

**SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL:
BEST OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST**

OCTOBER 21–NOVEMBER 5, 2018



Green-crowned Plovercrest (©Kevin J. Zimmer)

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By Kevin Zimmer

Once again, our Southeastern Brazil tour delivered the bonanza of Atlantic Forest endemics and all-around great birding that we have come to expect from this region. But no two trips are ever exactly alike, and, as is always the case, the relative success of this tour in any given year, at least as measured in total species count and number of endemics seen, comes down to weather. And as we all know, the weather isn't what it used to be, anywhere! We actually experienced pretty typical amounts of rain this year, and although it no doubt affected our birding success to some extent, its overall impact was relatively minimal.

Nonetheless, we tallied **410 species, a whopping 150 of which were regional and/or Brazilian endemics!** These figures become all the more impressive when you consider that **47** of the wider ranging species not included as “endemics” in the preceding tallies are represented in southeast Brazil by distinctive subspecies endemic to the Atlantic Forest region, and that at least 15–20 of these subspecies that we recorded during our tour are likely to be elevated to separate species status in the near future.

We convened in mid-morning at the hotel in São Paulo and then launched into the five-hour drive to Intervales State Park, my own personal favorite among the many great spots in southeast Brazil. Intervales never fails to deliver a huge serving of Atlantic Forest endemics and just plain great birding, but the extended weather forecast for our time in the park (four full days plus an evening and part of another morning) was ominous. The weather for the next day was predicted to be good, turning to three straight days of rain thereafter. With this in mind, I decided to hit the nightbirding right away, while the weather was still good. So after getting settled into our rooms and changing into birding gear, we headed out at dusk to try for our biggest nocturnal target, the endemic Long-trained Nightjar. Males of this spectacular nightjar tend to appear each evening at favorite spots on the forest roads, from which they hawk flying insects. Rainy conditions mean few or no flying insects, and also means that nightjars sitting on the ground risk matting their magnificent tails with mud. But it was dry on this night, and Betinho and Gerson (our local guides) knew of a reliable spot. Sure enough, we had not been on site long before the male nightjar appeared, like an apparition, its incredibly long, white tail-streamers wafting on the slight breeze as it cruised up and down the road past us, before alighting on the roadside, frozen in our spotlight beams. We went first for scope views,

and then, when it was apparent that the bird was not going anywhere, we all walked closer, for what proved, ultimately, to be mind-blowing views and photo-ops. Getting this bird on the first try was a real coup—many trips require multiple attempts, and if the weather doesn't cooperate, it's an easy bird to miss entirely. As icing on the cake, we also managed to spotlight a pair of Long-tufted Screech-Owls before calling it quits for the night.



Long-trained Nightjar (male), Intervales State Park, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

The next day, as forecast, the weather was still holding. Ricardo and I were very much in the mindset of trying to knock off as many targets as possible before the weather turned, so we offered an optional, pre-breakfast excursion just before dawn to look for a Red-ruffed Fruitcrow that habitually shows up to breakfast on moths and other nocturnal insects attracted to the lights surrounding the park entrance gate. Sure enough, the fruitcrow, a truly spectacular member of the cotinga family, showed right on cue, allowing prolonged views. While we were there, the surrounding forest began coming to life, and the fruitcrow was soon joined by a number of other insectivorous birds looking for an easy meal. We quickly racked up several species, including a pair of wacking big White-throated Woodcreepers, before our own growling stomachs reminded us that we were late for the appointed breakfast hour.



Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Interales State Park (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

After breakfast, we headed out to the Carmo Road, where we spent the rest of the morning walking along a jeep track through marvelous Atlantic Forest with abundant thickets of native bamboo. This early in the tour, virtually everything was new, so novel birds were coming at a frenetic pace. Notable moments from the non-stop highlight reel would have to include the see-sawing antics of three Spot-billed Toucanets; finding multiple, rare, White-bearded Antshrikes; a responsive Cinnamon-vented Piha; scope views of a White-throated Tapaculo singing from inside a hole; nice comparisons of multiple species of foliage-gleaners in close proximity; and, for everyone in the trailing vehicle, great views of the rare and endemic Black-fronted Piping-Guan, as we were headed back for lunch, thanks to an incredible spot (from the moving vehicle) by Betinho (the rest of the group caught up with this bird a few days later).

After lunch, we headed to a trail near Onça Pintada House, where the local guides have been feeding birds inside the forest. We had barely stepped out of the vehicles before spotting several Pileated Parrots quietly feeding in some fruiting trees. These small parrots are mostly seen flying high overhead as they commute between nesting/roosting sites and feeding areas, and it is a rare treat to ever find them perched. After enjoying the parrots for an appropriate spell, it was time for the main event. I had been to this feeding station before, but still, I was amazed at how habituated some of the normally shy and elusive forest birds had become since my last visit. Gerson hadn't even started to stock the feeding station with grain before he was practically mobbed by a covey of endemic Spot-winged Wood-Quail that nearly ran us over in their haste to receive a handout.



