



# BIRDING MATO GROSSO

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## BRAZIL: REMOTE SOUTHERN AMAZONIA CAMPOS AMAZÔNICOS NP & ACRE

7 – 19 July 2015



White-breasted Antbird (*Rhegmatorhina hoffmannsi*), Tabajara, Rondônia © Bradley Davis

trip report by Bradley Davis  
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## Introduction:

This trip had been in the making since the autumn of 2013. Duncan, an avowed antbird fanatic, contacted me after having come to the conclusion that he could no longer ignore the Rio Roosevelt given the recent batch of antbird splits and new taxa coming from the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium. We had touched on the subject during his previous trips in Brazil, having also toyed with the idea of including an expedition-style extension to search for Brazil's biggest mega when it comes to antbirds – the Rondônia Bushbird. After some back and forth in the first two months of the following year, an e-mail came through from Duncan which ended thusly: “statement of the bleedin’ obvious: I would SERIOUSLY like to see the Bushbird.”

At which point the game was on, so to speak. We began to organize an itinerary for the Rio Roosevelt with a dedicated expedition for Rondonia Bushbird. By mid-year things were coming together for a September trip, but in August we were de-railed by a minor health problem and two participants being forced to back out at the last minute. With a bushbird in the balance, we weren't about to call the whole thing off, and thus a new itinerary *sans* Roosevelt was hatched for 2015, an itinerary which called for about a week in the Tabajara area on the southern border of the Campos Amazônicos National Park, followed by a few days on the west bank of the rio Madeira to go for a couple of Duncan's targets in that area.

And it turned out to be a great success. So much so, in fact, that after just four days of birding in the Tabajara area, we had seen all of the target species which could be reasonably expected in the area (considering that certain species such as tinamous, forest *Accipiter* spp., and low density jobs like e.g. White-bellied Dacnis and ground-cuckoos could not be seen as true “target” birds in a short trip). This included a clean sweep of the “Rondonia centre” endemics, including a suite of recently described micro-endemics from the Aripuanã – Machado interfluvium. To that end, we cut two days in Tabajara in favour of more time elsewhere. Given that we had seen two of our major targets on the west bank of the Madeira on the very first afternoon of the trip (Campina Jay and Humaita Antbird), we also cut the Humaitá area and arranged, on the fly, to spend the final days of the trip in Acre, Brazil's westernmost state and one of the final frontiers of Brazilian birding. The wholly improvised final week of the trip went remarkably smoothly logistics-wise, and was a roaring success bird-wise with another 10+ target species falling by the way side, almost all of them completely unexpected during the initial planning stages of the trip. We also identified a new and important birding area within the municipality of Rio Branco, the state capital, and we were quite pleased to invite Ricardo Plácido of the state environmental authority (and a bit of a birder himself) to accompany us to the site on our third visit to the Ramal do Noca.

This first expedition to the Tabajara area has hopefully laid the groundwork for future trips by adventurous birders interested in laying eyes on some of the southern Amazon's absolute top birds. The Rondônia Bushbird alone is, of course, reason enough to consider a trip to the region. Antbird fanatics will be further enthused by the presence of other fabled species including Pale-faced Bare-eye, White-breasted Antbird, Wing-banded Antbird, Banded Antbird, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, and Pearly Antshrike, in addition to recently described species such as Aripuanã Antwren, Roosevelt Stipple-throated Antwren, Manicoré Warbling-Antbird, and Alta Floresta Antpitta. A strong supporting cast includes Dark-winged Trumpeter, Crimson Topaz, Pavonine Quetzal, Blue-cheeked Jacamar, Black-girdled Barbet, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, Snow-capped Manakin, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Red-and-black Grosbeak, Dotted Tanager, and more.

The presence of white-sand campinas around Tabajara adds another host of specialist species to the shopping list. The newly-described Chico's Tyrannulet is first and foremost amongst that group, but mention should also be made of the long-lost (but recently re-found!) Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, Pale-bellied Mourner, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Black Manakin, Natterer's Slaty Antshrike, and Green-tailed Goldenthrout.

Visitors including a couple of days on the west bank of the Madeira out of Porto Velho further expand the possibilities to include Campina Jay, Predicted Antwren, an undescribed *Hemitriccus* taxon, Western Striolated Puffbird, Brown-mandibled Aracari, Undulated Antshrike, Black Bushbird, Humaitá Antbird, White-throated Antbird, Hairy-crested Antbird, Inambari Woodcreeper, the green-bodied *caelestipileata* race of Blue-crowned

Manakin, and in savanna-like areas of campina, the fabulous but elusive Ocellated Crane.

Of course, since we were working a very specific list of targets, we only saw a percentage of the species listed above. Readers will also notice, in the annotated trip list which follows at the end of this report, that we recorded more 'heard only' birds than a typical organized tour might normally report; this is also a reflection of our extremely select list of target species. Moreover, since we called an audible partway through and headed west to Acre, we didn't spend as much time as expected on the west bank of the Madeira around Humaitá. Our future trips to the region are likely to stay on script, meaning more time around Tabajara and more time on the west bank of the Madeira.



Red-and-green Macaw (*Ara chloropterus*), rio Madeira near Abunã, Rondônia © Bradley Davis

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## Itinerary:

- July 6<sup>th</sup>** Morning spent outfitting the expedition. **PM:** Linha C-30, KM 50 of BR-319.  
*Night at Golden Plaza Hotel, Porto Velho.*
- July 7<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Linha C-30, KM 50 of BR-319 (W bank Madeira). **PM:** Linha C-30, KM 50 of BR-319.  
*Night at Golden Plaza Hotel, Porto Velho.*
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Drive to Tabajara from Porto Velho. **PM:** campinas W of Tabajara (Lote São Miguel).  
*Night in basic pousada, Tabajara.*
- July 9<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** campinas and campinarana W of Tabajara (Lote São Miguel / Campinarana Trail).  
**PM:** road to 2 de Novembro.  
*Night in basic pousada, Tabajara.*
- July 10<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** 2 de Novembro Trail and rio Machado. **PM:** degraded campina W of Tabajara.  
*Night in basic pousada, Tabajara.*
- July 11<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Ramal do Caldeirão; departure from Tabajara. Lunch in Machadinho d'Oeste.  
**PM:** transfer to rio Machado via Fazenda Vista Linda, and setting up camp at Alto do Bode.  
*Night in camp, Alto do Bode, N bank Rio Machado.*
- July 12<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Igarapé São João and São João Trail. **PM:** Alto do Bode.  
*Night in camp, Alto do Bode, N bank Rio Machado.*
- July 13<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Rio Machado early, then breaking camp and drive to Abunã.  
*Night at basic pousada, Abunã.*
- July 14<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Monteredo Trail on W bank Rio Madeira downstream from Abunã.  
**PM:** Drive to Rio Branco, capital of Acre.  
*Night at Hotel Maju, Rio Branco.*
- July 15<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Ramal dos Paulistas and Riozinho do Andirá N of Rio Branco. **PM:** Ramal do Noca.  
*Night at Hotel Maju, Rio Branco.*
- July 16<sup>th</sup>** Ramal do Noca all day.  
*Night at Hotel Maju, Rio Branco.*
- July 17<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Ramal do Noca. **PM:** Parque Ambiental Chico Mendes in Rio Branco.  
*Night at Hotel Maju, Rio Branco.*
- July 18<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Drive to Abunã. **PM:** Brief stop E bank of Madeira in Abunã, drive to Porto Velho.  
*Night at Golden Plaza Hotel, Porto Velho.*
- July 19<sup>th</sup>** **AM:** Linha C-30, KM 50 of BR-319 (W bank Madeira). **PM:** Outbound flights.  
*End of tour.*
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## Summary:

**July 7<sup>th</sup>:** We started the trip at the airport in Porto Velho, where Duncan arrived, intact and with bags in hand, after what had nearly been a rather inauspicious start thanks to delays and a resulting tight connection in Cuiabá. A quick stop at our hotel in Porto Velho was made to sort out gear for an afternoon's birding, but soon enough we were across the bridge to the west bank of the mighty Madeira river and headed to a promising site Bruno and I had scouted previously. Activity was a bit on the slow side under heavy clouds and a thick, soupy atmosphere, but we started with some elegant Swallow-tailed Kites, a pair of Plumbeous Pigeons, and a little canopy flock of tanagers with Swallow, Yellow-backed and Flame-crested Tanagers, Blue and Black-faced Dacnis, and Purple Honeycreepers. In the undergrowth we found a nice pair of Peruvian Warbling-Antbirds. A fair amount of effort at a spot where we had seen Humaitá Antbird the preceding afternoon yielded nothing. A little taken aback by the lack of bird activity (it happens, particularly in the Amazon, but Bruno and I had been thoroughly impressed with the site on our previous visits), we decided to re-group and head for a patch of forest on sandier soils farther down the track. This proved to be a fortuitous decision: not long after pulling up at the spot we managed to attract a fabulous group of Campina Jays, a recently described species and what must be considered one of the biggest ornithological discoveries in the Amazon so far this century. Most new species found in the Amazon basin these days are cryptic species; for a large, distinctive jay resembling only the geographically distant Azure-naped Jay to go undiscovered until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century drives home the simple fact that much of the

Amazon is still poorly known, and unfortunately rapidly disappearing. We were able to enjoy scope views of the jays as they went about their business, apparently unconcerned about our presence as they sat preening, some individuals hopping around lethargically as though they had nowhere in particular they needed to go. Extremely pleased with the jays, we returned to the antbird spot in hopes that we might elicit a reply. And this time we did! A pair of Humaitá Antbirds came to the roadside in a dense *Heliconia* thicket, making us work for views before eventually giving themselves up, piece by piece. In just our first afternoon we had already seen two of the trip's big targets for the west bank of the Madeira – we didn't know it at the time, but this would later prove to be quite a coup, allowing us to make significant changes to the itinerary.



Campina Jay (*Cyanocorax hafferi*) © Bradley Davis



Canutama, Amazonas © Bruno Rennó

**July 8<sup>th</sup>:** A travel day. After making a couple of final stops in Porto Velho to complete preparations for our expedition to Tabajara, we departed heading east on the busy BR-364 which connects the capital of Rondônia to Cuiabá and the rest of the country. We made a stop for lunch in the small logging town of Cujubim before carrying on to the tiny village of Tabajara on the left bank of the Machado or Ji-Paraná river. The journey took us five and a half hours in total on surprisingly good roads. After 'checking in' at the basic pousada in the village (we never met the owner or saw a single employee during our entire stay here) and touching base with our local guide and his wife who would be cooking for us, we headed to an area of white sand *campina* just west of Tabajara for a bit of late afternoon birding. It was quite hot and very quiet, but we managed to see Madeira Parakeet, a small flock of Dusky-headed Parakeets, several Blackish Nightjars flushed from edges, and Rufous-crowned Elaenia, a specialist of such habitats. A bit farther down the road in rather degraded habitat we found at least ten Least Nighthawks flying low at dusk. We returned to Tabajara for the first of a number of excellent meals prepared by Dona Graça, who did a fine job of overfeeding us during our time along the Machado. As Duncan later put it, we learned not to drive too slowly past Dona Graça's house en route to and from our birding during the day, lest she try to start serving us a meal!

**July 9<sup>th</sup>:** Dawn saw us in the open *campinas* west of Tabajara once again, listening to a rich dawn chorus emanating from the taller forest flanking Lote São Miguel. Our main quarry here was a resident of the *campina* itself, though, so we resisted the temptation to venture into the forest. After a few false starts with Yellow-crowned Tyrannulets and the numerous Yellow-breasted Flycatchers, we finally got a reply from Chico's Tyrannulet, the recently described *Zimmerius* known only from white sand *campinas* in the upper Madeira-Tapajós interfluvium. Once the sun's rays began to hit the small trees between the open sandy areas, a pair popped up into full view, one of the birds even allowing us to enjoy it through the scope. Nearby we also had sandy soil specialists such as Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, White-fringed Antwren and Pale-bellied Mourner (heard only). With the first of our big targets under the belt, we crossed the road and headed for the Campinarana Trail. After a straight march through a dense regrowth *campinarana*, we reached a taller patch which held Bronzy Jacamar, Spotted Puffbird, a couple of Zimmer's Tody-Tyrants, White-vented Euphonia, a trio of Black Manakins, and best of all a Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher which came in silently to check out our tape. From here we carried on into taller *campinarana* forest which was rather quiet by the time we reached it, but nevertheless we still found White-crested Spadebill, Elegant Woodcreeper, Yellow-throated

Woodpecker, Plain-throated Antwren, Plush-crested Jay, and Brown-winged Schiffornis. At the far end of the trail we encountered a small antswarm, and after having had a look at Common Scale-backed Antbird, we worked our way slowly toward the centre of the swarm where up to eight White-breasted Antbirds were in attendance, dropping down from low perches onto hapless prey fleeing the advancing columns of ants. Needless to say this took up just about the rest of the morning, as White-breasted Antbird had to be the second highest priority target of the whole trip; to see them so close, so well, and so oblivious to our presence was undoubtedly something to be enjoyed to the fullest!

The afternoon was extremely hot and a return to the forest trails wasn't the most enticing prospect. As such we drove the road towards the small community by the 2 de Novembro rapids, stopping here and there to check out the habitat and watch and listen for any activity. Not much to speak of, but we did find a patch of fruiting trees being attended by Red-headed Manakin, a trio of White-browed Purpletufts, and a handful of widespread tanager species. At the bridge over the Candelaria stream, we heard a singing Hauxwell's Thrush, a target bird for Duncan. As they often do, this bird took a fair bit of effort before we finally managed acceptable views, during which time we attracted the attention of a few local boys who never really seemed to figure out exactly what we were doing, or why we would become excitable every time this musical little brown bird switched from one partly obscured perch to another. We finished the afternoon at the same area of disturbed *campina* from the preceding evening, and once again a full flight of Least Nighthawks was in evidence, along with Scaled Pigeon, two species of macaws, Plain-crested Elaenia, and a handful of other birds. An odd canid with rather long legs, dark brown pelage, and a long tail which reached nearly to the ground mystified us; by the time we decided to go after it in the vehicle, the animal had slipped off the track into the forest, not to be seen again.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>:** We were up well before dawn for breakfast at Dona Graça's before heading to 2 de Novembro to meet up with Piti, who had gone ahead of us to ready the boat for the short trip to our morning's trail. The Machado was cloaked in thick fog, but Piti skillfully took us directly to the trailhead, no mean feat given zero visibility and the fact that the trailhead had been almost completely overgrown. A bit of machete work got us into the *varzea* on the right bank of the Machado, and we were on our way. The 2 de Novembro Trail runs for about a kilometre in the seasonally flooded forest before reaching higher ground and continuing for another 4-5 kilometres in the *terra firme*. While mostly dry, we did have to slog through a couple of stretches of thick, sticky mud, but no birders were lost in the process. Given that our main priority birds were inhabitants of the *terra firme*, we didn't spend much time birding on our way in, choosing to focus on the task at hand instead. The tall forest was actually rather quiet, a shame since it is such fabulous forest and Bruno had a long list of birds he had seen here in past visits, most of which being the sorts that make a birder's mouth water. Still, vocal White-throated Tinamous, several singing Variegated Antpittas and both Thrush-like and Tapajós (Alta Floresta) Antpitta on territory were all testament to the quality of the forest. Amongst the best sightings for the morning were two different pairs of Manicoré Warbling-Antbirds, Roosevelt Stipple-throated Antwrens, Blue-cheeked Jacamar, Cinereous Mourner, and Red-billed Pied-Tanager. Near the second forest stream we caught the tail end of a canopy flock which held Chestnut-winged Foliage-gleaner and a frustrating Aripuanã Antwren, of which we typically glimpsed no more than just the tip of the tail, or the flick of a wing as it moved ghost-like in the treetops some 40 metres above our heads. We decided to schedule a second meeting with the species for a later date. On the way back to the river we took some time to bird a bit in the *varzea* forest, seeing a nice pair of Rose-breasted Chats, Varzea Schiffornis and Striped Woodcreeper. It was a bit of a shock to return to the river and see that we had navigated around some rather large sandbar islands, one of which had at least a dozen Sand-coloured Nighthawks on it, along with some skimmers and terns. Nearer to the landing below the 2 de Novembro rapids, another beach held upwards 80 Southern Lapwings and a handful of Pied Lapwings for good measure. It was already quite late by the time we reached the truck, so we headed straight back to Tabajara for a late lunch and a bit of a rest in our air-conditioned quarters at our simple pousada during the heat of the afternoon.

