

BIRDFINDERS TRIP REPORT

ATLANTIC RAIN FOREST, SOUTH EAST BRAZIL

22nd February – 2nd March 2018



Brassy-breasted Tanager on the lodge feeders (©Andy Foster)

Guided and report compiled by Andy Foster

Daily account

Thursday 22nd February

Our driver Serginho arrived in Rio de Janeiro to collect two group members at the International airport at 07.00 before driving onto the Linx Hotel located close to the airport to collect the other four members of the group that arrived last night.

The journey up to the lodge took just over 2.5 hours, several species were seen at the hotel first thing in the morning and also en-route, these included Turquoise-fronted Parrot, Orange-headed Tanager, Rufous Hornero, Masked Water-tyrant, Harris's Hawk, Magnificent Frigatebird, Striated Heron, Smooth-billed Ani and Palm Tanager.

By 11.30 the group arrived at our base for the next nine days, the wonderful Itororó lodge and we got into birding straight away picking up our first Atlantic forest endemics and various other species on the feeders. These included Brassy-breasted Tanager, Golden-chevroned Tanager, Azure-shouldered Tanager, Pale-breasted Thrush, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Magpie Tanager, Ruby-crowned Tanager, Green-winged Saltator, Brazilian Ruby, Violet-capped Woodnymph, White-throated Hummingbird, Sombre Hummingbird, Blue Dacnis, Bananaquit, Scale-throated Hermit, Black Jacobin and Burnished-buff Tanager.



Violet-capped Woodnymph, common on the lodge feeders (@Andy Foster)

After everyone was shown to their rooms we met up again for a quick briefing about the lodge and the week ahead, birded a little more around the feeders then at 13.00 we had lunch. After a short break we headed off towards the White Trail for the remainder of the afternoon. Shortly after we had set off the distant thunder came closer and unfortunately it started to rain, we did however manage to pick up Orange-eyed Thornbird, Green-backed Becard, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet and a Pallid Spinetail. We were still very close to the lodge so we returned to shelter from the rain. Thankfully some 20 minutes later the rain eased and we set off again, we soon started picking up

new species including Picazuro Pigeon, Pale-vented Pigeon, a distant Short-tailed Hawk, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Dusky-tailed Antbird, Olivaceous Woodcreeper and Scaled Woodcreeper. We then started using playback for Ochre-rumped Antbird, just as we were getting a response it started to get very dark and shortly after started to rain again, we took cover under the trees and waited for it to pass. We then managed to get good views of the Ochre-rumped Antbird and not long afterwards we came across a good mixed flock that contained Streaked Xenops, Brassy-breasted Tanager, Squirrel Cuckoo, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Whiskered Flycatcher, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Scaled Woodcreeper and Sharp-billed Treehunter.



Azure-shouldered Tanager (©Andy Foster)

As we returned to the lodge we picked up a couple of Cliff Flycatchers and were greeted by five Dusky-legged Guans on the feeders, a nice way to finish what had been a very productive afternoon's birding! We had a short break before dinner at 18.30 which was followed by the daily checklist. A great start to the tour!

Friday 23rd February

We awoke to a somewhat mixed bag of weather, looking to the north it was clear but to the south there was quite thick dark cloud. We had breakfast at 06.00 and by 06.40 we were setting off with our driver Serginho towards what we hoped would be a day birding the high-altitude area at Pico da Caledonia. Unfortunately as we dropped down the road to where we get our first view of the higher peaks it was shrouded in cloud, we therefore decided to head south to bird the Cedae and Theodoro Trails for the day. As we reached the top of the pass there was quite thick cloud, but as we dropped down the other side of the mountain the weather soon cleared and it looked like we were on for a good day. We arrived at the Cedae trail at an altitude of 550m and started to bird; unfortunately less than an hour into the walk the weather suddenly closed in and it started to rain, and rain, and rain some more! Very frustrating as we came across a couple of good mixed flocks but due to very low cloud and the rain the visibility was atrocious! Through the course of the morning we did manage to pick up several good species, these included Tufted Antshrike, Plain Antvireo,

Star-throated Antwren, Spot-billed Toucanet, Channel-billed Toucan, Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner, Green-headed Tanager, Flame-crested Tanager, Plain Parakeet, Plumbeous Pigeon, Black-tailed Tityra, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Chestnut-crowned Becard, Grey-hooded Flycatcher, Green Honeycreeper, Flame-crested Tanager and Rufous-headed Tanager.



