

Birding Trip Report: Guyana

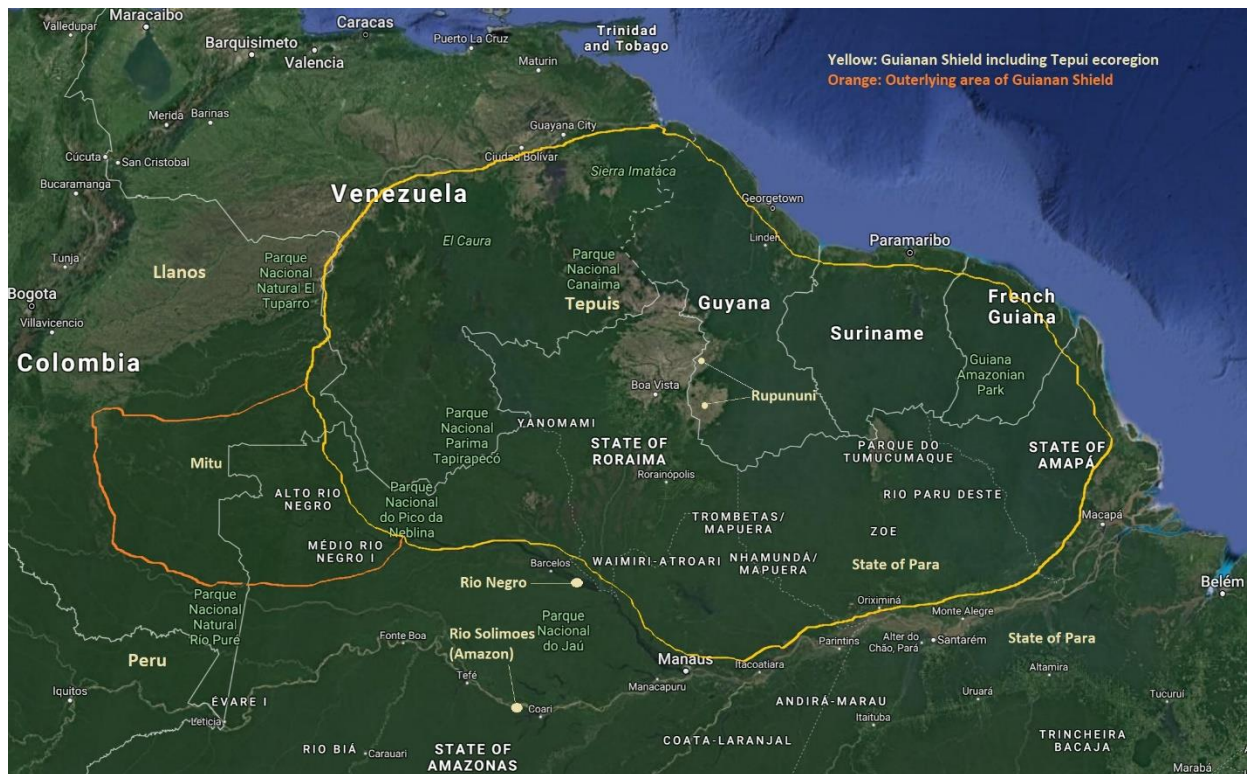
Amazon Rainforest, Rupununi Savanna, Atlantic Coast

29-Sep to 12-Oct 2019 – By Pritam Baruah

Constructing lowland birding itineraries for the Amazon basin and analyzing them is a dreamy activity. There are many extraordinary options and SE Amazonia at the cusp of the Andes is possibly the richest avian assemblage in the world, but imho the Guianan Shield lowlands stand out amongst all for the amazing quality possible in a relatively short trip. There are many options within the Guianan Shield too – Eastern Venezuelan lowlands, Suriname, Manaus (east of Rio Negro) and Guyana. Each offers species that are difficult elsewhere but the best in terms of diversity of habitats and species is Guyana. With a road (known as a ‘cattle trail’, which is not inaccurate) running from the coast to the Brazil border in Lethem and onto the remote South Rupununi, through endless rainforest and grasslands, birding in Guyana is fast paced and full of sought-after specialties.

There are different levels of endemism and desirability in the Guianas (refer table below). The rest of the report uses the codes below to mark various degrees of endemism. All marked species should be considered important targets on this itinerary. Note that the astounding Tepui landscape of south-eastern Venezuela and western Guyana are also part of the Guianan Shield but I did not visit that region in this trip (already birded that ecoregion in Venezuela and difficult to access to Guyana).

GSE	Endemic to the Guianan Shield lowlands.
GSNE	Near Endemic to Guianan Shield lowlands, with small presence in Negro – Solimoes interfluve.
GCE	Guianan Coast / North-East Atlantic Coast Endemic.
RT	Regional Target: North of Amazon / GSNE extending into eastern Colombia or northern Venezuela or southern Para in Brazil.
MT	Miscellaneous Target – usually because difficult across its range or RT with disjoint populations elsewhere.
TE	Tepui Endemic (part of Guianan Shield highlands).

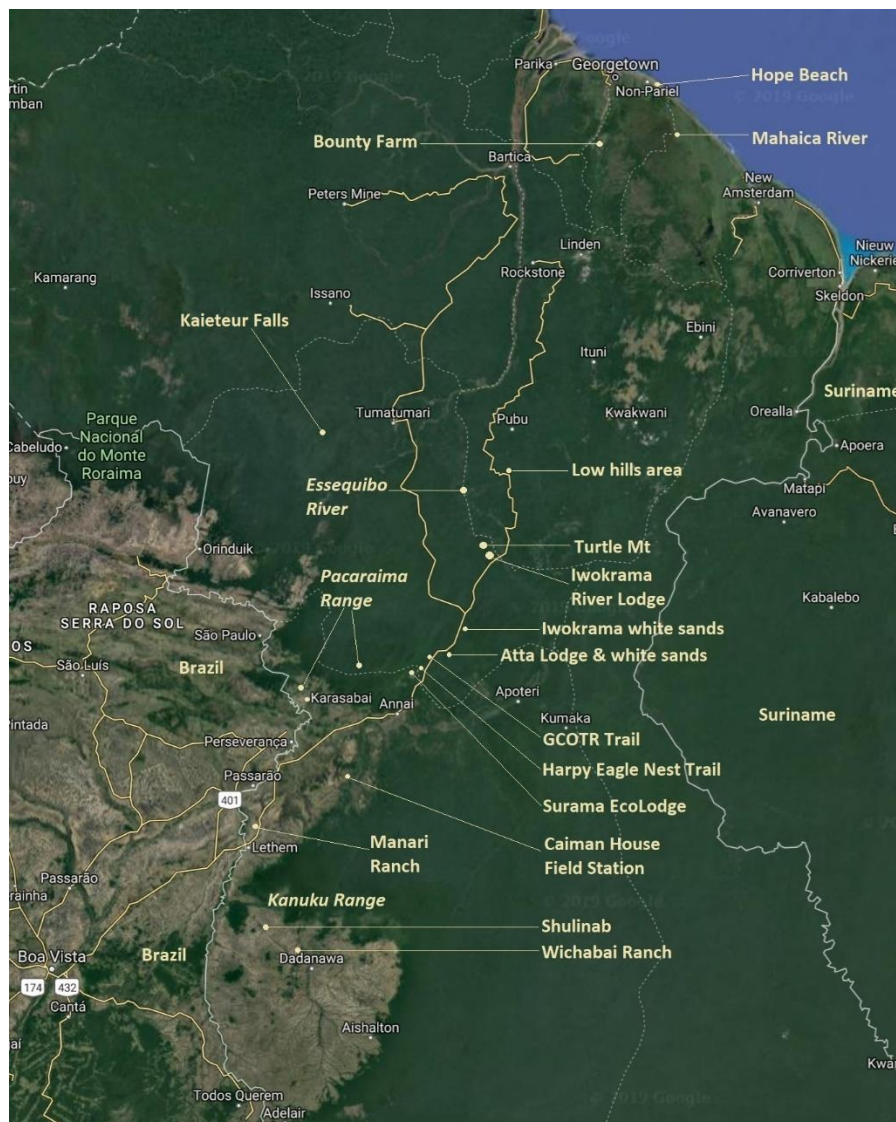


Map 1: Approximate range of the Guianan Shield region. Annotations: ©Pritam Baruah. Map Data: ©Google.

➤ Logistics

Organizing a complex birding trip in Guyana all by yourself is close to impossible. And although it is possible to reach some lodges by public bus, a car is absolutely necessary to be able to see most targets, visit different habitats and trails as they are not always within walking distance of lodges. Basically it needs to be an arranged expedition. I worked with **Ron Allicock** (ronallicock@gmail.com, +5926173590), who runs the only hardcore birding company in Guyana, to plan and execute the itinerary. He was prompt in his responses and the trip was done very professionally. I am happy to highly recommend his services. My birding guide throughout the trip was **Gary Sway** from Surama, who is an excellent birder and guide, with very good knowledge of bird sounds and localities. He is quite suitable for hardcore birding and I highly recommend him. **Ransford Allicock** (Ron's cousin) is an excellent driver and mechanic who would be invaluable for any birding trip. **John Christian** of Atta Lodge is a superb birder who is one of the most promising guides of Guyana. His commitment to finding targets for his clients is commendable. **Asaph Wilson** who specializes in south Rupununi is a skilled guide and has experience everywhere too. **Manuel** of Caiman House was skilled & hardworking too. Visa if necessary is possible for everyone through an online process. Food (including vegetarian) was good throughout.

➤ Map & Places



Map 2: Guyana birding localities. Annotations: ©Pritam Baruah. Map Data: ©Google.

The table below has a brief description of the birding localities and the main birds that were recorded there (including heard-only). The full list of birds from every area can be found in the ‘Bird List’ section. An annotated list of missed targets is given later.

1	Kaieteur Falls	<p>One of the top waterfalls in the world & pristine white-sand forest. At the eastern edge of the Pantepui / Pacaraima Range. Very pristine. Not known for high bird activity but has many specialties. Inconvenient for birding as flights stop only for 2 hours. Top target is Roraiman Antbird, which is not possible elsewhere on this itinerary. Rufous-crested Elaenia, Red-shouldered Tanager, Racket-tipped Thorntail, Tufted Coquette, Cliff Flycatcher etc. are possible but hard to get because of insufficient time and low activity.</p> <p>Recorded: White-tipped & White-collared Swift, Roraiman Antbird [TE]</p>
2	Mahaica River	<p>A narrow river about 1 hour east of Georgetown. Good for coastal species not possible elsewhere. Closer to Georgetown than Abary River so more convenient. Birding is by boat and also in the cultivated landscape during the drive from the highway to the boat landing. Habitat along the river is patches of riverine forest, agriculture and mangroves.</p> <p>Recorded: Blood-colored Woodpecker [GCE], Wing-barred Seedeater [RT], Gray Seedeater [RT], Green-tailed Jacamar [GSNE], Green-throated Mango [RT], Silvered Antbird, Black-crested Antshrike, Red-breasted Meadowlark, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Green-rumped Parrotlet, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Hoatzin, Lesser Kiskadee, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet (Inezia), Brown-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Red-capped Cardinal, White-winged Swallow, Brown-throated Parakeet.</p>
3	Atlantic coast – Hope Beach & Ogle mud flats	<p>Mangrove and tidal mudflats right on the Atlantic coast. Several specialties here not possible inland. Ogle mud flats is located inside the city and can be very good for shore birds. Hope Beach is about a 45 min drive east from the city center and has mangroves and mud flats.</p> <p>Recorded: Scarlet Ibis [RT], White-bellied Piculet [RT], Rufous Crab Hawk [GCE], Lemon-chested Greenlet, Yellow Oriole, Bicolored Conebill, Carib Grackle, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Snail Kite, Black Skimmer. Plenty of common shore birds.</p>
4	Georgetown Botanical Gardens	<p>Mosaic of different habitat types in the middle of busy Georgetown. An oasis for birds and must-do area. Coastal forest, ponds, scrub. Has several species difficult further south.</p> <p>Recorded: Plain-bellied Emerald [RT], White-chested Emerald [GSE], Blood-colored Woodpecker [GCE], White-bellied Piculet [RT], Plain-crowned Spinetail, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Cinereous Becard, Cinnamon Atilla, Peregrine Falcon, Grey-lined Hawk, Red-fan Parrot, Red-shouldered Macaw, Great Horned Owl, Black-necked Aracari, Black-capped Donacobius, White-lined, White-shouldered, Turquoise Tanager.</p>
5	Timehri – Bounty Farm	<p>A chicken farm just behind the international airport in Timehri. About 1 hr south of Georgetown. Transitional rainforest from coastal to Guianan Shield. Seasonally flooded. Only known place for Slender-billed Kite & Crimson-hooded Manakin. Many exciting possibilities. Has one trail through forest. The large garden and forest edges are usually quite productive.</p> <p>Recorded: Slender-billed Kite [MT], Crimson-hooded Manakin [MT], Black-headed Antbird [GSNE], Guianan Warbling-Antbird [GSE], Channel-billed Toucan, White-throated Toucan, Green Ibis, Reddish Hermit, Blue-tailed Emerald, Barred Antshrike, Lineated Woodpecker, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Chestnut Woodpecker, Green-tailed Trogon.</p>

6	Hilly area east of the Essequibo River	<p>Tall rainforest about 1 hr north-east of the Essequibo River crossing. Red-and-Black Grosbeak has been seen a few times in this stop and is a convenient birding area on the long drive from Georgetown to Iwokrama.</p> <p>Recorded: Black Nunbird [GSE], Guianan Trogon [GSE], Screaming Piha, Red-and-black Grosbeak [RT], Brown-bellied Antwren (Stipplethroat) [GSE], Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant (Neopipo), Long-winged Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Gray Antwren, Green Oropendola, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Grayish Mourner, Whiskered Flycatcher, Yellow-backed Tanager, Band-rumped Swift.</p>
7	Iwokrama River Lodge & Turtle Mountain	<p>The most famous rainforest lodge in Guyana. Good food and service. Large rooms with fans. Has an excellent trail system where most rainforest targets are possible (including Capuchinbird lek, Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo). Located on the west bank of the Essequibo River and the dining room overlooks the river. Turtle Mountain is a steep hill about 20 mins upstream by boat from the lodge. The top is an amazing viewpoint and has a resident Orange-breasted Falcon. Trail leading to the top can be very productive and is a Red-and-Black Grosbeak hotspot.</p> <p>Recorded: Capuchinbird [GSE], Red-and-Black Grosbeak [RT], Guianan Toucanet [GSE], Painted Parakeets [RT], Caica Parrot [GSE], Painted Tody-Flycatcher [GSE], Guianan Puffbird [GSNE], Grey-winged Trumpeter, Spotted Puffbird, Spotted Antpitta, Rufous-throated Antbird [GSE], White-plumed Antbird, Rufous-bellied Antwren [GSE], Guianan Streaked Antwren [GSE], Spot-tailed Antwren [GSE], Todd's Antwren [GSE], Spot-winged Antbird, Black-chinned Antbird, Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper [GSE], Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Mouse-colored Antshrike, Cinereous Antshrike, Dusky-throated Antshrike, Gray Antbird, Long-winged Antwren, Pompadour Cotinga, Plain Xenops, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, Forest Elaenia, Golden-headed Manakin, Blue-and-Yellow Macaw, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Cocoa Thrush, White-necked Thrush, White-crested Spadebill, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Spix's Guan, Amazonian Pygmy Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Black-collared Swallow</p>
8	Iwokrama River Lodge to Mori Scrub	<p>Called out separately here because there is a Rufous Potoo stake-out and some good flowering patches (usually close to stream crossings) for hummingbirds. Very good lowland rainforest and promising for large mammals like Jaguar & Tapir early morning and late evening.</p> <p>Recorded: Rufous Potoo [MT], Waved Woodpecker [RT], Ringed Woodpecker, Red-fan Parrot, Dusky Parrot [RT], Crimson Topaz [MT], King Vulture, Blue-Cheeked Parrot [GSE], Blue-backed Tanager [RT]</p>
9	Iwokrama white-sand patch (Mori Scrub)	<p>Most visited stretch of white-sand forest in Iwokrama. Predominantly Muri scrub habitat and pretty dense. Bird activity is mostly poor in the scrub area but holds some specialties. Medium height forest accessible in same trail.</p> <p>Recorded: Red-shouldered Tanager [MT], Rufous-crowned Elaenia [MT], Black Curassow [RT], Blackish Nightjar, Black Manakin</p>
10	Atta white-sand patch	<p>A small island of stunted white sand forest close to Atta Lodge (a few km north of the lodge). Called out separately from Atta Lodge here because it can spring some surprises. Not as dense as Mori Scrub.</p> <p>Recorded: Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant [GSNE], Red-legged Tinamou [RT], Olivaceous Schiffornis [GSE], Tiny Tyrant-Manakin [GSE], Red-billed Woodcreeper [GSE], Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, Bronzy Jacamar, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Spotted Puffbird, Black Manakin.</p>

