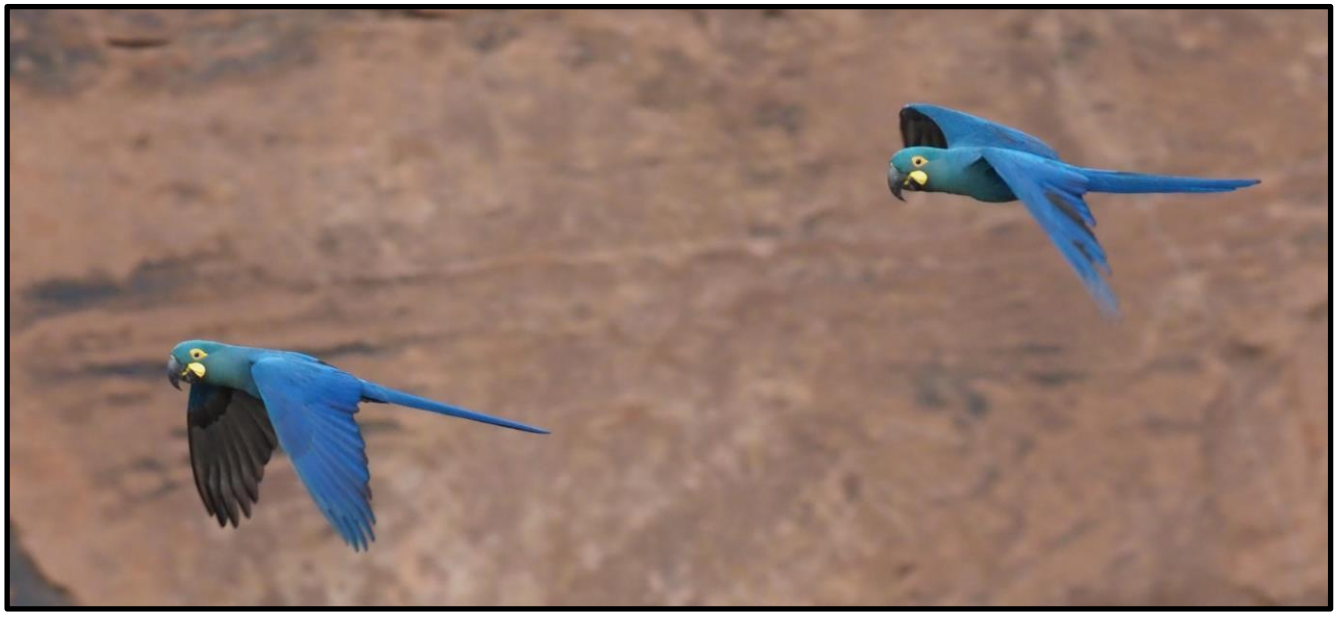
ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures

Brazil

North Eastern Mega Birding Tour

29th August to 21st September 2022 (24 days)



Lear's Macaws by Stephan Lorenz

Northeast Brazil is a land of outstanding contrast: from gorgeous white-sand beaches, to arid, cactus-topped plateaus, and the humid montane slopes in between. This region has all the beauty and diversity that any birder could ever hope for. Perhaps what this area is best known for, however, is the stunning array of beautiful endemics that flourish in the diverse habitats of Ceara, Pernambuco, Alagoas and Bahia. With this in mind, our tour explores all the best sites in this fascinating region and offers an impressive bird list that includes Lear's (Indigo) Macaw, the striking Araripe Manakin and rare White-collared Kite!