White-throated Hummingbird on the lodge feeders (@Andy Foster)

The rain continued throughout the morning and by 11.20 we were back at the minibus heading back towards the lodge, and hopefully some better weather. We arrived back at the lodge to much better weather and sat down for lunch at 12.30. A good bonus of coming back to the lodge was a couple of Amethyst Woodstars on the hummingbird feeders! By 13.15 we were back out on the White trail in the lodge grounds. We had a productive afternoon although a little slow at times and with some small downpours of rain. We managed to pick up several target species including Chestnut-headed Tanager, Ochre-faced Tody-flycatcher, Lesser Woodcreeper, Serra do Mar Tyrant-manakin, Blue Manakin, Pin-tailed Manakin, White-collared Swift, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Bertoni's Antbird, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Rufous Gnateater, White-breasted Tapaculo (for some of the group) and Rufous-crowned Greenlet. So all in all not a bad day after all, just a little damp!

We arrived back at the lodge by 17.15, the feeders were still very busy with Maroon-bellied Parakeets and various tanager species. We met up again at 18.30 for dinner followed by a short talk by Rainer (the owner of Itororó Lodge) about the history of the lodge and the conservation work they are doing there, all very interesting!

We completed our daily checklist, looked outside and a beautiful sky full of stars, and just hoped it remained as clear ready for tomorrow's birding!

Saturday 24th February

What a different day we awoke to! It was a beautiful clear sky and a vast improvement on yesterday! Today was definitely the day to head up to Pico da Caledonia for some high-altitude birding! We had breakfast as usual at 06.00 and by 06.30 we were heading down the road from the lodge with our driver Serginho. As we dropped down the road we could see that Pico da Caledonia was completely clear! By 07.15 we had arrived at our parking spot at around 1700m in altitude. As soon as we got out of the minibus Ferdinand said he had a black and gold bird in a nearby tree, we rushed to see and it was a brilliant start to the day, a male Black-and-gold Cotinga! It hung around for a good few minutes feeding on some small black fruits giving the whole group excellent views!



Black and Gold Cotinga (©Andy Foster)

No sooner had we finished looking at this great endemic and Trevor called a raptor that turned out to be a White-rumped Hawk, another excellent bird!

We started heading on up the track picking up a few new species as we went including Green-crowned Plovercrest (we had several of these during the day), Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-tailed Antbird, Diademed Tanager, Bay-chested Warbling-finch, Blue-billed Black-tyrant and Serra do Mar Tyrannulet. About an hour into the walk the cloud appeared from nowhere and enshrouded the whole mountain for almost the remainder of the day! This actually helped by keeping it nice and cool for our ascent to the summit!

We got to an area that can be good for the very localised and endemic Grey-winged Cotinga, I played it a few times and we got a response from quite close by. After a few more attempts it flew past us and landed in a nearby tree giving quite good views for most of the group. Unfortunately the cloud started to come in even more obscuring the bird a little, then it dropped out of the tree but did fly back around us giving brief but ok views.

We arrived and signed in at the security guards hut and walked a little further to the base of the steps, I played some Rufous-capped Antshrike, shortly afterwards one appeared followed by a second bird giving the group good views. We started climbing up the 620 steps and playing our main target bird (Itatiaia Thistletail) as we walked along, first up we heard a Spix's Spinetail calling, we used some playback and got good views, then suddenly I spotted an Itatiaia Thistletail really close by: thankfully four of the group got onto it quickly

but the other two had decided to wait at the bottom of the steps, Trevor quickly called down to them as we had only climbed about 70 steps, the other two group members arrived at the spot, got the Thistletail and also the Spix's Spinetail, so all very rewarding stuff! We continued on up to the top of the peak hoping to see Velvety-black Tyrant, but unfortunately despite a lot of effort we couldn't find any today!