The late afternoon saw us doing a bit of roadside birding west of Tabajara, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the terrific Ash-throated Crake which came out into the open onto the gravel, having approached from some distance to check out the tape. We then proceeded to bird around the village of Tabajara itself, hoping to re-find a promising looking hummingbird which had been visiting flowers at Piti and Graca's home, thinking

it could be a Rondônia (Blue-green) Emerald. Our vigil was rather dull at first, highlight perhaps being an Amazonian Motmot sitting on an electricity wire in the centre of the village. There was a bit of excitement when the hummingbird finally came to the patch of flowers we were watching, but our hopes were quickly dashed with the first good views which confirmed we were actually looking at Glittering-throated Emerald. After dinner we drove out to an area of tall *campinarana* to try for White-winged Potoo, with very little to show for our efforts (just a couple of singing Austral Screech-Owls and a single Pauraque).

**July 11<sup>th</sup>:** Today we would be moving base from Tabajara to our campsite a couple of hours upstream on the Machado. There was time, however, for some morning birding near Tabajara and to that end we headed for the Ramal do Caldeirão, a track into nice *campinarana* forest just a couple of kilometres west of the village. We were hoping for Aripuanã Antwren here, but didn't get a sniff in spite of a fair bit of effort, including using tape when within earshot of mixed canopy flocks. We did however see some nice birds anyway, including but certainly not limited to Plain-coloured Woodcreeper, Spot-winged Antshrike, White-eyed and Pygmy Antwrens, a flyover pair of Kawall's Parrot, a handful of tanagers including Black-faced Dacnis, Short-billed, Purple, and Green Honeycreepers, and further down the trail, a pair of (Eastern) Chestnut-tailed Antbirds in the undergrowth. A mating pair of White-browed Hawk, a scarce specialty of the southern Amazon, was another excellent find.

Time was soon up, though, and we returned to Tabajara to pack up and head out. Piti and Graça would go upstream to our campsite by boat, while we took the truck and drove back to Machadinho d'Oeste before heading north-east again for a couple of hours, reaching the pre-determined meeting point and finding Piti waiting for us already. We then ferried our gear and camp supplies a short distance downstream to our Alto do Bode campsite on the opposite bank of the Rio Machado. The rest of the afternoon was mostly spent setting up camp, although Duncan, Bruno and Piti took the boat downstream to check out the tributary we would need to navigate to reach the trailhead for our first attempt after Rondonia Bushbird the following morning. The report when they returned was that water levels were lower than ideal, and we might require a bit of good fortune to reach the closest trailhead with the boat. This brought on a certain mood of restless apprehension over dinner as we considered a number of possibilities and worked on back-up plans to ensure that we would at least get to the bushbirds the following day.

**July 12<sup>th</sup>:** I'm not sure that anyone slept much overnight, but it had nothing to do with the camp conditions which were actually fairly reasonable, and everything to do with the anticipation of our attempt for the Rondonia Bushbird. We left Alto do Bode in the half-light of dawn, arriving 15 minutes later to the mouth of the São João. The low water levels meant Piti had to navigate slowly and carefully to avoid submerged trunks while picking his way between rocks and sandbars. Each bend in the stream brought with it a fresh set of obstacles, it seemed, but Piti and Bruno were up to the task – we hacked through fallen branches and flattened ourselves to the floor of the boat to slip underneath one tree which spanned the entire length of the stream. The suspense was palpable, and I could feel Duncan tense in the seat beside me with each new challenge that presented itself. Finally, just as we rounded a bend and saw that the way forward was littered with a possibly insurmountable series of blockages, Piti announced that we had reached the trailhead! Under different circumstances, the São João itself would have made for a fabulous morning's birding. During the trip to the trail we heard Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, Aripuanã Antwren, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Pavonine Quetzal, Kawall's Parrot, Brown Jacamar, and more. Understandably we did not stop to try to see any of them.

Having reached the trail, we quickly confirmed to all that the plan would be to walk straight on to the first of Bruno's bushbird territories, about a kilometre from the river. That meant walking right past singing birds at the best time of day, a tall order for dedicated birders in some of the finest Amazonian forest we saw during the whole trip! Birds heard during this quick-march included Aripuanã and Roosevelt Stipple-throated Antwrens, Crimson Topaz, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Pompadour Cotinga, Rufous-capped Nunlet, Pavonine Quetzal, and Ringed Antpipit. Ignoring those, soon enough we reached a low-lying area with a dense bamboo and *caranaí* understorey: Bruno pronounced we had arrived at the first of the bushbird territories (see species account for a more detailed habitat description). The footing in the swampy depression was a bit treacherous, but we quickly eased ourselves into position and Bruno started to play the tape. It actually didn't take too long, but it seemed like an eternity passed as we waited, straining to hear any reply, when suddenly there, in the background,

it was: a series of thin, modulated whistles emanating from deep within the thicket of slender bamboo. It is difficult to put the suspense, anticipation, desperation, and finally, exultation followed by commemoration, into words... so suffice it to say, we got the bird! A striking female Rondônia Bushbird performed extremely well for us, circling our position at least twice, clambering through the slender bamboo tangles, and eventually even posing completely in the open for us on a vertical stalk in a shaft of sunlight! The stuff that antbird dreams are made of, no doubt, and far easier than we had expected it to be, I must admit. Perhaps seeing the male (and we presumed a 2<sup>nd</sup> bird singing in the background to be a male) as well would have been the icing on the cake, but frankly the female bushbird is the fairer of the sexes and the bird we had been lusting after, without a shadow of a doubt.

Thoroughly satisfied at having connected with the trip's biggest target, and on our very first try no less, we decided not to cross the swampy stream and continue to the second bushbird territory, but rather opted to bird our way back along the trail to look for Aripuanã Antwren and, wait, what's this... an Aripuanã Antwren singing right over our heads! It took a bit of work but we eventually got the antwren into a sparsely vegetated crown and finally had good views of this recently described canopy antwren. Working our way back, we saw another Manicoré Warbling-Antbird in addition to a couple of Yellow-browed Antbirds of a variant form which may well represent an undescribed taxon. A bit of speculative tape in good-looking habitat produced a near-immediate response from a territorial Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, endemic to the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium and one of the last targets we could reasonably expect from the area. Piti was waiting for us on the São João, where he ferried us to the opposite bank to continue the trail, then took the boat around to the other end where he would wait for us. By now we were well into late morning and things had gone fairly quiet, but we did see a few things, including a very showy Long-billed Woodcreeper. There was a mixed flock was moving through the area just within earshot, from which we managed to extract a couple of responsive Rondonia Woodcreepers, another target bird. Another flock a little farther along had White-winged Shrike-Tanagers, Rufous-rumped and Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaners, Black-capped Becard, Rufous-tailed Xenops, and a singing Dotted Tanager which refused to show itself.

Back at the river we met up with Piti and had a field lunch on board, listening idly to another flock with Aripuanã Antwren in it. Pleased with how the morning had gone, we headed back to Alto do Bode to take a break. Upon our return we found that Graça, apparently unwilling to let her cooking skills rust, had prepared a full hot lunch for us in spite of the fact we had told her we would not be returning until late. A late afternoon walk in the degraded areas around Alto do Bode didn't produce much of interest, so we returned to camp to grab the cold beers we had buried at the bottom of the ice chest before leaving Tabajara. We closed a memorable day's birding sitting overlooking the peaceful Rio Machado, drinking a cold beer and savouring our encounter with Rondonia Bushbird, surely near the top of the list of great South American birds.

Over dinner we made a decision to alter what remained of the tour's itinerary. Having cleaned up on our targets from the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium in a timely fashion, and having seen the two biggest targets from the west bank of the Madeira near Porto Velho, we were left with some extra time in the itinerary. From the moment we nailed the bushbird I had resolved that the best course of action would be to scrap our scheduled two days in the Humaitá area north-west of Porto Velho, and instead leave early from São João (we had scheduled three nights in camp, with a provisional fourth night if poor fortune with the bushbird made it necessary) and head west to the frontier state of Acre, where the bamboo-rich west Amazonian forests there held a number of new birds for Duncan. Having just shown him the bushbird, I imagine that Bruno and I could have suggested just about anything and Duncan would have been rather amenable, but as it stood this was the obvious course of action and really a bit of a 'no-brainer'. We informed Piti and Graça that we would break camp the following morning, and headed to our respective tents for the night, visions of *Clytoctantes* dancing in our heads.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>:** And thus began life 'post-Bushbird'. Having resolved the previous evening to drastically change the itinerary and head west to Acre, the plan today was to bird the Machado downstream from Alto do Bode before returning mid-morning to break camp and start the long drive to Abunã. Near the mouth of the São João we slowed the boat to watch more than 150 parrots of four different species – Orange-cheeked, Blue-headed, Yellow-crowned and Kawall's – at a riverbank clay lick. A stop at an exposed sandbank island produced nesting

Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns along with Black Skimmers, Pied Lapwing, Little Ground-Tyrant and Sand-coloured Nighthawk. A nearby rocky islet had a nesting pair of Ladder-tailed Nightjars, and a couple of Black Caracaras flew over above us, heading downriver. Even though we made very good time en route, the drive to Abunã on the east bank of the Madeira river took us most of the rest of the day. We checked in at the Pousada do Mota in the small village, where unfortunately the meagre handful of restaurants were all closed for Monday night. After a bit of a search, we did find something to eat, but it was a far cry from Dona Graça's meals in Tabajara and in camp.



**Sand-coloured Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles rupestris*) © Bruno Rennó



**Little Ground-Tyrant** (*Muscisaxicola fluviatilis*) © Bruno Rennó

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:** A short boat ride downstream and across the Madeira took us to the Monteredo Trail, a research trail into heterogeneous *terra firme* with a couple of patches of tall bamboo, swampy stretches with many understory palms, and which crossed a couple of forest streams. Both streams we crossed were stagnant, with their flow interrupted by the changing water levels of the Madeira; between Abunã and Porto Velho two massive hydroelectric dams have been built, and the upstream of the two, the Jirau dam, had apparently been testing its intakes and as a result causing wild fluctuations in the river's water levels. The streamside forest, which in normal conditions would be the most lush and verdant during the dry season, was instead wilting and dying off, likely as a result of the backing up of the streams.

The forest was still dark and gloomy at the trailhead, and we waited, swatting the occasional mosquito while listening to singing Ocellated Poorwill and the calls of Short-tailed Nighthawks overhead. Bruno wanted to try the bamboo stand at the beginning of the trail for Rufous-headed Woodpecker and Fulvous-chinned Nunlet, both species which had been recorded here before. No luck with either on this day, though, so we started along the trail, noting large flocks of Red-bellied Macaws along with Blue-headed and Mealy Parrots flying overhead, presumably en route to feeding areas, or perhaps heading to one of the handful of clay licks in the area along the banks of the Rio Madeira. Our first antbird of the day was a responsive Chestnut-tailed Antbird of the west bank of the Madeira, a distinct taxon from the birds we had seen at Tabajara. In the swampy *terra firme* we found a singing male Humaitá Antbird which proved far more cooperative than the pair we saw on the first afternoon of the tour. Mixed flocks held our first Dusky-throated Antshrikes of the trip, along with Buff-throated Woodcreeper and the *juruanus* race of Elegant Woodcreeper. An indistinct sibilant call revealed the presence of a Semicollared Puffbird, but in spite of a lot of effort we couldn't find the bird. During the search for the puffbird, a Fulvous-chinned Nunlet sang at a distance, luring us deeper into the forest. The nunlet wasn't particularly interested in showing itself either, vocalizing sporadically and generally keeping us at arm's length. A pair of Spotted Puffbirds seen in the same area weren't thoroughly appreciated, as they weren't the puffbirds we were interested in! Returning to the trail we had nice views of a Brownish Twistwing. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> forest stream we heard an Amazonian Royal Flycatcher and saw a handsome male Blue-cheeked Jacamar. Re-tracing our steps to the trailhead, we found a fantastic Scaly-breasted Wren which brought down the house with its ethereal song. In all, a very nice morning's birding, but one principal target had been conspicuous in its absence. Thankfully, we hit a small mixed flock not too far from the beginning of the trail, and this flock had a pair of Madeira Stipple-throated Antwrens, at long last.

We needed to return to Abunã and start our journey westward to Acre, but there was still time to visit a clay lick on the right bank of the Madeira where at least 30 Red-and-green Macaws were in attendance, a remarkable spectacle indeed! After lunch in Abunã we hit the road, crossing the Madeira on a large ferry before starting the drive to Rio Branco, which took us the rest of the afternoon.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** The plan for the day was to visit an area of disturbed roadside forest with extensive patches of bamboo which I had birded on previous visits to Acre, before scouting out another area nearer to Rio Branco which we had identified as having potential based on satellite images. A stop at a marsh en route to our first site didn't produce the hoped-for Black-banded Crake, but we did have great views of Rufous-sided Crake, an adult with a fully-grown chick in tow. Upon arrival at the bridge over the Riozinho do Andirá on the Ramal dos Paulistas, we were greeted by a calling Slate-coloured Hawk perched up near the road, a nice start. Dusky-headed and Tui Parakeets were flying around near the river. Walking down off the road and into the floodplain forest, we found a small mixed flock with Amazonian Antshrike, Amazonian Antwren, Pink-throated Becard, and Gray-crowned Flycatcher, while a singing Plumbeous Antbird refused to show itself. A stretch of the road with taller forest and a disturbed bamboo understory produced our first Black-faced Cotingas of the trip; a short foray onto a rubber tappers trail didn't add much aside from a Dusky-tailed Flatbill and a small group of Emperor Tamarins, surely one of the world's greatest primates.