The immense state of Bahia is perhaps the most diverse in all of Brazil. We begin in the state of Ceara, visiting Serra de Baturite for Grey-breasted Parakeet, Ceara Gnateater and Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, before heading to Quixada for the rarely recorded Pygmy Nightjar and White-browed Guan. Chapada do Araripe puts us in position for the recently described Araripe Manakin and other superb species such as White-browed Antpitta and Great Xenops in advance of our visit to Canudos for the Critically Endangered Lear's Macaw! The birding continues apace, as we head to Murici Reserve for a plethora of sought-after species; the nearly extinct Alagoas Antwren, Scalloped Antbird, incredibly adorned

Seven-colored Tanager, Orange-bellied Antwren and Alagoas Tyrannulet. White-collared Kite, Forbes' Blackbird, Pinto's Spinetail and Yellow-faced Siskin make up the target species near Tamandare before we head to Estancia for the endangered Fringe-backed Fire-eye. The next featured location is one of the best birding sites in Brazil, Chapada Diamantina. Hailed as perhaps the most breathtakingly beautiful of all Brazilian National Parks, it hosts a number of localised endemics including Hooded Visorbearer, the recently described Sincorá Antwren, Grey-backed Tachuri and Diamantina Tapaculo.

As our tour draws to a close, we head further south to Botumirim for the recently rediscovered Blue-eyed Ground Dove, before moving back towards the coast and Boa Nova. Located in the southwest of Bahia state where the Montane Atlantic forests meets Caatinga, this diverse location hosts over 430 bird species. Here we shall search diligently for the highly localised Slender Antbird, Narrow-billed Antwren, Bahia Spinetail and Pin-tailed Manakin. We then spend a few days in the delightful Serra Bonita Reserve, host to Pink-legged Graveteiro, Plumbeous Antvireo, Bahia Tyrannulet and Crescent-chested Puffbird before we end in the coastal lowlands of Porto Seguro where targets include White-winged Potoo, White-winged Cotinga, Bahia Antwren, Ochre-marked Parakeet, Red-browed Amazon and the rare Banded Cotinga. There are few tours that can offer over 100 endemics in a matter of 24 days, but this tour of North Eastern Brazil will do just that.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrival in Fortaleza and transfer to Guaramiranga (Serra de Baturite)**
Day 2	**Guaramiranga (Serra de Baturite) to Quixada**
Day 3	**Quixada to Potengi**
Day 4	**Potengi area to Crato (Chapada do Araripe)**
Day 5	**Crato to Lear's Macaw Preserve (Canudos)**
Day 6	**Canudos to Cupira**
Day 7	**Serra do Urubu**
Day 8	**Cupira to Tamandare via Jaqueira (Frei Caneca Reserve)**
Day 9	**Tamandare area to Estancia**
Day 10	**Estancia to Lencois (Chapada Diamantina)**
Days 11 & 12	**Chapada Diamantina area**
Day 13	**Chapada Diamantina area to Botumirim**
Day 14	**Botumirim**
Day 15	**Botumirim to Peruaçu National Park**
Day 16	**Peruaçu National Park to Montes Claros**
Day 17	**Montes Claros to Boa Nova**
Day 18	**Boa Nova area**

Day 19	**Boa Nova to Itacaré**
Day 20	**Itacaré Serra Bonita Reserve**
Day 21	**Serra Bonita Reserve**
Day 22	**Serra Bonita to Porto Seguro (Estacao Veracel)**
Day 23	**Estacao Veracel**
Day 24	**Final departures from Porto Seguro**

TOUR MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Ceara Gnateater by Stephan Lorenz

Day 1: Arrival in Fortaleza and transfer to Guaramiranga (Serra de Baturité). After arriving in Fortaleza, capital of the state of Ceara, we shall enjoy lunch in the city before our drive to south to scenic Serra de Baturité and the small town of Guaramiranga. The Baturité Mountain Range is host to a number of habitats, from humid forested slopes, deciduous forest and xeric caatinga in the lower-lying areas.

The semi-humid, evergreen woodland is absolutely laden with birds, so we can expect to get cracking right from the get go. Of prime importance is the incredibly scarce Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, reported from only a small number of scattered nearby hilltops, the Critically Endangered Grey-breasted Parakeet and recently elevated, endemic Ceara Gnateater. After a thoroughly absorbing day, we shall retire for a well-deserved rest this evening.