Itatiaia Thistletail (©Andy Foster)

We stopped at the top for lunch, and although enshrouded in cloud it was surprisingly warm! By 13.00 we were heading back down and came across a small group of three Rufous-backed Antwreos, another Atlantic forest endemic! We arrived back at the minibus by 15.00 and took a short drive to our next spot, a small property called Sao Bernardo. This turned out to be really quite productive and it was nice to stand on flat ground for a while! Here we picked up several new species including target number 1... Red-legged Seriema as soon as we got out of the minibus!



Red-legged Seriema (©Andy Foster)

We also saw Crane Hawk, White Woodpecker, Olivaceous Elaenia, Hooded Siskin, Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant, Slaty-breasted Wood-rail, White-eyed Parakeet, Cinnamon Tanager and Southern Beardless-tyrannulet.

Having had a very productive day we departed Sao Bernardo (having slowly negotiated our way back past the seriemas!) and arrived back at the lodge around 17.30. We met up again at 18.30 for dinner followed by the daily checklist.



Green-crowned Plovercrest (©Andy Foster)

Sunday 25th February

Another clear morning as we met up for breakfast on the 4th day of the tour. By 06.30 we were setting off for an hour's drive towards Duas Barras and Sumidouro for some open country birding. As we arrived at our first stop there was a fair bit of activity and we were soon picking up new species that included Wing-banded Hornero, Common Thornbird, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, White-eyed Parakeet, Streamer-tailed Tyrant, Grey-headed Kite, John spotted a Savanna Hawk, we also picked up a couple of Aplomado Falcons but unfortunately a distant calling Curl-crested Jay refused to come any closer after some playback.

Arriving at our 2nd stop of the day we soon had point blank views of Gilt-edged Tanager and also Yellow-lored Tody-flycatcher, Grey-hooded Attila, Red-rumped Cacique and a distant perched Bat Falcon. Just as we were climbing back into the minibus Trevor called out that he had a raptor, it flew over quickly but luckily Daniel managed to get some photos and at the checklist we managed to identify it as a Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle.

Our next stop produced Serra Antwren, Short-crested Flycatcher and quick glimpses of a Sapphire-spangled Emerald and we then continued onto the view point just before Duas Barras where we saw Blue-black Grassquit, White-tailed Hawk (Sue and John only), White-rumped Monjita and White Woodpecker. We stopped at our usual café for some coffee and cake in the small town of Duas Barras and recharged we continued onto a dirt track that we would be birding along until lunch time. Our first stop gave us Ringed Kingfisher, Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch, Firewood-gatherer and Guira Cuckoo. As we continued along we also had good views of Ash-throated Crake, White-bellied Seedeater and Grassland Sparrow, but the Rufous-sided Crakes that were vocalising close by refused to show themselves! At our next stop we managed to get views of White-rumped Monjita, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird and Green Kingfisher.

We drove on a little further using playback to bring in a White-eared Puffbird and also picked up Blue-and-white Swallow, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Giant Cowbird and some more Guira Cuckoos.



Gilt-edged Tanager (©Andy Foster)

As we drove further along the track Ferdinand asked to stop in a rather panic-stricken voice as he saw a Whistling Heron, which we all had great views of. We stopped for lunch and picked up a Scaled Woodcreeper, Crescent-chested Puffbird and a Golden-crowned Warbler. Cloud began to build up so after lunch we headed

straight for the Three-toed Jacamar site, thankfully we had two birds respond very quickly to playback and perched rather nicely on some electric cables close by giving great views.



