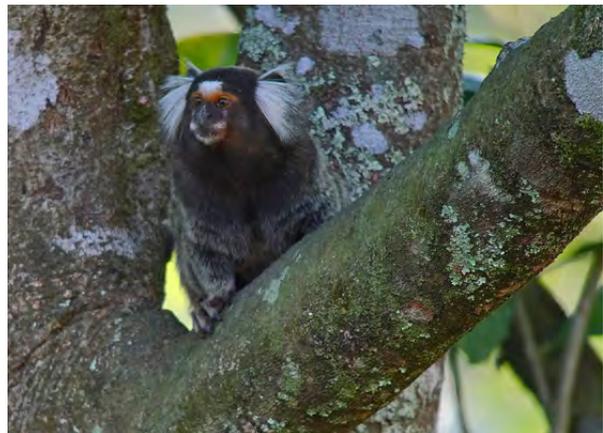
Brazil: The Atlantic Rainforest

Thu 4th – Fri 12th October 2012



Photos (clockwise, from top left): A very smart **Diademed Tanager** at Pica do Caledonia • One of the many highlights were these displaying **Black-capped Donacobius** • The endangered **Three-toed Jacamar** was a must see bird on this tour • The beautiful **Blue-winged Macaw** was much admired • A cute **Ferruginous Pygmy-owl** shuffles on its perch • **(American) Purple Gallinules** were common on the wetlands © all photos Brian Small/ Limosa Holidays

report compiled by tour leader:
Brian Small



Photos (clockwise, from top): A Giant Snipe at c.5m distance in the torchlight – superb! • Tiny White-tufted Marmosets visited the feeders regularly • A Black-throated Trogon along the Casa Anibal trail • A tiny male Plovercrest resting from a bit of hard lekking • Green-headed Tanagers are always a treat © all photos Brian Small/ Limosa Holidays

Trip Diary

Tour Leader: Brian Small

with Ray Bryant, Sue Cooper, (Mary Landsman), Brian & Linda Miller, Lee & Gill Pilkington, Rupert & Mandy Pye, and Kim Tarsey

This inaugural trip by Limosa to REGUA was eagerly anticipated and very much lived up to expectation. It was superb to visit somewhere that you know is being protected and is being managed so that the bird and wildlife is forefront in all the processes – and that will only get better as all the work benefits the environment further. Added to this was very comfortable accommodation amidst superb scenery, welcoming hosts, tasty food, hummingbirds and tanagers at feeders, and so much more.

On our doorstep was the famed REGUA wetlands, a short walk from the lodge, where birds come thick and fast and are really easy to watch – too many at times, if that is possible?! A number of trails into the mid elevations are within easy reach and these too were much enjoyed. Within an hour or two's drive of REGUA are a number of key sites that have to be visited – Mace de Cima, Pica do Caledonia and Serra dos Orgaos – and at these sites are various key species, such as Grey-winged Cotinga, Three-toed Jacamar, Hooded Berryeater and more!

As ever, we did not see everything, but we enjoyed everything that we did, and the group was keen not just to see the birds but to photograph them as well; I hope that many great photos were taken. All in all a fine seven days birding, and we were supporting REGUA and a habitat that is very much in need of protection.

Thu 4th October

Departing a sunny London on the BA daytime flight, we arrived at a clear and starry Rio, sadly at night – obviously - so the delights of flying over the city were lost a little. Following a two-hour drive, and flushing a Pauraque, arriving at REGUA was most welcome as was a sandwich and our beds.

Fri 5th October

The day started sunny and warm, and continued to get hotter throughout, so the early start produced the coolest weather and in some ways the most lively birding. Around the lodge, the hummingbird feeders held Swallow-tailed, Glittering-bellied, Black Jacobin, Violet-capped Woodnymph and Rufous-breasted Hermit, with Burnished-buff, Palm, Sayaca and Yellow-backed Tanagers too. But in lots of ways, the best bird of the early session was a male Brazilian Tanager, so red it burnt your retina! Other attractions included Blue Dacnis and Red-legged Honeycreeper, Yellow-headed Caracaras and various flycatchers.

Adilei met up with us at 0700hrs and, after the day's travel yesterday, we had an easy walk down to the wetlands, though we were picking up many good birds before we even arrived. A tiny Reddish Hermit, Chestnut-backed Antshrike and Saffron Finches were noted along the track, whilst on the first pool we had Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher (many), Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Brazilian Teal, Purple Gallinule, etc, etc, etc...

The walk to the next pool was equally exciting, and we managed to find a number of White-chinned Sapphires and a White-barred Piculet. But for many the best bird was the nesting Common Potoo with a small chick, perched atop a short tree right next to the track. On the pool were White-faced Whistling-ducks, Least Grebes, and around the fringes Masked Water-tyrants, White-headed Marsh-tyrants, Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Red-rumped Caciques, Chestnut-headed Blackbirds, Lemon-chested Greenlet... Again I could go on, but I won't!