**Black-faced Cotinga** (*Contoptylon mcilhennyi*), Riozinho do Andirá, Porto Acre © Bradley Davis

After lunch at a little place in the Vila do INCRA, we headed back to Rio Branco, taking the Transacreeana highway west from the capital to visit our potential sites for the following morning's birding. A stop at an unassuming little riparian patch bordered by wetlands didn't have much, at least not until Duncan noticed the quiet tapping of a piculet; a bit of searching revealed the presence of not one, but two Fine-barred Piculets! Aside from being a new bird for all of us, the piculet had only been found to occur in Brazil in 2007 although an earlier specimen from 1998 had also been subsequently found in museum collections. Thrilled with this find, we

pushed on to the forest we had identified from satellite images, arriving in mid-afternoon. And thus began one of the most exciting birding afternoons I could remember having in quite some time. It was plainly obvious upon arrival to the site, which we later discovered was called the Ramal do Noca, that there was a lot of potential. The forest, while apparently disturbed, had a thick understorey of dense *Guadua* bamboo which reached all the way to the roadsides. As we slowly drove the rutted track, the sudden movement of an odd passerine attracted attention; a quick stop revealed it to be a male Yellow-cheeked Becard, which sent Bruno and I into orbit as a new bird for us both and in Brazil a specialty of the extreme SW corner of Amazonia. We decided to ditch the truck and continue on foot: Black-capped Tinamous were heard singing from all around us; a pair of Rufous-breasted Piculets flirted with us from just inside the bamboo thickets, popping out on a couple of occasions for close, clear views. As we walked down the track we heard territorial pairs of Goeldi's Antbird, White-lined Antbird and Bamboo Antshrikes. At the bottom of the first hill we saw a skulking pair of Yellow-breasted Warbling-Antbirds, and also called in a pair of Rufous-headed Woodpeckers, a bamboo specialist of west Amazonia and one of the biggest targets for the Acre leg of the trip. There had barely been time for high fives for the woodpecker when a pair of Blue-headed Macaws flew overhead, another target bird into the bag. Another one followed soon after when an Inambari Woodcreeper sounded off beside the road and was quickly spotted nearby. Phew! As dusk approached we stood listening to Collared Forest-Falcon, Pavonine Cuckoo, Broad-billed and Amazonian Motmots, Ferruginous and Amazonian Pygmy-Owls singing at the same time, some fifty metres separating the two birds, Ocellated Poorwill and a couple of Silky-tailed Nightjars. There was no doubt in anyone's minds: we would be returning to the Ramal do Noca first thing in the morning!

**July 16<sup>th</sup>:** Dawn found us in place at the Ramal do Noca, hoping to see the Silky-tailed Nightjars from the previous evening. Unfortunately there was no sign of them, so we started down the track to see what else "Noca" had in store for us. We started out with pairs of White-lined and Goeldi's Antbirds seen, followed by the first of a procession of Yellow Tyrannulets, and a White-bearded Hermit which came in to have a closer look at us. Bruno was the first to pick up on the indistinct, insect-like vocalizations of the Acre Tody-Tyrant, a species described to science just two years earlier and one that few birders have yet seen. We taped the bird and were quite pleased when it zipped in to pose for us in a dense tangle of dead bamboo stalks – Bruno even got some excellent photos! Parrots were flying back and forth over the track: Chestnut-fronted and Blue-headed Macaws, along with Mealy Parrot, and White-eyed and Dusky-headed Parakeets. There was a big movement of Social Flycatchers in the area, perhaps downed by a southern front which brought cooler temperatures overnight and promised to keep the sky overcast for the duration of our birding day. While counting the flycatchers we noticed a single Yellow-billed Nunbird sitting on a palm frond, our first of the trip.

The roadside birding was excellent, but we were well aware that some of our target species here would prove difficult unless we could get away from the edges and into the bamboo stands. As such we were looking for potential trails into the forest to bird from. The first such entrance appeared to be little more than an adult-sized hole in the bamboo, but the trail itself looked relatively well-worn and there were fresh machete marks around the edges. Soon we were well into the forest: Bamboo Antshrike pairs were singing all around us; a pair of Bluish-slate Antshrikes was trying to rustle up a mixed flock, without much luck; a couple of Black-spotted Bare-eyes popped up for brief views nearby; a host of bamboo specialists were heard in here as well including Dusky-tailed and Large-headed Flatbill, Striated Antbird, Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner, Yellow-breasted Warbling-Antbird and Rufous-breasted Piculet. Speculative taping produced an inquisitive male Bamboo Antwren, a recently described taxon accepted onto the Brazilian checklist by CBRO but not by the SACC. The hollow rattling song of a Lemon-throated Barbet over our heads sent Bruno into orbit, and we quickly found a pair of them in the canopy. Continuing deeper into the forest we reached a dry stream bed which had a lovely Rufous-capped Nunlet at eye level, and a calling Long-crested Pygmy-Tyrant which took us some time to finally track down. While chasing down the pygmy-tyrant for views and photos, we caught wind of another similar vocalization from a bit farther off. Suspecting it might be White-cheeked Tody-Tyrant, a species known only from a couple of records in Brazil, we moved forward cautiously and played the tape. The response was immediate, and a male tody-tyrant shot in and landed above our heads! Thrilled, we worked this bird for a while longer, discovering that he was accompanied by at least three female-plumaged birds. This was a new bird from Bruno and myself, and though Duncan had seen in before in Peru he was quite pleased to see this enigmatic little flycatcher again. By now the morning was nearly over, but curiosity continued to get the better of us as we

pushed forward to “have a look around the next bend”, seeing Juruá Woodcreeper, Purple-throated Fruitcrow and another pair of Rufous-headed Woodpeckers in the process. Finally we reached a very small clearing (more of a treefall gap, really) where the trail petered out, forcing us to re-trace our steps. On the way back out we saw the White-cheeked Tody-Tyrants again, Great Jacamar, and just before we reached the road we flushed (and subsequently called back in with tape) a Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser from beside the trail. By the time all was said and done, we emerged back onto the Ramal do Noca a little after 1 PM, nearly six hours after having poked our heads into the entrance of the narrow little trail to “check things out”. The trail didn't appear to be a *seringueiro* path, not having passed any rubber trees, nor did it appear to have any other real purpose. It was far too narrow, random and meandering to be an effective hunting trail, and wandered too much to be going anywhere in particular. Even though it was quite overgrown in spots, it proved to be a near-perfect birding trail which got us well into the bamboo stands (we covered roughly two kilometres) to get access to a number of birds we would have struggled to see from the road.



Acre Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus cohnhafti*) © Bruno Rennó



White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilotriccus albifacies*) © Bruno Rennó

We then drove down towards the far end of the track, stopping at a closed gate where some fruiting trees had a few birds in attendance. A bit of pygmy-owl tape attracted their attention, and we were able to watch Opal-crowned, Masked, Paradise, Turquoise and Magpie Tanagers, Little Woodpecker, Short-crested Flycatcher, Barred Antshrike, Small-billed Elaenia and a few others. It was decided we would return to explore the Ramal do Noca the following day, and we turned back to search for a very late lunch along the Transacreana before returning to Porto Velho. We were joined for dinner near our hotel by Ricardo Plácido, a local birder with the state environmental ministry who listened to our rave reviews of the Ramal do Noca excitedly; Ricardo quickly cleared his schedule to join us there the following morning!

**July 17<sup>th</sup>:** Back to the Ramal do Noca once again, this time with Ricardo joining us; we left the truck at a wide spot in the road and set off down the track on foot. We saw and heard many of the same bamboo specialists that we had encountered the previous day, though new birds included Speckled Chachalaca, a flock of Chestnut-eared Aracaris, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Dot-winged Antwren, a family group of Ornate Antwrens, a singing Manu Antbird that buried itself deep in the tangled crown of a bamboo thicket and refused to give itself up, Black-tailed Tityra, and Guira Tanager. During the course of the day we located at least five different Acre Tody-Tyrants on territories, a remarkable concentration for a bird which, to our knowledge, had not yet been recorded from the municipality of Rio Branco. A vocalizing Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner drew us a short distance off the track where we managed to get reasonable views of the bird from an awkward position. Immediately upon returning to the track, we heard the calls of White-throated Jacamar, a target species which we had been searching for since the 15<sup>th</sup> and had been surprised at not encountering them. We made up for the delay though, scoping a family party of six individuals in the bare branches of a roadside tree. Farther along a hawk-eagle-like vocalization was immediately recognized as belonging to a Purple-throated Cotinga, a low density Amazonian species which had eluded Duncan on his many trips to South America to date. Persistence with the tape and whistled imitations eventually paid off when a female Purple-throated Cotinga appeared in the nearby canopy, sticking around long enough for good scope views. It would have been nice to see a male as well (Ricardo

returned to the site a couple of days later and saw the male in the same area), but no complaints here. Other interesting birds in the area included a pair of Gray-capped Flycatchers, Three-striped Flycatcher, Solitary Caciue, and a couple of Yellow-billed Nunbirds.

Walking back to the truck around mid-day we were amazed to hear a Chestnut-headed Crake sounding off right beside the track! We settled into positions on the opposite side of the road and Bruno headed back up the track a distance to try to draw the bird out. It was having none of this, though, and while it would respond intermittently from within a dense thicket, it obviously had no intention of leaving the safety of said thicket. Not a target bird for anyone aside from myself, so we left it for another visit. On the way out we stopped near the beginning of the track to try a Flammulated Bamboo-Tyrant we had only managed to glimpse on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. This time, rather than trying from the road itself, we hacked our way into the bamboo a short distance and played the tape. It worked a trick too, as the bamboo-tyrant zipped right in to land in front of us, giving up excellent views (a marked change from the 15<sup>th</sup> when the bird would just blast back and forth across the track). A fitting close to our time on the Ramal do Noca, finishing as we had started a couple of days ago, with a target species which had not even been on the radar under our original itinerary.

Having not managed any tickable views of Black-capped Parakeet at Noca, I had planned to visit a park on the outskirts of Rio Branco where I had seen the birds on a previous trip. Ricardo, however, suggested that we would be better off visiting the park this afternoon, as Saturday morning would be busier given the park is popular with families and joggers. To that end, we started back towards Rio Branco – stopping en route to photograph a terrific pair of Blue-headed Macaws which perched alongside the Transacreana – arriving at the Parque Ambiental Chico Mendes just before 4 PM. It took us less than an hour to find the parakeets, a little group of three birds feeding in the yellow flowers of a tree alongside the jogging track behind the small zoo. At the same spot we also found an adorable Pygmy Marmoset feeding on sap just above eye level beside the track – I suspect that it may have perhaps been an animal which had managed to slip out of its enclosure in the zoo at some point!



Rufous-headed Woodpecker (*Celeus spectabilis*), Ramal do Noca © Bruno Rennó



Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*), Ramal do Noca © Bradley Davis

**July 18<sup>th</sup>:** Satisfied with the rewards reaped from our improvised visit to eastern Acre, we opted for a bit of a lie-in and breakfast at our hotel for a change before checking out and starting the long drive back to Porto Velho. We still managed to leave in good time, and reached the ferry at the Rio Madeira by mid-day. A short stop near Abunã in searing heat under full sun was perhaps ill-advised, and while we did get a reply from the Ocellated Crakes we wanted to see, they obviously didn't have their hearts in it. Frankly, after baking for about 45 minutes in the wide open *campina*, our hearts weren't in it either, and we cut our losses to carry on driving to Porto Velho, where we arrived at the end of the afternoon. We had a nice final dinner at a popular Italian restaurant in town.

**July 19<sup>th</sup>:** Since Duncan and Bruno weren't scheduled to fly out until the afternoon and evening, respectively, we had time for a few hours of birding near Porto Velho. We chose to return to the west bank of the Madeira, heading once more for Linha C-30 in Canutama. This final morning's birding was decidedly relaxed given that we had done extremely well already on the trip and had seen the vast majority of the imaginable target species. En route to the site, we stopped to check out a couple of Jabirus in a flooded drainage ditch along the highway.

The tall forest near the beginning of the track had a canopy flock where we saw our first Gilded Barbet of the trip, in addition to other notables such as Yellow-throated Flycatcher and Opal-rumped Tanager. A couple of singing Citron-bellied Attilas remained heard only. Scaled Pigeons were flying over, as were good numbers of Red-bellied Macaws and a handful of Mealy Parrots. A little flock of five White-bellied Parrots was nice to see, as well. We wanted to check out a promising side track into the forest near the end of the *ramal*, but as we arrived at the site a local resident pulled up on a motorbike and asked, in the friendliest of manners, what we were up to. As is often the case, a short conversation ran overtime when he learned we were in the area to look for birds, as it turned out he was something of a local leader in the community and had himself suspected that the area might have some eco-touristic potential. Quite a productive chat, no doubt, but it did delay our entry into the forest a bit. The track, while looking quite good, was very quiet in the mid-morning lull. We played quite a lot of tape for Hairy-crested Antbird, just about the only thing we could think to try for, but to no avail. Duncan spotted a sharp Great Jacamar for us, though, which was reasonable compensation. The clock was ticking by now, so we packed it in and started to drive back to Porto Velho, picking up our first and only pair of White-eared Puffbirds sitting on a utility wire. Back in Porto Velho we checked out of the hotel and headed for lunch at the Casa do Tambaqui restaurant near the waterfront, an extremely popular spot on a Sunday afternoon, and with good reason as the house specialty, *tambaqui*, proved to be delicious and a tremendous finish to an unforgettable trip!

A short post-script: after seeing Duncan off on his first of a series of flights back to the UK, Bruno and I headed back to the promising track from the morning. Activity wasn't much better, but we did see the undescribed *Hemitriccus* tody-tyrant of the *H. minor* complex from the W bank of the Madeira carrying food to a nest, had a Scaly-breasted Wren at our feet, and enjoyed protracted views of Humaitá Antbird along a forest stream. Future visits here seem likely to turn up some very interesting birds!



**Blue-headed Macaw (*Primolius couloni*), Rodovia Transacreana, Rio Branco © Bruno Rennó**

### **Systematic Bird List**

Order and taxonomy in this checklist follow the 11<sup>th</sup> edition (2014) of the official Brazilian checklist as maintained by the Comitê Brasileiro de Registros Ornitológicos (CBRO).

### **TINAMOUS (TINAMIDAE)**

#### **Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*)**

Heard only on the 10<sup>th</sup>, on the 2 de Novembro Trail at Tabajara.

#### **White-throated Tinamou (*Tinamus guttatus*)**

Heard on three dates around Tabajara, including a singing pair at close range near a forest stream 1 km into the *terra firme* on the 2 de Novembro Trail.

#### **Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*)**

Heard on 10 dates, around Porto Velho, Tabajara, and in Acre.

#### **Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)**

Heard daily around Tabajara, principally near borders between campinas and campinaranas.

#### **Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*)**

Recorded daily at Tabajara, at Abunã on the W bank of the Madeira, and at the Riozinho do Andirá in Acre. Not recorded along the Ramal do Noca.

#### **Brazilian Tinamou (*Crypturellus strigulosus*)**

Heard only on the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup> along the road to 2 de Novembro W of Tabajara.

#### **Black-capped Tinamou (*Crypturellus atrocapillus*)**

Heard on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in the bamboo-choked *terra firme* along the Ramal do Noca W of Rio Branco in Acre, where common by voice at least on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. In Brazil the species is still only known from the state of Acre.

#### **Variegated Tinamou (*Crypturellus variegatus*)**

Heard on four dates around Tabajara, including 6 individuals heard along the 2 de Novembro Trail on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Small-billed Tinamou (*Crypturellus parvirostris*)**

Heard on three dates around Tabajara in or near campinas and scrubby borders.

### **DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS (ANATIDAE)**

#### **Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)**

Three birds seen along the Igarapé São João on the 12<sup>th</sup> was our only record for the trip.

### **GUANS AND ALLIES (CRACIDAE)**

#### **Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*)**

Heard while we were breaking camp at Alto do Bode on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>; also heard at the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)**

We heard about a half dozen or so along the Ramal do Noca on the 15<sup>th</sup>; we saw a pair at the same site on the 17<sup>th</sup>; one also seen on the E bank of the Madeira by the Lago dos Maçaricos at Abunã.

**Razor-billed Curassow** (*Pauxi tuberosa*)

Heard only on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a single bird booming near the campina at Lote São Miguel just west of Tabajara.

**NEW WORLD QUAILS (ODONTOPHORIDAE)**

**wood-quail sp.** (*Odontophorus* sp.)

A single singing wood-quail heard from the banks of the Machado at Tabajara could not be identified with any certainty. Both Starred Wood-quail *Odontophorus stellatus* and Marbled Wood-quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* are biogeographically possible around Tabajara; BR and colleagues recorded both species during bird surveys in the area.