11	Atta Rainforest Lodge	<p>The best birding lodge in Guyana. Located in a small clearing in the middle of pristine rainforest. Microhabitats abound. Excellent birding from the rooms & dining area. Part of Iwokrama and short walk to a rainforest canopy walkway & platform. Best tasting food south of Georgetown. Rooms are charming and has cool outdoor bathroom. No fan in rooms.</p> <p>Recorded: Black-throated Antshrike [GSE], White-winged Potoo [MT], Crimson Topaz [MT], White-throated Manakin [GSE], Blue-backed Tanager [RT], Guianan Woodcreeper [GSE], Black-faced Hawk, Collared Puffbird, Guianan Red Cotinga [GSE], Purple-breasted Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, Spangled Cotinga, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Guianan Toucanet [GSE], Black-spotted Barbet [GSE], Green Aracari [GSE], Black-necked Aracari, Black Curassow [RT], Marail Guan [GSE], Spix's Guan, Variable (Little) Chachalaca [GSE], Guianan Tyrannulet [RT], Rose-breasted Chat, Caica Parrot [GSE], Golden-winged Parakeet, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet [RT], Golden-sided Euphonia [RT], Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, White-lored Tyrannulet, Spot-winged Antbird, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Long-tailed Hermit, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Pink-throated Becard, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Chapman's Swift, Paradise Jacamar, Black-banded Owl, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black Hawk-Eagle, Long-tailed Tyrant, Flame-crested Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Golden-bellied Euphonia.</p>
12	Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock Trail, Harpy Eagle Trail, Surama Junction	<p>Excellent lowland rainforest habitat on the stretch of highway from Atta to Surama. The GCOTR trail has an active lek where sightings are all but guaranteed. The Harpy Eagle trail has an active nest and the Surama Junction is where you cut in from the highway towards the Surama EcoLodge.</p> <p>Recorded: Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock [GSNE], Crimson Fruitcrow [GSE], Long-tailed Potoo, Amazonian Antshrike, Painted Parakeet [RT], Golden-winged Parakeet, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Amazonian Motmot, White Bellbird [RT], Green Aracari [GSE], Ferruginous-backed Antbird [RT], Great Jacamar, Grey-crowned Flycatcher, Todd's Antwren [GSE], Rufous-throated Antbird [GSE], White-plumed Antbird, Common Scale-backed Antbird, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Pied Puffbird, Golden-collared Woodpecker [GSE].</p>
13	Surama EcoLodge – Burro-Burro Trail	<p>A lodge owned by the Makushi community in the middle of a large island of savanna surrounded on all sides by rainforest. Borders the southern edge of the Pacaraima Range. The Burro-Burro trail is actually a trail system that runs through lowland rainforest just north of the lodge. This is a Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo hotspot and most other rainforest species are possible here even though the forest isn't as tall or pristine as Atta. Large traditional rooms. Has fan. Thatched roof can provide interesting experiences. Hopefully they will change it to permanent critter-proof roofing ;).</p> <p>Recorded: Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo [GSE], Capuchinbird [GSE], Black Curassow [RT], Blue-backed Tanager [RT], Ferruginous-backed Antbird [RT], White-browed Antbird, Northern Slaty Antshrike [MT], Ash-winged Antwren, Dusky-throated Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren, Pectoral Sparrow, Great Tinamou, Painted Tody-Flycatcher [GSE], Guianan Red Cotinga [GSE], Variable Chachalaca [GSE], Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Long-billed Gnatwren, McConnell's Flycatcher, Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-Gleaner, Scarlet Macaw.</p>
	Surama EcoLodge – savanna & open forest	<p>The savanna island surrounding the lodge has a different avifauna, more typical of open forest and grassland.</p> <p>Recorded: Cayenne Jay [GSE], Great Potoo, Common Potoo, Finsch's Euphonia [GSE], Southern White-fringed Antwren, Northern Slaty</p>

		Antshrike [MT], Least Nighthawk, Lesser Nighthawk, Brown-throated Parakeet, Pearl Kite, Common Pauraque, Tropical Screech Owl, White-winged Becard, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Bicolored Wren, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Plain-crested Elaenia, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Lesser Elaenia, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet
14	Caiman House Field Station (& enroute from Annai)	<p>Very nice lodge on the banks of the Lower Rupununi River. Easy access to savanna and riverine forest. Only place for Crested Doradito in Guyana. Wet grassland habitat from Annai to Caiman House. Boat ride on Rupununi River is usually quite productive.</p> <p>Recorded: Agami Heron [MT], Azure Gallinule, White-naped Xenopsaris, Pinnated Bittern, Finsch's Euphonia [GSE], White-tailed Nightjar, Band-tailed Nighthawk, Least Nighthawk, Lesser Nighthawk, Crested Bobwhite, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Long-billed Starthroat, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, White-tailed Goldenthrout, White-bellied Antbird, Blue-backed Manakin, White-tailed Hawk, Long-winged Harrier, Aplomado Falcon, American Kestrel, Double-striped Thick-knee, Maguari Stork, Jabiru, Buff-necked Ibis, Pied Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Vermillion Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-breasted Meadowlark, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Plumbeous Seedeater, Blue-black Grassquit, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, Pale-legged Hornero, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, Olivaceous Flatbill, Black Skimmer</p>
15	Karasabai	<p>Remote village within the Pacaraima Range close to the Brazil border. Dry hilly terrain holding the last permanent population of Sun Parakeet.</p> <p>Recorded: Sun Parakeet [GSE], Toco Toucan, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Orange-backed Troupial, Yellow-crowned Parrot, White-bellied Piculet</p>
16	South Rupununi – Shulinab & Wichabai Ranch	<p>Vast and remote region of savanna which holds the last stable population of Red Siskin. Wichabai Ranch, 4 hr from Lethem, is a brand new ranch with good accommodation, food and Red Siskin close by. Shulinab is a village between Lethem & Wichabai Ranch.</p> <p>Recorded: Red Siskin [RT], Brazilian Teal, Sharp-tailed Ibis [RT], Bearded Tachuri [MT], Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Finsch's Euphonia [GSE], Pinnated Bittern, White-throated Kingbird, Chestnut-vented Conebill, White-barred Piculet, Black-crested Antshrike, Burnished-buff Tanager, Blue-backed Manakin, Yellowish Pipit, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Grassland Yellow-Finch, Plain-crested Elaenia</p>
12	Lethem – Manari Ranch & Takutu riverine forest	<p>Historic ranch that is home to a tame Giant Otter. Easy access the Rupununi savanna and riverine forest along the Takutu River. There are hotels in Lethem but Manari Ranch much better for birders. Base to try for Hoary-throated Spinetail & Rio Branco Antbird.</p> <p>Recorded: Hoary-throated Spinetail [GSE], Rio Branco Antbird [GSE], Crestless Curassow [RT], Plain-bellied Emerald [RT], Red-bellied Macaw, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Nacunda Nighthawk, White-throated Kingbird, Flavescent Warbler, Orange-backed Troupial</p>

➤ Readings

- Trip report: Guyana, Sep-Oct 2016, version 1 – Roger Holmberg, version 2 – Fredrik Rudzki.
- Trip report: Guyana Birds & Wildlife, Nov 2017, Forrest Rowland, Rockjumper.
- Trip report: Guyana, Feb-Mar 2018, Eustace Barnes, Birdquest.
- Trip report: Guyana II, Apr 2016, Bret Whitney, Field Guides.
- Trip report: Suriname, Nov-Dec 2017, Remco Hofland
- Field guide: A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil, 2009, Ber van Perlo, Oxford University Press.

➤ Itinerary

Day	Date	Summary	Night
0	28-Sep	San Francisco to Georgetown, via Miami. Arrive midnight.	Cara Lodge
1	29-Sep	Day trip to Kaieteur Falls & Orinduik Falls on a tiny twin-prop aircraft. Brief birding sessions around both falls.	Cara Lodge
2	30-Sep	5:00 am start, 1 hour drive to Hope Beach. Birding along the Atlantic coast at Hope Beach & nearby mangroves. Then Mahaica River on boat for 3 hours. Mid-day stop at Ogle mud flats for 30 minutes. Back for lunch in Georgetown at 1:15 pm. Georgetown Botanical Garden from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.	Cara Lodge
3	1-Oct	5 am start, 1 hr drive to Bounty Farm near the international airport at Timehri. Pickup breakfast along the way. Birding in lowland forest & manicured garden at the back of the farm till 8:30 am. Drive to Iwokrama River Lodge all day with lunch stop at Km 58 snack shack. Only major birding stop was at an area of small hills about an hour before the Essequibo river crossing. Reach IRL at 6:30 pm.	Iwokrama River Lodge
4	2-Oct	5:45 am start birding the grounds and then the Bushmaster trail. Return for breakfast at 8 am. Then by boat for 20 mins on the Essequibo to the Turtle Mountain trail head. Return at 2:30 pm for lunch. Then IRL access road from 3:45 pm to 6:45 pm (with owling).	Iwokrama River Lodge
5	3-Oct	6:20 am start birding the access road and then drive to Atta Rainforest Lodge with several opportunistic birding stops, one known trail for Rufous Potoo, a patch of Muri Scrub (aka Iwokrama white sand forest) and main road close to Atta Lodge. Reach Atta Lodge 12:30, birding the lodge clearing. 3:00 birding walk to base of Canopy Walkway and continue to main road. Night birding along main road.	Atta Rainforest Lodge
6	4-Oct	5:45 am birding the Atta Lodge clearing. Then birding walk to the Canopy Walkway and then from the platforms. Then back for late breakfast and then birding along the main road north of turnoff. Also birding in white sand forest patch close to the turnoff. Back to lodge at midday for lunch. Birding the grounds. 3:15 to dusk along main road south of lodge and then night birding.	Atta Rainforest Lodge
7	5-Oct	5:45 am birding the Atta Lodge clearing, then along the main road to Surama. Then Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock Lek trail. Then drive to the Surama Lodge. Reach at midday. Lunch. 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm Burro-Burro trail. Some night birding in the open areas.	Surama Eco-Lodge
8	6-Oct	5:45 am – 1:00 pm Burro-Burro trail system. Lunch back at the lodge. 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm birding on main road north of Surama Junction.	Surama Eco-Lodge
9	7-Oct	5:45 am drive to the Surama junction. Birding for few km north along the main road till mid-morning. Then Harpy Eagle Nest Trail. Back to junction at 1 pm with a birding stop a few km north of the junction. Lunch at Surama Junction snack shack. Back to lodge. 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm, open areas around the lodge.	Surama Eco-Lodge
10	8-Oct	5:45 am – 9:30 am Burro-Burro trail system. 10:30 am – 12 pm birding from Surama Junction for a few km north. Then lunch at the Surama Junction snack shack at 12 noon. Drive to Caiman House with random birding stops along the savanna. Reach at 7:00 pm.	Caiman House Field Station
11	9-Oct	5:00 am start driving 1 hour to Crested Doradito site. Birding open area till 10:30 am. Then drive back to lodge and short birding session in nearby gallery forest. Lunch back at lodge at 1:00 pm. 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm birding by boat on the Rupununi River.	Caiman House Field Station

12	10-Oct	4:00 am start driving to Karasabai for Sun Parakeet. Reach at 8 am. Breakfast enroute next to a lake. Birding in the hills north west of Karasabai village. Lunch at the government guest house. Return drive to Manari Ranch just outside Lethem, reach at 4 pm. 1 hr birding on the ranch grounds.	Manari Ranch
13	11-Oct	Day trip over the Rupununi savanna to the remote Wichabai Ranch, to find the Red Siskin. Start driving at 3:00 am, reaching at 7:30 am, brief birding stops enroute. Birding forest patch in savanna and nearby open areas at Wichabai Ranch for Red Siskin. Siesta and then lunch at the ranch. Return with birding stops at the Rupununi river (road to Dadanawa ranch, random stops on way back including spots north of Shulinab village. Reach Manari Ranch at 7:00 pm.	Manari Ranch
14	12-Oct	5:30 am start drive to bank of Takutu River (Brazil border) north of Manari Ranch for Rio Branco Antbird & Hoary-throated Spinetail. Birding gallery forest and scrub. Then cross river on a small row boat and birding a gallery forest patch. Fly Lethem to Georgetown at 4 pm. 12:15 am flight to Miami from GT.	Flight to Miami.

➤ Diary

In general only the first occurrence of a species is noted in this diary – note that this usually coincides with the locality where it is considered a specialty. Species names are noted in **bold** only once. However some species are in bold more than once only for special context. Some widespread and common species are not noted in this diary. Most species are encountered in multiple locations and the totality is covered in the trip list section.

- **28-Sep [San Francisco to Georgetown travel]**

Basically a long travel day. Flew early morning from San Francisco to Miami and then to Georgetown, Guyana, after a 4 hour halt, finally reaching Georgetown at midnight. I had online pre-authorization for visa-on-arrival and had no problem getting that at the immigration counter itself (USD\$ 25 charge). About 45 days prior to arrival I had applied online at the “Department of Citizenship” for visa-on-arrival authorization and that became a hassle for several reasons – first the backend servers were down, then my outlook.com email address was not accepted by the system (apparently they have weird email filters) and then they forgot to process the application for about 2 weeks; I was told before applying that applications are processed in one week! I called the ministry on the 15th day and I got a bit agitated when the person on the other side told me – “nobody can tell you it is processed in one week and we will give authorization only one week before you come”. I told them that is not acceptable to me and I need the authorization immediately as I have taken on a large financial burden for this trip. After a non-committal bye-bye, I did get the authorization the next day itself.

I was picked up at the airport by the affable Francis Kam, Ron’s trusted driver for the Georgetown area. He dropped me off at the delightful **Cara Lodge** close to ‘downtown’ Georgetown after a quick 1:30 am tour of the city center. The one hour drive from the airport to the city was made pleasant by romantic Bollywood songs, which Francis loves, except that he doesn’t understand Hindi, so I had to translate the songs to him. I should mention that the Cara Lodge staff thoughtfully put out two cheese-butter sandwiches for me in the room as their restaurant was closed and they knew I was coming off a long flight so probably wouldn’t have access to a proper meal.

- **29-Sep [Kaieteur Falls, Orinduik Falls]**

I love waterfalls and I woke up pretty excited in anticipation of seeing the majestic **Kaieteur Falls** today, the largest single-drop waterfalls in the world. There are no roads leading to the falls, which is located at the eastern edge of the Pacaraima Range and surrounded by thousands of sq km of pristine rainforest. Birding groups

usually charter a small plane and land at the untarred landing strip next to the park HQ, after which they continue on to more interior birding sites. Since I was alone, I booked a day trip on a small twin-prop through ‘Wilderness Explorers’, an eco-tourism company based in Georgetown. The itinerary is to spend two hours each at Kaieteur Falls & Orinduik Falls and then fly back to Georgetown.

The immediate surroundings of the falls is mostly stunted white sand forest so bird activity is usually rather poor. But I was hoping to find some white-sand specialists like Red-shouldered Tanager, Rufous-crowned Elaenia and an oddity for the area - the Roraiman Antbird, which although considered a Tepui highlands endemic further west, is also found here in the foothills. There is a Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek close to the falls and flowering trees can attract sought-after hummingbirds like Tufted Coquette & Racket-tipped Thorntail.

The 10:00 am flight out of the Ogle airstrip was delayed for an hour due to rains at the falls and we finally left at 11:00 am. The view from the plane is truly awe-inspiring – thousands of sq km of unbroken lowland Amazonian rainforest interspersed by snaking rivers that are either black or muddy. The diversity of life in the green inferno below is among the highest in the world, and the thought of starting to explore it soon after landing was thoroughly satisfying. So on landing I got off the plane pretty pumped up. Unfortunately I was greeted by a blazing sun, the incessant metallic din of cicadas, and a total lack of bird sounds. I was very familiar with this unique white-sand forest situation, which is rhetorically, a bird-free zone. I began to suspect that birding wouldnt go very well in the short span of 2 mid-day hours that I had at my disposal. That couldn’t be any truer as I only saw one **White-crowned Manakin** and one **Bananaquit** (in bold only for its lovely name) in the trail system. There were a few **White-tipped & White-collared Swifts** at the falls (usually more abundant early morning and close to dusk as they return to roost near the falls). At Johnson’s Viewpoint there were some big rocks where I played **Roraiman Antbird [TE]**, which responded back vocally but did not show itself. I suspected that it did not move at all from its hidden perch. To make matters worse, there were no cock-of-the-rocks at the lek. I was told that non-birding tourists have been approaching very close in attempts to take photos using smartphones so this lek is not used much anymore. However I had seen the Guianan COTR before and there would be more opportunities to see it later in the trip so I was not too disappointed. The falls themselves were utterly magnificent. It had been raining recently even though we were supposedly in the dry season and the flow had almost gone back to peak levels. At one of the viewpoints we were lucky to see the endangered **Golden Rocket Frog**, an exquisite three-quarter of an inch all-gold frog that lives its entire life in one tank bromeliad. Its entire population is restricted to the Kaieteur Top plateau so it must be one of the most range restricted frog species in the world.

Kaieteur Falls from the plane



After lunch at the park HQ, we headed for the **Orinduik Falls** (600 masl), located 20 mins away by flight at the Brazil border. The falls are at the Ireng River and the west bank lies in Brazil while the east bank is in Guyana. In fact the flight has to enter Brazilian airspace to be able to land at the airstrip on the Guyanan side. The surroundings couldn't be more different than in Kaieteur – it is surrounded by hilly savanna rather than rainforest, as it is located in the Pantepui grassland ecozone. And contrary to Kaieteur, where swimming would be suicidal, the Orinduik Falls are a short step falls with natural Jacuzzi like pools so it is ideal for swimming. After a refreshing dip at the falls I birded close to the airstrip, where I found **Summer Tanager, Burnished-buff Tanager & Plain-crested Elaenia** among a few more common species. Overall nothing special but unsurprising given that the area doesn't have high bird diversity and I only had 30 minutes of birding. We flew back at 5:00 pm and reached Georgetown at 6:15 pm. Dinner at the restaurant in Cara Lodge.