Following lunch, we rested. Then in the late afternoon walked the brown trail, which was rather quiet, and then returned via the wetland trail picking up White-collared Swifts and Boat-billed Flycatchers. However, our first day was not yet over and, before dinner, we were driven to one of Adilei's "special sites" and were treated to an amazing view of one of the birds of the trip: a Giant Snipe at extremely close range, sitting tight in the torch light, its deep-based bill and fine plumage a real treat. What a first day, hot and tiring but great!

Sat 6th October

With our 'easy' first day out of the way, we had a 0530hrs breakfast, followed by a 0600 depart for Macae de Cima, a drive of about two hours with one or two stops at which we picked up various new species. These included Azure-shouldered Tanager, Cliff Flycatcher, our first Rufous-collared Sparrows and Shiny Cowbirds. Driving up the track to the park, we stopped when Alcení heard Plovercrests; making a rapid exit from the bus we were treated to three Plovercrests (a female and two males), lekking and chasing about for the next 30

minutes at close range, seemingly oblivious to the throng of happy birders – some of whom climbed onto the truck to get better views for their photos. A short way up the track and we had added Pallid Spinetails, Bare-faced Bellbirds and heard Black-and-gold Cotingas, but not yet seen.

Stopping to change vehicles as the track was too rough for the bus, we found numerous new birds in a fine 20-minute burst: Surucua Trogon, a couple of antshrikes and an antvireo. But Adilei was keen to press on so we boarded the truck and drove up to the orchid house at the top. Arriving there was amazing as hummingbirds zipped around us and the feeders, and within a matter of moments we had seen four new species: White-chinned, Brazilian Ruby, Scaly-throated Hermit and a tiny Amethyst Woodstar - the male of the last being particularly appealing. Hooded Berryeaters called in the bushes, but apart from glimpses, no real views were to be had. High above a Black Hawk-eagle and Short-tailed Hawks flew, and Shear-tailed Grey Tyrants fed, as did we after our morning's excitements.

After lunch, we walked down the track all the way to the bottom, with new birds coming regularly in the process: White-rimmed and Golden-crowned Warblers, Ochre-faced Tody-flycatcher, Grey-hooded Flycatcher and a Black-billed Scythebill, but in lots of ways the smart little Bertoni's Antbird stole the show. Upon getting back onto the bus, we drove c100m then stopped, where a small patch of cleared land held several new species. Most pleasing, we saw Cinnamon Tanager, but also more spinetails, including Spix's, Red-eyed Thornbirds and Bran-coloured Flycatcher.

It was soon time to return to the lodge and, after a fine meal, we retired to bed.

Sun 7th October

The daily routine began again with a 0530 breakfast and a 0600 start – well almost – and we started on the 20-minute drive to the start of the waterfall trail – our task today to reach it and maybe see Shrike-like Cotinga. It was another hot day, with temperatures into the 30s and, after the bumpy ride, progress was slow. The birds were there, just hard to coax out into full view. Our first new bird was a Black-cheeked Gnateater, always a splendid thing, although it managed to hide itself behind twigs or branches as much as it could. Next came a White-throated Spadebill, again not really responding to Adilei. It was nice to see three or so Ochre-bellied Flycatchers to compare with yesterdays Grey-hoodeds. Adilei also managed to call in Scaled Antbird, plus two foliage-gleaners - a White-eyed and a Black-capped. At a small stream we had a good burst of activity, with both Streak-capped and Unicolored Antwrens, and we also enjoyed White-flanked and Star-throated Antwrens on the walk, thanks to Adilei's eyes and ears.

Adilei left the main group for a while to quickly take Rupert and Mandy back to the lodge – they saw a White Woodpecker on the way, but the rest of the group had to 'make do' with the other leader... me! Even without Adilei, we managed to call in and have fine views of both Southern Antpipit and Grey-hooded Attila – the former performing especially well, though the latter was not too bad and we loved its orange glow in the tree tops. A Spot-billed Toucanet belched away in the trees but would not emerge – though we did see one later. Adilei returned and we continued up towards the waterfall along the narrow trail. A Three-toed Sloth was found – covered in Sloth Moths, even going up its nose! On the leaf litter we managed to get views of a Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, whilst in the canopy, in amongst a mixed flock, we encountered Streaked Xenops, Lesser Woodcreeper and had brief views of a White-necked Thrush. Sadly, we never made it to the waterfall as the heat of the day had put everything to sleep (or so it seemed), and a group that did make it there said we did not miss anything, anyway. On our return, we found Yellow-throated and Yellow-eared Woodpeckers in the forest, and White-rumped Monjita in the fields.