Day 2: Serra de Baturité to Quixada. The cool misty mountains will bring some relief from the heat of the lowlands and an early start will see us birding along an excellent, wide cobblestone pathway. While we shall be being paying special attention to finding the aforementioned Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, Grey-breasted Parakeet or Ceara Gnateater if we missed them yesterday afternoon, we can expect to be inundated with many other species of interest including Ochraceous Piculet, Guianan and Planalto Tyrannulet, Lesser Woodcreeper, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Planalto Hermit, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Grey-headed and Ochre-cheeked Spinetails, Southern White-fringed Antwren, Pectoral Sparrow and Short-tailed Antthrush. Also worth noting is that many of the birds we will see here are isolated, sub-specific forms that are likely to attain full-species status in the near future. These include Rufous-breasted Leaftosser, Gould's Toucanet, the stunning Band-tailed Manakin, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Red-necked Tanager and the rare Spot-winged Wood Quail,



Grey-breasted Parakeet by Forrest Rowland

In the mid-afternoon we shall transfer to Quixada, an area characterized by granite inselbergs or monolitos. This area is typically



White-browed Antpitta by Ciro Albano

very hot and dry, but hosts the sought-after Pygmy Nightjar, which roosts and breeds among the rocks, cacti and terrestrial bromeliads.

Day 3: Quixada to Potengi. We will use the cool, early morning hours to bird around Quixada for our first Caatinga endemics such as Caatinga Cachalote, White-naped Jay, Ochre-backed Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike (often split as Caatinga Barred Antshrike) and Caatinga Puffbird. Other more widespread species that we may find include Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and Blue-winged Parrotlot. We will also keep our eyes open for the rare White-browed Guan in this area.

As the day begins to heat up, we shall transfer further south to the famous Potengi area. This is in the heart of the Caatinga zone and we will be perfectly placed to target a serious selection of the region's specials.

After arrival, we will head out immediately to scour the surrounding habitat for many of the tour's highlight and target species, many of which are endemic. Some of the more sought-after species for this portion of our expedition include the magnificent Great Xenops, localised endemic White-browed Antpitta, Grey-eyed Greenlet, Rusty-margined Guan, Rufous and Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Least Nighthawk, Burrowing Owl, scarce endemic Broad-tipped Hermit, Spotted Piculet, smart Silvery-cheeked and Planalto Slaty Antshrike, Stripe-backed Antbird, Caatinga and Black-bellied Antwren, Sooty-fronted and unique Red-shouldered Spinetail, Ash-throated Casiornis, nomadic Scarlet-throated Tanager, Grey Elaenia, Greater and Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Southern Scrub Flycatcher and Ultramarine Grosbeak – to name just some of the more special species!



Araripe Manakin by Colin Valentine

Day 4: Potengi area to Crato (Chapada do Araripe). We have some more time this morning to bird the Potengi area for any species we may still need, or to enjoy the feeders that attract a wide variety of visitors including Campo Troupial, Solitary Black Cacique, Grey Pileated Finch and White-throated Seedeater amongst many others.

Thereafter, we make our way further south to the famous Chapada do Araripe, a plateau in the south of the state of Ceará. Before arriving, we will make a stop at a roadside wetland which can usually be rather productive and in the past has held Masked Duck and others such as Brazilian Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Snail Kite, Savanna Hawk, Limpkin, Yellowish Pipit and Chestnut-capped and White-browed Blackbird. On arrival at Chapada do Araripe our



Pygmy Nightjars by Stephan Lorenz

efforts will be centered on one particular, legendary bird, the Araripe Manakin! This stunning species was only described to science as recently as 1996 and with luck we'll hopefully see several individuals of this truly magnificent creature! There are several springs in the foothills, and the associated moist forest is the specific habitat for our primary target while other species we will look out for include endemic Tawny Piculet, Planalto and Reddish Hermit, Flavescent Warbler and Moustached Wren.

Day 5: Crato to Lear's Macaw Preserve (Canudos). We have some more time this morning to bird the Crato area before continuing on to Lear's Macaw Reserve near the town of Canudos. Our accommodation is comfortable, if somewhat rustic – but perfectly located facing the Lear's Macaw breeding area.