**STORKS (CICONIIDAE)**

**Jabiru** (*Jabiru mycteria*)

Two birds seen in a flooded ditch along the BR-319 north of Porto Velho on the 19<sup>th</sup> was our only record. The species seems to wander widely across the southern Amazon during the dry season.

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

**CORMORANTS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)**

**Neotropical Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Seen only on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**DARTERS (ANHINGIDAE)**

**Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Seen only on a couple of dates along the rio Machado: a half dozen birds seen on the Machado and the Igarapé São João on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and a single bird the following day.

**HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNs (ARDEIDAE)**

**Rufescent Tiger-heron** (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

Seen on just 3 dates: twice on Linha C-30 near Porto Velho, and a couple of birds on the Machado downstream from Alto do Bode on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Striated Heron** (*Butorides striata*)

Generally scarce on this itinerary, unsurprisingly given our limited time spent on boats and rivers. Seen on the Machado on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Seen on 10 dates.

**Cocoi Heron** (*Ardea cocoi*)

Seen in small numbers of three dates.

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*)

Seen on 6 dates.

**Capped Heron** (*Pilherodius pileatus*)

Recorded on 8 dates, including a high count of 9 birds along the rio Machado on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*)

Seen on 6 dates.

**IBISES AND SPOONBILLS (THRESKIORNITHIDAE)**

**Green Ibis** (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)

Seen on just three dates along the Machado.

**NEW WORLD VULTURES (CATHARTIDAE)**

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*)

Seen on 7 dates.

**Greater Yellow-headed Vulture** (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

A little surprising that we only recorded this forest-based vulture on 5 dates, with a high count of four individuals on two different dates. Perhaps this is simply an artefact of being inside the forest during most of our time at Tabajara.

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*)

Seen on all dates but for one, the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**King Vulture** (*Sarcoramphus papa*)

Seen on 2 dates in Acre: on the 15<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal dos Paulistas at the Riozinho do Andirá, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> on the Ramal do Noca.

**OSPREY (PANDIONIDAE)**

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Bruno saw one near Novo Mutum-Paraná on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (ACCIPITRIDAE)**

**Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*)

Seen over disturbed *terra firme* on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> at Linha C-30 near Porto Velho, and also in Acre on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pearl Kite** (*Gampsonyx swainsoni*)

Bruno spotted one on a utility wire along the Rodovia Transacrea on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>: I only caught the most fleeting of glimpses as we sped past.

**Double-toothed Kite** (*Harpagus bidentatus*)

One seen along the Ramal dos Paulistas on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>; three birds seen along the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Plumbeous Kite** (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Seen only on the 15<sup>th</sup> over the Ramal dos Paulistas.

**Slate-coloured Hawk** (*Buteogallus schistaceus*)

A calling adult at the bridge over the Riozinho do Andirá upon our arrival on-site on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> was a great way to start the day.

**Great Black-Hawk** (*Urubitinga urubitinga*)

Singles on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> near Tabajara were the only sightings of the trip.

**Roadside Hawk** (*Rupornis magnirostris*)

Seen or heard on 11 dates.

**White-tailed Hawk** (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

Seen only on the 17<sup>th</sup>, an adult soaring over the Rodovia Transacreeana at KM 35 in mid-afternoon as we returned to Porto Velho.

**Black-faced Hawk** (*Leucopternis melanops*)

Not recorded on the main tour, but Bruno and I observed an adult on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>, perched at the edge of disturbed tall forest bordering an area of swampy campinarana along Linha C-30 in Canutama, ca. 50 km from Porto Velho. Records of this species from south of the Solimões are rare, and records from the W bank of the Madeira appear to be even rarer. There are two photos of the species on WikiAves from Porto Velho, but it is not clear whether the birds were photographed on the east or west bank of the Madeira, as the municipality of Porto Velho straddles the Madeira. Specimen records from extreme W Acre and recordings from SE Peru indicate that the species is likely thinly distributed across the southern Amazon, where it is possibly overlooked.

**White-browed Hawk** (*Leucopternis kulhi*)

We saw this attractive but inconspicuous raptor of forest interior on two dates near Tabajara; first we saw and photographed a pair which even copulated as we watched along the Ramal do Caldeirão on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. We also had a single bird on the São João Trail (post-Bushbird!) on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray Hawk** (*Buteo nitidus*)

Seen around our camp at Alto do Bode on the right bank of the Machado on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Called Gray-lined Hawk by SACC / Clements.

**Black Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)

Heard on the 9<sup>th</sup> from inside campinarana while we worked on Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher on the Campinarana Trail.

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus ornatus*)

Heard on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNBITTERN (EURYPGIDAE)**

**Sunbittern** (*Eurypyga helias*)

A free-flying bird had taken up residence in the turtle exhibit at the small zoo in the Parque Chico Mendes in Rio Branco. This bird may have been released here from the adjacent wildlife rehabilitation centre.

**RAILS, CRAKES & GALLINULES (RALLIDAE)**

**Ocellated Crane** (*Micropygia schomburgkii*)

We heard at least two birds during the heat of the day in the disturbed campinas around the village of Abunã on the E bank of the Madeira. We persevered for a while, but in the end the dry and extremely hot conditions, combined with the fact that I had showed the species to Duncan at Emas NP in 2011, eventually convinced us to move along.

**Chestnut-headed Crane** (*Anurolimnas castaneiceps*)

A dueting pair which began to sing right beside us at the edge of the track, along the Ramal do Noca in mid-afternoon on the 17<sup>th</sup>, was quite a surprise. The result of our attempt to see the birds was less of a surprise, as they would sound off in response to playback now and again, but they didn't appear to be budging from the extremely dense thicket they sang from.

**Rufous-sided Crake** (*Laterallus melanophaius*)

Recorded only on the 15<sup>th</sup>: an adult with an almost fully grown chick in tow seen remarkably well at a marsh at the entrance to the Vila do INCRA; two birds heard in the afternoon on the ramal at KM 45 off the Transacreana.

**Gray-breasted Crake** (*Laterallus exilis*)

Heard in mid-afternoon on the 15<sup>th</sup> on the ramal at KM 45 off the Transacreana. Extensive trawling for Black-banded Crake in appropriate habitat in eastern Acre yielded no results.

**Ash-throated Crake** (*Porzana albicollis*)

Heard on the 8<sup>th</sup> in somewhat degraded campina along the road west of Tabajara; a very responsive bird seen at the same location on the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS (CHARADRIIDAE)**

**Pied Lapwing** (*Vanellus cayanus*)

Seen on 4 dates on the rio Machado.

**Southern Lapwing** (*Vanellus chilensis*)

Seen on 9 dates, including a flock of 79 birds on a beach on the Machado just downstream from the 2 de Novembro rapids.

**JACANAS (JACANIDAE)**

**Wattled Jacana** (*Jacana jacana*)

Seen on 2 dates, on roadside ponds in agricultural areas in Acre.

**TERNES (STERNIDAE)**

**Yellow-billed Tern** (*Sternula superciliaris*)

Recorded on 3 dates on the Machado.

**Large-billed Tern** (*Phaetusa simplex*)

Seen on 4 dates.

**SKIMMERS (RYNCHOPIDAE)**

**Black Skimmer** (*Rynchops niger*)

Seen on 3 dates on the Machado. High count of 30 birds loafing on sandbars in the river on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**PIGEONS AND DOVES (COLUMBIDAE)**

**Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*)

Recorded on 5 dates, mostly around Tabajara but also along Linha C-30.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** (*Columbina talpacoti*)

Recorded almost daily.

**Blue Ground-Dove** (*Claravis pretiosa*)

Seen only on the 16<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca.

**Feral Pigeon** (*Columba livia*)

**Scaled Pigeon** (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

A few seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in the campinas west of Tabajara.

**Plumbeous Pigeon** (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Recorded on 7 dates, but seen only on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> on Linha C-30 on the W bank of the Madeira. Subspecies in question here is *P. p. pallescens*.

**Ruddy Pigeon** (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

Heard on a couple of dates near Tabajara, but not encountered elsewhere.

**White-tipped Dove** (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

Heard only on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray-fronted Dove** (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

Recorded on 6 dates.

**CUCKOOS (CUCULIDAE)**

**Little Cuckoo** (*Coccyua minuta*)

Two birds along the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Squirrel Cuckoo** (*Piaya cayana*)

Recorded on just 3 dates, all in Acre.

**Black-bellied Cuckoo** (*Piaya melanogaster*)

Singles seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> at Igarapé São João, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> on the W bank of the Madeira near Abunã.

**Smooth-billed Ani** (*Crotophaga ani*)

Recorded on almost every day of the trip.

**Striped Cuckoo** (*Tapera naevia*)

Heard on the 12<sup>th</sup> at Alto do Bode.

**Pavonine Cuckoo** (*Dromococcyx pavoninus*)

Heard on consecutive dates in the bamboo-choked *terra firme* on the Ramal do Noca west of Rio Branco.

**TYPICAL OWLS (STRIGIDAE)**

**Tropical Screech-owl** (*Megascops choliba*)

Heard nightly in the village of Tabajara and in camp at Alto do Bode. At time the singing bird in Tabajara sounded as though it was actually *inside* the pousada; in fact, that turned out to be exactly the case, as one night after dinner Bruno and I spied the pair sitting in the rafters watching us.

**Austral Screech-owl** (*Megascops usta*)

Heard on 2 dates near Tabajara. Sometimes lumped together with *M. watsonii* in Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl.

**Crested Owl** (*Lophotrix cristata*)

I heard one in camp at Alto do Bode well before dawn on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Amazonian Pygmy-owl** (*Glaucidium hardyi*)

Heard on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> at Linha C-30; recorded daily along the Ramal do Noca, where we were surprised to find it syntopically with the following species. We tape recorded the two species simultaneously at the bottom of the first hill on the Ramal do Noca on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ferruginous Pygmy-owl** (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)  
Heard on all three days we visited the Ramal do Noca.

**Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*)  
Recorded on 6 dates in the matrix of cattle ranches.

### **POTOOS (NYCTIBIIDAE)**

**Great Potoo** (*Nyctibius grandis*)  
Heard before dawn on the 13<sup>th</sup> in camp at Alto do Bode.

**Common Potoo** (*Nyctibius griseus*)  
Heard on the 12<sup>th</sup> at dawn along the Igarapé São João. Potoos in general were a cause for slight disappointment on this trip, as Rufous and White-winged were possible at a couple of sites we visited, especially around Tabajara. We tried on a couple of nights, particularly for White-winged which would have been a new bird for Bruno, but without success.

### **NIGHTJARS (CAPRIMULGIDAE)**

**Ocellated Poorwill** (*Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*)  
Heard on 3 dates.

**Silky-tailed Nightjar** (*Antrostomus sericocaudatus*)  
Two individuals heard at dusk on the 15<sup>th</sup> in bamboo-dominated disturbed forest along the Ramal do Noca was our only encounter.

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)  
Our only record was a bird heard at dawn on the W bank of the Madeira across from Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackish Nightjar** (*Hydropsalis nigrescens*)  
We counted four individuals in the campina at Lote São Miguel west of Tabajara on the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup>, and saw a single bird at the same spot the following morning.

**Pauraque** (*Hydropsalis albicollis*)  
Seen or heard on 5 dates.

**Little Nightjar** (*Hydropsalis parvula*)  
Heard on 3 dates in campinas west of Tabajara.

**Spot-tailed Nightjar** (*Hydropsalis maculicauda*)  
Heard on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> in degraded campina west of Tabajara.

**Ladder-tailed Nightjar** (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)  
I saw one while taking an evening dip in the rio Machado at Alto do Bode on the 12<sup>th</sup>; we found a pair on a rocky islet in the Machado downstream from the Igarapé São João on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Nacunda Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles nacunda*)  
A couple seen at night in urban Porto Velho on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Sand-coloured Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles rupestris*)  
A dozen or so seen at mid-day on a sandbar in the middle of the Machado downstream from 2 de Novembro on the 10<sup>th</sup>. About the same number found on a sandy island in the Machado near Igarapé São João on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Least Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles pusillus*)

Proved to be rather numerous in the *campinas* – pristine and disturbed – west of Tabajara on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, with a top count of 16 individuals on the evening of the latter date. The birds here belong to the *saturatus* race.

**SWIFTS (APODIDAE)**

**Gray-rumped Swift** (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

Seen on just 2 dates.

**Short-tailed Swift** (*Chaetura brachyura*)

Seen on 5 dates.

**Fork-tailed Palm-Swift** (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

Seen on 5 dates.

**HUMMINGBIRDS (TROCHILIDAE)**

**Needle-billed Hermit** (*Phaethornis philippii*)

One seen in tall campinarana along Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Reddish Hermit** (*Phaethornis ruber*)

The most frequently encountered hermit, seen or heard on five dates at Tabajara, Acre, and Canutama.

**White-bearded Hermit** (*Phaethornis hispidus*)

One seen along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray-breasted Sabrewing** (*Campylopterus longipennis*)

Seen only on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Caldeirão just west of Tabajara.

**White-necked Jacobin** (*Florisuga mellivora*)

Three individuals on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Crimson Topaz** (*Topaza pella*)

Heard on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Fork-tailed Woodnymph** (*Thalurania furcata*)

Surprisingly few encounters of this common species: singles seen on just three dates.

**White-chinned Sapphire** (*Hylocharis cyanus*)

Heard on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Green-tailed Goldenthrout** (*Polytmus theresiae*)

Seen or heard on 3 dates in campinas west of Tabajara. A specialist of white sand campinas and associated habitats.

**Glittering-throated Emerald** (*Amazilia fimbriata*)

A male visited flowers around Piti's house in Tabajara.

**Black-eared Fairy** (*Heliostyris auritus*)

Seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> in the Tabajara area, and again on the 19<sup>th</sup> in Canutama.

**TROGONS AND QUETZALS**

**Green-backed Trogon** (*Trogon viridis*)

Heard on nearly every day of the trip, though we never really made any effort to see it; finally seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the final day of the tour!

**Amazonian Trogon** (*Trogon ramonianus*)

Heard on four dates. Split from Violaceous Trogon.

**Collared Trogon** (*Trogon collaris*)

Heard on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Acre.

**Black-throated Trogon** (*Trogon rufus*)

A female seen on the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-crowned Trogon** (*Trogon curucui*)

Seen on a couple of dates around Tabajara, and heard on two dates in Acre.

**Black-tailed Trogon** (*Trogon melanurus*)

Heard on 6 dates.

**Pavonine Quetzal** (*Pharomachrus pavoninus*)

Two different birds heard on the 12<sup>th</sup>: one along the São João as we navigated upstream toward the trail; and one on the trail itself.

**MOTMOTS (MOMOTIDAE)**

**Amazonian Motmot** (*Momotus momota*)

Seen or heard on 6 dates.

**Broad-billed Motmot** (*Electron platyrhynchum*)

Heard on 4 dates.

**JACAMARS (GALBULIDAE)**

**White-throated Jacamar** (*Brachygalba albogularis*)

It took more searching than expected, but we finally came up with a family group of six birds along the Ramal do Noca west of Rio Branco on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Really a very attractive little jacamar, and in Brazil this bird is considered a specialty of Acre.

**Brown Jacamar** (*Brachygalba lugubris*)

A pair heard along the Igarapé São João on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-cheeked Jacamar** (*Galbula cyanicollis*)

Males seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> on the 2 de Novembro Trail, and the 14<sup>th</sup> on the W bank of the Madeira near Abunã. A pair heard on the 12<sup>th</sup> on the São João Trail. A regional specialty found from E Peru to the south-eastern Brazilian Amazon.

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** (*Galbula ruficauda*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

**Bluish-fronted Jacamar** (*Galbula cyanescens*)

Recorded on all three full birding days in Acre, with up to 8 birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> between the Ramal dos Paulistas and the Ramal do Noca. Replaces the above species this far west of the Madeira.