Compensating for the heat, we took a relaxed lunch and sat on the veranda, watching the world and hummingbirds go by, and some participants even had a swim. At 1630, we walked down to the wetland as the day got cooler, and saw two Masked Ducks, three Black-bellied Whistling-ducks and a fine Rufescent Tiger-heron. It was nice just to be able to see things well and relatively easily.

After dinner, we ventured out for some owls until 2200hrs. Despite the good conditions however, we saw only one species: Tropical Screech Owl, although heard Black-banded and, back at the lodge, Tawny-browed too, but neither responded to the tape.

Mon 8th October

Following our 'easy' day at REGUA, and having met our new guide Leonardo, today we made the two-hour drive to Pica do Caledonia – though with stops to break the journey it seemed to pass quickly. At the fruit-sellers we saw Blue-winged Parrotlet and Crested Becards again. Following a pit-stop in Caledonia itself, we switched

vehicles to the 4x4 and drove up the steep track to the gates at 2219m, beyond which we did not go as we were to walk back down the road, birding along the way. Though the cold and temperatures were low, birds came thick and fast, with both Blue-billed and Velvety Black Tyrants, Bay-chested Warbling-finch, Rufous-capped Antshrike and Rufous-tailed Antbird - though the Dusky-tailed Antbird just sang away and never came out. Big and beautiful cobalt Diademed Tanagers sat in the trees and, as patches of cloud cleared, we had some excellent views. A Black-billed Scythebill and Serra do Mar Tyrannulet in the same patch of trees were again a little elusive, though eventually we all saw the Green-winged Saltator.

The reality was that we had come here hoping to see one species, the Grey-winged Cotinga – a species known only by a single specimen until 1980 and restricted to small pockets of mountain habitat. Leonardo played the tape, but with little response until a bird flew in to a bare tree above us... and we all had 'scope views of a Grey-winged Cotinga – showing its grey wings and face, and yellow-greenish body – a great result! Shear-tailed Grey Tyrants and Thick-billed Saltators followed quickly, but the Large-tailed Antshrike we heard stayed hidden.

Lower down, we found a Red-legged Seriema in a trackside field, Hooded Siskins, two Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, and in the pines hit a golden patch when we found Pallid Spinetails, Swallow-tailed Cotingas and a Lineated Woodpecker, amongst others. Following lunch further along the track, we added Biscutate Swifts, a lovely Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Grey-eyed Greenlets, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulets, Variable Antshrike, Rufous-capped, Spix's and Grey-bellied Spinetails, and two more Grey-hooded Flycatchers.. Our day on the Pica ended with Planalto Tyrannulet and a group of White-eyed Parakeets that flew over. We gratefully jumped into the minibus and drove back to REGUA, arriving in good time ready for a *caipirinha* and the evening meal

Tue 9th October

Balancing out yesterday's long drive, we made a short but again bumpy drive to the Casa Anibal trail with Leonardo, hoping for some target species. Even early in the morning the heat was high. Almost before we had even left, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl sat perfectly in a tree, preening. It was a good start and as we drove along the track Leonardo spotted a Crescent-chested Puffbird perched in a tree - but sadly and atypically it flew off into the forest. Leonardo played a recording and two appeared, all too briefly perched above the trail, then disappeared not to be seen again. From here we walked and it was undeniable that the birds were keeping quiet in the heat – it had risen to 35C by lunchtime. Our highlights of the morning were two Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers that chased about an open area of forest, a Hook-billed Kite found by Lee (an unusual bird at REGUA), both Surucua and Black-throated Trogons, a male White-bearded Manakin, Chestnut-crowned Becard, a great Planalto Tyrannulet by the Casa, more Ochre-bellied Flycatchers, two tiny Eared Pygmy-tyrants above our heads, a Dusky-capped Flycatcher and two Rufous-winged Antwrens. We also heard the skulking Slaty Bristlefront, but living up to the species' reputation it did not show.

On the drive back to the Lodge we saw a flock of Double-collared Seedeaters, White-tipped Dove and a Tropical Parula, but birding was hard in the heat. Lunch and a siesta was welcome, after which we had a few more species to target in the afternoon at the wetlands, which were as ever alive with water birds and capybara. A single Masked Duck was present, giving Mandy and Rupert a chance to catch up with a missed species, and Capped Herons performed well, allowing us the chance to photograph them close-to. Having spent a good 15 minutes eluding us in the reeds, a Rufous-sided Crake finally showed well at close range. The Common Potoo was still perched where it was nesting, and the White-chinned Sapphires 'chip chip'ed from their perches. From the hide, Leonardo called in the Grey-necked Wood Rails and, on the far bank, a Campo Flicker hopped along the ground. The sun lowering signalled the end to another good day.