- **30-Sep [Hope Beach, Mahaica River, Ogle mud flats, Georgetown Botanical Garden]**

Today was the start of the main trip. Gary Sway & Ransford Allicock picked me up at 5:00 am and we started driving towards **Hope Beach**. We reached an hour later. A small rivulet flows into the ocean here and the banks had some common waders. Water level was high and it looked like high tide so there weren't many exposed sandy areas. And no birds were visible on the top of the tall mangroves. We had to wait for a while until the first **Scarlet Ibis [RT]** started flying by right over our heads. They were probably leaving their night roosts because soon more and more groups began to arrive. Eventually we counted over 80 of these brilliant red birds. A walk by the mangroves yielded **White-bellied Piculet [RT], Lemon-chested Greenlet, Yellow Oriole, Bicolored Conebill, Carib Grackle, Yellow-chinned Spinetail**. But our main targets here, the Blood-colored Woodpecker and Rufous Crab Hawk were no shows so we decided to move on to the Mahaica River. **Snail Kites** were common all along the road and a few km ahead we finally found the much desired **Rufous Crab Hawk [GCE]**. From the main east-west highway, we cut south into agricultural landscape, where the scrub had **Wing-barred Seedeater [RT], Gray Seedeater [RT], Red-breasted Meadowlark, Pale-breasted Spinetail, & Green-rumped Parrotlet**. The destination was the home of Narine Bhagwandeo, who would take us by boat on the Mahaica River.



Rufous Crab Hawk

The sun was out strongly and it was time to put on a hat. But it was missing and I realized I left it in the plane yesterday. So I'd have to go boating under bright sunlight without a hat (and no sunscreen as I hate it)! Luckily I had a spare back at the hotel. This would be the 1st of many items I'd lose in this trip due to bad luck, but for which one backup remained – 5V battery for speakers, primary cellphone and playback app. The final thing to lose could have been my life on the Rupununi River, which was fortunately prevented – more on that later :).

The boat ride up the **Mahaica** river quickly became quite productive and we found **Green-tailed Jacamar [GSNE], Blood-colored Woodpecker [GCE]** (our top target here), **Silvered Antbird** (this is the nominate form which happens to be much more streaked on the north-east coast than elsewhere in its range), **Black-crested Antshrike** & 4 species of **Kingfishers (Ringed, Amazon, Green, Pygmy)**. The national bird of Guyana, the **Hoatzin** was common in the dense scrub along the river. An odd encounter was of a **Red Howler** monkey only 5 feet above the water on a mangrove bush. Other interesting species were **Lesser Kiskadee, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet (Inezia), Brown-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Red-capped Cardinal, White-winged Swallow, Straight-billed Woodcreeper & Brown-throated**

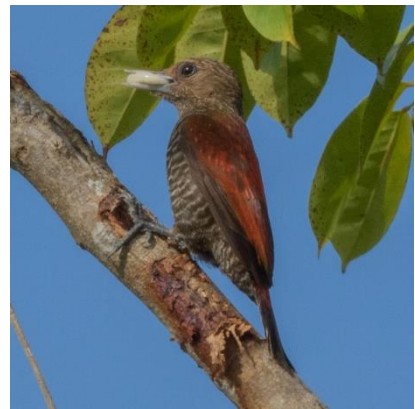


Silvered Antbird

Parakeet. We returned to Narine's home for brunch where we were treated to delicious homemade *Puri Aloo Subji* (Indian fried bread & potato masala curry) prepared by his wife. We finished off the meal with fresh local pineapples. A quick walk on a levee behind his home got us the only **Green-throated Mango [RT]** of the trip.

We then drove back to Georgetown for some birding at the **Ogle mud flats**. Random stops along the way didn't get us anything new. We reached the mudflats just after noon and it was low tide. There were thousands of shorebirds but the midday thermals and distance made it difficult to watch them. Nevertheless we had several **Black Skimmers**, large numbers of **Laughing Gull** among a host of common waders. For lunch we went to the famous *Shanta's Puri Shop*, a popular hole-in-the-wall institution in Georgetown. I ordered *puri* and roasted eggplant, which was very good. The fresh *'Mauby juice'* otoh needs a mention here for being the most bizarre drink I have ever had, a heady mix of a certain Caribbean fruit, bitters & cane sugar, creating a taste not unlike liquid paracetamol (yes I know how that tastes) that I couldn't remove from the back of my throat until I was able to sleep it off at night with a dose of digestives.

After an hour's rest back at Cara Lodge, we went to the **Georgetown Botanical Gardens**, which has plenty of wild looking habitat and serves as an oasis for birds in the middle of the city. We had several targets here that would be difficult elsewhere in the trip. The strategy was to enter the park at one end, walk to the other end on the central boulevard and then return back. A pond at the entrance had several **West Indian Manatee**. Flowering plants revealed the rather similar looking **Plain-bellied Emerald [RT]** & **White-chested Emerald [GSE]**. Other good birds were **Peregrine Falcon**, **Grey-lined Hawk**, a solitary **Red-fan Parrot**, **Red-shouldered Macaw**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Black-necked Aracari**, **Black-capped Donacobius**, & **White-lined, White-shouldered, and Turquoise Tanagers**. **Blood-colored Woodpecker [GCE]** & **White-bellied Piculet [RT]** were encountered again. We didn't see any Festive Parrot, an oddly distributed threatened species, which is not possible elsewhere in this trip. I had seen it before so I wasn't too disappointed. Four wanted species - **Plain-crowned Spinetail**, **Spotted Tody-Flycatcher**, **Cinereous Becard** and **Cinnamon Atilla** were wrapped up in a span of 10 productive minutes just before the park closed at 6 pm. Dinner at Kamboat Chinese Restaurant.



Blood-colored Woodpecker

- **1-Oct [Bounty Farm (Timehri), Drive to Iwokrama River Lodge]**

Today would be the start of true rainforest birding. The plan was to drive 8 hours south to the **Iwokrama Forest Reserve**, the heart of Guyana, and bird along the way. First stop was to pick up breakfast and then one hour south at the Bounty Farm (a chicken farm) in Timehri behind the Georgetown international airport. This strategic stop is usually not in any birding itinerary but I had specially requested it to try for two mega species that are sometimes seen here but not elsewhere in Guyana – **Crimson-hooded Manakin** & **Slender-billed Kite**. The back of the property has a large garden after which lies a large swath of swampy rainforest. The garden was teeming with birds when we got there – **Channel-billed & White-throated Toucan**, **Green Ibis**, **Reddish Hermit**, **Blue-tailed Emerald**, **Lineated & Cream-colored Woodpecker**, **Barred Antshrike** were some interesting species. The targeted kite was nowhere in sight so we played a tape and prompt came a response. We followed the sound to a giant tree, where we found a **Slender-billed Kite [MT]** sitting unobtrusively under its canopy. The presumed lek of the **Crimson-hooded Manakin** was empty so we decided to try for this riverine forest specialist inside the forest. It was never recorded inside but it would be worth it if we found it so off we went. The entrance to the only trail into the forest was flooded so it was tricky foot work to get around that obstacle over rickety fallen logs. Once inside, the dark and silent forest seemed dead except when a pretty **Chestnut Woodpecker** with raised crest silently landed in front of us (the three northern continental sub-species have golden rufous crests which makes them look quite dapper). As we plodded ahead

the forest got swamplier and at one point I thought I heard a manakin. I played a tape and two ridiculous looking male **Crimson-hooded Manakin [MT]** jumped up on an overhead branch from the dense vine tangles below. At another semi-submerged area we saw a vocal black bird, which we first thought was a *thamnophilus* antshrike because of its very erect crest and sound. But on matching with my sound database and carefully noting the field marks, it turned out to be a **Black-headed Antbird [GSNE]**, a very uncommon bird here and lifer for my guide Gary. **Guianan Warbling-Antbird [GSE] & Green-tailed Trogon** were seen on our way back.



Slender-billed Kite



Crimson-hooded Manakin



Black-headed Antbird

We started driving further south and to save time breakfast would have to be in the car. But breakfast was a flop for me. I was expecting to eat *puri* & roasted eggplant (yet again), which we had ordered from the take-away spot at 5:30 am. Instead, my box had a large piece of fish. So I gave it to Gary who devoured it quickly, in addition to his own fish dish. I was left eating chocolates; Ransford apparently has a healthy appetite for decadent chocolate covered wafers so he keeps a supply nearby. We drove across extensive white sand forests and gigantic potholes until it was lunch time at a strange little restaurant in the middle of nowhere called Km58 Snackette. It catered to the logging and mining concessions of the area and always has a movie playing on a dilapidated TV as an additional attraction. I was pleasantly surprised by the food, what with their tasty array of Guyanese-Indian vegetarian dishes. We ate while watching 30 mins of a superhero movie.

At random stops while still east of the Essequibo River, we saw birds like **Grayish Mourner, Whiskered Flycatcher, Yellow-backed Tanager, Black Nunbird [GSE]**, and a rare species - **Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant (Neopipo)**, which I carefully differentiated from the more common & widespread Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher. Neopipo was also a lifer for my guide Gary. All low flying swifts turned out to be **Band-rumped Swift**. There were many tantalizing trails / small roads leading into the forest from the main road but we didn't have time to explore them. We finally did a slightly longer birding stop at 4:00 pm at an undulating area where Ron had luckily seen a Red-and-black Grosbeak before (while he was on a toilet break). No sooner did we go into the dark trail we saw and heard the tell-tale remains of an understory mixed-species flock. I predicted that it might be led by Cinereous Antshrike and it was, as it responded back as soon as I played its call and brought the entire flock back with it. It had some sought after birds – **Brown-bellied Antwren (Stipplethroat) [GSE], Long-winged Antwren, White-flanked Antwren & Gray Antwren**. It turned out that there was also a canopy flock there at the same time and it had some common tanagers apart from **Green Oropendola, Yellow-throated Woodpecker**, a fleeing **Guianan Trogon [GSE]** and some confiding **Screaming Piha**. After things quietened down I played the tape of a **Red-and-black Grosbeak [RT]** and to our surprise we got an immediate response. But it was well hidden at an inconvenient distance and wouldn't move. But suddenly it decided to make a mad dash over our heads to the other side and then disappear into the depths of the forest, much to our disappointment. We did connect well later at Iwokrama River Lodge.

We were getting late and rain was approaching so we decided to make our own mad dash towards the Essequibo ferry crossing. Ransford put on a skillful display of driving at speed over the heavily potholed road in torrential

rain so that we reach the ferry on time. We did with only 5 minutes to go on the last ferry (6:00 pm). As we waited for the barricade to be lowered, the front yard of the only nearby house had a pretty interesting sight – a pet Grey-winged Trumpeter that lived in harmony with another household pet – a dog. Ransford had gone to the house to drop off something and the trumpeter comically followed him around until he crossed an invisible line on his way back to the car. From there it calmly walked back to the relaxing dog and stood there. Trumpeters are sometimes kept as pets in jungle homes because they warn humans of nearby danger (like snakes). We crossed the Essequibo on the last ferry and the Iwokrama River Lodge was a 5 minute drive away. We checked in and had a nice dinner after which we went to bed as we were all tired. Ransford though had a further 2 hour journey to his home at Surama Junction as the vehicle was not necessary for the next day and he had to attend to some repairs on a different car.

- **2-Oct [Iwokrama River Lodge, Turtle Mountain, IRL approach road, boat on Essequibo]**



Black-necked Aracari



Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper



Capuchinbird

We decided to hit the Bushmaster Trail early in the morning because the Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo was heard there recently. Just as we were about to hit the trail we saw a flock of **Black-necked Aracari** moving through some *ccropia* trees at the edge and heard an **Amazonian Pygmy Owl**. It was well inside the forest but we decided to pursue it, and after some difficult bush walking we located the tree it was hiding in. Then disaster struck – the lodge allotted *local guide collapsed* inside the forest after saying – ‘my heart is giving away’. He was breathing faintly though so Gary & I first thought of carrying him out of the bush but we were unable to. We needed a stretcher and a machete to clear the forest so I asked Gary to stay with him and I ran back to the lodge. We rushed back on a pickup truck with some machetes, a stretcher, some first aid and additional men. The rescue took about half an hour and thankfully he was still breathing – actually it was looking like an epileptic seizure and he somewhat revived after some strong odors were pushed down his nose while he lay on the back of the pickup truck. He was driven to the clinic of Fairview village (the nearest village) where he recovered fully and was advised to rest for the next two days. After the truck left for the clinic, Gary and I entered the Bushmaster trail and we found a **massive army antswarm** only 100 meters in. It was a sight to behold. The attendants were the fabulous **Rufous-throated Antbird [GSE]**, the downright bizarre **White-plumed Antbird**, the exquisite **Rufous-bellied Antwren [GSE]**, **6 Grey-winged Trumpeters**, **Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper [GSE]**, and **Plain-brown & Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper**. No ground cuckoo though. Still, our luck must have been great because we bumped into a large mixed feeding flock about 100 meters after the antswarm. It held **Mouse-colored Antshrike** (the Guianan Shield ssp has light brown wings so looks quite different), **Dusky-throated Antshrike**, **Gray Antbird**, **Long-winged Antwren**, **Plain Xenops**, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, **Plain Amazonian Royal Flycatcher**, **Bay-headed Tanager**, **Black-tailed Tityra** and **Golden-headed Manakin**. **Cinereous Antshrike** was again the flock leader. The flock was close to a Capuchinbird lek and we soon heard them sounding off high up in the canopy. Its sound has to be heard to be believed and difficult to even describe, sort of like mooing, growling, and a chainsaw all thrown in together. After some neck straining, we got one **Capuchinbird [GSE]** in the scope and it soon came down to the open.

It certainly looks as bizarre as it sounds. It was very satisfying to finally see one of my most wanted birds of the Amazon. We then heard a distant Spotted Antpitta but we decided against searching for it as we were getting very late for breakfast and the trip to Turtle Mountain. We decided to try for the Spotted Antpitta later in the evening when it is more vocal.

During breakfast at the 2nd floor of the main building we scoped some pretty **Painted Parakeets [RT]**, **Caica Parrot [GSE]**, **Epaulet Oriole**, the only **Blue-and-Yellow Macaw** of the trip, and some **Red-and-green Macaws** (the most common macaw of the trip). Just before we arrived back at the lodge for breakfast, an adult male **Guianan Toucanet [GSE]** had flown into a pillar of the main building. So it was placed inside a cupboard for recovery. That allowed me to closely inspect the bird. It made a full recovery soon after and we released it in the nearby forest. A male Golden-headed Manakin was also inside the dining area and trying to figure out how to get out from under the thatched roofing. It finally got out after hopping onto the side railing. It turns out the lodge dining area gets some weird visitors – several flycatcher species of the forest, toucans, Guianan Red Cotinga and even a Capuchinbird have all bungled into the dining area.

At this time I also realized that I was horribly bitten by chiggers sometime in the morning. I counted over 120 rashes all over my legs and the unbearable itch would bug me throughout the trip (and even after returning home). Across 12 years of birding in the Neotropics I never got a chigger rash so I thought I was immune. But these Guyanese chiggers were special, evidently. To make matters worse, of all the medicines I carried, I seemed to have left the anti-histamines at home. At times in the field the itch would be so bad that I had to attempt standing *Pranayam* (a deep breathing *Yoga Asana*) to take my mind off the itch. I also got bitten 5 different times by ticks (I was told there is no incidence of lime disease in central & southern Guyana but again, the itching is terrible). Also bitten by sand flies in the Rupununi which caused the dorsal side of my hand to swell by an inch and then bitten by ants & mosquitos in Surama (malfunctioning mosquito net). All this despite applying eucalyptus & lemon oil! So I came close to becoming a medical specimen but it was worth it for all the birds.

Marcie, a female local guide was allotted to us for the trip to Turtle Mountain and she turned out to be the only female bird guide in Iwokrama. A twenty minute boat ride downstream on the Essequibo got us to the base of the Turtle Mountain. On the way we had **Ladder-tailed Nightjar**, **Yellow-billed & Large-billed Tern**. The trail head is on the other side of a small oxbow lake that is connected to the main river by a narrow channel. The channel was very active with birds and we had **Guianan Streaked Antwren [GSE]**, **Black-chinned Antbird**, **Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Cocoa Thrush**, **Blue-headed Parrot** and **Crested Oropendola**. We encountered another flock at the base of the trail head but there were no new birds there and a **Spot-winged Antbird** frustrated us by not showing up even after promptly responding to tape playback. The hike up the steep Turtle Mountain (it's a hill, really) got us many flocks but not many new species. There were no foliage-gleaners in any flock and the much wanted Wing-banded Antbird seemed to be absent (or not responding). **Guianan Toucanet [GSE]**, **Spot-tailed Antwren [GSE]**, a family of **White-crested Spadebill** with young were all good. We continued searching for the main target here – the **Red-and-Black Grosbeak [RT]** and we finally found a pair about 20 mins from the top. Both male & female showed very well. With the main target in the bag, we decided to head back because going to the top and returning would take an additional one hour and no food would be left at the lodge. That meant I would miss the resident Orange-breasted Falcon at the top but that was somewhat okay as I had seen it before and it was possible to bump into one later in the trip. I also didn't want the guides and boatman to go hungry. Marcie had brought a few peanut butter sandwiches with her, which we ate with gusto. The brisk walk back to the boat got us another mixed species flock which had **Todd's Antwren [GSE]**. This tiny canopy antwren looks and behaves very similar to its sympatric congener, the Spot-tailed Antwren which is yet another canopy species and both can

Ladder-tailed Nightjar



appear in the same mixed flock. But thankfully they can be differentiated by sound. We got excellent scope views of both on this trip. We tried to relocate the earlier Spot-winged Antbird but flushed a **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** instead. On the boat ride back the channel had a **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher**, and later a female **Pompadour Cotinga** was seen on the river's edge. We had lunch back at the lodge at 3:00 pm and were back out birding at 4:00 pm.