We will spend the afternoon birding the Caatinga near the reserve for Red-shouldered Spinetail, the local sub-species of Lesser and Greater Wagtail-Tyrant, Least Nighthawk, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Spotted Piculet, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Black-bellied Antwren, Stripe-backed Antbird, Ash-throated Casiornis, White-throated Seedeater and Red-cowled Cardinal, amongst others.

Day 6: Canudos to Cupira. We shall be out at dark, to be in position for the second legendary bird of the tour, Lear's Macaw. Soon after the break of dawn, we can expect to be treated to the morning flight of a number of Lear's Macaw, departing their roosts, as they set off to their preferred foraging sites. Little else can compare to viewing one of the world's rarest (numbers were as low as just 42 individuals in the 80's) and most spectacular macaws flocking to the trees around us! We will also easily understand the adopted name of Indigo Macaw, as we view these beautiful birds at our leisure. After absorbing as much as we can of this fine species, which few of us will ever see in the wild again – we shall return to our lodge for a delicious breakfast before transferring to Cupira in the state of Pernambuco.



Seven-colored Tanager by Ciro Albano

The drive to Cupira is a fairly long one – and most of the day will be dedicated to travel. We will make one key stop to try for the increasingly rare Pectoral Antwren as we make our way towards the famed coastal Atlantic Rainforests.



Jandaya Parakeet by Forrest Rowland

Day 7: Serra do Urubu. We will devote the entire day to birding the splendid rainforest patch of Serra do Urubu, considered one of the most important forests for bird conservation in the Neotropical region. Given the remote nature of these mountains, and the humid influence of onshore winds at the coast, this site hosts an incredible number of endemic and range-restricted species.

Plenty of time will be dedicated to the regions local specialities, including the endemic Alagoas Tyrannulet and Orange-bellied Antwren, whilst also appreciating the many other rare inhabitants of this bird-rich area, most of which are also endemic, including the rare White-collared Kite, flashy Jandaya Parakeet, Pinto's Spinetail, Seven-colored Tanager, difficult Golden-tailed Parrotlet, increasingly rare Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner, Black-headed Berryeater, White-shouldered Antshrike, unique endemic *pernambucensis* sub-species of White-backed Fire-eye, Scalloped Antbird, dapper Black-cheeked Gnateater, unique endemic sub-species *taunayi* of Plain-winged Woodcreeper, Silvery-flanked Antwren, scarce Buff-throated Purpletuft, Sharpbill, stunning but uncommon White-winged Cotinga, Blue-backed and Red-headed Manakin, Flame-crested Tanager and Yellow-green Grosbeak.

Day 8: Cupira to Tamandare via Jaqueira (Frei Caneca Reserve). This morning we will visit the nearby reserve of Frei Caneca, before heading to the coast at Tamandare. Many of the species found here are similar to Murici, though some are certainly easier to locate here than elsewhere. Target birds this morning include the highly localised Alagoas Tyrannulet, Orange-bellied Antwren, the local endemic *pernambucensis* sub-species of Golden-spangled Piculet, Long-tailed Woodnymph, an undescribed species of Pygmy-Tyrant, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, increasingly rare Pinto's Spinetail, unique endemic sub-species *sabanoyi* of Willis's Antbird and the mind-blowing Seven-colored Tanager, among many others! This afternoon we will then drive through to Tamandare for some coastal birding later in the day.



Grey-backed Tachuri by Dubi Shapiro

Day 9: Tamandare area to Estancia. The Tamandare area offers some excellent birding and gives us another good chance of finding the critically endangered White-collared Kite, should we have yet to see this rarity. We will start the morning on the outskirts of Tamandare where we have excellent chances of finding the localised Forbes' Blackbird



Hooded Visorbearer by Ciro Albano

while also keeping our eyes open for the uncommon and nomadic Yellow-faced Siskin, Plain-bellied Emerald and Jandaya Parakeet. We then then visit another lowland forest site, in amongst the sea of sugarcane, where we will no doubt find some more quality species. This site offers additional chances for Pinto's Spinetail, Smoky-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, White-shouldered Antshrike, Blue-chinned Sapphire, White-bearded Manakin, Red-shouldered Macaw, Black-necked Aracari, Biscutate Swift and Black-capped Donacobius. We then have another long drive to reach the town of Estancia in the state of Sergipe.