Wed 10th October

Although the day was to prove another hot and sunny one, as we pulled into the pick-up point at Teresopolis for Leonardo, there was a strong breeze coming over the pass and the cloud looked like it was building up. At our stop for Crested Black Tyrant and as we descended northwards it was still cloudy; however, by the time we stopped at km 4 north of the town, it had reverted back to norm. Here we saw our first Streamer-tailed Tyrants, when a pair flew close to the road and chased about; a Red-legged Seriema was perched on a nest high on the hillside as another strutted on the grassland below. Our attempt at drawing out the superbly named Firewood Gatherer failed, but we did see Rufous-fronted Thornbird, nest building with impossibly large sticks, Grey Monjita and a Chopi Blackbird, whilst a White-tailed Hawk soared above us.

As we pulled up the steep and bumpy streets of a small town, we had high hopes of seeing the endangered Three-toed Jacamar. But as we stepped out of the vehicle, little did we know how quickly we would find it! Although I had tried to play on how difficult it would be, and how skilled the leaders would have to be to find it, within 20 seconds Mandy had found the first pair by the roadside. *Hey ho!* The pair performed brilliantly, and

were the first of four we were able to enjoy along the track through a small pocket of their chosen habitat - one that is becoming increasingly restricted. Blue-black Grassquits, an American Kestrel and a wonderfully green Hangnest Tody-tyrant were also very much enjoyed along the track, but Serra Antwren was to end up part of the heard only list. A Variable Flycatcher, Swallow Tanagers – including vivid blue males - Scaled Woodcreeper, and a Green-barred Woodpecker were all enjoyed before lunch.

At lunch we were treated to flypasts by several impressive Blue Morpho butterflies and a most unusual damselfly, with an abdomen of c.20cm in length, which was identified later as a *Mecistogaster amalia* (or perhaps *linearis*), sometimes known as Helicopter Damsels. The first part of the afternoon was spent driving back to Teresopolis, where we turned off west, up through the outskirts and along a built-up valley. Parking, we were quickly into new birds: a fine pair of White-eared Puffbirds; lovely Blue-winged Macaws were heard and eventually seen really well; a Highland Elaenia; Striped Cuckoo; Swainson's Flycatcher; a fine male Ultramarine Grosbeak and another Hangnest Tody-tyrant. It was a fine way to end another great day's birding!

As we dropped off and said our thanks to Leonardo, Lee found a couple of Golden-chevroned Tanagers high in a tree. Despite a long wait in a traffic jam, Alceni got us back to REGUA on time.

Thu 11th October

Our last morning at REGUA was spent around the lodge and wetlands, hoping to get good views of some of the local species and to find a couple of missed ones. The pair of Brazilian Tanagers showed well, but down at the wetlands we picked up a few new species, the best of which were the displaying party of Donacobius. We tried for a day roosting Pauraque, but failed, though we saw Yellow Tyrannulet plus a good number of Chestnut-backed Antshrikes feeding and calling. As the temperatures rose, we had to return to base to pack, have lunch and depart for Rio.

Having waited through the heat of the day, watching the hummingbirds for the last time, Alceni arrived at c.1600hrs and whisked us away towards the airport. Approaching Rio we entered the mayhem of the city, but got to the airport with plenty of time to spare. Following an evening meal (chicken and chips for most), check-in (with one person upgraded), and passport control, we had plenty of time to reflect on a great trip – some even had a sleep.

Fri 12th October

The flight went smoothly and we arrived at Heathrow safely. A very quick passport check and the luggage was waiting for us; we said our farewells and went our separate ways.

I would like to thank you all for a great trip. As ever, we saw some great birds (and miss a few – but hey, that's birding!), and it was great to be at REGUA, helping to support the birds and wildlife of such a special place. I would especially like to thank our local guides Adilei and Leonardo for helping me - and to thank you all for putting up with me!

Brian Small

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

(total of 276 species recorded by the group)

Key to places

R – REGUA lodge
RW – REGUA Wetlands
WT – Waterfall Trail
MdC – Macae de Cima
PdC – Pica do Caledonia
CA – Casa Anibal trail
SdO – Serra dos Orgaos

Brown Tinamou *Crypturellus obsoletus*

heard only on three days

Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*

seen in the half light of dusk at R on 10th

Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura*

one at PdC

White-faced Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

common RW

Black-bellied Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

three RW

Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*

up to two at RW

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

many RW

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

up to four RW

Rufescent Tiger-heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

up to two seen at RW – a new bird for many

[Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris*

seen only by BS at RW on one pm walk]