Streamer-tailed Tyrants (©Andy Foster)

At our last stop of the day just before Murineli we managed to get great views of a pair of Blue-winged Macaws, Palm Tanager, Black-necked Aracari and some more White-eyed Parakeets before heading off on our journey of 1.5 hours back to the lodge, arriving just before 17.30 for some freshly baked orange cake and some tea and coffee! We met up again at 18.30 for dinner followed as usual by our daily checklist which was briefly interrupted by a Tropical Screech-owl calling outside, which unfortunately refused to hang around long enough to be seen! Trevor and Dave managed to grip everyone off with views and photos of a Scaly-headed Parrot from the decking area in front of the lodge whilst everyone else were having showers!

A great days birding with a total of 101 species being seen!

Monday 26th February

Another beautiful day as we met up for breakfast at 06.00. Today we were to spend a full day in the Itororó Lodge grounds to bird the Blue Trail in the morning and the White and Yellow Trails after lunch.

We waited for the sun to come a little before leaving for the Blue Trail as generally the forest is more active once the sun starts to hit it. Before departing for the trail we got good views of Grey-capped Tyrannulet from the decking area. We set off up the steps and were soon heading into the forest picking up our first few new species of the day. It was fairly slow going at first with some Rufous-crowned Greenlets, Green-winged Saltator, Golden-crowned Warblers and Olivaceous Woodcreeper. About an hour into the walk things started to get busier with good views of White-throated Woodcreeper followed by a rather nice Yellow-browed Woodpecker and Rufous-breasted Leaf Tosser. We continued on around the trail picking up Rough-legged Tyrannulet, White-rimmed Warbler and after a little playback (approximately 5 seconds!) we had at least four Saffron Toucanets come in, with one eventually giving good views!



Saffron Toucanet (Andy Foster)

We carried on around the trail finally getting views of White-collared Foliage-gleaner, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, Surucua Trogon, Euler's Flycatcher and then we came across a great mixed flock that had Black-goggled Tanager, Streaked Xenops, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Lesser Woodcreeper, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, Planalto Tyrannulet and a female Pin-tailed Manakin.

We arrived back at the lodge for lunch at 12.30 followed by a short break before heading off onto the White and Yellow trails within the lodge grounds.



Yellow-browed Woodpecker (Andy Foster)

We departed from the lodge again at 14.15 to walk the White Trail. It had now become quite overcast with rain threatening, but thankfully this held off for most of the afternoon with just a small shower for about half an hour, but only light rain so birding was not affected. We had a fairly quiet afternoon as we were going after some of the harder targets! We started by playing Variegated Antpitta, this responded well on several occasions throughout the afternoon but unfortunately refused to come close enough for anybody to see. Next up I played some Such's Antthrush, slowly but surely the bird came closer, and finally after a lot of effort it came through the patch of forest in front of us on three occasions allowing the whole group to get views of this particularly tricky little bird! We used some playback for Black-billed Scythebill (as we had been doing on and off throughout the day), but suddenly one responded quite close by. After about five minutes it finally showed well for the whole group, such a great bird!

The light was now fading so we started to head back slowly to the lodge, stopping briefly on the way for a Rufous-capped Motmot that was vocalising nearby, we used some playback and although the bird moved around a little it was just too hidden away to be able to find. We continued on back to the lodge and came across a small mixed flock that included Tropical Pewee, Brassy-breasted Tanager, Streaked Xenops, Olivaceous Woodcreeper and Lesser Woodcreeper.

We arrived back at the lodge by 18.00 and went straight into dinner as we had to be ready to go owling at 18.40. After a delicious dinner we headed straight back out to the beginning of the White Trail, along the way we flushed a Common Pauraque and at the same spot managed to whistle in a Short-tailed Nighthawk. As we neared the spot where the Long-trained Nightjars can be found during the breeding season, two individuals flew straight over us, so lucky that we arrived at the right time as we didn't see any sign of them again! We started playing Tropical Screech-owl, one responded fairly well but unfortunately was too hidden away in the bush to find it. We then played some Striped Owl and Rusty-barred Owl but unfortunately had no response from either.