Spot-winged Wood-Quail, Intervales State Park, October 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Meanwhile, Rufous-capped Antthrush, White-necked Thrush, Lesser and Scalloped woodcreepers, and Black-goggled Tanager, all of which appeared oblivious to our presence, were attending a nearby army ant swarm. After enjoying this show for an hour, we exited the forest and headed over to the marsh that occupies much of the main park clearing. A very territorial Rufous-capped Antshrike didn't let his missing tail deter him from defending his turf, and a lovely Fawn-breasted Tanager was every bit as bold in responding to playback. A pair of endemic Orange-breasted Thornbirds proved a bit more elusive but still showed nicely after a bit of work. Our real quarry here was the Red-and-white Crake, a secretive marsh phantom that is normally among the most difficult of a generally difficult family of birds to see. But, thanks again to the efforts of the Intervales guides, there are a few pairs of crakes that have become habituated to being fed, and these lovely little birds materialized out of the reeds almost as soon as the site was baited. They treated us to multiple brief passes before melting back into the dense vegetation from whence they came. After finishing with the marsh, we walked the track below our lodge. The forest was still this late in the afternoon, but we did track down a couple of Rufous-capped Motmots, and, best of all, managed to entice a Spotted Bamboowren into precisely the bush that Betinho predicted, for uncommonly good views of what is normally a difficult bird to see.

With dusk fast approaching, it was time to head out for more nightbirding. The weather was already turning—heavy cloud cover had rolled in late in the afternoon, and now a fine mist was beginning to settle in. We managed to see several Short-tailed Nighthawks in the fading light, and a little bit of work brought in a pair of Common Potoos, one of

which sat on a snag in our spotlight beams for prolonged scope views. Once it was completely dark, it was time to try for our primary target, the endemic Rusty-barred Owl. We had heard one the night before at the nightjar spot, but had no luck in getting it to come in. On this night, however, it was a different story, and after a little bit of searching, we had the owl perched in the open, offering up superb studies. It was an excellent finish to a great day of birding, and after dinner we laid out the plan for the next day, with fingers crossed that the forecast for inclement weather would prove wrong.



Rusty-barred Owl, Intervales State Park, October 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

The rain began in the night and was still going strong when our alarms went off. The early breakfast hour was already set with the restaurant staff, so there was nothing we could do but head to breakfast. When it became obvious that the rain was not abating, we went to Plan B. Past experience had prepared us for this eventuality, which is why, on the first day, we had stopped en route to Intervales to purchase a couple of big bunches of bananas. One of the big advantages of being quartered in Pica-Pau House is the wrap-around, covered deck, which offers a wonderful and dry place from which to bird, even when it's raining. There's also a feeding platform off the front porch, which is not stocked by park personnel, but which guests are welcome to stock with fruit to attract birds. "Plan B" was to start stocking the feeder with bananas and stay under the roof while the birds came to us. And it worked! It took a little while for the birds to discover that the intermittently stocked feeder was open for business, and there were some stretches when the rain was coming down hard enough that few birds were venturing from cover anyway. But, as the rain slacked to a light drizzle, and word that there were bananas to be had filtered through the avian grapevine, the action picked up. A parade of snazzy tanagers—Green-headed, Red-necked, Azure-shouldered, Golden-chevoned,

Rufous-headed, Olive-green, Sayaca, and Ruby-crowned—made for non-stop action at the feeders and kept Ricardo busy peeling more and more bananas. Meanwhile, through judicious playback, I managed to systematically pull a number of other non-frugivores out of the surrounding second growth for our viewing pleasure, including such notables as Giant Antshrike, Plain-winged Woodcreeper, Pallid and Gray-bellied spinetails, Rufous Gnateater, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, Gray-capped Tyrannulet, Rough-legged Tyrannulet (close enough to see its “rough” legs!), Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (and its completely unrelated doppelgänger, the Brown Tanager), and Green-throated Euponia. What had started out looking like a “rain-out” ended up being an extremely productive and relaxing morning of birding that was particularly enjoyed by the photographers in the group.