(Black-crowned) Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

five RW on 11th

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

up to four RW

(Western) Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

many in huge flocks throughout

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

usually singles at RW

Great White Egret *Casmerodius alba*

up to four RW

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

up to six at RW – a very smart bird

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*

just one perched high in a tree at RW on 11th

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

small numbers at various places

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

up to four at RW

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

six dates and many seen

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

daily in very high numbers

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

fair numbers and seen well

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus*

seen in small numbers on sev. dates

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

many

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

heard on 7th along WT

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

one SdO at Jacamar site on 10th

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

singles on two days at R

Rufous-thighed Kite *Harpagus diodon*

one at R on 5th and one at SdO on 10th

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

one CA trail on 9th

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

one at PdC on 8th

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*

singles, one at R the other en route on 11th

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

noted on seven dates, several noisy birds on 11th

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

a number of pale and dark birds at MdC and PdC

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albicaudatus*

three dates in small numbers at MdC and SdO

Black Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

one above MdC on 6th

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*

one at PdC on 8th; two at SdO on 10th

Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*

heard at RW many times, but seen twice

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajanea*

one at RW on 9th

Slaty-breasted Wood Rail *Aramides saracura*

two smart birds at PdC on 8th

(American) Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*

many at RW on all dates

American Moorhen *Gallinula galeata*

many, many at RW

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

noted RW on three dates, two in flight on 9th, one on 11th

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

daily in open fields and RW

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

many RW

Giant Snipe *Gallinago undulata*

perhaps the 'bird of the trip' on the first evening; seen in torchlight at close range - amazing

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

sublime to ridiculous - NOT the bird of the trip

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*

common

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*

seen or heard on two days, at MdC and PdC

Ruddy Ground-dove *Columbina talpacoti*

common

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

two on 9th as we drove back from CA

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*

one seen by Lee and Gill at RW on 9th

Blue-winged Macaw *Primolius maracana*

wonderful views at Teresopolis, SdO on 10th

White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalmus*

often in flight; seen on two dates at PdC and SdO at Tersopolis where best

Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*

seen on four dates, often in flight, but good views of two as we walked down from MdC on 6th

Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius*

six en route to PdC with Leonardo on 8th

Plain Parakeet *Brotogeris tirica*

two in the same tree at the fruit seller on 6th

Pileated Parrot *Pionopsitta pileata*

two over RW on 11th

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*

noted on four dates, in flight at various places

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

seen on four dates, the first and best at RW on 5th

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

small groups at RW on all visits – great calls and iridescent blue-black plumage

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

seen at various places on six dates; a lot smaller and less glossy blue

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

odd looking and often noted in small family groups

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*

heard then one seen above Teresopolis by Linda and BS on 10th

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*

three seen on our owl drive on 7th

Black-banded Owl *Ciccaba huhula*

heard on the owl excursion, but sadly could not be coaxed into view

Tawny-browed Owl *Pulsatrix koenigswaldiana*

despite trying at Adilei's owl site, none responded to the tape, however one was calling at R on our return

Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

fine views of one seen above the roosting tree near the wetlands on 9th; one heard at the Jacamar site on 10th

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

recorded on three dates in the same field near Funchal

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

an adult with its downy young at RW on three dates – a odd looking species, with spooky eyes when open

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

one seen on our drive from Rio on 4th; one roosting bird at RW was only seen by BS

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

many in large flocks at various places - closely examined for the following species

Biscutate Swift *Streptoprocne biscutata*

careful study of swift flocks (largely by Lee) produced good views on two dates – PdC on 8th and SdO on 10th

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

noted for five dates in small numbers – a small swift

Sick's Swift *Chaetura meridionalis*

seen on all dates in fair numbers

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*

up to ten at RW on two dates in the late afternoon

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsuta*

good views at the feeders at R, where one or two would arrive quickly then get chased by the Swallow-taileds

Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*

several at the orchid house at MdC on 6th

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber*

one of these tiny birds was noted as we walked down to the RW on 5th and again on 7th

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*

seen on at dates at R – noisy and territorial, chasing off all-comers to the feeders

Black Jacobin *Melanotrochilus fuscus*

very smart at R and MdC

Plovercrest *Stephanoxis lalandi*

small lekking groups at MdC and PdC were very much appreciated, especially at the former site on 6th. One of the birds of the trip

Violet-capped Woodnymph *Thalurania glaucopis*

seen most regularly coming to feeders at R, but also at MdC and PdC

White-chinned Sapphire *Hylocharis cyanus*

loose lekking groups in the woodland near the hide at RW on various dates

White-throated Hummingbird *Leucochloris albicollis*

only seen at the orchid house on PdC, 6th

Versicolored Emerald *Agyrtria versicolor*

one hummingbird that came to feed in flowers by the track was seen briefly at Pica do Caledonia and identified later from photos – its bluer head was quite obvious

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*

seen regularly at R and one or two other spots

Brazilian Ruby *Clytolaema rubricauda*

noted on two dates only at MdC and PdC, best views at the orchid house on 6th

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystina*

a male and female of this tiny beauty came to feeders at the orchid house, MdC on 6th