Quite tired after a long day's birding we headed back to the lodge to complete our checklist for the day before retiring for the evening to recharge for another full on day's birding tomorrow!



One of the feeders at Itororó Lodge with Marron-bellied Parakeets and Brassy-breasted Tanager (©Andy Foster)

Tuesday 27th February

Another clear morning saw us depart after breakfast at the usual time of 06.30 having seen the usual collection of birds on the lodge feeders and also a female Amethyst Woodstar. By 07.10 we had arrived at the beginning of the Macae de Cima trail, a dirt road that goes up through primary forest to an altitude of 1450m at its highest point. As soon as we got out of the minibus we heard a Giant Antshrike calling, we set off in the direction it was calling from and after some playback a beautiful male Giant Antshrike showed very well for the whole group, a great start! Next we picked up a Crested Oropendola in flight followed by a male Uniform Finch, this was followed by a Planalto Woodcreeper after some playback, four new trip birds that all showed well, not a bad start!

We drove further along the track to our next stop, Dave spotted a white bird flying over fast, I had an inkling as to what this would be so we shot off up the track to an area where we could see the canopy, and sure enough there it was perched up high on a dead tree, a Bare-throated Bellbird! We also picked up a Brazilian Antthrush, Pin-tailed Manakin and a Blue Manakin in the same area. Further up the track we stopped at the Plovercrest lek but unfortunately there were no Plovercrests to be found; thankfully we had seen them well at Caledonia earlier in the week, we did however get good views of a pair of White-barred Piculets and Trevor picked up a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle! It was only 09.30 but large rain clouds were already building up so we decided to drive to the furthest point on the trail as the road becomes very difficult to drive along if it rains. Half way to the final stopping point we stopped briefly at our White-bearded Antshrike spot, after some playback a female appeared showing well, then we picked up a couple of Long-tailed Tyrants on the wires overhead. A male White-bearded Antshrike was vocalising close by so we used some more playback to lure this in, it showed very well for a few seconds before vanishing back into the safety of the surrounding bamboo!

We drove on further and 15 minutes later we arrived at the final area. We quickly walked down the road and started using playback for one of our target birds, Slaty Bristlefront. Unfortunately this didn't respond but we did pick up a nice male Surucua Trogon. There was a mixed flock in the area but at the same time a White-bibbed Antbird was calling, so we prioritised and went after it! It refused to show up but the bristlefront vocalised a long way away. We decided to check out the mixed flock, this contained Buff-fronted Foliage-

gleaner, Streaked Xenops, Lesser Woodcreeper, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, White-throated Woodcreeper, Sepia-capped Flycatcher and a Half-collared Sparrow vocalising in the distance! After some playback the sparrow showed well for the group!

It was just starting to rain as we walked back up the hill, we tried again for the bristlefront and thankfully it came in and showed well for the group, such a great bird!



Slaty Bristlefront (©Andy Foster)

We then decided to go for the White-bibbed Antbird again, Trevor used his playback and got a couple of birds interested, thankfully one of them showed up behind where we were calling and gave good views! The rain was now threatening more so we decided to drive back a little way up the hill to avoid the muddier areas should it pour with rain. We got past these areas and stopped for lunch. As we were having lunch it started to pour with rain again, so we drove on until another area for a couple of target birds. The rain stopped and we started to scan the surrounding forest, Ferdinand managed to spot a perched Mantled Hawk in the distance, and we had fantastic scope views of this great raptor! We also picked up a Yellow-bellied Eleania and a White-crested Tyrannulet in the same area before the heavens really opened and we headed back to the minibus. The rain was now more prolonged but we had a couple of stops on the way back down the trail, but no new birds to be seen. We had had a brilliant days birding and arrived back at the lodge for tea and cake around 15.45. We headed out again on the White trail at 16.30 in search of the Drab-breasted Bamboo-tyrant, we got a response and it showed very briefly and then vanished again. It had started to rain again and with thunder coming in fast we headed back to the lodge meeting up again at 18.30 for dinner followed by the checklist shortly afterwards.