**Bronzy Jacamar** (*Galbula leucogastra*)

Heard on 3 dates.

**Paradise Jacamar** (*Galbula dea*)

Heard on 3 dates.

**Great Jacamar** (*Jacamerops aureus*)

Heard on 3 dates, and finally seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> on Linha C-30.

**PUFFBIRDS (BUCCONIDAE)**

**White-necked Puffbird** (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)

Heard only, on the 16<sup>th</sup> W of Rio Branco.

**Brown-banded Puffbird** (*Notharchus ordii*)

A dueting pair heard along Linha C-30 on the west bank of the Madeira on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> was our only encounter with the species.

**Pied Puffbird** (*Notharchus tectus*)

Heard on 2 dates around Tabajara, and one seen briefly sitting on a power line along Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Puffbird** (*Bucco tamatia*)

One bird seen (of at least three individuals responding to tape) in low campinarana along the Campinarana Trail west of Tabajara on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We also had a pair in tall forest on the W bank of the Madeira opposite Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup> while we tried to see Fulvous-chinned Nunlet and Semicollared Puffbird – it was not the puffbird we were looking for.

**Western Striolated Puffbird** (*Nystalus obamai*)

Two birds heard and tape recorded on the Ramal dos Paulistas near Porto Acre on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. This puffbird is one of the recently described taxa from the HBW New Species special edition.

**Natterer's Striolated Puffbird** (*Nystalus striolatus*)

At least three individuals singing along the 2 de Novembro Trail on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>; tape recorded. A taxon derived from the recent split of the Striolated Puffbird complex.

**White-eared Puffbird** (*Nystalus chacuru*)

A pair on power lines along the Linha C-30 on the west bank of the Madeira on the 19<sup>th</sup>. This open country species occurs in the complexes of white sand savannas in the Humaitá region, and has presumably spread into the surrounding cleared areas as well.

**Semicollared Puffbird** (*Malacoptila semicineta*)

A frustrating encounter had with a single vocalizing bird on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> in tall forest on the west bank of the Madeira on the Monteredo Trail near Abunã. After detecting its extremely high-pitched song, we slowly worked our way into the forest toward it, but the bird was rather skittish and seemed to move away as we approached, though we didn't actually see it flying. Later, while we worked on the following species, I turned my head to check out the tiniest bit of movement, and to my surprise the puffbird flushed out from a perch below eye level and just a couple of metres away from me! A species which is rarely seen in Brazil, with most birders getting theirs in Manu in SE Peru.

**Fulvous-chinned Nunlet** (*Nonnula sclateri*)

Unfortunately, heard only on the 14<sup>th</sup> on the Monteredo Trail on the west bank of the Madeira near Abunã. Bruno

has had the species at the trail before; it is just one of a very interesting cast of species recorded here in the past, a site definitely worth more time in the future.

**Rufous-capped Nunlet** (*Nonnula ruficapilla*)

Bruno spotted one in a bamboo-choked gully during our foray along a narrow trail off the Ramal do Noca near Rio Branco in Acre on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Also heard the following day along the Ramal do Noca.

**Black-fronted Nunbird** (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

Fairly common and recorded on 6 dates.

**White-fronted Nunbird** (*Monasa morphoeus*)

Recorded daily around Tabajara and São João, where common within *terra firme* forests.

**Yellow-billed Nunbird** (*Monasa flavirostris*)

A single on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and a pair on the 17<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca, were our only records of this attractive nunbird, which in SW Amazonia is largely restricted to stands of *Guadua* bamboo.

**Swallow-wing** (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

Seen on 7 dates.

**BARBETS (CAPITONIDAE)**

**Black-girdled Barbet** (*Capito dayi*)

Heard on the 10<sup>th</sup> on the 2 de Novembro Trail in Tabajara.

**Gilded Barbet** (*Capito auratus*)

Heard on a daily basis west of the Madeira and in Acre, and one finally seen with canopy flock in tall sandy belt forest along the Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Lemon-throated Barbet** (*Eubucco richardsoni*)

A pair called in above us in the canopy in disturbed tall forest with a thick bamboo understorey along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**TOUCANS (RAMPHASTIDAE)**

**Channel-billed Toucan** (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

Seen or heard on 10 dates.

**White-throated Toucan** (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

Seen or heard on 11 dates.

**Golden-collared Toucanet** (*Selenidera reinwardtii*)

Heard on the Monteredo Trail, west bank of the Madeira downstream from Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lettered Aracari** (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*)

Six birds seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca.

**Brown-mandibled Aracari** (*Pteroglossus mariae*)

Seen only on the 6<sup>th</sup> when Bruno and I were scouting on Linha C-30. Sometimes considered a subspecies of Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara*.

**Chestnut-eared Aracari** (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)

Recorded on two dates on the Ramal do Noca.

## WOODPECKERS (PICIDAE)

### **Bar-breasted Piculet** (*Picumnus aurifrons*)

A pair seen along the Campinarana Trail west of Tabajara on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Based on range this should be the nominate form of this variable species.

### **Rufous-breasted Piculet** (*Picumnus rufiventris*)

This bamboo specialist of W Amazonia proved to be quite common in the bamboo-dominated forest along the Ramal do Noca near Rio Branco. We saw a pair on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>, and heard four or more individuals at the same location on each of the following two dates.

### **Fine-barred Piculet** (*Picumnus subtilis*)

Duncan noticed the quiet tapping of a piculet during a mid-afternoon stop at a rickety bridge on the KM 45 ramal off the Transacraana; a bit of poking around revealed the presence of two females of this species (an adult and an immature), which we managed to photograph. Until recently the species was considered endemic to SE Peru, but recent records (a specimen collected in 1998, followed by observations in 2007 and since) have found the species to be at least patchily distributed in Acre, occurring as far east as Rio Branco itself.

### **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

### **Red-stained Woodpecker** (*Veniliornis affinis*)

Seen only on the 12<sup>th</sup> around lunch time on the Igarapé São João.

### **Little Woodpecker** (*Veniliornis passerinus*)

Seen on two dates along the Ramal do Noca in Acre.

### **Yellow-throated Woodpecker** (*Piculus flavigula*)

A male seen in tall campinarana on the Campinarana Trail west of Tabajara on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Scaly-breasted Woodpecker** (*Celeus grammicus*)

Heard only on the Monteredo Trail on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cream-coloured Woodpecker** (*Celeus flavus*)

Heard on the 11<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Caldeirão.

### **Rufous-headed Woodpecker** (*Celeus spectabilis*)

One of the big target birds for the impromptu Acre extension. We connected in a big way on our first afternoon along the Ramal do Noca, with three extremely responsive individuals including a male which landed briefly in full view (and perfect light) atop a broken bamboo stalk alongside the track. Also seen or heard on the following two dates on the Ramal do Noca.

### **Ringed Woodpecker** (*Celeus torquatus*)

Heard only, along the rio Machado on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. HBW would split this taxon as *C. occidentalis*, the Amazonian Black-breasted Woodpecker. True Ringed Woodpecker (*torquatus*) would be the birds north of the Amazon on the Guianan Shield. The lowland Atlantic forest race (*tinnunculus*) appears to be most closely related to *occidentalis*.

### **Lineated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Heard on three dates.

### **Red-necked Woodpecker** (*Campephilus rubricollis*)

Seen or heard on four dates.

**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)  
Recorded on four dates.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS (FALCONIDAE)**

**Black Caracara** (*Daptrius ater*)  
Recorded on three dates.

**Red-throated Caracara** (*Ibycter americanus*)  
Seen on three dates.

**Southern Caracara** (*Caracara plancus*)  
Recorded on six dates in open country and altered habitats.

**Yellow-headed Caracara** (*Milvago chimachima*)  
Seen on three dates in open habitats.

**Laughing Falcon** (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)  
Seen only on the 14<sup>th</sup> by me.

**Barred Forest-Falcon** (*Micrastur ruficollis*)  
Heard on two consecutive days from the campinas at Lote São Miguel west of Tabajara.

**Collared Forest-Falcon** (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)  
Heard on two dates.

**American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*)  
Seen on four dates.

**Bat Falcon** (*Falco rufigularis*)  
Surprisingly recorded just once, a heard-only bird along the Ramal dos Paulistas in Acre on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PARROTS (PSITTACIDAE)**

**Blue-and-yellow Macaw** (*Ara ararauna*)  
Seen on five dates along the Machado and near Tabajara.

**Scarlet Macaw** (*Ara macao*)  
Seen on three dates.

**Red-and-green Macaw** (*Ara chloropterus*)  
Seen on just two dates, including the spectacular sight of about 30 individuals at a river-edge clay lick along the Madeira just downstream from Abunã in late morning on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-fronted Macaw** (*Ara severus*)  
Recorded on six dates.

**Red-bellied Macaw** (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)  
Recorded on 9 dates, including 44 birds seen on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> near the Madeira river as they headed for feeding areas.

**Blue-headed Macaw** (*Primolius couloni*)

Seen on three dates in Acre, mostly near Rio Branco on the Ramal do Noca and right beside the Transacreeana itself. Nearly endemic to S Peru, this species just gets across into Acre and a small portion of Amazonas in Brazil, and into a small area of N Bolivia.

**White-eyed Parakeet** (*Psittacara leucophthalmus*)

Numerous on three dates in Acre.

**Dusky-headed Parakeet** (*Aratinga weddellii*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates, increasingly common as we traveled from east to west. A large flock of at least 150 birds alongside the BR-364 east of Rio Branco on the 18<sup>th</sup> was an impressive sight as they covered roadside bushes near sorghum fields.

**Crimson-bellied Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura perlata*)

Our only sighting of this attractive parakeet was a flock of 10 birds at our Alto do Bode camp on the north bank of the rio Machado on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Madeira Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura snethlageae*)

Seen or heard on a daily basis around Tabajara; also heard on the 14<sup>th</sup> near Abunã.

**Black-capped Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura rupicola*)

I saw a single bird along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>, but nobody else got onto it. We made a side trip to the Parque Ambiental Chico Mendes in Rio Branco on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup> to look for a resident flock of the species I had found in the area on a previous trip. After a bit of searching we managed to find three birds feeding on yellow flowers in the canopy alongside the jogging track near the small zoo. Really quite attractive birds, with a range centred on SE Peru, Acre, and N Bolivia.

**Yellow-chevroned Parakeet** (*Brotogeris chiriri*)

A small flock seen near Abunã on the 18<sup>th</sup> was the only sighting.

**Golden-winged Parakeet** (*Brotogeris chrysoptera*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates.

**Tui Parakeet** (*Brotogeris sanctithomae*)

Seen in good numbers on four dates in Acre. Possibly overlooked along the Machado in the Tabajara area.

**White-bellied Parrot** (*Pionites leucogaster*)

Heard from the Monteredo Trail near Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup>; a flock of five birds seen along the Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>. The taxon here is *P. l. xanthurus*, which HBW splits as Yellow-tailed Parrot. Birds east of the Madeira are called Green-thighed Parrot by HBW.

**Orange-cheeked Parrot** (*Pytilia barrabandi*)

Recorded on 8 dates. Maximum count of 30 birds descending to a clay lick near the mouth of the Igarapé São João on the Machado on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Not recorded in Acre.

**Blue-headed Parrot** (*Pionus menstruus*)

Recorded on 12 dates. Maximum count of approximately 80 birds descending to a clay lick near the mouth of the Igarapé São João on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-crowned Parrot** (*Amazona ochrocephala*)

Recorded on 8 dates. Maximum count of approximately 50 birds descending to a clay lick near the mouth of the Igarapé São João on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Kawall's Parrot** (*Amazona kawalli*)

Recorded on 5 dates. Maximum count of about 20 birds descending to a clay lick near the mouth of the Igarapé São João on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mealy Parrot** (*Amazona farinosa*)

Recorded on four dates.

**TYPICAL ANTBIRDS (THAMNOPHILIDAE)**

**Spot-winged Antshrike** (*Pygiptila stelleris*)

Somewhat surprisingly, only encountered on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Caldeirão west of Tabajara.

**Dot-winged Antwren** (*Microrhopias quixensis*)

Pairs seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the bushbird territory (ssp *bicolor*), and on the 17<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca in Acre (ssp. *intercedens*). Also heard on the W bank of the Madeira at Monteredo and Linha C-30.

**Rondônia Bushbird** (*Clytoctantes atrogularis*)

This enigmatic antbird, known only from a handful of observations and a couple of specimens obtained since its original description to science in 1990, was undoubtedly the major target for our expedition and one of the main reasons we chose to visit Tabajara over the Rio Roosevelt where there is a comfortable lodge from which we could have birded. After a bit of a stressful boat trip from our Alto do Bode camp up a narrow (and quite shallow, at this time of year) tributary of the Machado, during which we needed to clear away floating logs, duck under thick fallen trees, and push the boat through the shallowest stretches, we reached the trail where our best chances for the bushbird lay. After about a kilometre's hike through some very interesting forest with an understorey dominated by dense thickets of *Lepidocaryum* palms and heliconias, we reached the first territory where Bruno really fancied our chances: a low depression with a permanent, spring-fed forest stream and a dispersed grove of *Mauritia* palms intermingled with a few scattered emergents. The understorey was largely dominated by *Lepidocaryum* and a species of slender bamboo. The substrate here was a well-saturated, sloppy black mud underlying a dense woven mat of woody tree roots. A short bit of work with the tape obtained a fairly prompt reply, and Bruno skillfully coaxed the bird, a female, into the bamboos near where we had set up. We had clear but brief views at first as she skulked through the thickets, improving gradually as the bird worked a circle around our position, and reaching perfection when she finally popped up onto a sunlit vertical bamboo stem for what seemed like an eternity (long enough for me to remember wistfully that I had decided to leave my camera in the backpack to 'focus on the bird'), but was likely only really a dozen seconds or so. We supposed that a second singing bird which remained in the background might have been a male. A Brazilian endemic with a poorly-known range which extends as least as far west as the Madeira, and as far east as the left bank of the Juruena; it appears to be extremely rare and local throughout its range, likely due to its very specific habitat preferences. As such it stands to reason that its evaluation as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List is thoroughly warranted: the type locality where the species first discovered in 1986 has long since disappeared; the bird's presence upstream from Tabajara was confirmed during biological inventory fieldwork for proposed hydroelectric dams in the area. Forest destruction across Rondônia has been rapid and relentless, leaving only a handful of nominally protected areas, and the deforestation frontier along the Transamazônica highway in SE Amazonas threatens the northern half of the species' range.

**White-eyed Antwren** (*Epinecophylla leucophthalma*)

Two pairs seen along the Ramal do Caldeirão west of Tabajara on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Madeira Stipple-throated Antwren** (*Epinecophylla [haematonota] amazonica*)

A pair found with a small mixed flock of understorey birds on the Monteredo Trail on the W bank of the Madeira just downstream from Abunã on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. A revision of the Stipple-throated Antwren complex by Whitney *et al.* in the Special Volume of the HBW raised this taxon to species level; *amazonica* occurs from the

Juruá basin as far east as the Madeira.

**Roosevelt Stipple-throated Antwren** (*Epinecrophylla [haematonota] dentei*)

Two pairs of this recently described taxon seen on the 2 de Novembro Trail on the right bank of the Machado on the 10<sup>th</sup>; heard along the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Described by Bret Whitney *et al.* in 2013 in the HBW Special Volume, this species is a micro-endemic restricted to the Aripuanã – Machado interfluvium. The SACC voted to treat *dentei* as a subspecies of *E. amazonica*, and for the time being the AOU and the Clements checklist follow that treatment, while the CBRO views it as a species-level taxon.