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

seen on two dates, 6th and 9th, at MdC and CA tra

Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*

ditto, but showed a little better

Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquatus*

noted at RW on all visits

Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*

heard along CA trail on 9th, but would not show

Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris*

heard and seen briefly at MdC on 6th, but seen well on WT on 7th - like most toucans, this one is a significant nest predator

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*

good views of this tiny woodpecker on four dates

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

one seen by Rupert and Mandy on 7th and one at R on 11th

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons*

a stunner and two seen well chasing about above the CA trail on 9th were much admired

Yellow-eared Woodpecker *Veniliornis maculifrons*

one along WT on 7th, seen and heard at PdC and a female at RW on 11th

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula*

a fine woodpecker seen along WT on 7th and CA trail on 9th

Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*

just one at the Jacamar site SdO on 10th

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*

one at RW on 9th and another at Teresopolis on 10th

Blond-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens*

noted on two dates with Adilei only, 5th (two) and 6th (one)

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

well found by Lee at PdC on 8th as it hammered away at a dead tree

Three-toed Jacamar *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla*

one of the stars of the trip, four pairs of this threatened species was seen well in SdO on 10th

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

one showed well at RW on 5th

White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru*

a pair at a usual spot above Teresopolis on 10th

Crescent-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila striata*

an elusive pair along CA trail on 9th

Pin-tailed Manakin *Ilicura militaris*

one at MdC on 6th

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*

small numbers on three dates at RW and CA

Blue Manakin *Chiroxiphia caudata*

small numbers and often non male plumage

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus*

one along CA trail on 9th

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*

three dates at RW

Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus*

the same pair, twice, en route on 6th and 8th

Black-capped Becard *Pachyramphus marginatus*

a male seen along WT on 7th

Swallow-tailed Cotinga *Phibalura flavirostris*

two along the trail at MdC, but best of all the pair at PdC on 8th

Hooded Berryeater *Capornis cucullata*

very briefly seen at MdC, but heard by all; did not want to come out

Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*

seen or heard on three dates, the first at MdC seemed the best

Grey-winged Cotinga *Tijuca condita*

a rare and much-desired species and seen quite well at PdC on 8th – probably a male based on brightness of plumage and grey face

Black-and-gold Cotinga *Tijuca atra*

some incessant singing at MdC and PdC, but easily the best views at the latter site when we had lunch on 8th

Planalto Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias fasciatus*

heard or seen on two dates, with good views at both PdC and CA trail

Rough-legged Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*

one at MdC on 6th

Grey-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseocapilla*

same site on same date

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

two pairs nest-building at RW on all visits

Olivaceous Elaenia *Elaenia mesoleuca*

a single bright bird at MdC on 6th

Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura*

heard at PdC but seen at Teresopolis on 10th

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

noted on five dates, most frequently at wetlands

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

heard at PdC, but would not respond to tape

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*

one on our final day at RW, but quickly disappeared

Southern Antpipit *Corythopsis delalandi*

a fine view of a fine bird along the WT on 7th

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*

two on two dates at MdC and PdC

Serra do Mar Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes difficilis*

one elusive bird at PdC on 8th, bright green with pale eye ring

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*

up to four on two dates at WT and CA trail

Grey-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*

good views at MdC on 6th and again at PdC on 8th

Septia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*

singles on two dates

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

two in a small grassy valley at MdC on 6th on SdO

Drab-breasted Bamboo-tyrant *Hemitriccus diops*

one along the trail at MdC on 6th – the name says it all...

Eye-ringed Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus orbitatus*

a pair along WT on 7th

Hangnest Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus nidipendulus*

two at different sites on 9th – the best at the Jacamar site showed its bright colour really well

Eared Pygmy-tyrant *Myiornis auricularis*

tiny birds with wide bills, a pair was noted along CA trail on 8th

Ochre-faced Tody-flycatcher *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps*

one MdC on 6th; also heard

Yellow-lored Tody-flycatcher *Todirostrum poliocephalum*

always a favourite, so it was good to get good views at various places, mostly at RW – also known as Grey-headed T-tyrant