As planned earlier we hurried back to the Bushmaster Trail to try for the Spotted Antpitta we had heard in the morning. On the way to the spot, a furtive **White-necked Thrush** was seen walking across the road on a fallen log. Once there I did a single burst of playback for **Spotted Antpitta** and waited in silence. And after a few minutes we got a response. But it appeared to be far from the trail so we walked into the bush trying to follow its ventriloquial sound. About 50 meters in the bird sounded much closer so we were on the right track. Then suddenly it called from very near. We searched almost motionlessly and found it about 10 meters ahead in some ground hugging branches. After a minute or so it jumped out on a fallen log and showed itself beautifully. All this with only a single burst of playback in the beginning! It was getting dark inside the trail so we quickly moved to the lodge access road where it was still well lit. We heard a much wanted **Painted Tody-Flycatcher [GSE]** but it was very high up and views were not satisfactory. We would eventually see it well only in Surama despite hearing it multiple times every day. Other good birds were **Spix's Guan & Forest Elaenia**. We heard Great and Paradise Jacamar but failed to see them. By the time we reached the junction with the main road, light was fading fast and right on cue, a much wanted **Spotted Puffbird** vocalized, as it often does just before dusk. It seemed quite far away but knowing that this was a trickster, we scanned all close-by branches and behold, it was right there almost on top of our heads. We returned to the lodge in the dark and took the opportunity to speculatively play for owls. We ended up with point blank views of **Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl**.

After dinner we went on a boat ride on the Essequibo. We saw a few **Black Caiman** (including *Shankar* the lodge's resident), **Black-collared Swallow** and over 200 **White-winged Swallow** roosting on a single bush sticking out of the water. They seemed to glow in our flash light so it was an extraordinary sight.



Spotted Antpitta



Guianan Puffbird



Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl

- **3-Oct [Iwokrama River Lodge to Atta Lodge, Atta Lodge]**

Woke up 15 minutes late because of a snooze disaster. Had quick breakfast and started birding the access road by 6:20 am. Ransford had driven back from Surama Junction early this morning and picked up Atta's Lodge's resident bird guide John Christian on the way north to IRL. We didn't find anything new on the access road but I knew someone had recently seen Guianan Puffbird there. So I decided to play back its call at the junction of the access road and the lodge clearing. But just before hitting the play button, I saw a thick pied bird on top of a tall leafless tree. The jizz was unmistakable so I knew what it was even before I lifted the binoculars – a **Guianan Puffbird [GSNE]**. We started our drive to Atta Lodge with plans of stopping opportunistically for targets, the most important being a stake out for Rufous Potoo.

Along the way before our first stop we had 10 **Grey-winged Trumpeters** crossing the road. Our first major stop was about 1 km from a stream where a **Crimson Topaz** was spotted recently. The walk produced excellent views of **Waved Woodpecker [RT]**, **Ringed Woodpecker**, **Red-fan Parrot & Dusky Parrot [RT]**. At the stream a brilliant male **Crimson Topaz [MT]** was right on cue, defending his small flowering tree from any intruders. A **King Vulture** soared high overhead. Some vocal **Blue-Cheeked Parrots [GSE]** flew past but we couldn't see them properly.



Crimson Topaz



Grey-winged Trumpeter



Waved Woodpecker

We then stopped to walk into the forest through a narrow swampy trail to look for Rufous Potoo. The walk turned out to be over 20 minutes because unseasonal rains had partially flooded the trail. Nevertheless we reached the stake-out and saw an amazing **Rufous Potoo [MT]** on exactly the same, seemingly random twig that it has been roosting on for several months now. It was even rocking back and forth every now and then, in what is considered a dead leaf impression. It's obvious that this much sought-after mega is morphologically quite different from its congeners (Potoos *Nyctibiidae*) and a recent phylogenetic study has found enough divergence from all other potoos to place Rufous Potoo *N. bracteatus* in its own monotypic genus – *Phyllaemulor*. At the potoo stake-out we also heard another much-wanted mega – **Blue-backed Tanager [RT]** but we failed to see it as the mid-story was too dense to view the canopy where the tanager was calling from. This was disappointing but we didn't know at the time that we would see it very well next day. Otherwise it was awfully quiet on the trail – we only saw a curious **Black Spider Monkey**.

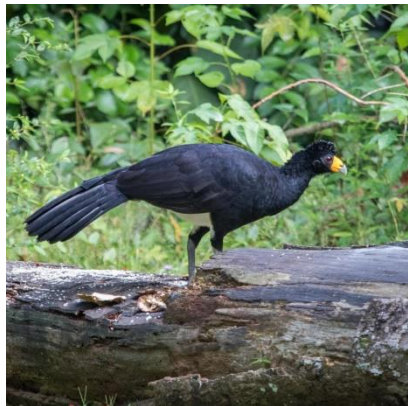


Rufous Potoo

Our next stop was at the **Mori Scrub**, a large patch of dense stunted white-sand scrub & forest, sometimes known as 'Iwokrama white-sand forest'. The slightly tall forest at the southern entrance to the trail can be quite productive (megas like Guianan Red Cotinga and army ant swarms with Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo have been recorded here) but it was very quiet when we reached. We did see two **Black Curassow [RT]** foraging quietly on the forest floor. The stunted white-sand forest was even quieter, which is typical by mid-morning, but the wet partially flooded trail had some rather skittish **Blackish Nightjars**. My main targets here, Rufous-crowned Elaenia & Red-shouldered Tanager, both sandy soil stunted forest specialists, were nowhere in sight. We exited the trail at the north end without seeing or hearing anything else. Bright sunlight once we were out on the main road gave us little hope of finding our targets but after about 15 minutes we saw some movement on top of the short trees by side of the road. They turned out to be just what I needed – male & female **Red-shouldered Tanager [MT]**. We even saw the inconspicuous red shoulders as they flared their wings. Just then a small bird flew across the road to the canopy on the other side and it turned out to be a **Rufous-crowned Elaenia [MT]**, the other most wanted target. We missed the obligate white-sand specialist Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin (a GSNE that I had seen before in Mitu, Colombia).

We then decided to go straight to the Atta Lodge area and explore the forest close to the approach road turnoff. A small patch of white sand forest close to the turnoff is usually good for Olivaceous Schiffornis (called Guianan Schiffornis / Mourner by IOC and HBW respectively). This was one of the 5 different species that resulted from splitting the erstwhile Thrush-like Schiffornis. Just as we stepped inside the forest from the main road we saw a **Red-legged Tinamou [RT]** scurry past us. We played **Olivaceous Schiffornis [GSE]** and got an immediate and loud response. But it responded just once and never bothered to show up. We missed seeing it altogether for the tour. A **Bronzy Jacamar** was seen well just as we exited the forest.

We drove 5 minutes to the **Atta Rainforest Lodge** and checked in just after noon. Then we spent some time birding the hummingbird feeders (the only successful ones in Guyana) and forest edge around the clearing. A tall fruiting tree right at the edge, hereafter, *'The Cotinga Tree'*, got our attention as it seemed to be a frantic hub of activity. Over the next 48 hours this tree became the most incredible fruiting tree I had ever seen. At one point, 6 species of *cotingidae*, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Spangled Cotinga, Guianan Red Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, Screaming Piha and Purple-throated Fruitcrow were seen together in one frame through the spotting scope, all males. At this time there were several **Spangled Cotinga** and one superb male **Purple-breasted Cotinga** on it. Over the next half hour, **Black-spotted Barbet [GSE]**, **Green Aracari [GSE]**, **Black-necked Aracari**, **Guianan Toucanet [GSE]** showed up to great views with a supporting cast of tanagers and oropendolas. The clearing had **Pink-throated Becard**, a pair of tame **Black Curassow [RT]**, comical **Purple-throated Fruitcrows** and **Yellow-green Grosbeak**. The nectar feeders had 9 species of hummingbird including **Crimson Topaz [MT]**, **Gray-breasted Sabrewing**, **Black-eared Fairy**, **Long-tailed Hermit**, **Reddish Hermit**, **Rufous-breasted Hermit**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, **Rufous-throated Sapphire** and **White-necked Jacobin**. Sought-after hummingbirds like Tufted Coquette & Racket-tipped Thorntail used to visit in the past but have not been coming for a long time.



Black Curassow



Green Aracari



Black-faced Hawk

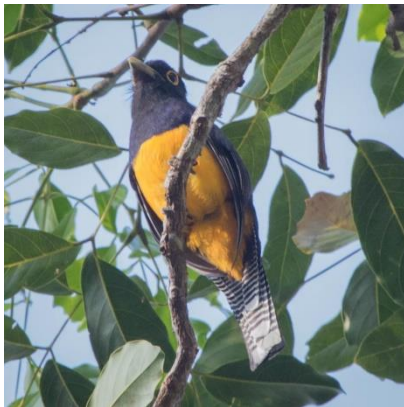
It started raining pretty heavily during lunch and continued for 90 minutes. This afforded us a quick siesta after which we started walking towards the Canopy Walkway. Conditions were overcast so visibility was poor inside the primary forest. A calling **Black-faced Hawk** alerted us to its presence and it took a bit of team work between John, Gary and me to locate this ventriloquial bandit, a target species here. Birding was more targeted at this point of the trip and we soon found a pair of the smart looking **Black-throated Antshrike [GSE]**. The last bird before dusk was **Collared Puffbird**, as we waited for them to start vocalizing, typically just before dusk. Then we quickly walked to the main road where Ransford was waiting in the car. The aim was to try for the hardest of all potoos – the White-winged. It was drizzling so we were sitting inside the car and hoping it would stop because there is only a small window of time during which the potoo will respond and perch. That window is between 6:10 pm to 6:30 pm at this time of the year. The drizzle didn't stop so we decided to have a go anyway and after about 5 minutes of sparsely done playback we got a response. Then a minute later a **White-winged Potoo [MT]** flew out of the depths of the forest and perched on a small broken branch high up. We got excellent views but true to its nature, it didn't stick around for too long. John said that this particular

individual is not going to return this evening. We moved on to look for more owls and possibly mammals. We found a pair of **Black-banded Owl** but then it started raining again so we returned to the lodge for dinner.

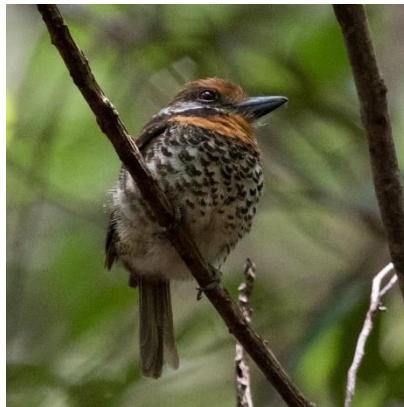
- **4-Oct [Atta Rainforest Lodge]**

We started off at 5:45 am by birding the lodge grounds over tea, scanning often the 3 trees at the edge of the clearing: the '**Cotinga Tree**' (aforementioned seasonal fruiting tree), '**Crimson Fruitcrow Tree**' (a massive tree with thick leaf-less branches where a Crimson Fruitcrow shows up with some regularity) and '**Dusky Purpletuft Tree**'. The latter two failed to attract their coveted namesakes but the **Cotinga Tree** was amazing as usual. At one point there were 6 cotinga species including a pair of **Guianan Red Cotinga [GSE]** and a male **Pompadour Cotinga**. A few **Marail Guans [GSE]** showed up along with the similar but larger **Spix's Guan**. **Caica Parrot [GSE]** and a group of **Flame-crested Tanager** and **Spotted Tanager** showed up. The latter has a curious distribution – eastern Amazonian lowlands and eastern Andean foothill forests with a big gap comprising western & central Amazonia in between so I wonder if a split awaits in the future.

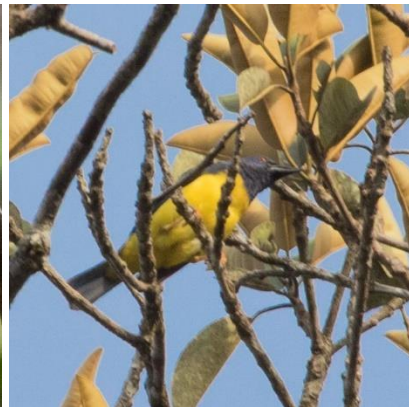
Then we quickly walked to the Canopy Walkway hoping that it produces some good birds as it has a reputation of being slow. Thankfully on this day it was quite active and we got several good birds – **Golden-winged Parakeet**, **Todd's Antwren [GSE]**, **Spot-tailed Antwren [GSE]**, **Guianan Trogon [GSE]**, **Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant**, **White-lored Tyrannulet**, **White-throated Manakin [GSE]** female among others. Back down at the base of the Canopy Walkway hill we heard a **Spot-winged Antbird** and we didn't even have to use playback to see them. This was a wanted bogey bird for me and a lifer for even Atta's resident guide John Christian. Back at the lodge for late breakfast, an **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** soared overhead and a **Guianan Tyrannulet [RT]** (a recent split from the confusing Rough-legged Tyrannulet complex) appeared on top of a tree. The Crimson Fruitcrow and Dusky Purpletuft were still no-shows at the lodge clearing.



Guianan Trogon



Spotted Puffbird



Blue-backed Tanager

We then proceeded to the main road hoping for some flocks and reconnect with the schiffornis in the white sand enclave close to the lodge. It didn't perform however so we entered the same white sand forest on the other side of the road. Inside the short forest with a clear understory, we heard a bird calling from just above the canopy. Its frog-like sound was quite interesting and neither of us were able to identify it. I photographed the bird and recorded its sounds. It was later identified as a **Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant [GSNE]**, a mysterious *hemitriccus* considered to be a white-sand enclave obligate, which was rediscovered near Manaus (Brazil) in 1992, 160 years after it was first collected. Since then it has been discovered only in a handful of localities, including one in Suriname and only a single record from Guyana (in Berbice in 2014 by Brian O'Shea). So this became only the 2nd record for the country, first for Iwokrama Reserve and first for west of the Essequibo River. Continuing on the same trail, we got **Red-billed Woodcreeper [GSE]**, **Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper**, **Black Manakin**, **Tiny Tyrant-Manakin [GSE]**, **Yellow-billed Jacamar** and **Spotted Puffbird**. Back on the main road a large canopy flock conveniently materialized at an area where John had recently seen the much-wanted **Blue-backed Tanager [RT]** and sure enough, a pair was in attendance and we saw them very well.

This weird sexually dimorphic ‘tanager’ of unknown affinity, hence placed in its own monotypic genus, is a rarity across its range and the Iwokrama lowlands is one of the best places to see it (although still difficult to find it here). The mixed-flock also had **Buff-cheeked Greenlet**. Several flocks of **Lilac-tailed Parrotlet [RT]** flew overhead and we never connected with perched individuals. Just before lunch we visited a stream crossing just south of the lodge turnoff and found several **Chapman’s Swift**. We also had a female **Rose-breasted Chat** and we promised to find ourselves a male.

After lunch, I kept scanning the trees in the clearing for Crimson Fruitcrow. They didn’t show up so at 3:15 pm we decided to head back to the main road. Driving north we had **Variable (Little) Chachalaca [GSE]**, **Black Hawk-Eagle** perched low and **Long-tailed Tyrant**. At our first and only stop we finally found an adult male **Rose-breasted Chat** – a stunning bird indeed, **White-throated Manakin [GSE]** – another delightful little thing, and the superb **Golden-sided Euphonia [RT]**. This uniquely plumaged euphonia showed up right below the manakin only 5 feet above ground. This confused us as it is a canopy species but there was a fruiting bush there so that could explain its presence so low. A small mixed flock gave us the last new bird of the day, a **Guianan Woodcreeper [GSE]**. **Lined & Slaty-backed Forest-Falcons** began calling just before dusk. Unsurprisingly we didn’t even get a whiff of them. We tried for the **White-winged Potoo** again and saw it well again. We couldn’t find any owls.

- **5-Oct [Atta Lodge to Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock Trail to Surama EcoLodge]**

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock



Woke up with the burden of not having seen the Crimson Fruitcrow and Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo yet. The latter’s main site is Surama but the fruitcrow is best seen at the Atta clearing and around. So we waited out at the clearing for two hours in the morning. The only new birds were **Paradise Jacamar** and the only **Golden-bellied Euphonia** of the trip. This widespread bird seemed scarce on the ground and this was a female on an almost complete nest right in the middle of the clearing. Reluctantly we left Atta Lodge and started driving towards Surama, which is a little over 1 hour away non-stop. But we planned to make several stops including at the cock-of-the-rock trail. We made a random stop at a place where we heard a flock. But no sooner than we got out of the car the flock disappeared. But there were two delightful **White-bearded**

Manakin at a lek. We dropped off John Christian on the main road close to the GCOTR Trail, from where he planned to hitch a ride on any highway vehicle to his remote village. Gary and I continued into the GCOTR Trail, which was very quiet. Trawling for the ground-cuckoo was met with stubborn silence. We saw a **Pale-tailed Barbthroat** sitting still close to the trail and finally at the lek we had 4 male **Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock [GSNE]** and at least two females, including one sitting on its nest. The absolutely delightful males (one of the strangest birds on the planet imho) put on a show and we observed them for over 30 minutes. An **Amazonian Motmot** also appeared in the lek area and we heard an uncooperative **White Bellbird [RT]**.