Day 10: Estancia to Lencois (Chapada Diamantina). This morning we will head out early to bird the forest fragments near the coastal town of Estancia. The primary target here is the rare and highly localized Fringe-backed Fire-eye. Other specialties include Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant and a further chance to find rare raptors such as White-collared Kite and even Rufous Crab Hawk. After another excellent birding session, we are off on another long drive to Chapada Diamantina in the state of Bahia.



Sincora Antwren by Forrest Rowland

Days 11 & 12: Chapada Diamantina. We have two full days to explore the interior of Chapada Diamantina National Park. Amidst a stark, beautiful landscape, we will encounter more amazing species including the gorgeous Hooded Visorbearer, chances for Horned Sungem and the recently described Sincora Antwren. Other highlights of the area include the feisty Grey-backed Tachuri, unforgettable Great Xenops, shy Sao Francisco Sparrow, White-eared Puffbird, Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch, rarely seen Broad-

tipped Hermit, Collared Crescentchest Rufous-sided Pygmy Tyrant, Velvety Black Tyrant, Blue and Serra Finches as we all as a host of *Tyrannids*, such as Plain-crested, Lesser and Yellow-bellied Elaenias.



Diamantina Tapaculo by Colin Valentine

Birding the caatinga and cerrado habitats nearby should turn up Cactus Parakeet, Scaly-headed Parrot, Scissor-tailed, Little and Rufous Nightjars, uncommon and nomadic Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Blue-crowned and Surucua Trogons, Spotted Piculet, Red-billed Scythebill, Spix's, Caatinga Cacholote, Caatinga and Rufous-winged Antshrikes, Planalto Slaty Antshrike, Stripe-backed Antbird, Black-capped, Caatinga, Black-bellied, and Rusty-backed Antwrens, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Ash-throated Casiornis and many tanagers including Cinnamon, Shrike-like and the vibrant Scarlet-throated Tanager.

Day 13: Chapada Diamantina area to Botumirim. We depart for Botumirim straight after breakfast. This will be a long travel day, but we may bird later this afternoon if time permits.

Day 14: Botumirim. Today is one we are not likely to forget, as we target the ultra-rare and recently rediscovered (2015) Blue-eyed Ground Dove. Found during environmental surveys taking place for prospective eucalyptus plantations, this species was a huge surprise for the ornithological and conservation communities. After a 75+ year absence, this handsome species was found in a very unique sandy-soil cerrado grassland and shrub site very near to the quaint mountain town of Botumirim. Shortly after its discovery many NGOs showed their concern and secured the RPPN Rolinha-da-cerrado Reserve, in the bird's name. Though some 150+ hectares in size, the Blue-eyed Ground Doves only reside in a 60ha patch of this Reserve, sticking to their special white sand, moist, cerrado habitat. Numbering just over 20 individuals known to exist, this is one of the most endangered species on Earth. As such, it has become the poster-bird for conservation in the neotropics. We will focus on this lovely species, while enjoying the many other bird and wildlife opportunities at this scenic location.



Blue-eyed Ground Dove by Lev Frid

Botumirim lies towards the northern half of the Espinhaço Mountain Range, which is an endemism hotspot in and of itself. It also happens to be the convergence of cerrado

typical to Central Brazil, and the western edge of the Caatinga and thorn forest habitats emblematic of Northeast Brazil. We will spend time searching the Caatinga environments and gallery forests for many specialised Brazilian endemics during our day-and-a-half here. These include Horned Sungem, Cactus (Caatinga) Parakeet, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, Caatinga and Narrow-billed Antwrens, White-browed Antpitta, Russet-mantled Foliage Gleaner, Grey-eyed Greenlet, Scarlet-throated Tanager, and Pale-throated Pampa Finch.