Wednesday 28th February

We awoke to a cloudy morning but as we set off towards the main road the weather was slowly improving and by the time we arrived at the mountain pass at the start of the Theodoro Trail the weather was clear and sunny. We drove another 10 minutes down the mountains and birded the Cedae Trail for the morning, we had previously visited this at the start of the tour but it poured with rain and we still had many possible new species along this trail. The morning's birding started off a little slow as the sun needed to rise a little more, we continued down the trail and suddenly the sun started to hit the top of the forest and we could hear

activity at the start of the trail, we headed back in that direction, what a good move that was! We hardly moved for the next hour as there was constant bird activity with some great species including Crested Becard, Chestnut-crowned Becard, Red-necked Tanager, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner, Flame-crested Tanager, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Tanager, Lesser Woodcreeper, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, White-throated Woodcreeper and Plain Parakeets flying over. After all of this activity and slightly sore necks (!) we carried on down the trail and soon got views of a Dusky-throated Hermit, Thrush-like Woodcreeper and also tried for a Black-cheeked Gnateater but to no avail. Shortly afterwards Trevor spotted a Spot-breasted Antvireo, another new bird for the trip and lifer for everyone and shortly afterwards we had a pair of Streak-capped Antwrens, so far so very good!



Red-necked Tanager (©Andy Foster)

Further down the trail I heard an Oustalet's Tyrannulet, after some playback this neat little bird appeared and shortly afterwards was joined by another, again great views of this little endemic, we also picked up goodish views of Saw-billed Hermit shortly afterwards.

Time was now passing fast so we walked down to the spot for Rufous-capped Antthrush and used playback, it responded a little while later but unfortunately would never come any closer, we did however finally call in a Spot-backed Antshrike and a pair of Chestnut-bellied Euphonias! We started to head back up towards the minibus and got views of a male Black-cheeked Gnateater (finally!), Red-crowned Ant-tanager and Ferdinand spotted a Buff-bellied Puffbird which gave great scope views for the group! We arrived back at the minibus just after 13.00 and took a 10-minute drive back up the road to the start of the Theodoro Trail where we had lunch and then spent the rest of the afternoon birding the trail. During lunch we had a Southern Caracara fly over and at the same time a Rufous-thighed Kite also flew over.

Unfortunately the afternoon was remarkably quiet, no bird song anywhere apart from some Blue Manakins and a Variegated Antpitta. Those at the front of the group were lucky enough to see a Brown Tinamou as it was flushed as we entered the start of the Theodoro Trail and we also picked up a couple of Pileated Parrots flying high above us. As the afternoon progressed the clouds built up together with some thunder, we did however manage to see a White-throated Spadebill but that was about it. We arrived back at the minibus at 16.45 together with some rather heavy rain! Dave had headed back to the minibus a little earlier and was

lucky enough to flush a couple of Ruddy Quail-doves off of the path in front of him. Thankfully we had a very successful morning's birding although the afternoon was a little disappointing. We arrived back at the lodge by 17.15, had tea, coffee and cake and then went off for showers etc. We met back up as usual for dinner at 18.30 followed by the daily checklist.



Buff-bellied Puffbird (©Trev Girling)

Thursday 1st March

Already the last full day of the tour was upon us, time goes so fast when you are enjoying yourself! As usual we met up at 06.00 for breakfast and departed for a full day at the Regua wetlands for some lowland forest and wetland birding. We had a fairly slow drive down the mountain stuck behind several lorries but arrived at the wetlands and got straight into the birding picking up White-chinned Sapphire and Glittering-throated Emerald almost as soon as we got out of the minibus. We got all of our gear together for the day's birding and set off around the wetlands. New species came thick and fast as we had not done any lowland birding during the week. We picked up all of the common wetland birds including Common Gallinule, Wattled Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Striated Heron, Black-bellied Whistling-duck, Cattle Egret, Masked Water-tyrant, White-headed Marsh-tyrant and Greater Ani and moved on around the back of the wetlands towards the lowland forest picking up White-barred Piculet, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Anhinga, White-flanked Antwren, Brazilian Tanager, Yellow-backed Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Chestnut-vented Conebill and Long-billed Wren along the way. We started to make our way into the lowland forest and soon saw our first Rufous-tailed Jacamars of the day followed by Unicoloured Antwren, Sooretama Slaty-antshrike, Greyish Mourner and Southern Antpipit for some of the group.