Back on the main road we stopped at a road-side stake-out for **Long-tailed Potoo** and had an incredible sighting of a female with a baby. We birded along the main road at a spot where the fruitcrow is sometimes seen but dipped. It was getting very hot now, there were no bird sounds whatsoever and we were getting late for lunch so we drove on to **Surama EcoLodge** and checked in.

After some rest we hit the Burro-Burro trail system behind the lodge. The walk to the trail head takes you through savanna where we had many **Brown-throated Parakeet** (very common), **Pearl Kite**, **Lesser Nighthawk** and



Long-tailed Potoo

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet. Hundreds of **Lilac-tailed Parakeets [RT]** flew high overhead in small groups, presumably from the plains to their roosting sites on the southern foothills of the Pacaraima Range. Tepui Parrotlet has been recorded here demonstrating similar movement but we couldn't confirm that any of the overhead parakeets were indeed Tepui Parrotlet. There were other possibilities but we walked fast to the trail head without much stopping. The Burro-Burro trail system is the number one place anywhere for the ground-cuckoo and we planned to keep visiting here over the next two days. Gary and Ron were relatively confident as a particular pair was very vocal two weeks ago. However we had experienced the ominous situation of not hearing any whatsoever at Iwokrama River Lodge and Atta Lodge so there was some anxiety building up. And it turned out that this outing didn't fare any better – we didn't hear them despite good playback coverage so our fears only grew manifold. Overall we encountered (didn't try beyond heard) some nice species which we had seen before including **Black Curassow [RT]** & **Blue-backed Tanager [RT]**. In fact almost all the typical rainforest species from further north in Iwokrama are possible here despite the forest being less tall. The edge forest here is different as it borders savanna and it yielded **White-browed Antbird** and **Northern Slaty Antshrike [MT]**. Gary assured me that the ground-cuckoo would vocalize next morning but I wasn't sure anymore as I suspected that they might have paired up to breed because of the continuing late rains. On the way back we heard **Barred Forest-Falcon**, saw several **Common Pauragues** and also called in a **Common Potoo**. We also called in a pair of **Tropical Screech Owls** close to the lodge just before dinner.

- **6-Oct [Surama EcoLodge (Burro-Burro Trail), Surama Junction]**

The plan today was basically to keep birding the Burro-Burro trail system hoping to luck out with the Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo. We entered through a different entry today, one that had a Capuchinbird lek close by. We went by this lek last evening on our way out of the trail system just before dusk but there was no activity. This morning was different and there were three vocal **Capuchinbirds [GSE]** in attendance. They were secretive but showed very well after some persistence. Hearing their bizarre calls has to be one of the best Neotropical birding experiences. The walk to the Burro-Burro River boat-landing took us over a narrow stream where a large flock had **Ash-winged Antwren** (frustrated us by staying heard-only in the canopy). It also had **Dusky-throated Antshrike** and the most conspicuous antwren of all in this part of the world – **White-flanked Antwren**. The brush close to the Burro-Burro River boat-landing yielded **Pectoral Sparrow** but the bamboo there failed to produce the rare Large-headed Flatbill, which has been seen there a few times in the past. But the elephant in the room that was casting a larger and larger shadow as time went on was that the ground-cuckoo was missing in action.

We were walking back slowly from the boat landing keeping our ears open to any sounds, the silence punctuated only by occasional bursts of ground-cuckoo booms through my radioshack. We must have gone 15 minutes, when we heard loud bill clapping right next to the trail about 40 meters ahead. We literally froze – it was a **Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo [GSE]**. We couldn't believe our luck. Surely it must have heard our playback and silently approached the trail to investigate, only to sense our presence and then betraying its own presence by bill clapping in alarm. Then suddenly there was more bill clapping from a little more inside – so there were two, presumably the same pair that was quite vocal even until two weeks ago (but so secretive that two hardcore birding teams failed to see them even though they were less than 15 meters away in dense tangled vegetation). *So will we be able to see these notorious birds? – was the million dollar question.* While Gary was frozen ahead of me, I slowly walked past him with more careful deliberation than a cat stalking its prey. Binoculars were held close to my nose with both hands so as not to produce unnecessary movement. I froze at an opportune spot that gave me visibility at the dark base of a tree behind some ground hugging tangles, all of 20 meters away. The clapping was coming from brush behind the tangles and the birds were impossible to see at this time but I guessed that if they wanted to cross the trail then they would walk through the space between the flared base of the tree and the tangles. And I was right. Suddenly the clapping reached a crescendo and one bird walked behind the tangles, came out onto the trail and crossed it very quickly and disappeared. Success! But there was another one left so I remained frozen. After a minute or so this one too followed the same path but appeared

on the trail behind another tangle. This must have given the bird a momentary false impression that it was hidden and that afforded me good views of almost the entire bird in decent light. Then suddenly it saw me and went right back into the tangle, only to reappear at the dark base of the tree where I had already trained my binoculars. Looks like I had outwitted the bird! Almost instantly though it realized the exposé and did a mad dash around the tree, comically failing to find an appropriate escape hole in the tangle, then backtracking down and succeeding to escape through a different hole. It was clear to me that the bird decided to cross the trail a little ahead so I quickly took a few steps ahead to be able to see further along the curve. And sure enough it came out and crossed the trail quicker than Road Runner, except that Wile E. Coyote had the last laugh :).

It was almost 1 pm and we walked back to the trailhead with a smug feeling of accomplishment. **Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Cayenne Jay [GSE]** and **White-winged Becard** appeared at the edge on our way out. Ransford was waiting to pick us up there and we all had shots of El Dorado rum to celebrate (Ransford keeps a bottle handy for such occasions).

With the number 1 target of the trip in the bag, we decided to focus on getting the Crimson Fruitcrow. There are some spots just north of the Surama Junction where it is sometimes recorded so that is where we decided to go for the evening session. On our way to the junction we stopped in the savanna at a reliable stake-out for White-naped Xenopsaris. We didn't see it here at all and this was a first for Gary since this small population was discovered in the Surama savanna. Out on the Georgetown – Lethem road, the Crimson Fruitcrow was a no-show and only **Amazonian Antshrike** was new for the trip but we did get an unexpected and awesome sighting of a **Giant Anteater** crossing the road, then comically getting disoriented and backtracking clumsily across the road only to disappear into the forest at the same point it had first emerged out of. Sightings of this mega in rainforest habitat is quite rare so this was particularly satisfying.

- **7-Oct [Surama Junction, Harpy Eagle Trail, Surama EcoLodge (savanna)]**

The plan was to try for the Crimson Fruitcrow yet again north of the Surama Junction and then try for the Harpy Eagle at its namesake trail. On our way to the junction we tried for the White-naped Xenopsaris again in the savanna and dipped yet again. **Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Bicolored Wren, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Yellow-bellied and Lesser Elaenia** were all common in the savanna. Just north of the junction on the main road we ran into a small fruiting tree where at least 30 **Painted Parakeet [RT]** were feeding at the same time. This was a hub of activity and over the next half an hour we had over 20 **Golden-winged Parakeet**, many **Green Oropendola** and common tanagers and honeycreepers. The dense secondary growth below the tree had a surprise **Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock [GSNE]**, in pretty atypical habitat and no large rock formations were in sight. No fruitcrows though. At the one tree where the fruitcrow is sometimes seen, there were 4 **Green Aracari [GSE]** but no fruitcrows. By mid-morning we decided to hit the Harpy Eagle nest trail even though the Crimson Fruitcrow was still a miss. Mornings are more ideal to see the eagles but recently the single egg was found destroyed (there is a monitoring camera looking into the nest) so the birds had become much less frequent. Besides, a different group (some European journalists) had already gone there so we would be able to get information from them. I had also seen the Harpy Eagle before so the Crimson Fruitcrow was higher priority. Nevertheless, this was still a mega and I didn't want to miss it so we went in. A flock at the entrance had **Great Jacamar, Grey-crowned Flycatcher, Todd's Antwren [GSE]** and some other typical antwrens. A little ahead we encountered an antswarm with **Rufous-throated Antbird [GSE], White-plumed Antbird, Common Scale-backed Antbird** and **Plain-brown Woodcreeper**. Although the antswarm was large the birds were not actively following it and the ants were gather in one place rather than marching ahead. We didn't know what this behavior was about. At this



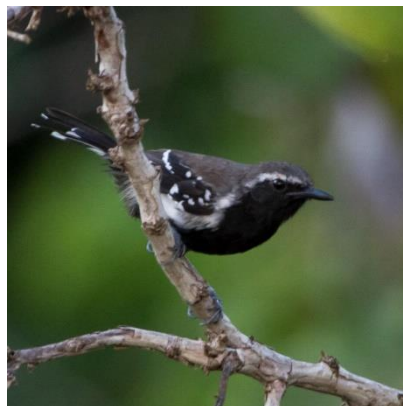
Great Jacamar

time we saw the European journalists returning from the nest site and they broke the news that the eagles did not show up in the two hours they had spent there. We still carried on and reached the nest site, getting a **Ruddy Quail-Dove** enroute. This nest is located on massive tropical Red Cedar tree in a logging concession (belonging partly to the Surama community) and it was found during a logging inventory. After the inventory team saw this huge nest on the tree, they informed the community and it was identified as a Harpy Eagle nest. So that particular tree and other large trees nearby were spared. We spent almost two hours below the nest and even spread out looking for the pair on other large trees nearby. But to no avail. We decided to return when it started to rain heavily. The rain had almost stopped by the time we got back to the prior antswarm area and amazingly there were no ants in sight at all – not sure where they disappeared.

It was well past midday and we decided to go back to the Surama Junction to have lunch at Ransford's mother's place. His mother, he and his brothers, along with their families live at the junction and his mom runs a homestay and meals business for weary travelers and occasional birders. We drove back secretly hoping that a fruitcrow would show up at its eponymous site. As we were approaching the spot, but still several hundred meters away, we spotted some movement in a dense tree there. Raising our binoculars we saw some Purple-throated Fruitcrows so that was promising. We sped up towards the tree and just as we stopped close to it, a male Spangled Cotinga flew out and crossed the road. Then suddenly a massive **Crimson Fruitcrow [GSE]** jumped out of the foliage and slowly flew right over us. Ransford hysterically yelled 'fruitcrow fruitcrow', just as it fortuitously stopped right next to the car on a low branch of a bare cecropia tree. We got very good looks of it from inside the car itself. It was a brilliant male. It then flew to another roadside cecropia 50 m away where I attempted to take some pictures but then realized that my camera settings were all wrong (from having taken some photos in the dark Harpy Eagle trail). It flew away before I could restore the settings.



Crimson Fruitcrow



Southern White-fringed Antwren



Great Potoo

We had a hearty late lunch at Ransford's mom's place. After lunch we returned to Surama EcoLodge. We birded leisurely in the Surama savanna after 3:45 pm and saw **Least Nighthawk, Lesser Nighthawk, Great Potoo, Finsch's Euphonia [GSE], Plain-crested Elaenia** and the very pretty **Southern White-fringed Antwren**. The White-naped Xenopsaris was still absent so it was clear that it had moved away, probably for breeding.

- **8-Oct [Surama EcoLodge (Burro-Burro Trail), Surama Junction, to Caiman House FS]**

Since we had got our most important targets, the plan today was to try for some foliage-gleaners (failed to hear any so far), convert some other heard-only species to seen and also hope to reconnect with the ground-cuckoo against all odds. So we started off in the Burro-Burro trail to get some of the forest birds first. Just as we entered the trail system we saw a **Great Tinamou** on the trail. It was quite bold for a very secretive species. Further ahead we ran into a troupe of the much-wanted **White-faced Saki** (Monkey). These sexually dimorphic monkeys are truly bizarre looking and move very fast through the trees. It was a slow morning overall (perhaps only felt so because almost all targets were in the bag) and unsurprisingly the ground-cuckoo failed to even vocalize, but a **Painted Tody-Flycatcher [GSE]** mercifully descended to a low branch for cracking views and

we did get excellent looks at the awesome looking **Ferruginous-backed Antbird [RT]**. Other good species were **Guianan Red Cotinga [GSE]** & **Variable Chachalaca [GSE]** yet again, **Yellow-throated Flycatcher** and **Long-billed Gnatwren**. But unfortunately **Ash-winged Antwren** remained heard-only. The Guianan sub-species of the **McConnell's Flycatcher** lurked a feeding flock. This species is very similar to the widespread Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and both species are sympatric in the Guianas so care must be taken to differentiate them. I then decided to go to the main road to try for Dusky Purpletuft even though it is pretty rare close to Surama. We were just about to exit the trail system when we encountered the end of a flock and it had a **Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-Gleaner** – the first and last foliage-gleaner of the trip.



Ferruginous-backed Antbird

We had a very late breakfast, checked out of the lodge and made our way towards the junction, stopping only for the White-naped Xenopsaris – our 4th and last try in the Surama area. It was missing just like in the last 3 days. On the main road, the fruiting tree just north of the junction which was a hub of activity yesterday morning was completely devoid of fruits and activity. We finally got a **Golden-collared Woodpecker [GSE]**, and also a **Pied Puffbird** and among some other common birds. No Purpletuft so I accepted that I'll miss that entirely. We went back to the junction to have lunch at Ransford's mom's restaurant.

After lunch we started driving towards **Caiman House Field Station**, located in Yupakari village by the west bank of the lower Rupununi River. Just a few miles south of Surama Junction the scenery changed abruptly from lowland forest to savanna, so as did the avifauna. We were beginning to enter the Rupununi grasslands. We stopped at a fuel station near Annai village to pick up many gallons of fuel as we were heading into very remote areas with little to no infrastructure. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** were abundant and pretty **Vermillion Flycatchers** were common. A known spot for **White-naped Xenopsaris** finally got us an immature individual and a patch of riverine forest had many **Finsch's Euphonia [GSE]**. An **Azure Gallinule** was seen hidden in a reed bed by the side of the road. It was well spotted by Gary from a moving car as we were driving slowly trying to spot interesting things. We thought we saw a Bearded Tachuri but we couldn't relocate it. We took a left turn at a 4-way junction (Karasabai Junction) into a very narrow potholed dirt road, heading towards Yupakari. The opposite direction goes to Karasabai – the home of the Sun Parakeet. Comical **Crested Bobwhite** running around on the road in front of the rolling car was a feature on this road. Other birds we picked up on the way to Caiman House included **White-tailed Hawk**, **Long-winged Harrier**, **Aplomado Falcon**, **Double-striped Thick-knee**, **Maguari Stork**, **Jabiru**, **Buff-necked Ibis**, **Green-tailed Goldenthrout**, **Pied Water-Tyrant**, **White-headed Marsh Tyrant**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Eastern & Red-breasted Meadowlark**, **Ruddy-breasted Seedeater**, and **Plumbeous Seedeater**.



Double-striped Thick-knee



Azure Gallinule



Plumbeous Seedeater

We stopped the car near an idyllic wetland close to Yupakari and watched the sun disappear below the horizon. **Least & Lesser Nighthawks** sallied over us as we took in the scenery over beers. The rest of the short journey to the lodge was completed in dark and we saw several **Burrowing Owls** on the road. Just before Yupakari, we stopped at the residence of the famous ‘**Anteater Man**’ – he would be one of our local guides tomorrow. He would venture out into the savanna on his bike at twilight to scope for anteaters from a high vantage where we would pick him up. We checked into the well-appointed **Caiman House Field Station**, which serves as a station for academic research on the Rupununi River ecosystem.

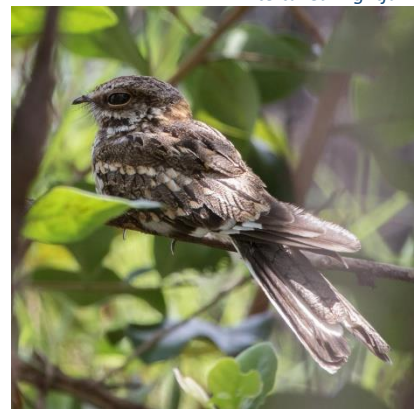
- **9-Oct [Rupununi savanna, riverine forest near Caiman House, boating on Rupununi River]**

We had unseasonal thunderstorms all night. This raised some apprehensions about conditions for today. The main targets before mid-morning are Crested Doradito and Bearded Tachuri – two tricky species that are not easy anywhere in their range. The doradito is possible in this trip only in this locality (the only known locality in Guyana). The lodge appointed local guide would be Manuel. We started driving early at 5:00 am towards a vantage where we were to pick up Anteater Man. On reaching he informed that he hasn’t found any anteaters this morning. So we proceeded to the doradito & tachuri stakeout, getting a **Great Horned Owl** enroute. Once at the site we found that the thunderstorm last night had flooded it and made the area very challenging to navigate. We were keen on quickly scoring these little yellow tyrannids and getting out of the swamp. However, as often is the case, things don’t go according to the plans and wishes of travelling birders from far away. The only good bird we got was a **Pinnated Bittern** and basically we dipped both targets even after searching for 4 hours straight in the watery and muddy savanna. And after we gave up, it was a treacherous return to our car as we kept getting stuck in impassable swamps that had materialized overnight. I now held the unenviable distinction of becoming Gary’s first client to have missed out on both target species at this reliable stakeout. Although it seems that I suffered from the worst possible luck, I saw it as tremendous luck as it must be special to be first☺.