Slender Antbird by Stephan Lorenz

Day 15: Botumirim to Peruaçu National Park. We may have some time to bird our environs this morning before setting off for Peruaçu National Park. Created in 1999, the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park protects 56 400 hectares of dry forest and caatinga habitat. The region is punctuated by numerous caves with ancient rock art paintings. The Janelão (Big Window) cave is the most famous. The park is close to the massive São Francisco River, which we will visit today in search of one of our main targets, the Bahian Nighthawk. We will stay in a small pousada managed by a local family, near the entrance of the national park.

In the last rays of light, we'll stand on the banks of the São Francisco River waiting for the endemic and range-restricted Bahian Nighthawk to float by.

Day 16: Peruaçu National Park to Montes Claros. This morning we'll bird inside the National Park, our main targets are the rare Moustached Woodcreeper and Caatinga Black Tyrant. Other dry forest specialties we will search for include Planalto, Olivaceous (Reiser's) and Scaled (Wagler's) Woodcreepers, all dry forest races and potential future splits. Other interesting birds to see are the nominal race of Surucua (Red-bellied) Trogon and Golden-capped Parakeet. We will also have more chances of seeing some of the Caatinga specialties we might have missed to this date.



Dry-forest Sabrewing by Forrest Rowland

We'll then make our way to Montes Claros, in time to bird the Lapa Grande State Park for the afternoon. The park comprises 15 320 hectares of dry forest vegetation associated with limestone, protecting the complex of caves and the main source of water for the community of Montes Claros.

We'll be searching for some very interesting and rare dry forest birds such as Reiser's Tyrannulet, Minas

Gerais Tyrannulet, São Francisco Sparrow, Caatinga Black Tyrant, Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner and the Dry-forest Sabrewing (recently described in 2017). Other species we might see are the nominal race of Scaled Woodcreeper, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail and Saffron-billed Sparrow.



Bahia Spinetail by Stephan Lorenz

Day 17: Montes Claros to Boa Nova. If need be, we may bord for an hour or so around Montes Claros before making our way to Boa Nova. Located in the southwest of Bahia state, it is here that the montane Atlantic Forests meet the Caatinga. The region is home to over 430 species of bird including the restricted Slender Antbird and Narrow-billed Antwren, both confined to a small area of eastern Brazil.

Day 18: Boa Nova area. Boa Nova has long been regarded as one of the best birding areas in this vast country. Being situated on the cusp of both and the drier interior forest, this area not only allows easy access to numerous habitat types, but hosts an avifauna particular to this mountain range. We will spend both days scouring the accessible forests and prime habitats spared from human disturbance. The forests are prime locations for finding localised endemics such as Bahia Tyrannulet, Striated Softtail and Bahia Spinetail.

This is however Antbird heaven and we have plenty members of the family to search for here including; Silvery-cheeked, Rufous-winged, Cinereous and Tufted Antshrikes, Narrow-billed Antwren, rarely recorded Rio de Janeiro, Slender, Ferruginous, Ochre-rumped and Scaled Antbirds.

We also hope to encounter Blue-winged Macaw, Scale-throated Hermit, Frilled Coquette, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Pallid Spinetail, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-billed Scythebill, White-collared and White-eyed Foliage-gleaner, Scaled Woodcreeper, Fork-tailed and Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Pin-tailed & Blue Manakin, Gilt-edged and Rufous-headed Tanagers, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Sharpbill and, with a lot of luck, Swallow-tailed Cotinga!