Red-necked Tanager, Intervales State Park, October 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

The rain stopped, albeit only briefly, in the afternoon, tempting us out of cover. We headed to a nearby trail that went to a Purple-crowned Plovercrest lek, but by the time we arrived, the sodden skies were starting to weep again, and there was no sign of the plovercrests. Retreating to Sede de Pesquizas, a small house for quartering visiting researchers, we crowded under the carport to once more bird from under a roof. Eventually, the rain slacked-off again, and we emerged from shelter to bird the adjacent clearing and forest-edge. This resulted in a number of good pick-ups, among them, crippling views of Dusky-tailed Antbird, Gray-hooded and Rufous-tailed attila, Green-backed Becard, Highland Elaenia, and Streaked Xenops. A trio of rare Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts cruising overhead was a surprise, as was a very cryptic Common Potoo on its day roost that I spotted while trying to direct folks to one of the Rufous-tailed Attilas.

But best of all, was seeing three Sharpbills perched in the open in the same bare tree at once, and having them stay long enough for everyone to appreciate them in the scope.

The next two days were a blur of good birds and intermittent rain showers. Additional visits to the plovercrest lek under light drizzle failed to produce the plovercrests, but did result in point-blank views of male Dusky-throated Hermits on their song-perches. A nearby side trail gave us nice looks at Slaty Bristlefront (the soon-to-be-described as a new species “southern vocal type”), a Rusty-breasted Nunlet, and an incredibly confiding male Hooded Berryeater. We ended up getting the plovercrest at a backup lek, and, in the process, enjoyed an amazing encounter with another male Giant Antshrike, as well as picking up a pair of Robust Woodpeckers and nice fly-by views of a pair of Blue-bellied Parrots. A return to the Onça Pintada feeding station gave us more too-close-to-focus views of Spot-winged Woodquail, and, while there, we also managed to tape in a Short-tailed Antthrush for mindblowing views.



Giant Antshrike (male), Intervales State Park, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

The Lajeado Trail added several highlights, among them multiple Rufous-breasted Leaf-tossers, a couple of snazzy Black-cheeked Gnateaters, great studies of the tail-shivering Oustalet's Tyrannulet and the hyperactive São Paulo Tyrannulet, Star-throated Antwren, a perched female Blue-bellied Parrot, and encore performances from Red-ruffed Fruitcrow and Hooded Berryeater, to name just a few. A late afternoon vigil on our last day at a supposedly active “Atlantic” Royal Flycatcher nest failed to produce said flycatcher, so, the next morning, we hiked another trail to a second staked-out nest. This time, our patience was rewarded by prolonged views, first of the male, and then of the female, with the male bird even teasing us by flaring his incredible crest partway. We even picked up a Solitary Tinamou in the trail, as well as a totally unexpected Rufous-

backed Antvireo. The latter was the first I have ever recorded at Intervalles, and near the lower elevational limit for this species.

Intervalles is always a hard act to follow, but the next venue on our itinerary was the coastal resort of Ubatuba, which promised its own set of highlights. But first we had to get there—no mean feat, given that we had to drive all of the way back to São Paulo and then on to Moji das Cruzes, where, with the clock ticking in the late afternoon, we needed and completed a surgical strike (successful!) on the recently described Marsh (“São Paulo”) Antwren, before continuing on to Ubatuba. We didn’t make it in to our hotel until nearly 9:00 p.m., but that was the trade-off for the time devoted to the extra try for the Royal Flycatcher.