**Ornate Antwren** (*Epinecrophylla ornata meridionalis*)

Fairly common in bamboo forests along the Ramal do Noca, where we had two pairs on both the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-throated Antbird** (*Myrmophylax atrothorax*)

Seen or heard on three dates, all in Acre.

**Pygmy Antwren** (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates.

**Sclater's Antwren** (*Myrmotherula sclateri*)

Recorded on 6 dates.

**Amazonian Streaked Antwren** (*Myrmotherula multistriata*)

Heard on a couple of dates, and a male seen in riparian forest along the Riozinho do Andirá on the Ramal dos Paulistas in Porto Acre north of Rio Branco on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**White-flanked Antwren** (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Heard on 5 dates, seen only on the 16<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca in E Acre. The taxon at this location is either *heterozyga* or *fresnayana*.

**Long-winged Antwren** (*Myrmotherula longipennis*)

Heard on both the E (*trassitiva*) and W (*garbei*) bank of the Madeira.

**Bamboo Antwren** (*Myrmotherula oreni*)

Up to four birds seen in bamboo-choked forest off the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup> (and heard there the following day), including a particularly responsive male which we tape recorded. A recently described (2013) species by Miranda *et al.* in the HBW Special Volume, Bamboo Antwren is restricted to SW Amazonia in SE Peru, N Bolivia, and E Acre. The SACC and AOU rejected a proposal to recognize the taxon as distinct from Ihering's Antwren *M. iheringi* based on inadequate vocal sampling in the paper by Miranda *et al.*

**Gray Antwren** (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

Recorded on 4 dates. Our only sighting was a pair seen on the Campinarana Trail west of Tabajara on the 9<sup>th</sup> (ssp. *berlepschi*).

**White-fringed Antwren** (*Formicivora grisea*)

Seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> and heard on three other dates in campina habitats around Tabajara. A common species in campinas and other patchily distributed white sand habitats in Amazonia.

**Plain-throated Antwren** (*Isteria hauxwelli*)

Great views of a male on the Campinarana Trail on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and a pair on the 2 de Novembro Trail the following morning.

**Dusky-throated Antshrike** (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)

A pair with a mixed flock in understorey along the Monteredo Trail on the west bank of the Madeira downstream

from Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Saturnine Antshrike** (*Thamnomanes saturninus*)

Seen or heard on 4 dates, always with mixed flocks, around Tabajara and São João.

**Cinereous Antshrike** (*Thamnomanes caesius*)

Recorded on 3 dates around Tabajara, and a single bird seen on the Montereado Trail on the west bank of the Madeira.

**Bluish-slate Antshrike** (*Thamnomanes schistogynus*)

At least six birds detected during our foray off-track from the Ramal do Noca on the 15<sup>th</sup>; five heard the following day in the same location.

**Rufous-winged Antwren** (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*)

Heard only on 2 dates along the Machado.

**Aripuanã Antwren** (*Herpsilochmus stotzi*)

Our first encounter was a heard-only bird with a mixed canopy flock by the first stream in *terra firme* along the 2 de Novembro Trail; the canopy height here made it nearly impossible to get more than a glimpse of the bird's underside, however. We finally connected along the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>, seeing a pair at the bushbird site and hearing at least four more individuals along the trail and the São João itself. Described to science in 2013, the species is endemic to south-central Amazonian Brazil between the Machado and the Aripuanã rivers.

**Predicted Antwren** (*Herpsilochmus praedictus*)

Not recorded with Duncan (we had seen the species in 2010 at Hotel Tupana on a successful Amazon Marathon tour), but Bruno and I tape recorded a pair down a narrow track in forest off the Linha C-30 on the 6<sup>th</sup> as we scouted the site. Newly described to science in 2013 in the HBW Special Volume on New Species.

**Glossy Antshrike** (*Sakesphorus luctuosus*)

Heard on 3 dates around Tabajara and São João.

**Barred Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

Recorded on 8 dates.

**Chestnut-backed Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus palliatus*)

Heard on 2 dates.

**Plain-winged Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*)

Recorded on 7 dates around Tabajara and latterly, also in Acre.

**Mouse-coloured Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus murinus*)

Heard on the Montereado Trail on the west bank of the Madeira near Abunã.

**Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus stictocephalus*)

Seen in campina west of Tabajara on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and heard in the same area two days later. A specialist of stunted forests and campinaranas in the southern Amazon.

**White-shouldered Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus aethiops*)

A male seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> on the 2 de Novembro Trail west of Tabajara; also heard on three other dates.

**Amazonian Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus amazonicus*)

Heard on a couple of dates around Tabajara, and a pair of the nominate form seen in riparian forest along the Riozinho do Andirá in Porto Acre on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Fasciated Antshrike** (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)

Heard only, on 2 dates.

**Bamboo Antshrike** (*Cymbilaimus sanctamariae*)

First seen along the Ramal dos Capixabas in Porto Acre around mid-day on the 15<sup>th</sup>; also proved to be extremely common in the extensive bamboo on the Ramal do Noca, where we heard at least 12 birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> and another three pairs on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Antshrike** (*Taraba major*)

Heard only on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ferruginous-backed Antbird** (*Myrmoderus ferrugineus*)

Our only encounter was a singing pair on the São João Trail on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>. We were rather single-minded that morning, however, and walked straight past them as we needed to get to the bushbird site at a reasonable hour.

**Band-tailed Antbird** (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*)

A female seen along the Igarapé São João on the 12<sup>th</sup> was our only sighting of this riverine species.

**Spot-backed Antbird** (*Hylophylax naevius*)

Heard along the Ramal do Caldeirão on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Plumbeous Antbird** (*Myrmelastes hyperythrus*)

A pair heard singing in seasonally flooded forest at the Riozinho do Andirá in Porto Acre on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Humaitá Antbird** (*Myrmelastes humaythae*)

One of our big targets for the W bank of the Madeira. Nailing it on the first afternoon – a pair close to the ground within a small Heliconia thicket along the Linha C-30 – was significant because it later allowed us to consider dropping Humaitá entirely from the itinerary in favour of several days in Acre. As it turned out, we also had a pair (and better views, in truth) on the Monteredo Trail downstream from Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup> as well.

**White-browed Antbird** (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)

Recorded on four dates. Quite common along the Ramal do Noca near Rio Branco.

**White-lined Antbird** (*Myrmoborus lophotes*)

Seen or heard on each of our three full birding days in eastern Acre.

**Black-faced Antbird** (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates.

**Goeldi's Antbird** (*Akletus goeldii*)

A pair seen in a dense *Guadua* bamboo thicket in a roadside gully along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Quite a range restricted species occurring only in SE Peru, NW Bolivia, and parts of the Brazilian states of Acre and Amazonas. Moved to *Akletus* by CBRO to address polyphyly in *Myrmeciza*. Isler *et al.* erected a new genus – *Inundicola* – for Goeldi's and White-shouldered Antbirds. The species is named in honour of Emílio Goeldi, the Swiss zoologist who moved to Brazil in 1885 in his mid 20s to work at the National Museum in Rio before being invited to take charge of the Museum of Natural History in Belém do Pará. That institution is today one of the leading natural history museums in the Amazon, re-named in Goeldi's honour as the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi.

**[Eastern] Chestnut-tailed Antbird** (*Sciaphylax pallens*)

Nice views were had of a singing male in a dense heliconia thicket at the edge of the track along the Ramal do

Caldeirão near Tabajara on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. The CBRO splits *pallens* from Chestnut-tailed Antbird, but uses the extremely poorly considered English name of Eastern White-bellied Antbird, which of course leads inevitably to confusion with the well-established White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes*. This taxon is restricted to Amazonian Brazil and NE Bolivia east of the Madeira. It differs from the following species in the more extensive white on the belly in both sexes, and the overall paler plumage of the female. The songs of the two taxa are quite similar. CBRO also moves the Chestnut-tailed Antbird from *Myrmeciza* to *Sciaphylax*.

**[Western] Chestnut-tailed Antbird** (*Sciaphylax hemimelaena*)

A pair seen near the beginning of the Monteredo Trail on the west bank of the Madeira on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and subsequently heard on a daily basis during our time spent in Acre, with up to seven individuals detected on both the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca. As mentioned above, CBRO splits the Chestnut-tailed Antbird taxa along the east and west banks of the Madeira. Even though the SACC now favours the name Zimmer's Antbird for *S. castanea* rather than Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird as originally adopted when that taxon was split several years ago, using Eastern and Western as modifiers in the English names for these two taxa seems a simple enough naming solution.

**Gray Antbird** (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)

Heard on 6 dates.

**Blackish Antbird** (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)

A pair (ssp. *approximans*) seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> in the swampy habitat favoured by Rondônia Bushbird, and one heard the following day along the Machado.

**Riparian Antbird** (*Cercomacra fuscicauda*)

A recent split from Blackish Antbird. Heard on three dates in E Acre.

**Black Antbird** (*Cercomacra serva*)

Heard on the 17<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca.

**Manu Antbird** (*Cercomacra manu*)

One heard along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and at least three pairs of this bamboo specialist found the following day during our further explorations of the same site. Birds in this region seem to vary vocally from the populations I am familiar with from northern Mato Grosso and southern Pará state.

**Striated Antbird** (*Drymophila devillei*)

Multiple singing birds of the nominate form noted in the extensive bamboo thickets along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and also heard on the 14<sup>th</sup> from smaller bamboo patches on the Monteredo Trail on the W bank of the Madeira across from Abunã.

**Yellow-browed Antbird** (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*)

A pair seen on the São João Trail on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>. The population of *H. hypoxantha* found between the Aripuanã and Ji-Paraná (Machado) rivers is suspected to relate to an undescribed taxon. Birds here do not possess the ochraceous flanks which are found in *ochraceiventris*, the Brazilian endemic subspecies which is restricted to the Tapajós – Xingu interfluvium.

**Yellow-breasted Warbling-Antbird** (*Hypocnemis subflava*)

Hard to imagine another trip with four members of the *Hypocnemis cantator* complex! This species became a possibility with the impromptu addition of Acre to the itinerary, and we encountered pairs on all three dates at the Ramal do Noca west of Rio Branco.

**Peruvian Warbling-Antbird** (*Hypocnemis peruviana*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates west of the Madeira, both near Porto Velho (in Canutama at Linha C-30) and in Acre.

**Manicoré Warbling-Antbird** (*Hypocnemis rondoni*)

Encountered on in *terra firme* on the right bank of the Machado on both the 2 de Novembro Trail (10<sup>th</sup>) and the São João Trail (12<sup>th</sup>), with at least two pairs seen on both dates. The species was described very recently in the Special Volume for New Species of the Handbook of the Birds of the World, based on vocalizations and genetic distance from its closest congener *H. ochrogyna*. As with most members of the *H. cantator* complex, the species is only weakly differentiated in plumage and morphology. We were quite pleased to hear and record the distinctive and rather musical call notes of a male on the 2 de Novembro Trail. *H. rondoni* is a Brazilian endemic restricted to the Aripuanã – Ji-Paraná (Machado) interfluvium. It is replaced by the following species on the left bank of the Machado.

**Rondônia Warbling-Antbird** (*Hypocnemis ochrogyna*)

Heard on two dates on the left bank of the Machado, on the Campinarana Trail and the Ramal do Caldeirão near Tabajara. Duncan had seen this species with me in Vila Bela da Santíssima Trindade in Mato Grosso on a previous trip with me, so we did not go out of our way to track the birds down.

**Common Scale-backed Antbird** (*Willisornis poecilinotus*)

Seen or heard on four dates in the Tabajara area.

**Black-spotted Bare-eye** (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*)

Singles heard on two dates near Tabajara, and heard daily at the Ramal do Noca in Acre, where we saw a pair on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**White-breasted Antbird** (*Rhegmatorhina hoffmannsi*)

After Rondonia Bushbird, this was the number two target for the entire trip. As such we were ecstatic to encounter at least 8 individuals attending a small army ant swarm in *campinarana* on the Campinarana Trail west of Tabajara on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The birds were engrossed with the antswarm, thus allowing us to work slowly into their midst to watch them for nearly half an hour as they picked off prey by dropping down to the ground from low perches (see cover photo). Endemic to the Brazilian Amazon between the Madeira and the Tapajós rivers, though absent from the left bank of the lower Tapajós where it is replaced by Harlequin Antbird *R. berlepschi*. Recently uplisted to Near Threatened on the Birdlife and IUCN Red List; given the extent of the destruction of its habitat in Rondônia and ongoing deforestation along the Transamazônica highway corridor which effectively runs right through the middle of its range, this status certainly seems warranted.

**ANTPITTAS (GRALLARIDAE)**

**Tapajós (Alta Floresta) Antpitta** (*Hylopezus whittakeri*)

A singing bird heard off-trail along the 2 de Novembro Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup> would have been a lifer for Bruno, so we waded in but the bird was having none of it, moving well away from us each time we approached. A recently described taxon in the Spotted Antpitta complex. Personally I will always prefer the name Tapajós Antpitta, which I feel is far more fitting than Alta Floresta Antpitta given that, aside from at the Cristalino Lodge, the species is very difficult to find in Alta Floresta these days. Tapajós Antpitta aligns nicely with the hermit and scythebill, and would serve to cast a wider spotlight on the Tapajós basin as a whole, which is currently under dire threat from half-baked plans for hydroelectric projects.

**Amazonian Antpitta** (*Hylopezus berlepschi*)

Heard daily along the Ramal do Noca in E Acre.

**Thrush-like Antpitta** (*Myrmothera campanisona*)

Heard on 3 dates in the Tabajara area.

**Variegated Antpitta** (*Grallaria varia*)

Heard only on the 10<sup>th</sup> along the 2 de Novembro Trail, where we had at least four different individuals on song posts, testament to the high quality of the *terra firme* forest here.

## ANTHRUSHES (FORMICARIIDAE)

### **Rufous-capped Antthrush** (*Formicarius colma*)

Heard only on the 14<sup>th</sup> along the Monteredo Trail on the west bank of the Madeira near Abunã.

### **Black-faced Antthrush** (*Formicarius analis*)

Heard on two dates along the Ramal do Noca in Acre.

## LEAFTOSSERS (SCLERURIDAE)

### **Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser** (*Sclerurus mexicanus macconnelli*)

We disturbed a trailside leaf-tosser in mid-afternoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> as we returned to the Ramal do Noca after a long foray 'off-piste' into the excellent forest. A bit of work with the tape brought this species back to our feet for good views as it flicked about nervously on and near the forest floor. The CBRO applied the results of a phylogenetic study of the group, splitting *macconnelli* of the Guianas and southern Amazonia from the Central American and Andean forms. It is not clear, however, whether *peruvianus* of NW Amazonia and the Andean foothills intergrades with *macconnelli* in potential contact zones. The SACC has, for the time being, rejected a 4-way split of Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser pending further publications. The committee did, however, acknowledge that there are almost certainly multiple species-level taxa currently 'hiding' within *S. mexicanus*.

## WOODCREEPERS (DENDROCOLAPTIDAE)

### **Plain-brown Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

Seen in bamboo forests along the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** (*Certhiasomus stictolaemus*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

### **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Surprisingly, only recorded on 3 dates. One seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> on the 2 de Novembro Trail belonged to the *inornatus* race.

### **Long-billed Woodcreeper** (*Nasica longirostris*)

One of the Amazon's absolute top birds. One seen on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup> approached in response to my whistled imitations and proceeded to hang around for quite a while, giving a series of unusual strangled calls not normally heard from the species.

### **Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper** (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*)

Heard on 4 dates, at Tabajara, Abunã, and in Acre.