Common Tody-flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

just as smart two seen on two dates

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

again two on two dates at MdC and WT

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*

an elusive individual along WT on 7th

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*

total of 3 noted on two dates: en route to MdC on 6th and PdC on 8th

Blue-billed Black Tyrant *Knipolegus cyanirostris*

fine views of several males and very different females at PdC on 8th

Velvety Black Tyrant *Knipolegus nigerrimus*

two at PdC on 8th

Crested Black Tyrant *Knipolegus lophotes*

three roadside birds en route to the Jacamar site in the SdO on 10th

Grey Monjita *Xolmis cinereus*

two at km4 north of Teresopolis on 10th

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velata*

two on wires near R on 7th

Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa*

three seen en route north of Teresopolis on 10th

Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant *Muscipira vetula*

noted at three sites, MdC, PdC and Teresopolis

Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*

seen on all visits to RW and near Teresopolis on 10th

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*

several pairs at RW

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus*

two at RW on 5th and two at km 4 on 10th

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

abundant

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

seen on all dates

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

noted on four dates often around R or the RW

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua*

seen and photographed at RW on most visits

Variiegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*

two at Jacamar site on 10th

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

ubiquitous

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

two in fields at R and one en route to Rio on 11th

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

one on CA trail on 9th

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*

one at Teresopolis on 10th

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

two at RW or R on three dates

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

again two on two dates, MdC on 6th and Jacamar site on 10th

Grey-hooded Attila *Attila rufus*

heard then seen along WT on 7th

Giant Antshrike *Batara cinerea*

heard only at MdC on 6th

Large-tailed Antshrike *Mackenziaena leachii*

heard, but would not respond to play-back, at PdC on 8th

Chestnut-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus palliatus*

seen on most visits to RW and also at Teresopolis on 10th

Sooretama Slaty Antshrike *Dyisthamnus ambiguus*

two seen and photographed on our first day in RW

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

two and others heard along track at PdC on 8th

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*

two at PdC on 8th seen well

Rufous-backed Antwren *Dysithamnus xanthopterus*

two at the start of the rough track up to MdC on 6th

Star-throated Antwren *Myrmotherula gularis*

two along WT on 7th

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*

up to three seen near stream along WT

Unicoloured Antwren *Myrmotherula unicolor*

two in small group with previous species

Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*

two along CA trail on 9th

Serra Antwren *Formicivora littoralis*

heard only at Jacamar site on 10th – close but would not come out

Bertoni's Antbird *Drymophila rubricollis*

all of the antbirds are good, but which is the best? This one performed best without a doubt at MdC on 6th

Rufous-tailed Antbird *Drymophila genei*

seen and heard at PdC on 8th

Ochre-rumped Antbird *Drymophila ochropyga*

one also along MdC trail on 6th

Dusky-tailed Antbird *Drymophila ochropyga*

heard only at PdC on 8th

Scaled Antbird *Drymophila squamata*

two very smart birds along WT on 7th showed well

Streak-capped Antwren *Terenura maculata*

we saw 2 pairs on two dates: along WT on 7th and CA trail on 9th

Black-cheeked Gnateater *Conopophaga melanops*

one rather shy bird along WT on 7th was nice

Slaty Bristlefront *Merulaxis ater*

one called in response to the tape along CA trail on 9th, but that was all

Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *Scytalopus spelunca*

heard a couple of times, but the closest was on our walk down from PdC on 8th

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisoma*

heard once on 6th at MdC

Rufous-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza ruficauda*

heard on a number of occasions, often deep in the forest

Band-tailed Hornero *Furnarius figulus*

seen in fields near R on 6th, but well at RW on 11th

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

a total of six on four dates with the best views en route on 10th

Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla*

very smart spinetails, we saw five in total: two at MdC on 6th and three at PdC on 8th

Grey-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis cinerascens*

also at PdC on 8th in a small mixed flock

Spix's Spinetail *Synallaxis spixi*

one in the field at MdC on 6th; three in mixed flock at PdC

Pallid Spinetail *Cranioleuca pallida*

noted on three dates: two at the field on our way back from MdC; four at PdC and heard at SdO

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*

good numbers nesting around the edges and islands at RW

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons*

two nest-building at km 4 north of Teresopolis on 10th, plus other scattered collections of twigs

Red-eyed Thornbird *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*

recently split from above, we had good views at MdC on 6th

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor atricapillus*

one along WT on 7th

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufus*

four along track at MdC on 6th

White-collared Foliage-gleaner *Anabazenops fuscus*

heard only at MdC

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus*

showed well along WT on 7th, with the white eye and fluffed out white throat obvious

Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser *Scelrurus scansor*

elusive but eventually seen quite well along WT on 7th

Sharp-billed Treehunter *Heliobletus contaminatus*

one in mixed flock at MdC on 6th

Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper *Lochmias nematura*

a star of the trip was the bird seen in the afternoon at PdC on 8th - but sadly disappeared all too quickly

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*

singles noted on three dates in mixed flocks – one along WT was collecting food for young

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

seen or heard on two dates at MdC and CA trail

White-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*

a large woodcreeper - three seen at MdC on 6th

Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*

two large-billed birds at MdC on same day

Lesser Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus fuscus*

one along WT on 7th

Scaled Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes squamatus*

one at SdO on 10th

Black-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus falcularius*

two birds: one at MdC on 6th; another at PdC but again a little elusive

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

disappointingly two at MdC on 6th were the only ones seen

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo *Vireo olivaceus chivi*

heard at WT on 7th, but two seen above CA trail on 9th

Grey-eyed Greenlet *Hylophilus amaurocephalus*

recently split from Rufous-crowned, up to ten at PdC on 8th and three at SdO on 10th