Pin-tailed Manakin by Stephan Lorenz

Day 19: Boa Nova to Itacaré. We will spend the morning at a new site near Pocoes, where a young local claimed to have found some mega species. Local

specialists were a little dubious, however, it turns out the young man knows pretty much every bird in the forest! Here we have excellent chances of finding the little known Wied's Tyrant-Manakin and Reiser's Tyrannulet (nearest known territory 400 miles away) as well as a potentially undescribed species Hermit. General birding in the area is simply exceptional and we could easily see 100 species as we cover a number of habitat types on this incredible mountain. Other good birds include East Brazilian Chachalaca, White-eyed Parakeet, Buff-throated Purpletuft, stunning White-bibbed Antbird, Greenish Schiffornis, Scaled Woodcreeper, Hooded Tanager, White-throated Spadebill and Green-backed Becard.



Banded Cotinga by Lev Frid

After leaving Boa Nova, we'll head east to Itacaré. This region of south coast Bahia is rich in endemism and special birds. With a vast area of remnants of lowland forest, some of them in private areas and other protected by the Serra do Conduru State Park. We will base ourselves in Itacaré, a famous touristic destination with marvellous forest, beaches and waterfalls. From here we will visit Maraú (north of Itacaré) to try to find the rare and endemic Bahia Tapaculo and other special birds. We will also explore the Serra do Conduru State Park to the south of Itacaré. This State Park protects more than 9 000 hectares of Atlantic Forest and is one of the most biodiverse areas of this biome, with 458 different tree species per hectare with a high index of endemism. This reflects on the avifauna; a paradise to see manakins and many other interesting birds.

Our main targets of the lowland Atlantic Forest will be Kinglet Manakin, White-crowned Manakin, Blue-backed Manakin, Scaled Antbird, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Band-tailed Antwren, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Great-billed (Margaretta's) Hermit, Turquoise (White-bellied) Tanager, Opal-rumped (Silvery-breasted) Tanager, the nominal race of White-fronted Nunbird and many others.



Azure-shouldered Tanager by Colin Valentine

Day 20: Itacaré to Serra Bonita Reserve. This morning we have more time to bird the Itacaré area before transferring to Serra Bonita where we have a two-night stay.

We expect to arrive in Serra Bonita this afternoon, where we shall transfer to 4x4 vehicles for the short ride (roughly one hour) up to our well-appointed jungle lodge. We don't need to move all that much this afternoon, as the hummingbird and fruit feeders will keep us royally entertained with Sombre Hummingbird, Black Jacobin, Scale-throated Hermit and sometimes even the scarce Brazilian Ruby making occasional

appearances. Other species that we should also see include Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Orange-bellied Euphonia and Red-necked, Green-headed, Brazilian, Golden-chevroned and Azure-shouldered Tanagers squabbling at the fruit feeders.



White-crowned Manakin by Colin Valentine

Day 21: Serra Bonita Reserve. With a bird list including fantastic and rare species such as Pink-legged Gravateiro, Star-throated and Salvadori's Antwrens, Spot-breasted and Plumbeous Antvireos, Bahia Tyrannulet and the absolutely stunning Blue Manakin, we will seamlessly pass the day birding this beautiful preserve. This montane paradise is one of the few, easily accessible, cloud forests in the region and we will be based right in the main birding zone.

Forays around the lodge and deeper into the surrounding forests are liable to turn up many of the aforementioned attractions, while we may also find the rare Atlantic race of Rufous-brown Solitaire (soon to be split), stunning Eastern Striped Manakin, Spot-backed Antshrike, Spot-billed Toucanet, the still undescribed Serra Bonita Treehunter, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Tanager, Grey-headed Attila, East Brazilian Pygmy Owl, Pallid Spinetail and Scaled Woodcreeper. The region is also home to some rarely seen species such as Variegated Antpitta and Cryptic Antthrush. Overhead, a number of raptors may make an appearance, with the likes of Black and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles, Mantled Hawk and King Vulture all being distinct possibilities.

Day 22: Serra Bonita Reserve to Estacao Veracel. This morning we have a few more hours to enjoy the outstanding birding of Serra Bonita Reserve. We then make our way back down the mountain and into the Serra Bonita lowlands which offer some great birding opportunities as well. Here we will take some time to look for the highly localised and threatened White-eared Parakeet while also keeping our eyes open for species such as Channel-billed Toucan, Scaled Antbird, Bright-rumped Attila, Eastern Striped Manakin, Sibilent Syristes, Bare-throated Bellbird and a unique sub-species of Thrush-like Wren.