### **Uniform Woodcreeper** (*Hylexetastes uniformis*)

A singing bird heard at dawn from the *campina* of Lote São Miguel (the bird itself was likely somewhere near the beginning of the Ramal do Caldeirão).

### **Juruá Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocolaptes certhia juruanus*)

Seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> – a single bird loosely associating with a mixed flock – along the Monteredo Trail downstream from Abunã on the west bank of the Madeira. The CBRO follows the recommendations of Batista *et al.* (2013) in recognizing *juruanus* as a species level taxon, whereas the SACC and Clements continue to treat it as a subspecies of Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia*. This taxon is found south of the Solimões (Amazon) and west of the Madeira as far as the base of the Andes in Peru and Bolivia.

### **Plain-coloured Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocolaptes certhia concolor*)

Heard from Lote São Miguel near Tabajara on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>; seen on the 11<sup>th</sup> along the São João Trail. The CBRO follows the recommendations of Batista *et al.* (2013) in recognizing *concolor* as a species level taxon, whereas the SACC and Clements continue to treat it as a subspecies of Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia*. This taxon occurs in the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium with its range extending as far south of northern Bolivia.

**Hoffmann's Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocolaptes hoffmannsi*)

A bit of speculative tape in appropriate habitat along the São João Trail in mid-morning produced a near-immediate response from a trailside bird. A poorly-known Brazilian endemic restricted to the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium.

**Elegant Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*)

Recorded on 8 dates. Seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> on the Campinarana Trail (the nominate form), and on the 14<sup>th</sup> on the Monteredo Trail (ssp. *juruanus*). The latter race presents much narrower streaking on the chest and mantle, compared with the striking buff teardrop markings of the nominate *elegans* form.

**Striped Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

Heard in *varzea* forest on the 2 de Novembro Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Buff-throated Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates, with sightings on the 9<sup>th</sup> (ssp. *vicinalis*) and the 14<sup>th</sup> (ssp. *guttatoides*).

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** (*Dendroplex picus*)

Heard on 4 dates.

**Inambari Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes fatimalimae*)

Another recently described species from the HBW Special Volume on New Species. It proved to be quite common on the west bank of the Madeira in Acre, where seen on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca. Also recorded at Linha C-30 near Porto Velho on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rondônia Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes fuscicapillus*)

Three birds seen on the São João Trail on the right bank of the Machado on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The name *fuscicapillus* had been incorrectly applied to the members of the *L. albolineatus* complex from S of the Amazon west of the Madeira, along with what had previously been known as *madeirae* (now this taxon). Since Rodrigues *et al.* described the former taxon as *L. fatimalimae*, the name *fuscicapillus* became available to be correctly applied to these birds. Rondônia Woodcreeper is a Brazilian endemic restricted to the Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium.

**XENOPSES (XENOPIDAE)**

**Slender-billed Xenops** (*Xenops tenuirostris*)

Leader only, seen only by BD on the 2 de Novembro Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Plain Xenops** (*Xenops minutus*)

Heard on 2 dates in Acre.

**OVENBIRDS (FURNARIIDAE)**

**Rufous-tailed Xenops** (*Microxenops milleri*)

A pair with a mixed flock on the São João Trail.

**Chestnut-winged Hookbill** (*Ancistrops strigilatus*)

A responsive bird showed very well on the 2 de Novembro Trail on the right bank of the Machado on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus rufipileatus*)

Several birds heard on both the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in the *Guadua* bamboo-dominated forests along the Ramal do Noca.

**Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus melanopezus*)

One seen in a roadside bamboo thicket along the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

Heard on three dates.

**Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner** (*Anabacerthia ruficaudata*)

Seen only on the 12<sup>th</sup> on the São João Trail with a mixed species flock.

**Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner** (*Philydor erythrocerum*)

Recorded on 4 dates around Tabajara.

**Chestnut-winged Foliage-gleaner** (*Philydor erythropterum*)

Heard and tape recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> in *terra firme* on the 2 de Novembro Trail.

**Pale-breasted Spinetail** (*Synallaxis albescens*)

Heard on 4 dates around Tabajara.

**Ruddy Spinetail** (*Synallaxis rutilans*)

Seen by Bruno and Duncan on the 9<sup>th</sup> and heard on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Plain-crowned Spinetail** (*Synallaxis gujanensis*)

Heard on 4 dates along the Machado.

**MANAKINS (PIPRIDAE)**

**Red-headed Manakin** (*Pipra rubrocapilla*)

Seen or heard on 4 dates.

**Blue-crowned Manakin** (*Lepidothrix coronata*)

Heard at Linha C-30 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>; also heard on the Monteredo Trail on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Replaces the following species to the west of the Madeira. Blue-crowned Manakin in its current treatment likely contains several species-level taxa. The race we encountered is *caelestipileata*, one of the green-bodied forms found south of the Amazon.

**Snow-capped Manakin** (*Lepidothrix nattereri*)

Heard on 4 dates around Tabajara.

**Blue-backed Manakin** (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)

At least three birds encountered on the 2 de Novembro Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**White-bearded Manakin** (*Manacus manacus*)

Heard on the 9<sup>th</sup> near Tabajara.

**Black Manakin** (*Xenopipo atronitens*)

Two or three birds seen in a little island of *campinarana* surrounded by shrubby *campina* along the Campinarana Trail on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin** (*Tyranneutes stolzmanni*)

Common in *terra firme* around Tabajara.

## ROYAL FLYCATCHERS AND ALLIES (ONYCHORHYNCHIDAE)

### **Royal Flycatcher** (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*)

One heard near a stagnant forest stream on the Montereado Trail on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)

Heard on a couple of dates.

## TITYRAS AND ALLIES (TITYRIDAE)

### **Varzea Schiffornis** (*Schiffornis major*)

A responsive bird seen in the várzea section of the 2 de Novembro Trail west of Tabajara on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Brown-winged Schiffornis** (*Schiffornis turdina*)

Heard on 5 dates.

### **Cinereous Mourner** (*Laniocera hypopyrra*)

Three individuals seen and I believe Bruno photographed one along the 2 de Novembro Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **White-browed Purpletuft** (*Iodopleura isabellae*)

Three seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and scope views of a pair in the canopy of tall, disturbed campinarana along the Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Black-crowned Tityra** (*Tityra inquisitor*)

A pair seen on the Ramal dos Paulistas on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Black-tailed Tityra** (*Tityra cayana*)

Males seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> (Ramal do Noca) and 19<sup>th</sup> (Linha C-30).

### **Yellow-cheeked Becard** (*Pachyramphus xanthogenys*)

We were easing our way down the first stretch of the Ramal do Noca on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>, unsure of what the track would hold or whether it would be worth spending any time there the following morning, when a male of this species popped up to perch at eye level beside the track. We leaped out, and possibly our excitement disturbed the bird, as it and its mate flew to the highest crown around while Bruno and I babbled away (this being a species which only barely makes it into Brazil in SW Amazonia). We managed to get both birds in the scope, but neither individual was ready to come back down to the roadside again. Heard at the same location on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chestnut-crowned Becard** (*Pachyramphus castaneus*)

Heard on 2 dates in Acre.

### **White-winged Becard** (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

Heard on 3 dates in Acre; quite common by voice along the Ramal do Noca.

### **Black-capped Becard** (*Pachyramphus marginatus*)

Heard only on the 12<sup>th</sup> on the São João Trail.

### **Pink-throated Becard** (*Pachyramphus minor*)

Heard on the 10<sup>th</sup> on the 2 de Novembro Trail, and a male seen consorting with a small mixed flock near the Riozinho do Andirá on the Ramal dos Paulistas north of Rio Branco on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## COTINGAS (COTINGIDAE)

**Screaming Piha** (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

Seen or (mostly) heard on 8 dates.

**Purple-throated Cotinga** (*Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*)

The hawk-eagle-like calls of this species were heard in disturbed tall forest on the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and with a bit of work with the tape we managed to bring a female out for scope views. The bird then proceeded to stick around as we worked through a big canopy mixed flock. We tape recorded and photographed the bird, which apparently represents just the second or third record for the state of Acre. Ricardo returned to the site a couple of days later and found the male as well.

**Bare-necked Fruitcrow** (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)

Two seen on the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-faced Cotinga** (*Conioptilon mcilhennyi*)

One of our big target species in Acre. After hearing a nasal ani-like call and seeing a suggestively-shaped bird moving in the canopy on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal dos Paulistas, I asked Bruno to play tape for this species: the response was nearly immediate, and before long we were watching one of three birds in the scope. They eventually came all the way to the edge of the track, allowing Bruno and I to take a few photographs. We heard at least 5 individuals along the Ramal do Noca the following day, and saw three more (plus another five heard) on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the same location. Restricted to SW Amazonia.

**Pompadour Cotinga** (*Xipholena punicea*)

Heard only, on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Spangled Cotinga** (*Cotinga cayana*)

Seen only on the final morning of the trip on Linha C-30.

**Purple-throated Fruitcrow** (*Querula purpurata*)

A group of four birds seen from inside the bamboo-choked forest along the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**PIPRITES (PIPRITIDAE)**

**Wing-barred Piprites** (*Piprites chloris*)

Heard on 4 dates.

**SPADEBILLS AND ALLIES (PLATYRINCHIDAE)**

**Golden-crowned Spadebill** (*Platyrrinchus coronatus*)

Heard on the Monteredo Trail on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**White-crested Spadebill** (*Platyrrinchus platyrhynchos*)

One seen on the Campinarana Trail west of Tabajara on the 9<sup>th</sup>; also heard on the Monteredo Trail on the W bank of the Madeira on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS 1 (RHYNCHOCYCLIDAE)**

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher** (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*)

Heard on 5 dates.

**Ringed Antpipit** (*Corythopsis torquatus*)

Two birds heard on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We tried in vain to call them in, but neither individual seemed to be interested at all.

**Olivaceous Flatbill** (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*)

Heard along the Ramal do Caldeirão W of Tabajara.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)

Heard only on the 9<sup>th</sup> in the campinas west of Tabajara.

**Yellow-margined Flycatcher** (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

Seen on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> along the Linha C-30; fairly common around Tabajara, where heard on three dates and seen on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray-crowned Flycatcher** (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

Seen or heard on 6 dates.

**Yellow-breasted Flycatcher** (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*)

Heard on 3 dates around Tabajara.

**Spotted Tody-Flycatcher** (*Todirostrum maculatum*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates. A common resident in the small village of Tabajara.

**Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)

Heard on 6 dates.

**White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher** (*Poecilatriccus albifacies*)

A family party of at least four individuals along a dry stream bed inside bamboo-dominated *terra firme* off the Ramal do Noca on the 16<sup>th</sup> was a gratifying surprise for Bruno and I, as it represented one of the most important sightings of the trip, at least in terms of national rarities. The Ramal do Noca represents just the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> locality for the species in Acre and Brazil, although it must certainly be at least patchily distributed throughout the extensive *Guadua* forests that still remain in the state.

**Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher** (*Poecilatriccus senex*)

One of Tabajara's specialty birds. We connected on our first morning in the area, obtaining excellent close views of a bird which typically worked its way in quietly in response to tape, on the Campinarana Trail on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Several birds were also heard along the Igarapé São João. This bird's story is remarkable, having gone undetected from 1830 when the type specimen was collected until 1993 when rediscovered by Mario Cohn-Haft and Bret Whitney at the type locality. Now that its voice and habitat are known, it has proven to be relatively common in appropriate stunted white-sand forest habitat within its range along the right bank of the Madeira.

**Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher** (*Poecilatriccus latirostris*)

Heard on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> during a boat trip on the Machado downstream from Alto do Bode.

**Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Myiornis ecaudatus*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

**Acre Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus cohnhafti*)

One of the bigger surprises of our time spent in Acre. One seen (and photographed by Bruno) on the 16<sup>th</sup> along the Ramal do Noca; up to five individuals heard the following day at the same location, testament to the importance of being tuned in to the species' remarkably insect-like vocalization. Described in 2013 in the HBW Special Volume on New Species and named in honour of Mario Cohn-Haft for his contributions to Amazonian ornithology and to our wider understanding of the *Hemitriccus* tody-tyrants. When described the species was only known from Acre, but it has since been found in SE Peru and must also occur in N Bolivia. *Hemitriccus cohnhafti* is sister species to Yungas Tody-Tyrant *H. spodiops*, and also with that taxon and taxa in the *Hemitriccus minor* complex, populate the subgenus *Snethlagea*, which all possess larger and rounder nostrils

than other *Hemitriccus* spp., in addition to the fact that their vocalizations are typically more reminiscent of *Lophotriccus* spp.

**Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus minor*)

Heard only on the right bank of the Machado / Ji-Paraná, where encountered on the 2 de Novembro and São João Trails. The *H. minor* complex appears to contain several species-level taxa (including the undescribed taxon which follows below). Named in honour of Emilie Snethlage, the remarkable German natural historian who, at the age of 37 left behind her life as a governess to move to Brazil to study Amazonian birds. Snethlage was prolific in the field, completing numerous expeditions to the most remote corners of the country and publishing extensively on the results, in addition to assuming the position of director of the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi in Belém, a post she held from 1914 to 1922. She also penned the original description of this species.

**undescribed tody-tyrant sp.** (*Hemitriccus minor* sp. nov.)

We heard this taxon, an undescribed species in the Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant complex, on two dates on the west bank of the Madeira: at Monteredo on the 14<sup>th</sup>; and at least three birds heard at Linha C-30 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Not much effort was made to see the birds, as Duncan had seen the species well on a previous trip with Birding Mato Grosso which visited the excellent Tupana Lodge (where the species is also common) in 2010.

**Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus flammulatus*)

Seen at a territory near the beginning of the Ramal do Noca on both the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus minimus*)

Heard on a daily basis in the Tabajara area.

**Long-crested Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Lophotriccus eulophotes*)

Heard on two dates at the Ramal do Noca, and seen on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> when we entered the forest along a long, meandering trail into the bamboo thickets.

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS 2 (TYRANNIDAE)**

**Slender-footed Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

Heard on the Monteredo Trail on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and seen on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> at Linha C-30. Also heard on the E bank of the Madeira on 2 dates.

**Chico's Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius chicomendesi*)

First discovered in 2009 and formally described in the HBW Special Volume on New Species in 2013, the species is restricted to white sand *campina* habitats in the upper Madeira – Tapajós interfluvium. We found a pair of these striking and distinctive birds at Bruno's site west of Tabajara on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. This locality (on the left bank of the Machado) likely lies at the southern limit of its range, although the species may have occurred naturally farther south in areas of Rondônia which have now been deforested. Named in honour of Chico Mendes, the famed rubber tapper and protector of forests in Acre who was tragically murdered by loggers in 1988 while standing up for his principled beliefs that natural resources in the Amazon must be protected for the well-being of its peoples.

**White-lored Tyrannulet** (*Ornithion inerme*)

Heard on 7 dates.

**Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

Seen or heard on just 3 dates.

**Small-billed Elaenia** (*Elaenia parvirostris*)

One seen in Acre on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Plain-crested Elaenia** (*Elaenia cristata*)

A pair seen along the road between Tabajara and the village of 2 de Novembro on the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-crowned Elaenia** (*Elaenia ruficeps*)

Seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Lote São Miguel just west of Tabajara. A patchily distributed specialist of *campinas* and other scrubby white sand habitats.

**Forest Elaenia** (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

Widespread; recorded on 9 dates.

**Gray Elaenia** (*Myiopagis caniceps cinerea*)

Heard on 3 dates.

**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates; particularly common in *campinas* and *campinarana* at Lote São Miguel near Tabajara.

**Yellow Tyrannulet** (*Capsiempis flaveola*)

Common at Ramal do Noca in Acre.

**Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet** (*Phaeomyias murina*)

One seen at Lote São Miguel on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Bright-rumped Attila** (*Attila spadiceus*)

Heard on 5 dates.