Lemon-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus thoracicus*

one at RW on 5th

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*

one at R on 5th

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

widespread but in low numbers – a large hirudine

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

large numbers, often around towns; seen daily

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

seen daily

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*

five on our last day were excellent as they displayed in a low tree in perfect light

Long-billed Wren *Thryothorus longirostris*

just one at RW on 5th

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

seen or heard daily at R

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

noted on five dates in low numbers

Yellow-legged Thrush *Platycichla flavipes*

seen on three dates in forests, a smart looking bird

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

thinly spread and often secretive; heard as much as seen

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

five dates, notably around R and surrounding forest

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

fewer than above species and bit smarter

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*

two singing and flying past at WT on 7th

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

low numbers around towns, notably Caledonia

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*

one in trees in arable land near R on 9th

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

noted on two dates: four along MdC trail and two at PdC

White-rimmed Warbler *Basileuterus leucoblepharus*

seen and heard briefly at MdC and PdC

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*

low numbers on three dates

Red-rumped Caciue *Cacicus haemorrhous*

seen on five dates, with nestbuilding at RW, where seen best

Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*

one at km 4 north of Teresopolis

Chestnut-capped Blackbird *Chrysomus ruficapillus*

a small flock on RW on most dates

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

five dates in small flocks – a smart bird

White-browed Blackbird *Sturnella superciliaris*

two in fields near R on 6th and 7th

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

ones or two at R on three dates

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

noted on five days, with good views of many

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

seen in good numbers on three dates in highland areas

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

several in two flocks at SdO on 10th

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*

a good flock found by Lee in fields at R on 9th and two at SdO on 10th

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*

small numbers of males and females in the RW on 6th and 8th

Olive-green Tanager *Orthogonys chloricterus*

one along WT on 8th

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*

an odd looking tanager; two seen at RW on 7th

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus*

pairs at a couple of sites: R on 6th and PdC on 10th

Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*

two on 7th at MdC; two on 9th

Brazilian Tanager *Ramphocelus bresilius*

wow! The male positively glowed in the morning light at R, where we saw it almost daily, with a female turning up late in the week

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*

many in small squeaky flocks

Azure-shouldered Tanager *Tangara cyanoptera*

a smart tanager that looks much more different to Sayaca than the books show; noted at MdC where two lots of two were seen on 6th

Golden-chevroned Tanager *Thraupis ornata*

seen on just two days, at MdC and Teresopolis

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

seen daily in lower numbers than Sayaca, its colour changes according to lighting conditions

Green-headed Tanager *Tangara seledon*

very smart and seen at the fruit seller en route on 7th and 9th

Brassy-breasted Tanager *Tangara desmaresti*

seen on three dates in fair numbers often in higher areas

Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*

one of the stars of the week was the two pairs around R, one of the males pecked the window panes regularly; seen daily

Cinnamon Tanager *Schistochlamys ruficapillus*

it was good to see this 'near threatened' species at MdC on 6th and PdC on 8th

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*

three pairs at the jacamar site on 10th

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

seen well on several occasions, the best around R on most dates

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

small numbers amongst the dacnis flock at R on four dates

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

just one at the bananas at the fruit seller on 6th

[Rufous-headed Tanager *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*

two above the CA trail, but just by BS]

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis*

seen on two dates around R and RW, 6th and 11th

Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus*

a carcking bird and vying for bird of the trip; at least ten seen at PdC on 9th

Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum*

good numbers in mixed flocks at R, RW, MdC, etc.

Red-crowned Ant-tanager *Habia rubica*

noted on three dates, often in pairs, with good views notably at MdC on 6th and RW on 11th

Bay-chested Warbling-finch *Poospiza thoracica*

good views at various spots on our walk at PdC on 8th; a smart looking bird

Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*

a pair along the track at the Jacamar site on 10th

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*

noted on five dates, the best at RW on 5th and at the fruit seller on 6th

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*

a pair above the WT track

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*

one or two at MdC on 6th

Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea*

another smart and colourful bird, first seen at the fruit seller en route on 6th

Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis*

heard only along the WT on 8th

Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*

two at R on 6th, then at MdC on 7th, but best views were at PdC on 8th

Thick-billed Saltator *Saltator maxillosus*

heard (strange call) then seen at PdC on 8th

Ultramarine Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa brissonii*

a fine male seen whilst watching the Blue-winged Macaws at Teresopolis on 10th

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica*

a pair at PdC perched briefly on the wires above the track

OTHER ANIMALS

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*

Brazilian Rabbit *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*

Guianan Squirrel *Sciurus aestuans*

Capybara *Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*

White-tufted Marmoset *Callithrix jacchus*

Broad-snouted Caiman *Caiman latirostris*