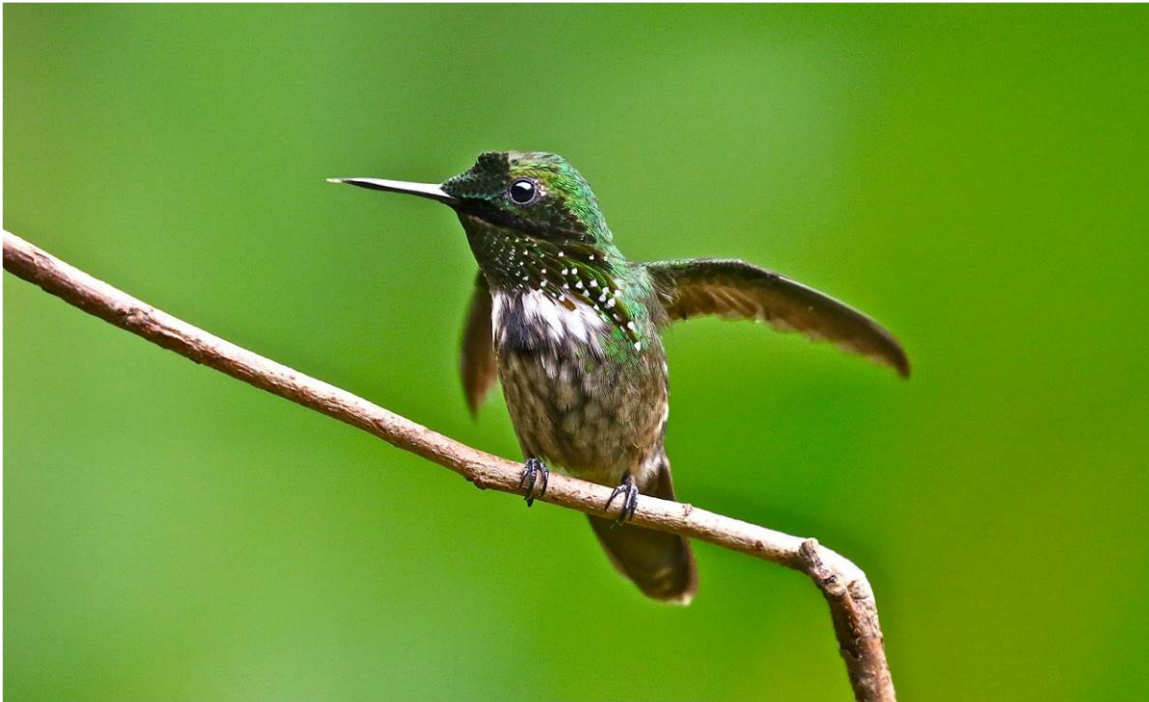
The next morning found us at nearby Fazenda Angelim. A female Robust Woodpecker and a male White-chinned Sapphire got our day off to a roaring start, but our primary target was a diminutive little endemic called the Buff-throated Purpletuft. It is an unobtrusive, canopy-dwelling species of uncertain affinities, formerly placed in the family Cotingidae. It took some searching, but eventually our efforts were rewarded with not one but three purpletufts. While searching for the purpletufts, we entertained ourselves with dynamite studies of another handsome Black-cheeked Gnateater, an unusually cooperative pair of Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrants, Scaled Antbird, Buff-bellied Puffbird, a soaring Black Hawk-Eagle, and a trio of soaring Rufous-thighed Kites.



Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Fazenda Angelim, Ubatuba area (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

That afternoon, we headed to Sítio Folha Seca, where the hummingbird show at Jonas’s feeders must be witnessed to be appreciated. Amid the eleven species and hundreds of individual hummers were good numbers of showy Festive Coquettes and impressive

Saw-billed Hermits—if it hadn't gotten dark, we might still be there! The next morning, we returned to bird the road at Folha Seca and then another nearby side road (“Puffbird Paradise”) in the process, finding Green-backed Trogon, Crescent-chested Puffbird, a pair of Buff-bellied Puffbirds, Unicolored Antwren, Long-billed Wren, and gobs of tanagers of several species. Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser was MIA, and although we heard Uniform Crake and Slaty Bristlefront (northern vocal type), we failed to see either species. We also couldn't resist an encore visit to Jonas's feeders, where, as more than one participant has put it, “the feeder show alone is worth the price of the entire trip!”



Festive Coquette (male), Sítio Folha Seca, Ubutuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Late in the afternoon, we drove up into the high country of the Serra do Mar, to Serra do Mar State Park. We were looking for some specific target birds, among them staked-out Blackish-blue Seedeater and Large-tailed Antshrike, but on this afternoon, the weather was not our friend. As we wound our way up into the mountains, we found ourselves enveloped in a wet mist, necessitating the deployment of raingear and umbrellas for birding. A bird that appeared briefly at the seed-eater spot, possibly in response to my playback, may well have been the seed-eater, but it disappeared before it could be identified with certainty. Meanwhile, we got not so much as a whiff of a Large-tailed Antshrike at either of the two known territories. Finally, there was a singing Bare-throated Bellbird, a normally common breeding bird at Intervalas that had remained uncharacteristically quiet during our time there, but even it went silent before we could track it down. It was just too darned foggy, dark, and wet! We finally called it quits and headed on to nearby Pousada Oikos, where we were expected for dinner and a post-dinner try for Buff-fronted Owl. The owl is a rarely seen and high-value target, which had never been seen on this tour prior to 2017, when our group was escorted to an active nest at Pousada Oikos. As luck would have it, the owls had not been seen yet in 2018,

although there had been an unsubstantiated report of a heard bird from each of the two nights prior to our visit. The hearty dinner and wood-fueled fire did much to remove the chill of the damp, montane surroundings, but the Buff-fronted Owl was a no-show and gave nary a sound. In spite of the weather, we still managed good spotlight views of a spectacular Tawny-browed Owl, which finally responded to my playback at the last possible moment.