White-barred Piculet (©Andy Foster)

It was now becoming really quite hot but we continued on through the forest stopping briefly for lunch and then continued onto a reliable spot for Rufous-capped Motmot. We used some playback and within a few minutes the motmot responded and we all managed to get scope views, although a little obscured. About five minutes later John spotted the bird again sitting out in the open..... much better!



Rufous-tailed Jacamar (©Andy Foster)

We also managed to get views of Eye-ringed Tody-tyrant and almost pulled in a Scaled Antbird, but it failed to come that extra few feet to show itself. Shortly afterwards a Reddish Hermit appeared showing well for some of the group, this was followed by a male White-bearded Manakin. We walked on around the track to another spot for Scaled Antbird, thankfully they responded very quickly to playback, but again refused to come any closer, then one started calling behind us and within a few minutes we had all had great views of a male Scaled Antbird, fantastic!

It was now mid-afternoon and we started heading slowly back towards the minibus parked some 2km away. On the way back we played some Blond-crested Woodpecker, this flew around us several times and also perched briefly on several occasions giving views for some of the group.



Greyish Mourner (©Andy Foster)

We got some great views of 3 Rufous-sided Crakes, Amazon Kingfisher, Lemon-chested Greenlet and a couple of Rufescent Tiger-herons around the last section of the wetlands. We arrived back at the minibus and took the 1.5-hour drive back to the lodge arriving shortly after 18.00, dinner was served at 19.00 followed as usual by the daily checklist.

Friday 2nd March

A rather cloudy morning saw us meeting up as usual for breakfast at 06.00, shortly after 06.30 we set off for a morning's birding around the White and Green trails within the lodge grounds to try to see some more new species, now getting much harder! We first tried for Variegated Antpitta but unfortunately although it responded to playback it refused to come in. We did however get several flight views of a White-necked Thrush in the same area together with good views of a Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser and Rufous Gnatcatcher. We then walked around to the Green trail (whilst myself and Dave took a short detour back to the lodge for a few minutes, this allowed Trev, Ferdinand and Daniel to find a Grey-bellied Hawk in our absence!) and played some Spotted Bamboo-wren, amazingly it appeared rather quickly with Ferdinand picking it up as it came through some vegetation above us giving us all good views! Next up we used playback for Yellow Tyrannulet that again came in pretty quick and showed well. We then played for Mouse-coloured Tapaculo, there was no response and then Dave said "I've got it"! The tiny little grey tapaculo came through the vegetation in front of us several times giving everyone good looks! On the way back down the trail I heard a distant Black-throated Trogon calling, we used some playback and it flew in above us giving slightly-obscured

but good looks. We decided to head down back to the antpitta spot for one last try, we picked up a few species on the way including White-throated Woodcreeper and Rufous-capped Spinetail. On the corner of the White trail I heard a Drab-breasted Bamboo-tyrant vocalising, this is a bird we had tried several times for but with no luck. We arrived at the spot, used some playback and slowly the bird came closer, eventually sitting right out in the open and showing very well indeed, another great little endemic!



Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant (©Andy Foster)

Arriving at the antpitta spot it was still very quiet, the antpitta responded a couple of times but refused to show. We headed back to the lodge having had a very productive last morning's birding. We completed our final checklist prior to lunch and then departed back down to the airport in Rio de Janeiro at 15.00.

Once again, we had been very well looked after by Rainer and Bettina at Itororó Lodge, with plenty of great food and equal amounts of great company!

We saw a total of 277 species of which 97 were Atlantic forest endemics, with a further 12 species heard only. The full species list can be found on the Birdfinders' website.