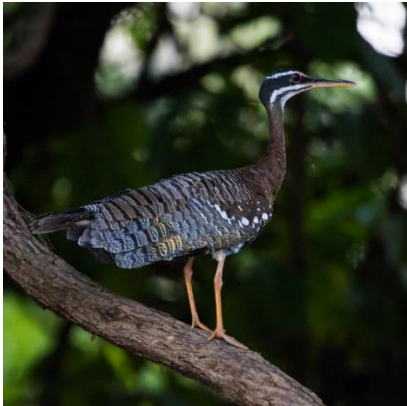
Pinnated Bittern

During our drive back to the lodge we stopped at a small rocky hill for **White-tailed Nightjar** and many of them flushed around us when we got there. Other new birds were **White-tailed Goldenthrout** and **American Kestrel**. Just before lunch we birded in a patch of riverine forest close to the lodge and we got **White-bellied Antbird** and a male **Blue-backed Manakin** at a lek.



White-tailed Nightjar

After lunch we headed to the Rupununi River for a boat ride. The three main targets here for me personally were Agami Heron, Crestless Curassow & Band-tailed Nighthawk. The curassow is very difficult to see when the water level is high and unseasonal rains had unfortunately kept the water level very high. Otoh, some fishermen had alerted us about recent sightings of Agami Heron at a nearby oxbow lake. Navigating the short distance through a connecting channel to the lake from the main river became very challenging because it was covered by thick vines. At first it seemed impossible that a boat can make it through the tangles but we were able to get it through with lot of hard work and team work (Gary, Manuel and me). For all our troubles, we didn’t find the heron in the channel although we saw **Pale-legged Hornero**, **Pale-tipped Tyrannulet** and **Olivaceous Flatbill**. There were no herons around the main lake either but in another small vine-entangled channel at the far end of the lake we encountered one immature individual. On our return however, we saw a very fine adult **Agami Heron [MT]** in the same channel that connects the lake to the main river.



Sunbittern



Black Skimmer

We then decided to go downstream to the famous Mawby Lake and watch Giant Water Lily *Victoria Amazonica* during sunset. This would also give us a chance for Crestless Curassow. The boat ride got us **Sungrebe**, **Sunbittern**, **Long-billed Starthroat**, and **Black Skimmer** among others. The lake is usually reached via a small walking trail but we decided to take the boat so we could look for some birds along the banks. The lake was connected to the main river by yet another narrow channel and on entering it we saw that this too was filled by vines. And to make matters worse several trees had fallen across the channel due to the thunderstorms last night. And it was at one such tree that I came within an inch of getting killed, no pun intended. Long story short, I asked the navigator (Manuel) behind me to stop the boat so I could climb over the tree as there was little space to lie down on the boat to allow the log to pass over my prone body. The boat slowed down but it was not because the navigator had slowed it. Because of miscommunication he actually hadn't understood my request to stop. On seeing the boat slowing I got myself in a position to scissor slowly over the log but unfortunately the boat kept moving and the force of relative motion did the rest. The log hit me and I fell over on the deck with my head against the low seat. And since the boat kept moving ahead, the log was now coming straight towards my head, which was trapped *above* the seat. At warp speed I lowered my head as much as I could against the seat and the log hit my forehead with heavy force and passed over. I escaped but had the space between log and seat been one inch smaller, the impact would have surely cracked my skull and if the clearance between log and seat was few more inches smaller, the log would have hit my jawbone and I would have got decapitated! All this happened within a second. After this near-fatal ordeal we realized that the channel was too treacherous and so decided to come out and try the walking trail.

At the lake we watched the amazing Giant Water Lilies and their flowers bloom at dusk. Many **Band-tailed Nighthawks** were sallying over the lake. The return boat trip was after nightfall and we watched many **Greater Bulldog Bats** fishing along the river. Over dinner we met Ron Allicock again – he had come to drop off my air tickets (Lethem to Georgetown) and also exchange vehicles. The models were same but I got a newly serviced vehicle for the day trip to Karasabai. He couldn't believe that I missed the doradito and tachuri (tachuri seen later). We also discussed the mystery bird that we saw in Atta white-sand forest and even he could not place it so we were sure that it was a special sighting (it was confirmed as a Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant after much deliberations later on). While sleeping that night I kept involuntarily waking up multiple times thinking about the extraordinary luck that saved my life and wondering what a difference a split second (or inch) can make.

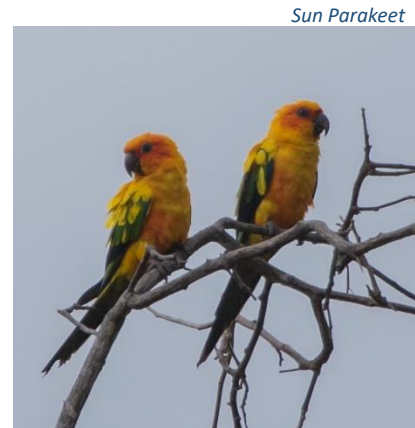
- **10-Oct [Day trip to Karasabai, drive to Manari Ranch]**

The entire point of today is to get the endangered Sun Parakeet near the remote village of Karasabai in the Pacaraima Range. Several flocks inhabit this area of dry open forest & scrub, which lies very close to the Brazil border – it is less than 5 miles to the Ireng River, which forms the border here. This strikingly beautiful species has been trapped almost to extinction for the global pet trade. The general suspicion is that the population estimate of about 1000 individuals is overly optimistic as it's only known permanent population, numbering

only a few hundred, lives within a small set of hills just north of Karasabai village. This species is still getting trapped by anti-social elements on both sides of the border, although Karasabai is largely conservation minded.

It would take 4 hours from Caiman House to Karasabai on a dirt track and we expected to make some birding stops although we had seen most of the dry habitat species possible here. We started early at 4:00 am, reached the Karasabai Junction on the Georgetown-Lethem road and didn't stop until a lake situated well north of the junction. We had a picnic breakfast here and scoped the lake for Masked Duck. There were none. **Yellow-hooded Blackbird** and **Yellow-bellied Seedeater** were the only new birds in that lake, although most of the common dry habitat species were encountered again.

The road was in horrible condition so we drove non-stop to Karasabai, aiming to reach at 8:00 am. Once there, we sought out local guide Aly but we were told he already went to the spot (a narrow valley) where a particular Sun Parakeet flock makes its first movements of the day. So we proceeded to hike towards there. But we saw Aly returning from there and he informed that the flock emerged from their hill top roosts and quickly made their way east. So we went to another lookout area further east in our vehicle. After much searching we were unable to locate any Sun Parakeets although we did find **Orange-backed Troupial**, **Yellow-crowned Parrot** and the odd localized form of **White-bellied Piculet** that occurs here – it has plainer underparts than the coastal form (*spilogaster*) so it is unclear if it is a different sub-species or a grade between



Sun Parakeet

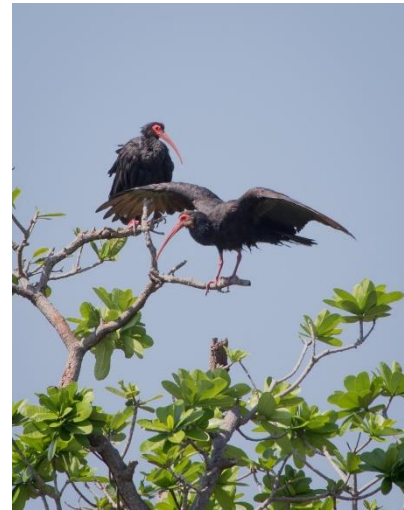
the Orinoco form (*orinocensis*) and *spilogaster*. We then returned to the original spot because it has better visibility into two valleys. It was getting rather hot past mid-morning and the place was dead. So we waited under the shade of a tree for another hour, to no avail. Then Ali and Gary decided to go to another lookout in an adjoining valley while Ransford and I waited at this spot. This paid off after about 45 mins during which we entertained ourselves looking at a **Blue-black Grassquit** doing its adorable hopping routine on top of a small tree, for what seemed to be forever. We saw Ali come running to beckon us – apparently two **Sun Parakeets [GSE]** had flown out of the valley and settled on a tree to feed. We ran to that spot with all our equipment and thankfully they were still around. We got excellent scope views. After about 15 minutes they suddenly took off in a cacophony of sounds and disappeared into the valley where they had come out of. We thought that was the end of our sighting but Ali mentioned that a trail led into that valley towards a waterfall, where the birds might be still lurking. As we had no other targets, we decided to go. This paid off big time as we found the same pair again at very close range right above the trail. On our hike back we saw two **Toco Toucans**.

We went to the Karasabai government guest house (a rather basic place) for lunch. The return drive was long and boring. We reached **Manari Ranch** located close to Lethem at about 4:30 pm and had a quick session of birding on the grounds. About 10 **Red-bellied Macaws** and a **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** were feeding by the side of the Manari Creek. The highlight of the evening was interacting with the resident Giant Otter – the adorable and boisterous OJ, who lives in the creek and makes himself home anywhere within the lodge property. He loves to be rubbed and he demands it by pressing his thick muscular body against your legs. He also indulged in cute games with the resident dogs and it was all very memorable. At dinner we ran into Ron yet again. He had received Mike Braun (long time ornithologist in Guyana from the Smithsonian Institute and author of Guyana's checklist of birds) at Lethem earlier that evening. They were to soon start a trip for Vent and were on a scouting mission. We discussed the unknown bird from Atta and Mike promised to help me confirm the identity on his return to Washington. We had a great conversation over dinner about Guyanan birds, forests and their conservation. Ransford left us here as the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) would handle the Red Siskin expedition tomorrow and the ranch will be responsible for the 12th.

- **11-Oct [Day trip to South Rupununi, Wichabai Ranch, back to Manari Ranch]**

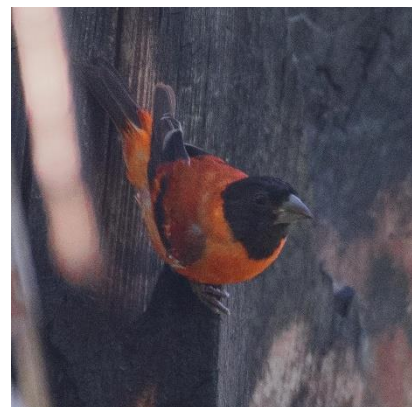
Today would be a long day trip to the South Rupununi savanna to look for another mega species – the Red Siskin. There would be other great things on the way but Red Siskin was the primary target. Just like the Sun Parakeet, this species too has been trapped almost to extinction (to breed with yellow canaries to create red colored hybrid canaries). Historically its primary range was in western Venezuela where it was once abundant. It still survives there but the population is so low that it might be unsustainable. And you'd have to be exceedingly lucky to see one there. This previously unknown population in the Rupununi was discovered by sheer luck in 2000 by a research expedition led by Mike Braun of the Smithsonian Institute. Continuous conservation efforts since then has been able to maintain a healthy population but this is likely to be the only sustainable population remaining of this pretty species.

We started at 3:00 am in a specially raised 4-wheel drive and I had a new local crew from SRCS – Rupununi bird expert Asaph Wilson and driver Buuy. The drive first took us south to Lethem then further south through exceedingly remote country over a so-called dirt road that had morphed into ponds & swamps at regular intervals. No wonder this trip required a specialized vehicle and driver. We stopped at Shulinab village (where Asaph & Buuy lived) to pick up some supplies and then continued on. The road was so bad that Asaph and Gary had to get down regularly to survey the depth of the water and muddiness of the ground below it, to chart a course for the vehicle. Just after dawn, we spotted 16 **Brazilian Teals** right on the road and then a spectacular **Giant Anteater** close to the road. Further ahead we had **Yellowish Pipit**, **Grassland Yellow-Finch** and **Sharp-tailed Ibis [RT]** – a Llanos specialty which has recently been discovered here. We reencountered many other common savanna species during the drive.



Sharp-tailed Ibis

We reached our final destination – the wonderful **Wichabai Ranch**, which is run by Erin Earl and Justin, at 7:30 am. Erin, an Irish expat, came to Guyana to teach and fell in love with Justin, son of former long-time managers of the legendary Dadanawa Ranch. Dadanawa is located on the other side of the Rupununi River and we didn't plan to visit it today. On reaching we discussed plans with Erin and went straight towards a forest island in the savanna. This was surprising as the Red Siskin is known to be an open habitat species. But Asaph said that this bird was recently discovered (by sustenance farmers) inside forest islands eating the burnt bark of certain trees. So we staked out a specific spot which had several such half burnt trees and dense forest and secondary growth around it. Asaph predicted that a mixed feeding flock would be around this area and he was right. The flock had **Chestnut-vented Conebill**, **White-barred Piculet**, **Black-crested Antshrike**, **Finsch's Euphonia [GSE]**, **Burnished-buff Tanager** and some other common species. We were patiently waiting near that patch, eating coffee and sandwiches when suddenly a spectacular adult male **Red Siskin [RT]** appeared on a bare branch over the secondary growth. It was pretty close but we still put the scope on it and admired its details. Over the next hour, at least 4 males and 4 females showed up and fed at close range on burnt bark. Satisfied, we went back to the ranch, seeing four more **Sharp-tailed Ibis [RT]** by the lake next to the lodge. We decided to take a mid-morning nap in the idyllic hammocks laid out on the ranch's patio, which wraps around the entire upper level. Unplanned sleep is not something I do, as I prefer to bird non-stop but with the targets in the bag and the beautiful surroundings, I couldn't resist a relaxing break. We woke up just before noon to a wonderful lunch prepared by Erin. She also kindly gave me a very



Red Siskin

effective anti-histamine topical ointment for my insect bites, which had been quite a bother throughout the trip. To make matters worse I got bitten by black sand flies near a running creek close to the lodge while I was looking for birds there. Evidently they have been breeding there because of the late rains.

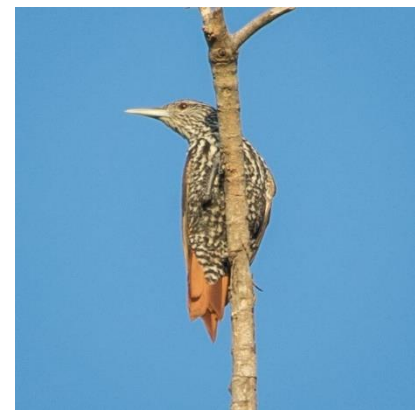
After lunch we decided to look for Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin in riverine forest by the Rupununi River. They were not around in the west bank so we decided to go to the east bank. The bridge was washed out a few weeks ago so we helped ourselves to a boat (of unknown ownership) that was anchored there. We didn't find the tyrant-manakin even on the other side but there was yet another **Blue-backed Manakin** there.

We then started the long drive back to Manari Ranch, hoping to get some new birds on the way back, especially the Bearded Tachuri, which Asaph had seen before at a spot just north of Shulinab village. We stopped again at Shulinab to drop off certain supplies and found ourselves trying to give a kick start to a stalled tractor. After successfully restarting the tractor we continued on and made an opportunistic stop at a nearby area overlooking a vast grassy expanse. We found a **Pinnated Bittern** lurking in the grass and suddenly a very large **Giant Anteater** appeared out of nowhere. On scoping it we realized that it was a mother carrying a baby on top of her. This was our third sighting of this enigmatic and truly bizarre mammal and definitely a trip highlight. A few kilometers ahead we speculatively played a poor recording of the tachuri and to our surprise two **Bearded Tachuri [MT]** popped up on top of the short grass on either side of the road.



Bearded Tachuri

We continued on and reached another village (there are only two villages in this entire stretch) which had a *Mauritia* palm fringed creek close to it and some pretty dense secondary habitat. Asaph had once heard what he suspected was a Point-tailed Palmcreeper in a trail behind the village but the residents forbade him from exploring further and they certainly don't allow outsiders (like me) in that trail. Nevertheless he said it would be okay to explore a bit on the main road and I decided that we have to look for the palmcreeper, which happens to be my favorite *furnuriid*. We saw a spot which had a palm stand and I did some speculative playback. Lo and behold, we got a prompt response and a little later one **Point-tailed Palmcreeper** propped up on a tree above the road. Very satisfying indeed! This would be the first confirmed record of Point-tailed Palmcreeper from the South Rupununi region. A **White-throated Kingbird**, which is quite localized here made an appearance too. It was late by the time we got to Manari Ranch and we flushed two **Nacunda Nighthawks** on the road close the ranch.