The next day, I decided that a change in scenery was required, and that rather than returning to Fazenda Angelim, we would visit nearby Fazenda Capricornio, a spot offering similar birds, but one which neither Ricardo nor I had been to for several years. At first blush, this appeared to be a bad call, when we arrived at the site only to find a house and a closed gate, neither of which had been there on our previous visits. However, during our retreat out the entrance road, we started seeing birds, lots of birds. The pastures produced a number of open-country species, including a Whistling Heron, and I was able to lure several forest birds, including Green-backed Trogon and Blond-crested Woodpecker, into the scattered large trees for nice views. Paul made a good spot on a pair of Swallow-tailed Cotingas perched in the top of a distant tree, but unfortunately, they didn't stay long enough for everyone to get scope views. We were treated to another pair of Buff-throated Purpletufts and more mixed-species flocks at the forest-edge. One of the highlights here was a pair of Black-capped Becards, which I was able to pull out of the canopy and down to eye level. We also found an obliging Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, an endemic flycatcher that we had heard the day before at Folha Seca but could not track down. The other benefit to birding the entrance road was that it put us in good position to spot soaring raptors once the thermals started developing in mid-morning. In addition to the usual Roadside Hawks, this netted us a Plumbeous Kite, three endemic White-necked Hawks, and a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle. One final stop before lunch produced the hoped-for Salvadori's Antwren, one of the most localized and toughest to find of the regional/Brazilian endemics.



Black-capped Becard (male), Fazenda Capricornio, Ubatuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

After lunch, we checked out of our hotel and headed up the coast toward our next destination, the town of Pereque. En route, we crossed the state boundary from São Paulo state into Rio de Janeiro state and made a couple of stops in the historic coastal town of Paraty. The second of these stops, in addition to giving us the opportunity to walk through some of the oldest parts of town and admire the architecture, also brought us along the edges of some nice mangrove swamp, where Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Gray-cowled Wood-Rails, Ruddy Turnstones, and Bicolored Conebills headed up a very different cast of avian characters. We made it into our hotel at Pereque by dusk, primed for our single morning of birding here the next day.

The highest value target at Pereque was the endangered Black-hooded Antwren, a species lost to science for over 100 years, and only rediscovered in 1987. Sometimes the antwren gives us a good run for our money, but on this visit it proved to be not much of a challenge. We secured multiple good looks at this striking little bird at our first stop, and before the morning was out, we had seen or heard antwrens at an additional six territories. With the most important bird already under our belts, we could relax and enjoy all of the other birds that Pereque has to offer. Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Striped Cuckoo showed well, as did the striking Chestnut-backed Antshrike. Orange-eyed Thornbirds were vocal, but proved more elusive than usual, although we eventually hit on a responsive pair. With one eye on the sky, we also picked off more raptors, including a Crane Hawk that flew over the road, and another four White-necked Hawks and another Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle soaring above the distant hills. Yellow-eared Woodpecker tapped in right on top of us, then crossed the road, ascended to a much higher perch, and then sat there, as if in a trance, for a good 15 minutes, without moving. Fork-tailed

Pygmy-Tyrant again showed nicely, Streak-capped Antwren descended nearly to eye level to investigate us, and White-collared Swifts, although seen every day of the tour, were noteworthy here for the particularly good views. After lunch back at the hotel, we packed up and headed for Itatiaia, our route initially taking us along a beautiful stretch of coast that really showcased the Serra do Mar. A stop along the way yielded a number of new open-country birds, including White Woodpecker and Tawny-headed Swallow. We arrived at Resende with time for a productive birding stop at a nearby marsh, which treated us to wildly displaying Streamer-tailed Tyrants, Wing-banded Horneros, White-bellied Seedeater and others before winding our way up through Itatiaia National Park to the lovely Hotel do Ypé, our home for the next three days.



Black-hooded Antwren (male), Pereque, Rio de Janeiro, 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Two of our three full days in Itatiaia were spent at middle elevations, a short walk or drive from the Ypé. Perhaps the hardest task was just getting away from the hotel, whose feeders swarmed with activity throughout the day, but especially during the breakfast hour. Between the bevy of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds at the feeders, the mobs of Dusky-legged Guans parading up and down the driveway, the stunning Saffron Toucanets that had the potential of dropping in to the fruit feeders at any time (including when we were sitting down for meals), the Frilled Coquettes that alternated between the hummingbird feeders and the flowering Lantana, and the mixed-species flocks that regularly circulated through the treetops below the swimming pool, it was nearly impossible to get anywhere else on schedule!