White-winged Potoo by Ciro Albano

We then continue towards to the coast where we will overnight in Porto Seguro. Time permitting, we will head to the nearby mangroves for the prime targets of the area, Mangrove and Little Wood Rail.

Day 23: Estacao Veracel. Porto Seguro is situated amidst one of the few expanses of lowland Atlantic

Rainforest left in the region. The town is surrounded by good habitat, but the Estancia Veracel is certain to be the focus of our birding efforts during our time here. With a full day and the following morning at Veracel we have sufficient of time to seek out the two headline birds of this site – White-winged and the exquisitely-coloured and rare Banded Cotinga. There is also the highly localised, endemic Bahia Antwren and Band-tailed Antwren to search for, while we will head out at night to find the near mythical White-winged Potoo and a variety of other nocturnal species that could include Tawny-browed, Mottled and Black-capped Screech Owl.



Little Wood Rail by Colin Valentine

We shall also pay close attention to another two possible future splits to be found here, involving the local populations of both Turquoise and Opal-rumped Tanagers. The gaudy birding shall continue with a host of exciting species including Black-headed Berryeater, Red-browed Amazon, Ochre-marked Parakeet, White-bearded, White-crowned, Red-headed, Blue and Eastern Striped Manakins! Not that this is all: there are also many others – albeit fractionally less colourful species to look for here. These include Hook-billed and the very rare Margaretta's Hermit, scarce Raquet-tailed Coquette, Golden-tailed Parrotlet, Grey-rumped Swift, Golden-spangled Piculet, the rare *tinninculus* sub-species of Ringed Woodpecker, Black-billed Scythebill, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, Eared Pygmy Tyrant, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Greyish Mourner and Rufous-capped Antthrush while the scarce Rufous-capped Motmot could also make an appearance.

Day 24: Final departures from Porto Seguro. This morning we transfer to the local airport where we will bid farewell to good friends, fabulous birding experiences and North Eastern Brazil.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT INFORMATION below.

The tour fee includes:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 24;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Special Notes:

- We have timed our visit to coincide with the dry season and we can expect the weather conditions to be favourable, mostly dry and sunny. However, it is generally warm to hot in the interior and can get a little humid in the lowlands although typically nothing like the Amazon. At higher

altitudes, daytime temperatures are pleasant, but it can get quite cold at night or when it rains. On most mornings, we will be up and out early to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and wildlife activity.

- This Brazil tour does not require a high level of fitness but participants should be in good general health as some of the forest birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions please notify us in advance of departure.
- It is very important to note that we are covering vast distances on this tour, with many one night stays and limited down time between locations.
- The vehicles we use are comfortable. Most roads are of a good standard, although we should expect some bumpy conditions when leaving the paved road. Where necessary we use 4x4 vehicles, but some unpaved roads could still be impassable if they have been damaged by heavy rains.
- Accommodation is mostly of a good, comfortable standard but please note that not all accommodations have enough rooms for everyone to have single accommodations at all times. There will more than likely be three nights (Potengi and Canudos) where you will have to share with someone else and the single supplement has been calculated accordingly.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour does not include **ANY** airfares. The tour will depart from Aeroporto Internacional Pinto Martins, Fortaleza (IATA: FOZ) in the morning of day 1. The tour will conclude at Porto Seguro Airport (IATA: BPS), Porto Seguro after breakfast on day 24.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Aeroporto Internacional Pinto Martins, Fortaleza (IATA: FOR) is the primary port of entry this tour and is well serviced by several airlines. Porto Seguro Airport (IATA: BPS), Porto Seguro is the primary port of departure for this tour and is well connected to the large international hubs of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte by several Brazilian airlines including Azul Brazilian Airlines, Gol Airlines and LATAM Brasil. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**