**Cinnamon Attila** (*Attila cinnamomeus*)

Heard only in *varzea* on the 2 de Novembro Trail.

**Citron-bellied Attila** (*Attila citriniventris*)

Two birds heard in tall forest along the Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Piratic Flycatcher** (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

Recorded on 5 dates.

**Large-headed Flatbill** (*Ramphotrigon megacephalum*)

Recorded daily in *Guadua* bamboo thickets in forests in Acre.

**Rufous-tailed Flatbill** (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*)

Heard on 4 dates around Tabajara and near Abunã.

**Dusky-tailed Flatbill** (*Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*)

Seen in bamboo at Ramal dos Paulistas, very common by voice at Ramal do Noca.

**Short-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus ferox*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

Heard only, on the 16<sup>th</sup> in Acre.

**Grayish Mourner** (*Rhytipterna simplex*)

Heard on 7 dates.

**Pale-bellied Mourner** (*Rhytipterna immunda*)

At least three singing birds on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> at Lote São Miguel and near the beginning of the Campinarana Trail. Another patchily distributed species which specializes in white sand *campinas* and *campinaranas* in the Amazon basin.

**Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Surprisingly, only recorded on 3 dates, all on the west bank of the Madeira. This is perhaps a reflection of the fact that the vast majority of our birding time in the Tabajara area was spent in excellent forest, but one would still expect to have encountered the species with greater frequency during drives between sites, etc.

**Lesser Kiskadee** (*Philohydor lictor*)

Heard only on the 15<sup>th</sup> at the Riozinho do Andirá.

**Streaked Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)

One seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Parque Ambiental Chico Mendes in Rio Branco.

**Sulphury Flycatcher** (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)

Recorded only on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a singing bird in the village of Tabajara in the middle of the day.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** (*Megarynchus pitangua*)

Seen or heard on 4 dates in Acre and at Linha C-30.

**Rusty-margined Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)

Seen or heard on 5 dates.

**Social Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes similis*)

Not seen until we reached Acre, where common in Rio Branco and elsewhere. Seen in large numbers along the Ramal do Noca, possibly related to a migratory movement after the region had experienced several days of cool weather due to a cold front from the south. However, many of the birds appeared to be feeding on seeding bamboos, so perhaps the bamboo was the reason they were congregating in the area, though this is certainly something I had never observed before. Also seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> near Abunã.

**Gray-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)

A lovely pair photographed on the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**White-throated Kingbird** (*Tyrannus albogularis*)

A single bird seen near Abunã on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Widespread and recorded nearly daily.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*)

Seen only on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher** (*Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*)

Seen on 4 dates.

**Three-striped Flycatcher** (*Conopias trivirgatus*)

A pair seen at Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-throated Flycatcher** (*Conopias parva*)

Heard on a couple of dates around Tabajara; three birds seen in tall forest at Linha C-30 on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Drab Water-Tyrant** (*Ochthornis littoralis*)

Pair seen along the Machado and the Riozinho do Andirá.

**Euler's Flycatcher** (*Lathrotriccus euleri*)

Common by voice in bamboo-dominated forest in Acre.

**Fuscous Flycatcher** (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*)

Heard only on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Lote São Miguel near Tabajara.

**Little Ground-Tyrant** (*Muscisaxicola fluviatilis*)

One seen on a sandbar island in the Machado downstream from Alto do Bode on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. The species may wander during the austral winter, at least in the southern Brazilian Amazon, where its range is poorly understood.

**Gray Monjita** (*Xolmis cinereus*)

A single bird seen en route to Tabajara from Porto Velho on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**VIREOS AND ALLIES (VIREONIDAE)**

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

Seen or heard on 7 dates.

**Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo** (*Vireolanius leucotis*)

Heard on 2 dates in Acre.

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

Seen on 4 dates.

**Lemon-chested Greenlet** (*Hylophilus thoracicus*)

Seen only on the 15<sup>th</sup> on the Ramal dos Paulistas.

**Gray-chested Greenlet** (*Hylophilus semicinereus*)

Heard on 4 dates around Tabajara.

**Dusky-capped Greenlet** (*Hylophilus hypoxantha*)

Heard on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Acre.

**Buff-checked Greenlet** (*Hylophilus muscicapinus*)

Seen or heard on 4 dates around Tabajara.

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)

Heard only on the 10<sup>th</sup> on the 2 de Novembro Trail, where their calls seemed to me to be different from calls I am familiar with from N Mato Grosso (where the species typically makes only the single sustained call note, rather than a 2-note call heard here).

**JAYS AND ALLIES (CORVIDAE)**

**Campina Jay** (*Cyanocorax hafferi*)

Without a doubt one of the most exciting species encountered during the trip. We found a group of at least 6 birds in a patch of mid-stature *campinarana* flanked by tall forest on the west bank of the Madeira just 50 km from Porto Velho on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup>. They were remarkably tame (as Bruno and I had also noted the previous afternoon, having seen the same group during our scouting visit), allowing us to watch through the scope and photograph them. At one point begging behaviour was observed, leading us to believe that perhaps at

least one of the birds was an immature. However, juveniles (and presumably immatures) apparently present dark irides and have less blue in their plumage, which is browner overall. First seen in 2002 by Mario Cohn-Haft, and formally described to science in 2013, the discovery of this taxon is certainly one of the most remarkable ornithological findings of the 21<sup>st</sup> century thus far. The species likely has an extremely patchy distribution south of the Amazon and west of the Madeira – specifically between the Purus and the Madeira, although it may also occur on the left bank of the Purus – in areas of transitional *campinarana* between *campinas* and taller white sand forest. It does not seem to occur east of the Madeira (where replaced by the following species). Unfortunately, the jay has been discovered at a moment in history where its habitat stands to come under significant pressure as the Brazilian government is working to re-pave the BR-319, the federal highway which links Porto Velho and Manaus. The subsequent population expansion and extensive deforestation which is expected to follow could well be catastrophic for the jay, which relies on the open savanna-like *campinas* and associated habitats, often amongst the first habitat types to be ploughed under for agriculture and development.

**Plush-crested Jay** (*Cyanocorax chrysops*)

A pair of the *diesingii* race noted on the Campinarana Trail near Tabajara on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. *C. c. diesingii* and *C. c. insperatus* are birds of white sand *campinas*, both with restricted ranges in the Brazilian Amazon south of the Solimões and east of the Madeira.

**SWALLOWS (HIRUNDINIDAE)**

**White-winged Swallow** (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

Seen on four dates around Tabajara.

**Gray-breasted Martin** (*Progne chalybea*)

Recorded on 6 dates.

**Brown-chested Martin** (*Progne tapera*)

Seen on 3 dates.

**White-banded Swallow** (*Atticora fasciata*)

Seen on 7 dates along the Machado, the Madeira, and the Riozinho do Andirá.

**Black-collared Swallow** (*Atticora melanoleuca*)

A pair on the Machado on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and four birds seen on the Machado downstream from the São João on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – Seen on 11 dates.

**WRENS (TROGLODYTIDAE)**

**Scaly-breasted Wren** (*Microcerculus marginatus*)

Yet another of South America's great birds. We had the privilege of watching a white-breasted adult (nominate race) sing its haunting, meandering song on the Monteredo Trail across the Madeira from Abunã on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Also heard at Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Also called Southern Nightingale Wren.

**Southern House Wren** (*Troglodytes musculus*)

Recorded on 5 dates.

**Thrush-like Wren** (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

Heard on 3 dates. Numerous at the Ramal do Noca west of Rio Branco.

**Moustached Wren** (*Pheugopedius genibarbis*)

Seen or heard on 8 dates.

**Buff-breasted Wren** (*Cantorchilus leucotis*)

Heard on 4 dates in riparian habitats.

**GNATCATCHERS (POLIOPTILIDAE)**

**Long-billed Gnatwren** (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

Heard near Abunã and in Acre.

**THRUSHES (TURDIDAE)**

**Hauxwell's Thrush** (*Turdus hauxwelli*)

Seen only on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the bridge over the Candelária stream west of Tabajara along the road to 2 de Novembro.

**Creamy-bellied Thrush** (*Turdus amaurochalinus*)

Heard on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in campinas west of Tabajara. The birds involved are austral migrants which winter into the southern Amazon.

**White-necked Thrush** (*Turdus albicollis*)

Heard by Bruno on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERELLIDAE)**

**Grassland Sparrow** (*Ammodramus humeralis*)

Seen only on the 8<sup>th</sup> en route to Tabajara.

**Yellow-browed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)

Recorded on 7 dates.

**NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS (ICTERIDAE)**

**Green Oropendola** (*Psarocolius viridis*)

Heard only on the 12<sup>th</sup> on the São João Trail.

**Crested Oropendola** (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

Seen on a couple of dates in Acre.

**Olive Oropendola** (*Psarocolius bifasciatus*)

Heard on 2 dates in Rondonia, and seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> in Acre.

**Solitary Black Cacique** (*Procacius solitarius*)

A pair buried deep in a dense bamboo thicket alongside the Ramal do Noca on the 17<sup>th</sup> had us wondering about Yellow-billed Cacique for a time, but eventually they emerged, revealing themselves to be this species.

**Yellow-rumped Cacique** (*Cacicus cela*)

Seen on 5 dates.

**Epaulet Oriole** (*Icterus cayanensis*)

Recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup> on the W bank of the Madeira, and the 10<sup>th</sup> on the right bank of the Machado.

**Orange-backed Troupial** (*Icterus croconotus*)

A single bird seen at the Ramal do Noca on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Giant Cowbird** (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

Singles seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-breasted Meadowlark** (*Sturnella militaris*)

Abundant and widespread in cattle pastures. The SACC and Clements have changed the name to Red-breasted Meadowlark to align the species name with those of other *Sturnella* spp.

**MITOSPINGID TANAGERS (MITROSPINGIDAE)**

**Red-billed Pied Tanager** (*Lamprospiza melanoleuca*)

A half dozen birds seen in the canopy of *terra firme* on the 2 de Novembro Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup>; heard on two subsequent dates.

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES (THRAUPIDAE)**

**Bananaquit** (*Coereba flaveola*)

Seen or heard on 6 dates.

**Buff-throated Saltator** (*Saltator maximus*)

Recorded on 3 dates

**Amazonian Grayish Saltator** (*Saltator coerulescens azarae*)

Heard in riparian habitats: on the 13<sup>th</sup> along the Machado downstream from Alto do Bode; and on the 16<sup>th</sup> near the far end of the Ramal do Noca.

**Red-shouldered Tanager** (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*)

A pair of this white sand specialist seen on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> in the campina at Lote São Miguel west of Tabajara.

**Silver-beaked Tanager** (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Seen almost daily.

**White-shouldered Tanager** (*Lanio luctuosus*)

Seen on 3 dates in Acre.

**Flame-crested Tanager** (*Lanio cristatus*)

Recorded on 5 dates.

**White-winged Shrike-Tanager** (*Lanio versicolor*)

Seen with mixed flocks on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Fulvous-crested Tanager** (*Lanio surinamus*)

A female seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> near Tabajara on the road to 2 de Novembro turned out to be the only sighting of this species on the trip, though we heard it on the 11<sup>th</sup> as well.

**Green-and-gold Tanager** (*Tangara schrankii*)

Seen by either Duncan or Bruno on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Turquoise Tanager** (*Tangara mexicana*)

Recorded on 4 dates.

**Paradise Tanager** (*Tangara chilensis*)

Seen or heard on 9 dates.

**Opal-rumped Tanager** (*Tangara velia*)

Seen only on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>, two birds on Linha C-30 on the W bank of the Madeira near Porto Velho.

**Opal-crowned Tanager** (*Tangara callophrys*)

Two birds seen with a big mixed flock at the end of the Ramal do Noca on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Dotted Tanager** (*Tangara varia*)

A singing bird heard on the São João Trail on the 12<sup>th</sup> as it accompanied a mixed flock which we encountered late in the morning. Traditionally considered to be quite rare and local, this species has actually turned out to be rather amply distributed across the Amazon basin, particularly in areas of forest on poor, sandy soils.

**Blue-gray Tanager** (*Tangara episcopus*)

Seen on 8 dates.

**Palm Tanager** (*Tangara palmarum*)

Seen on 10 dates.

**Masked Tanager** (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

Seen on just 2 dates.

**Magpie Tanager** (*Cissopis leverianus*)

Seen in small numbers on three consecutive dates on the Ramal do Noca west of Rio Branco in Acre.

**Red-capped Cardinal** (*Paroaria gularis*)

Encountered only on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> as we birded the rio Machado downstream from Alto do Bode.

**Swallow Tanager** (*Tersina viridis*)

Seen or (mostly) heard on 7 dates.

**Black-faced Dacnis** (*Dacnis lineata*)

Seen in small numbers on 6 dates.

**Blue Dacnis** (*Dacnis cayana*)

Seen on 5 dates.

**Short-billed Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes nitidus*)

A pair seen on the Ramal do Caldeirão in Tabajara on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> was our only sighting.

**Purple Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)

Small family parties seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Honeycreeper** (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

A pair seen on the 11<sup>th</sup> near Tabajara.

**Yellow-backed Tanager** (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)

Recorded on 4 dates.

**Guira Tanager** (*Hemithraupis guira*)

Four birds seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-black Grassquit** (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Recorded on 6 dates.

**Double-collared Seedeater** (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

A leader-only sighting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CARDINAL GROSBEAKS (CARDINALIAE)**

**Red-crowned Ant-tanager** (*Habia rubica*)

Heard only, a bird accompanying a mixed species flock (which also contained Madeira Stipple-throated Antwren, hence our limited interest in the ant-tanager) on the W bank of the Madeira on the Monteredo Trail on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. *Habia rubica* likely contains at least three species-level taxa: 1) Red Ant-tanager, containing the nominate and *bahiae* forms of the Atlantic rainforest; 2) Scarlet-throated Ant-tanager, containing the *rubra* group of Amazonia and N to Venezuela; and 3) Northern Ant-tanager, the *rubicoides* group of Mexico and Middle America.

**Rose-breasted Chat** (*Granatellus pelzelni*)

A pair seen in an area of transitional forest between *varzea* and *terra firme* on the 2 de Novembro Trail in Tabajara on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SISKINS AND ALLIES (FRINGILLIDAE)**

**Purple-throated Euphonia** (*Euphonia chlorotica*)

Seen only on the 12<sup>th</sup>: a male at Alto do Bode.

**White-lored Euphonia** (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

Seen or heard on three dates around Tabajara.

**White-vented Euphonia** (*Euphonia minuta*)

Seen only on the 9<sup>th</sup> along the Campinarana Trail where we tape recorded and photographed a pair.

**Rufous-bellied Euphonia** (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

Recorded on 6 dates.

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIDAE)**

**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*)

Seen on 5 dates in urban areas.

446 species

## MAMMALS

**Pygmy Marmoset** (*Cebuella pygmaea*)

**Weddell's Saddle-back Tamarin** (*Saguinus fuscicollis weddelli*)

**Emperor Tamarin** (*Saguinus imperator*)

**White-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey** (*Chiropotes albinasus*)

**Peruvian Woolly Monkey** (*Lagothrix cana tschudii*)

**Long-nosed Bat** (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)

**Lesser Fishing Bat** (*Noctilio leporina*)

**Crab-eating Fox** (*Cerdocyon thous*)

**Tayra** (*Eira barbara*)

**Giant Otter** (*Pteronura brasiliensis*)

**Collared Peccary** (*Pecari tajacu*)

**White-lipped Peccary** (*Tayassu pecari*)



**Pygmy Marmoset** (*Cebuella pygmaea*) © Bruno Rennó