Frilled Coquette (male), Hotel do Ypé, Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Park trails that I have been walking for nearly 30 years were almost unrecognizable to me on this trip, due to the disappearance of most of the bamboo thickets which were formerly such a conspicuous part of the landscape. Native bamboos are successional species in the Atlantic Forest, colonizing areas when disturbance—anthropogenic, fire, or landslide—opens light gaps in the forest. The resulting even-aged stands of bamboo each have their own species-specific lifecycle, during which they will mature to maximum height, seed, and then die. These mass seeding events serve as magnets for several nomadic species of specialist seed-eating birds (Temminck’s, Buffy-fronted, and Blackish-blue seedeaters, Uniform Finch, Sooty Grassquit, the now extremely rare Purple-winged Ground-Dove, and, to a lesser extent, some species of parakeets), which irrupt into areas of mass seeding, breed en masse, and then disappear when the seeding is over, often not to be seen in the same particular spot for another decade or two. There are many more species of primarily insectivorous birds (including many antbirds, flycatchers, and foliage-gleaners), which are also considered to be bamboo specialists, but not because they eat the seeds. Some structural feature, or combination of features, of bamboo thickets is apparently critical to the foraging or nesting adaptations of these species. These birds too, will colonize new areas where the bamboo has matured to suitable stages, and will remain for decades, even beyond the seeding and die-off of the bamboo. But, at some point, a few to several years after seeding, the now-dead bamboo thickets collapse, suddenly opening new light gaps in the forest, creating opportunities for the next successional wave of bamboo colonization to take hold. When this happens, the insectivorous species that depend on the bamboo for nesting and foraging end up abandoning long-held territories and move on to search for more suitable stands of living bamboo. This kind of episodic transformation has been ongoing at Itatiaia over the past

few years, and since my last visit (2015), most of the *Guadua* bamboo thickets in the park have collapsed and disappeared, significantly altering the landscape. Predictably, some of the bamboo specialist birds that were staples of previous tours here were either nowhere to be seen or heard (e.g. White-bearded Antshrike, which we missed here for the first time in the last 24 years), or, were significantly reduced in number (e.g. Ochre-rumped and Bertoni's antbirds, Large-headed Flatbill). Fortunately, we had seen all of these species at Intervales, where the bamboo thickets were still thriving. Concomitant with the disappearance of some species, others, not previously found in, or common to the park, seem to be colonizing or increasing in number. We found a territorial Half-collared Sparrow here, an endemic species that I had not previously seen in the park. And, Blue-winged Macaws, which first showed up in the park just several years ago, are now regularly nesting and are becoming increasingly common—we saw a flock of 13 one morning.

Despite all of the changes, the park's trails continued to deliver great birding and a number of memorable sightings. The Jeep (Maromba) Trail produced an unusually cooperative Black-billed Scythebill, more confiding Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrants, the endemic subspecies of Black-tailed Flycatcher, stunning Blue-naped Chlorophonias and Gilt-edged Tanagers, and, best of all, a much closer and more observer-friendly pair of Swallow-tailed Cotingas. The Tres-Picos Trail gave us our only Mantled Hawk of the tour, as well as the aforementioned Half-collared Sparrow, Uniform Finch, Such's (Cryptic) Antthrush, White-bibbed Antbird, and encore performances from Giant and Tufted antshrikes and Black-billed Scythebill among many others. Just walking the main park road was productive, yielding nearly eye level viewing of several nice mixed-species flocks, and treating us to some breathtaking encounters with Gilt-edged Tanager, Swallow-tailed Manakin, and Pin-tailed Manakin in particular.



Pin-tailed Manakin (male), Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

In the afternoons, we also ventured to pasturelands below the park, and, off the Agulhas Negras Road, in the process, picking up a number of open-country species, ranging from Yellowish Pipit and White-browed Meadowlark to Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Yellow-browed Tyrant, and White-rumped Monjita.

The cherry on top of any visit to Itatiaia has to be the time spent in the higher reaches of the park, where breathtaking scenery constantly competes with many of the most sought-after endemic birds for one's attention. Our second morning saw us leaving well before dawn for the Agulhas Negras Road. By the time we arrived, dawn had long since broken, and the skies, although not clear, did not portend rain. Regardless, there were surprisingly few birds singing, and, most notably absent from the usual dawn chorus was *the defining voice* of the Itatiaia highlands—that of the Black-and-gold Cotinga. The cotinga is the real avian jewel of these mountains, and, on this morning, it remained quiet for an uncomfortably long time before starting to sing. Once the cotinga did begin to sing, it took some anxious moments of scanning before Ricardo spotted the male on a different song-perch from the one that this particular individual usually occupies. A bit more maneuvering was required to get the bird in the scope, given that the roadside vegetation between us and the bird has grown markedly over the years, all but obscuring the once expansive overlook. Once we found the right spot to place the scope, we were able to enjoy lengthy, marvelous studies of the cotinga. But it is the voice of this bird that really captures the imagination. Ernest G. Holt, who conducted the first real ornithological survey of the Itatiaia highlands in 1921–22, wrote evocatively of his first encounter with the bird Brazilians call the “*Saudade*”. That account was later

republished by David Snow (1982) in his classic monograph *The Cotingas*, and I include an excerpt here:

‘I had been long hours in the saddle. Now, amid lengthening shadows, I was traversing the upper reaches of the forest zone...Unexpectedly there floated out upon the thin, clear air a vibrant note, a long-drawn plaintive whistle that rose in pitch and intensity, and then faded away in a mere thread of sound—withal so sad, so mournful, that it seemed the cry of some languishing wood sprite rather than a vibration of purely organic origin. With every sense alive, I craned my neck to see the tallest treetops. Nothing moved except a great sparkling drop, which fell from a rosette of bromeliads high overhead to splash into a puddle in the trail. After a tense moment, the disembodied voice drifted again through the trees, this time joined by another, the two singing in unison. I turned in my saddle then, and looked back and down as well as up, for the air seemed filled with sound, but the notes died away, leaving on every hand only silent green gloom. It was not until weeks after, when I trudged those high trails day after day, that I stumbled by chance upon the owner of that wonderful voice.’

Fortunately, it took us considerably less time to track down the Black-and-gold Cotinga than it did Ernest G. Holt, and some in our group found the song of the bird to be more irritating than “wonderful” (truth be told, the song does somewhat resemble the sound of feedback from a poorly tuned hearing aid!), but we were unanimous in our enjoyment at finding and watching this striking bird.

Slowly, but surely, most of the rest of the highland specialties presented themselves over the course of the morning. Restless groups of Brassy-breasted Tanagers and Buff-throated Warbling-Finches offered little resistance, whereas skulking Rufous-tailed Antbirds, Mouse-colored Tapaculos (northern form), Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, and a Rufous-tailed Antthrush had to be patiently lured out from hiding. Smart-looking Rufous-backed Antvireos were particularly stingy in their response, but Thick-billed Saltators showed exceptionally well. I was particularly pleased to hit on a stunning pair of Black-capped Piprites early on—always a relief to get this important bird under our belts as quickly as possible—and even more pleased when both male and female dropped from the canopy to less than 15’ above ground to inspect us.



Black-capped Piprites (male), Agulhas Negras Road, Itatiaia NP (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

After thoroughly working the lower portion of the road, we climbed higher, eventually driving above the clouds and topping out at 2,450 m (8038') in elevation. A stop en route at a lek site for the Green-crowned Plovercrest proved unusually quiet, with only fleeting views of a single perched male. We did better higher up, finding a spectacular male slowly working a line of flowering plants right next to the road, and eventually turning into the light at the perfect angle to light up the broad purple stripe running down the middle of his underparts, and the brilliant emerald forehead and crest simultaneously. The highly audible gasp and accompanying swoon from the group at that moment perfectly foretold the selection of Green-crowned Plovercrest as the "Favorite Bird of the Trip" a few days later! In the same spot, we nailed down superb views of a highly responsive Bay-chested Warbling-Finch and got our best studies yet of Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, and folks who bushwhacked into the bamboo were rewarded with views of a perched, if somewhat obstructed, male plovercrest. After hearing a distant pair of White-eared Puffbirds, I played some tape, and we soon had the puffbirds in view. As a bonus, the calling puffbirds, perched as they were on the highest protruding bare snag amid a sea of heath-like shrubby vegetation and low-growing, bushy bamboo, attracted the attention of a number of smaller birds, which jumped at the opportunity to mob these occasional predators of small birds. Among the hostile mob were a male plovercrest, our first White-vented Violet-ear, White-crested Tyrannulet, and a pair of Highland Elaenias. Frustratingly, we continued to dip on Large-tailed Antshrike, our only remaining holdout among the "Atlantic Forest's Big Five Antshrikes." Farther along the road, we picked up Great Pampa-Finch, some unusually good and prolonged views of the endemic Itatiaia Spinetail, and, best of all, a pair of Gray-backed Tachuris, in the same general area where our 2017 group was the first to find them. This was the first time that I have seen these

pretty little endemic flycatchers in the park, and their presence here represents an extension of the known range.