Point-tailed Palmcreeper

- **12-Oct [Takutu River, Fly back to Georgetown, Fly to San Francisco]**

This was the final day of the trip and the first half was reserved for finding two very range-restricted and endangered birds on the Takutu-Ireng river system – Hoary-throated Spinetail & Rio Branco Antbird. The original plan was to travel by boat from Lethem for two hours on the Takutu and cut into the narrower Ireng River, where both species are relatively reliable. But the local guide, Jeremy said that he recently found both on the banks of the Takutu River on the Guyanan side at a place which is accessible by 30 minute drive in a 4x4 car. He would also have a small boat on top of the car in case we needed to use it to comb the bank. He recommended that we take the drive option rather than boat. I was unsure about this but decided to trust his advice. It didn't go very well as he probably didn't account for the recent rains. Our 4x4 couldn't get anywhere close to the bank of the river because of mud. So we walked towards the bank and hoped to find both species there because in case we needed to use the boat, it would be very difficult indeed to haul it here. Turns out we

hit worst case scenario – we got **Plain-bellied Emerald [RT]**, **Flavescent Warbler** and some commoners but both targets were unresponsive and the mud made exploring difficult. Even so, after much searching we spotted a pair of nesting **Hoary-throated Spinetail [GSE]** quite by chance and no playback. It wasn't expected to be nesting at this time of the year but presumably, the late rains confused them. The Rio Branco Antbird otoh was completely missing. While Jeremy went to a different area, Gary and I descended to the bank and we rather fortuitously spotted a **Crestless Curassow [RT]** in the open understory. It was in a hurry to get away, which was not surprising because of the high incidence of hunting. Since there was no sign of the antbird here, we decided that it would make sense to look for it on the Brazilian side.



Hoary-throated Spinetail

Except that the boat is in the car pretty far away, it is a tiny boat and the river is wide and has a current! Odds were stacked against us but we were determined and we hauled the boat from the car to the river bank over mud in blistering mid-morning heat. The tiny row boat was rated for 375 pounds and we were close to 600 pounds between the three of us but we carried on anyway. We used the current to our advantage and somehow managed to hit the other bank. We then used the river side vegetation to tug the boat by hand to a location where we could crawl up through the low vegetation onto solid ground. It was all very surreal but we were safely on the bank and we proceeded to machete into the forest. Luckily we found the **Rio Branco Antbird [GSE]** very quickly. Back on the Guyanan side, we again carried the boat to the car and decided to scan some nearby wetlands for Masked Duck. We visited three different lakes but didn't see anything uncommon except an **Azure Gallinule** and **White-throated Kingbird**.

We returned to Manari Ranch for a late lunch after which we left for the Lethem 'airport' – basically a large room in a strip shopping structure. We even had to cross a public road to board the flight. This final bit added to the allure of the place. I bade farewell to Gary here and thanked him for an awesome trip. Francis Kam picked me up at the Ogle airport and we went to the famous Maharajah Palace Restaurant for an excellent Indian meal. After that we went to Cara Lodge where Ron, Ransford and Ransford's brother were watching the final of the Caribbean Premier League (Cricket), which Guyana unfortunately lost to Barbados. We said our final good byes and Francis dropped me off at the Georgetown International Airport. I took the 12:15 am American Airlines flight to Miami and then onto San Francisco.

➤ Missed

Blue-cheeked Parrot [GSE]	Poor flyby view so not counted. Any rainforest locality.
Dusky Purpletuft [GSE]	Any rainforest locality. Best chances in Atta Lodge.
Olive-green Tyrannulet [GSE]	Rare but possibly overlooked because it is unobtrusive and unremarkable. Any rainforest locality, probably more likely in white-sand areas.
Harpy Eagle	Any of the active stake outs.
Racket-tipped Thorntail	Rare. Seems to be more gettable just before rainy season.
Fiery-tailed Awlbill	Very rare. There was a stakeout in Surama that no longer exists. Best chances in Surama & Atta forest edge.
Cinnamon-crested Spadebill	Any rainforest locality. Rare.
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	Any rainforest locality.
Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin	White-sand specialist. Not a lifer but mentioned here because it is a sought after bird. Atta or Iwokrama white-sand patches or extensive white-sand forest east of Essequibo.
Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin	South Rupununi riverine forests.
Crested Doradito [MT]	Savanna west of Caiman House Field Station. Only locality in Guyana.

➤ Top 25

This itinerary has so many special birds that it requires an extended ‘top’ list – not 5, not 10, but 25. And it still doesn’t capture all the specialties. It is incredible that no Puffbird made it to this list.

- Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo [GSE]
- Sun Parakeet [GSE]
- Capuchinbird [GSE] – One of the best Neotropical birds and I had missed it in Venezuela before.
- Crimson Fruitcrow [GSE]
- Red Siskin [RT]
- Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock [GSE] – Not a lifer but this mega will make to any list of tops.
- White-winged Potoo [MT]
- Guianan Toucanet [GSE]
- Blue-backed Tanager [RT]
- Rufous Potoo [MT]
- Pelzeln’s Tody-Tyrant [GSE] – 2nd record for Guyana, 1st record for Iwokrama & west of Essequibo.
- Red-and-black Grosbeak [RT]
- Guianan Red Cotinga [GSE]
- Crimson Topaz [MT]
- Hoary-throated Spinetail [GSE]
- Rio Branco Antbird [GSE]
- Blood-coloured Woodpecker [GCE]
- Rufous Crab Hawk [GCE]
- Grey-winged Trumpeter
- Crestless Curassow [RT]
- Agami Heron [MT]
- Crimson-hooded Manakin [MT]
- Spotted Antpitta
- Rufous-throated Antbird [GSE]

➤ Mammals

Crab-eating Fox	Savanna near Caiman House Field Station
Lesser Bulldog Fishing Bat	On the Essequibo & Rupununi
Greater Bulldog Fishing Bat	On the Essequibo & Rupununi
Proboscis Bat	On the Rupununi.
Giant Anteater	1 near Harpy Eagle Trail, 2 in the south Rupununi grasslands. Top mammal of trip.
Guianan Red Howler Monkey	Mahaica mangroves. Atta Lodge. Heard in rainforest locations.
Guianan Black Spider Monkey	Several times in rainforest.
Common Squirrel Monkey	Iwokrama River Lodge.
Brown Capuchin	In rainforest.
Weeper Capuchin	Iwokrama River Lodge.
White-faced Saki Monkey	Rainforest in Burro-Burro Trail (Surama).
Red-rumped Agouti	Common in rainforest.
West Indian Manatee	Georgetown Botanical Gardens.
Giant River Otter	On the Mahaica.
Red Brocket Deer	Atta Lodge.
Collared Peccary	Between Iwokrama River Lodge & Atta Lodge.
White-lipped Peccary	Burro-Burro Trail, Surama.

➤ **Trip list**

1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	1 seen in Burro-Burro Trail.
2	Cinereous Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus cinereus</i>	Heard in rainforest.
3	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	Heard in Surama.
4	Undulated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus undulatus</i>	Heard in CHFS.
5	Red-legged Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus erythropus</i>	1 seen in Atta.
6	Variiegated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus variegatus</i>	Heard in rainforest.
7	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	South Rupununi.
8	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	6 on the Mahaica River.
9	Brazilian Teal	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>	16 near Shulinab.
10	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	Mahaica & CHFS.
11	Variable Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis motmot</i>	Atta & Surama.
12	Marail Guan	<i>Penelope marail</i>	Atta & Surama.
13	Spix's Guan	<i>Penelope jacquacu</i>	IRL & Atta.
14	Crestless Curassow	<i>Mitu tomentosum</i>	Takutu River near Manari Ranch.
15	Black Curassow	<i>Crax alector</i>	In rainforest.
16	Crested Bobwhite	<i>Colinus cristatus</i>	Rupununi savanna.
17	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	Rupununi savanna.
18	Maguari Stork	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>	Rupununi savanna.
19	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	Mahaica.
20	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	Mahaica, rainforest, CHFS.
21	Rufescent Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>	1 in IRL.
22	Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>	2 on the Rupununi River near CHFS.
23	Pinnated Bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>	CHFS & Shulinab.
24	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Open areas near water.
25	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Only 1 in GTBG.
26	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Common in open areas and by water.
27	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Common near coast.
28	Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	Common.
29	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Coast and Rupununi savanna.
30	Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>	Mahaica & IRL.
31	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Ogle mud flats, Rupununi savanna.
32	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Coast and Rupununi savanna.
33	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Coast and Rupununi savanna.
34	Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	80 in Hope Beach.
35	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	Bounty Farm & CHFS.
36	Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>	Rupununi savanna.
37	Sharp-tailed Ibis	<i>Ceribis oxycerca</i>	6 near Wichabai Ranch.
38	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common except in rainforest.
39	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	Mahaica.
40	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>	Rainforest locations.
41	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Common everywhere.
42	King Vulture	<i>Sarcorampus papa</i>	One between IRL & Atta.
43	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Along rivers.
44	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Wichabai Ranch.
45	Pearl Kite	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>	Grassland, scrub areas.

46	Slender-billed Kite	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	1 in Bounty Farm.
47	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	Common at the coast. Also seen in the Rupununi.
48	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	One between Linden & Iwokrama.
49	Long-winged Harrier	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	2 near CHFS.
50	Black-collared Hawk	<i>Circus buffoni</i>	Grasslands & open habitat.
51	Rufous Crab Hawk	<i>Buteogallus aequinoctialis</i>	4 near Hope Beach.
52	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	Occurs everywhere.
53	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	Coast & Rupununi savanna.
54	Roadside Hawk	<i>Bupernis magnirostris</i>	Along forest edges.
55	White-tailed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>	Rupununi savanna.
56	Black-faced Hawk	<i>Leucopternis melanops</i>	1 in Atta.
57	Gray-lined Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>	Common in forests.
58	Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	1 perched low near Atta.
59	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	1 over Atta Lodge.
60	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachimans</i>	3 in Karasabai.
61	Barred Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	Heard at dusk in rainforest.
62	Lined Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur gilvicolis</i>	Heard at dusk in rainforest.
63	Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur mirandollei</i>	Heard at dusk in rainforest.
64	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	Open areas.
65	Red-throated Caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>	Rainforest locations.
66	Black Caracara	<i>Daptrius ater</i>	Rainforest locations.
67	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	Near coast.
68	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Rupununi savanna.
69	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufifigularis</i>	North of Surama Junction.
70	Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	Rupununi savanna.
71	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	GTBG, Manari Ranch.
72	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>	GTBG, South Rupununi.
73	Gray-winged Trumpeter	<i>Psophia crepitans</i>	IRL, Atta.
74	Uniform Crane	<i>Amaurolimnas concolor</i>	Heard at Atta.
75	Azure Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio flavirostris</i>	1 between Annai & CHFS, 1 near Manari.
76	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	Rupununi savanna.
77	Sungrebe	<i>Helicornis fulica</i>	2 on the Rupununi River near CHFS.
78	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga belias</i>	3 on the Rupununi River near CHFS.
79	Pied Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cayanus</i>	Mahaica, GTBG, Essequibo near IRL, CHFS.
80	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	Open areas.
81	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Hope Beach.
82	Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	Rupununi savanna.
83	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Ogle mud flats.
84	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Ogle mud flats.
85	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanolenca</i>	Ogle mud flats.
86	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Ogle mud flats, south Rupununi.
87	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Ogle mud flats.
88	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Ogle mud flats.
89	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	Coast and Rupununi savanna.
90	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	40 at Ogle mud flats.
91	Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>	1 in IRL.
92	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	Coast & IRL.
93	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Ogle mud flats & near CHFS.
94	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	Harpy Eagle Trail.

95	Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common everywhere.
96	Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina minuta</i>	Open areas.
97	Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	Open areas.
98	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	Forests.
99	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	Open areas.
100	Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>	Forest edges, along main road.
101	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	IRL.
102	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	Mahaica & Rupununi savanna.
103	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	Open areas.
104	Blue-and-yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>	1 in IRL.
105	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	A couple sightings in rainforest areas.
106	Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>	Rainforest locations.
107	Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i>	10 in Manari Ranch only.
108	Red-shouldered Macaw	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i>	26 in GTBG and then in Bounty Farm and CHFS.
109	Brown-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga pertinax</i>	Common along coast and Rupununi savanna.
110	Painted Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura picta</i>	Rainforest. 30 in a tree near Surama Junction.
111	Golden-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chrysoptera</i>	Rainforest locations.
112	Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	<i>Touit batavicus</i>	A flyover at Atta and a large flock over Surama.
113	Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>	About 30 along the Mahaica.
114	Black-headed Parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i>	Heard in Atta.
115	Red-fan Parrot	<i>Deroptus accipitrinus</i>	Relatively common in rainforest locations.
116	Caica Parrot	<i>Pytilia caica</i>	Rainforest locations.
117	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>	Rainforest locations.
118	Dusky Parrot	<i>Pionus fuscus</i>	A few on the road between IRL & Atta.
119	Blue-cheeked Parrot	<i>Amazona dufresniana</i>	Heard and poor flight views in IRL - Atta area.
120	Yellow-crowned Parrot	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>	1 in Karasabai and another in Manari.
121	Orange-winged Parrot	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	GTBG and rainforest locations.
122	Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	GTBG and rainforest locations.
123	Sun Parakeet	<i>Aratinga solstitialis</i>	A pair in Karasabai.
124	Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>	Only along the Mahaica River.
125	Little Cuckoo	<i>Piaya minuta</i>	In Mahaica
126	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Sporadic sightings all over.
127	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	Common in open habitats.
128	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Common in open habitats.
129	Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	CHFS.
130	Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Neomorphus rufipennis</i>	Two in Surama Burro-Burro trail system.
131	Tropical Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>	Two in Surama short forest island.
132	Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops watsonii</i>	1 in IRL. 1 heard in Surama.
133	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	1 GTBG, 1 CHFS
134	Black-banded Owl	<i>Strix bubula</i>	2 in Atta
135	Amazonian Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium hardyi</i>	Heard in rainforest locations.
136	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	Heard in Mahaica and Rupununi open areas.
137	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Several in CHFS along the road.
138	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>	1 in Surama.
139	Long-tailed Potoo	<i>Nyctibius aethereus</i>	1 between Harpy Eagle trail and GOTR trail.
140	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>	2 in Surama.
141	White-winged Potoo	<i>Nyctibius leucopterus</i>	1 in Atta.
142	Rufous Potoo	<i>Nyctibius bracteatus</i>	1 between IRL & Atta.
143	Nacunda Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles nacunda</i>	2 in Manari.

144	Least Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles pusillus</i>	Surama and CHFS.
145	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	Surama and CHFS.
146	Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga</i>	Many over the Rupununi River near CHFS.
147	Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	Surama open areas and CHFS.
148	White-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus cayennensis</i>	CHFS grasslands.
149	Blackish Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus nigrescens</i>	2 in Mori scrub of Iwokrama.
150	Ladder-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis climacocerca</i>	2 on the Essequibo river near IRL.
151	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	Kaieteur Falls & a few between IRL & Atta.
152	Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>	Common in rainforest locations.
153	Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	A few near Atta.
154	Chapman's Swift	<i>Chaetura chapmani</i>	10 at a stream close to Atta.
155	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>	GTBG, Surama.
156	Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>	Rupununi savanna locations.
157	White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>	Kaieteur Falls.
158	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	IRL and Atta.
159	Crimson Topaz	<i>Topaza pella</i>	Between IRL & Atta and also at Atta lodge.
160	Rufous-breasted Hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>	Atta.
161	Pale-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetes leucurus</i>	1 in GCOTR trail.
162	Reddish Hermit	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>	2 Bounty Farm & more in interior rainforest areas.
163	Long-tailed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i>	Rainforest locations.
164	Black-eared Fairy	<i>Heliobryx auritus</i>	Atta.
165	Green-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridigula</i>	1 in Mahaica
166	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>	1 in Mahaica
167	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	1 in CHFS.
168	Blue-tailed Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon mellisugus</i>	2 in Bounty Farm & 4 in South Rupununi.
169	Gray-breasted Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus largipennis</i>	In Atta feeders.
170	Fork-tailed Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>	IRL and Atta.
171	White-chested Emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	1 GTBG and 1 near Manari.
172	Plain-bellied Emerald	<i>Amazilia leucogaster</i>	2 in GTBG.
173	Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>	Coasts and Rupununi savanna.
174	Rufous-throated Sapphire	<i>Hylocharis sapphirina</i>	Rainforest locations.
175	Green-tailed Goldenthrout	<i>Polytmus theresiae</i>	1 enroute Surama to CHFS.
176	White-tailed Goldenthrout	<i>Polytmus guainumbi</i>	2 in CHFS.
177	Amazonian Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	2 near the GCOTR lek.
178	Black-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanurus</i>	Heard in Atta.
179	Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>	The most common trogon in rainforest locations.
180	Guianan Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	1 east of Essequibo and 1 in Atta canopy walkway.
181	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	The most common kingfisher.
182	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	Widespread.
183	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	Widespread.
184	Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>	1 between Turtle Mt & IRL.
185	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	Mahaica River & Bounty Farm.
186	Yellow-billed Jacamar	<i>Galbula albirostris</i>	Heard at Atta.
187	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	1 in Manari. Another heard in south Rupununi.
188	Green-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula galbula</i>	4 on the Mahaica.
189	Bronzy Jacamar	<i>Galbula leucogastra</i>	1 seen in Atta white sand forest.
190	Paradise Jacamar	<i>Galbula dea</i>	4 in Atta clearing, 1 near Surama Junction.
191	Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus</i>	1 in Harpy Eagle trail.

192	Pied Puffbird	<i>Notharchus tectus</i>	Surama Junction.
193	Guianan Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>	1 IRL access road.
194	Collared Puffbird	<i>Bucco capensis</i>	2 in trail behind Atta Lodge.
195	Spotted Puffbird	<i>Bucco tamatia</i>	1 in IRL access road, in Atta white sand.
196	Black Nunbird	<i>Monasa atra</i>	Conspicuous in rainforest locations.
197	Swallow-winged Puffbird	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>	Common in rainforest edges.
198	Black-spotted Barbet	<i>Capito niger</i>	5 in Atta.
199	Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>	2 in Karasabai.
200	White-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>	Rainforest locations.
201	Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	Rainforest locations.
202	Guianan Toucanet	<i>Selenidera culik</i>	1 IRL, 1 Turtle Mt, 6 in Atta.
203	Green Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus viridis</i>	4 Atta, 4 Surama Junction.
204	Black-necked Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus aracari</i>	2 GTBG, 6 IRL, 8 Atta.
205	White-bellied Piculet	<i>Picumnus spilogaster</i>	2 Mahaica, 1 GTBG, 1 Karasabai.
206	White-barred Piculet	<i>Picumnus cirratus</i>	2 near Wichabai Ranch.
207	Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>	Atta and Surama.
208	Blood-colored Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis sanguineus</i>	4 along the Mahaica and 1 in GTBG.
209	Golden-collared Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis cassini</i>	1 Surama Junction.
210	Yellow-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus flavigula</i>	1 east of Essequibo River and 1 in IRL. Also Atta.
211	Waved Woodpecker	<i>Celeus undatus</i>	2 between IRL & Atta.
212	Chestnut Woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>	Several in rainforest locations.
213	Cream-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus</i>	2 Bounty Farm, 2 Atta.
214	Ringed Woodpecker	<i>Celeus torquatus</i>	4 between IRL & Atta.
215	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	A few in rainforest locations.
216	Red-necked Woodpecker	<i>Campophilus rubricollis</i>	Few in rainforest locations.
217	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campophilus melanoleucos</i>	2 GTBG, 1 in GCOTR trail.
218	Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	Heard in IRL.
219	Black-throated Antshrike	<i>Frederickena viridis</i>	2 in Atta.
220	Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesporus canadensis</i>	3 in Mahaica and 2 in Wichabai Ranch.
221	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	1 in Bounty Farm.
222	Mouse-colored Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus murinus</i>	2 in IRL, heard commonly in rainforest locations.
223	Northern Slaty Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus punctatus</i>	Forest edges in Surama and CHFS.
224	Amazonian Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus amazonicus</i>	1 near Surama Junction.
225	Dusky-throated Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes ardesiacus</i>	Understory mixed flocks in all rainforest locations.
226	Cinereous Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes caesius</i>	Understory mixed flocks in all rainforest locations.
227	Ash-winged Antwren	<i>Euchrepomis spodioptila</i>	Heard in Burro-Burro Trail Surama.
228	Brown-bellied Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula gutturalis</i>	Understory mixed flocks in all rainforest locations.
229	Guianan Streaked-Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula surinamensis</i>	Only one at the base of Turtle Mt.
230	Rufous-bellied Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula guttata</i>	2 seen well in IRL.
231	White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>	Common in understory in all rainforest locations.
232	Long-winged Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula longipennis</i>	Understory mixed flocks in all rainforest locations.
233	Gray Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula menetriesii</i>	A few in IRL and east of Essequibo.
234	Spot-tailed Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus sticturus</i>	Heard Turtle Mt trail and seen well at Atta.
235	Todd's Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus stictocephalus</i>	Seen well at Turtle Mt and Atta.
236	Southern White-fringed Antwren	<i>Formicivora grisea</i>	Heard in Mori Scrub and seen in Surama & CHFS.
237	Roraiman Antbird	<i>Myrmelastes saturatus</i>	Heard near Johnson's Point at Kaieteur Falls.
238	Rio Branco Antbird	<i>Cercomacra carbonaria</i>	1 in Takutu riverine forest near Manari Ranch.
239	Spot-winged Antbird	<i>Myrmelastes leucostigma</i>	Heard Turtle Mt base & seen Atta canopy base.
240	Black-headed Antbird	<i>Pernostola rufifrons</i>	1 in Bounty Farm forest trail.

241	Gray Antbird	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens</i>	Few in rainforest locations.
242	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	Few in rainforest locations.
243	White-browed Antbird	<i>Myrmoborus leucophrys</i>	Burro-Burro Trail Surama, CHFS.
244	Guianan Warbling-Antbird	<i>Hypocnemis cantator</i>	1 in Bounty Farm, IRL & Burro-Burro Trail.
245	Black-chinned Antbird	<i>Hypocnemoides melanopogon</i>	Stream near Turtle Mt & Burro-Burro stream.
246	Silvered Antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>	Mahaica River, Bounty Farm, base of Turtle Mt.
247	White-bellied Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>	1 in CHFS gallery forest.
248	Ferruginous-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza ferruginea</i>	Heard in rainforest locations, seen well in Surama.
249	White-plumed Antbird	<i>Pithys albifrons</i>	Seen at antswarms in IRL & Harpy Eagle Trail.
250	Rufous-throated Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys rufigula</i>	Seen at antswarms in IRL & Harpy Eagle Trail.
251	Common Scale-backed Antbird	<i>Hylophylax poecilnotus</i>	Harpy Eagle Trail antswarm.
252	Spotted Antpitta	<i>Hyllopezus macularius</i>	1 in IRL, heard in Surama.
253	Thrush-like Antpitta	<i>Myrmothera campanisona</i>	Heard in IRL & Atta.
254	Hoary-throated Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis kollari</i>	Nesting pair in Takutu riverine scrub near Manari.
255	Plain-crowned Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis gujanensis</i>	2 in GTBG.
256	Pale-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albescens</i>	Common in coast.
257	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiopsis cinnamomeus</i>	Common in coast and Rupununi savanna.
258	Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner	<i>Philydor pyrrobodes</i>	One in Burro-Burro Trail, Surama.
259	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	Mixed flocks in IRL & Atta.
260	Point-tailed Palmcreeper	<i>Berlepschia rikeri</i>	One in riverine palm stand north of Shulinab.
261	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	Common in understory mixed flocks.
262	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	One in IRL and another in Atta.
263	Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>	1 in Atta white-sand forest mixed flock.
264	Red-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Hylexetastes perrotii</i>	2 in Atta white sand forest mixed flock.
265	Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes certhia</i>	Antswarm and mixed flocks in IRL & Atta.
266	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>	1 in Mahaica.
267	Striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus obsoletus</i>	1 in Burro-Burro Trail Surama.
268	Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus pardalotus</i>	2 in IRL antswarm. Also in Atta & Surama flocks.
269	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>	Commonly heard in rainforest locations, seen few.
270	Guianan Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes albolineatus</i>	1 in Atta and 2 in Burro-Burro trail Surama.
271	Pale-legged Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>	1 in CHFS and a few in Takutu riverine forest.
272	Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Tyrannulus elatus</i>	Heard in rainforest locations, seen well in Atta.
273	Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>	1 in IRL access road.
274	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	Common in coasts, GTBG, Rupununi scrub.
275	Plain-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia cristata</i>	1 Oriduik, savannas in Surama & Rupununi region.
276	Lesser Elaenia	<i>Elaenia chiriquensis</i>	Few in Surama savanna.
277	Rufous-crowned Elaenia	<i>Elaenia ruficeps</i>	Iwokrama white-sand forest (Mori scrub).
278	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	GTBG.
279	Mouse-colored Tyrannulet	<i>Phaeomyias murina</i>	Savanna locations including Surama.
280	White-lored Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion inermis</i>	1 in Atta canopy walkway.
281	Bearded Tachuri	<i>Polystictus pectoralis</i>	2 north of Shulinab.
282	Guianan Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius acer</i>	1 in Atta.
283	Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus inornatus</i>	1 in Atta white-sand forest.
284	McConnell's Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes macconnelli</i>	1 in Burro-Burro Trail Surama mixed flock.
285	Pale-tipped Tyrannulet	<i>Inezia caudata</i>	1 Mahaica River, 1 Rupununi River near CHFS.
286	Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis ecaudatus</i>	1 in IRL.
287	Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus galeatus</i>	Heard in rainforest locations, seen in Atta.
288	Spotted Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum maculatum</i>	2 in GTBG.
289	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	Coast & GTBG.

290	Painted Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum pictum</i>	IRL access road and Burro-Burro Trail.
291	Olivaceous Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus olivaceus</i>	1 along Rupununi River near CHFS.
292	Gray-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>	1 in Harpy Eagle trail, mixed flock.
293	Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>	Few in Surama.
294	Whiskered Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius barbatus</i>	1 in mixed flock east of Essequibo.
295	Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>	1 each in Atta, GCOTR Trail, Burro-Burro Trail.
296	Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant	<i>Neopipo cinnamomea</i>	1 in mixed flock east of Essequibo.
297	White-crested Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus platyrhynchos</i>	2 in IRL, 1 in Harpy Eagle Trail.
298	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Common in Rupununi savanna.
299	Pied Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>	Rupununi savanna.
300	White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>	Rupununi savanna.
301	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	Forest edges near Atta, Surama Junction.
302	Amazonian Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	1 in IRL mixed flock.
303	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	Common in all places except forest interior.
304	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	Common in all places except forest interior.
305	Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus lictor</i>	1 in Mahaica and 1 in CHFS.
306	Yellow-throated Flycatcher	<i>Conopias parvus</i>	Heard in IRL, 2 in Burro-Burro boat landing.
307	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	1 in Karasabai.
308	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	GTBG & Bounty Farm.
309	White-throated Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus albogularis</i>	1 north of Shulinab & 1 near Manari Ranch.
310	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Seen in all locations.
311	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	Very common in Rupununi savanna.
312	Gray Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	Only in Mahaica.
313	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	Mahaica & Karasabai.
314	Cinnamon Attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>	1 in GTBG.
315	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	IRL, Atta, Burro-Burro in Surama.
316	Grayish Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>	1 east of Essequibo.
317	Guianan Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola rupicola</i>	6 in GCOTR Trail Lek, 1 near Surama Junction.
318	Guianan Red-Cotinga	<i>Phoenicircus carnifex</i>	4 Atta, 1 Burro-Burro, 1 Harpy-Eagle Trail.
319	Purple-breasted Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cotinga</i>	4 in Atta clearing.
320	Spangled Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cayana</i>	8 Atta clearing, 1 Burro-Burro, 1 Surama Junction.
321	Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>	All rainforest locations. Seen several times.
322	White Bellbird	<i>Procnias albus</i>	Heard from GCOTR lek.
323	Pompadour Cotinga	<i>Xipholena punicea</i>	1 IRL, 6 Atta.
324	Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>	8 Atta clearing, Burro-Burro, 4 Surama Junction.
325	Crimson Fruitcrow	<i>Haematoderus militaris</i>	1 just north of Surama Junction.
326	Capuchinbird	<i>Perissocephalus tricolor</i>	IRL & Burro-Burro leks.
327	Tiny Tyrant-Manakin	<i>Tyrannetes virescens</i>	2 seen Atta, heard IRL, other rainforest locations.
328	White-throated Manakin	<i>Corapipo gutturalis</i>	2 seen and 1 heard in Atta.
329	Blue-backed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia parola</i>	1 in CHFS, 1 in South Rupununi - riverine forest.
330	Black Manakin	<i>Xenopipo atronitens</i>	Mori scrub and Atta white-sand forest.
331	White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	2 between Atta and GCOTR Trail.
332	White-crowned Manakin	<i>Pipra pipra</i>	1 Kaieteur Falls, 1 IRL, 2 Atta, 1 Burro-Burro.
333	Crimson-hooded Manakin	<i>Pipra aureola</i>	2 in Bounty Farm.
334	Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>	3 IRL, 1 Atta, 2 Burro-Burro
335	Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>	2 IRL, 6 Atta clearing.
336	Olivaceous Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis olivacea</i>	Heard only in Atta white-sand forest.
337	White-naped Xenopsaris	<i>Xenopsaris albinucha</i>	1 in roadside scrub near Annai.
338	Cinereous Becard	<i>Pachyramphus rufus</i>	2 GTBG.

339	White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	1 Surama forest edge.
340	Pink-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus minor</i>	2 in Atta clearing.
341	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	Rupununi savanna & Karasabai.
342	Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>	Heard only in Turtle Mt Trail.
343	Lemon-chested Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus thoracicus</i>	4 in Mahaica.
344	Ashy-headed Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus pectoralis</i>	CHFS and 2 near Wichabai Ranch.
345	Buff-cheeked Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus muscicapinus</i>	2 in Atta and 1 Burro-Burro.
346	Cayenne Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cayanus</i>	4 in Burro-Burro Trail Surama.
347	Black-collared Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon melanoleuca</i>	Essequibo River near IRL.
348	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	Rupununi savanna.
349	Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>	Rupununi savanna.
350	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	Rupununi savanna.
351	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>	Common along rivers in all habitats.
352	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Mahaica River.
353	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	GTBG and Mahaica.
354	Bicolored Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus griseus</i>	Surama savanna, all Rupununi locations.
355	Coraya Wren	<i>Thryothorus coraya</i>	Mahaica riverine forest, IRL, Atta.
356	Buff-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus leucotis</i>	Mahaica, Bounty Farm, Atta, Surama, Takutu river.
357	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	Heard in rainforest locations, seen in Surama.
358	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila plumbea</i>	1 in Mahaica.
359	Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>	2 in GTBG, 1 north of Shulinab.
360	Pale-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>	Mahaica, GTBG, Bounty Farm, CHFS.
361	Cocoa Thrush	<i>Turdus fumigatus</i>	1 in Turtle Mt base.
362	White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>	1 IRL, 1 Harpy Eagle Trail.
363	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	All open areas.
364	Yellowish Pipit	<i>Anthus lutescens</i>	Only near Shulinab.
365	Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>	Along all rivers.
366	Flame-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>	1 in Atta.
367	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	2 GTBG, 1 Burro-Burro.
368	Red-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus phoenicius</i>	4 Iwokrama white-sand forest (Mori Scrub)
369	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	2 GTBG, 2 in rainforest east of Essequibo.
370	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	All forest edges.
371	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	All forest edges.
372	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	All forest edges.
373	Burnished-buff Tanager	<i>Tangara cayana</i>	Orinduik, CHFS, Karasabai, Wichabai & Manari.
374	Spotted Tanager	<i>Tangara punctata</i>	Several in Atta and one near Surama Junction.
375	Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>	GTBG, IRL, Surama.
376	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	1 in IRL, 1 in Atta canopy flocks.
377	Black-faced Dacnis	<i>Dacnis lineata</i>	4 in Atta clearing.
378	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	Canopy flocks in IRL, Atta, Surama Junction.
379	Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	4 near Surama Junction.
380	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	2 near Surama Junction.
381	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	1 east of Essequibo.
382	Yellow-backed Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>	In a few rainforest canopy flocks.
383	Blue-backed Tanager	<i>Cyanicterus cyanicterus</i>	1 heard Surama, Iwokrama. 2 seen Atta.
384	Chestnut-vented Conebill	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>	4 in South Rupununi.
385	Bicolored Conebill	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>	1 Mahaica.
386	Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch	<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>	Common in Rupununi savanna.
387	Grassland Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>	South Rupununi.

388	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	Mahaica, GTBG, Rupununi region & Karasabai.
389	Plumbeous Seedeater	<i>Sporophila plumbea</i>	Rupununi savanna.
390	Gray Seedeater	<i>Sporophila intermedia</i>	Mahaica.
391	Wing-barred Seedeater	<i>Sporophila americana</i>	A few in Mahaica.
392	Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>	2 enroute Karasabai.
393	Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	<i>Sporophila minuta</i>	Rupununi savanna.
394	Chestnut-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila castaneiventris</i>	Only in IRL.
395	Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>	1 in Surama.
396	Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	2 Mahaica, 1 east of Essequibo.
397	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	Kaieteur Falls, GTBG, Rupununi region.
398	Grassland Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>	Rupununi region.
399	Pectoral Sparrow	<i>Arremon taciturnus</i>	1 near Burro-Burro boat landing.
400	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	1 near Orinduik Falls.
401	Yellow-green Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>	3 in Atta clearing.
402	Rose-breasted Chat	<i>Granatellus pelzelni</i>	3 in Atta.
403	Red-and-black Grosbeak	<i>Periporphyrus erythromelas</i>	Briefly east of Essequibo, pair seen well Turtle Mt.
404	Flavescent Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis flaveola</i>	1 near Manari Ranch.
405	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Coast and Manari Ranch.
406	Green Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>	Rainforest locations.
407	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	Rainforest locations.
408	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>	Bounty Farm & interior rainforest locations.
409	Red-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>	4 just east of Essequibo.
410	Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>	Karasabai, Manari Ranch.
411	Moriche Oriole	<i>Icterus chrysoccephalus</i>	1 in IRL.
412	Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>	Common in coast, CHFS, Manari Ranch.
413	Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>	2 near Karasabai.
414	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	1 IRL clearing, few in Surama savanna.
415	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	Coast & Bounty Farm.
416	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	Mahaica & GTBG.
417	Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>	Mahaica, Rupununi savanna.
418	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Rupununi savanna.
419	Finsch's Euphonia	<i>Euphonia finschi</i>	Surama forest edge & Rupununi region.
420	Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	GTTBG, Bounty Farm, Surama.
421	Golden-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chrysopasta</i>	1 Atta, few Surama.
422	Golden-sided Euphonia	<i>Euphonia cayennensis</i>	1 in Atta.
423	Red Siskin	<i>Spinus cucullata</i>	8 in Wichabai Ranch.

403 seen, 20 heard only



Mawby Lake, Caiman House Field Station



Giant Anteater, between Atta & Surama Junction



Karasabai & the Sun Parakeet hills



South Rupununi vista