Additional highland stops yielded more birds, but still no love from the Large-tailed Antshrike. With time running out in the late afternoon, we made one more stop where I tried some playback. Nothing. We had to go. Back in the vehicles, engines started, and rolling forward. Thankfully, I had my window down, because that's when I heard it. At first, I thought it was just an auditory hallucination, the result of too much trolling with the tape. I even radioed Ricardo, to make sure that no one in the lead vehicle had whistled an imitation. When the answer came back "No," I yelled "STOP," and then told Ricardo to get everyone out, that I had just heard a Large-tailed Antshrike sing! We all piled out, and then nothing. I tried the tape again. Still nothing. Then, it started. It was whispering, soft at first, then louder. We saw it fly across a gap in the vegetation and into a dense tangle. Then, the songs stopped. I played the tape again, and nothing. This wasn't a typical response from this species. I started scanning the darkest holes in the tangle, and then, I saw it. It was a male, and it was just sitting there, frozen, and staring at us. Pretty soon, we got everyone on it, and then it started to move, clambering higher into the tree above, and resuming singing. Having emerged from the black hole that it was occupying, the details of its striking dorsal plumage could finally be appreciated. As our Brazilian escort so eloquently put it back in 1991, when we were staring at my lifer of the species, "it looks like a starry night sky, viewed from above."

We left the Agulhas Negras Road on an antshrike high, but there was little time to celebrate. We had one last important stop to make in the highlands before heading back to our hotel. This time, we were in open, marshy country, in a place that has come to be known as "Snipe Valley." Our quarry was the Giant Snipe, and we needed to be on site by dusk, in the hopes of seeing the crepuscular snipe displaying. With dusk fast approaching, we jumped out of the vehicles, and several of us took the opportunity to change into our rubber boots, in preparation for a march out into the marsh. But not everyone had rubber boots, and there was talk of those that didn't staying back on the road. So, before crossing the fence, I decided to try a little playback, partly to educate everyone on the differences between the snipe's call and the mechanical "jet engine" whooshing sound made by the rush of air through its modified tail feathers, but also, in hopes that the snipe might actually respond so that everyone could see it. I played the recording just a couple of times, and then, a large shadow came swooping in and landed at the edge of the marsh. Ricardo and I hit it with the spotlights, and there it was, a truly impressive beast of a bird, that seldom fails to dazzle, frozen in the spotlight! We put the scope on it, and everyone took turns, taking in the details of the striking plumage and the impressively long and thick-based bill. After several minutes, the snipe bolted, disappearing as quickly as it had appeared. It had literally taken me longer to change into my rubber boots than it did to call in the snipe, spotlight it, and put it in the scope! Talk about a surgical strike!



Giant Snipe, “Snipe Valley” near Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

All too soon, our time at Itatiaia had come to an end, and, along with it, so had our time in Brazil’s amazing Atlantic Forest. Along the way, we enjoyed numerous wonderful meals (including some excellent *churrasco*, or Brazilian barbecue), sinfully good icy *caipirinhas*, and loads of famously friendly Brazilian hospitality. All in all, our group saw a bunch of really special birds and had great fun in the process! I particularly want to thank Ricardo, who served as co-leader and additional driver throughout the trip, as well as Betinho and Gerson (our amazing local guides at Intervales), each of who added greatly to our trip. It was great fun birding with you all, and I look forward to seeing you on future trips. After all, that Brazilian visa is good for ten years, and there are bunches of more birds to see!

Favorite Birds of the Trip (as voted by the group)

- 1. Green-crowned Plovercrest**
- 2. Pin-tailed Manakin**
- 3. Black-capped Piprites & Long-trained Nightjar (tied)**
- 4. Giant Antshrike, Large-tailed Antshrike, Giant Snipe & “Atlantic” Royal Flycatcher (tied)**

ITINERARY:

10/21 - Kevin & most of the group arrive in São Paulo sometime on or before this date, in order to recover from the international travel.

10/22 - The group officially convenes at 1030h to check-out of the hotel, load up, and hit the road, for the all-day drive from São Paulo to Intervalles State Park. En route, we had lunch at a good Kilo restaurant at Km 121.5 on the Castello Branco (where several folks worked through a flock of seedeaters and grassquits), before continuing on to the park. We made a few brief birding stops along the entrance road on the way in, then entered the park (where we met up with the Ródriguez brothers, Betinho and Gerson, who would be our park guides) and checked in to our rooms before heading back out at dusk beyond Porteria #1 for some very successful, pre-dinner night-birding.

10/23 - Intervalles State Park (Ribeirão Grande, São Paulo): 0500h pre-breakfast excursion to look for Red-ruffed Fruitcrow at Porteria #1, followed by breakfast at 0545, with 0630h departure from Pica-Pau house to Esquilo house before heading to the Carmo Road, where we spent the remainder of the morning birding, before returning for lunch at 1300h. At 1430h, we headed back out, this time to the feeding station near Onça Pintada, and then to Porteria #2 shortly before dusk, to be in position for some pre-dinner nightbirding.

10/24 - Intervalles State Park (Ribeirão Grande, São Paulo): Breakfast at 0530h. It rained all morning, so, instead of going to the Carmo Road, we birded from the deck at Pica-Pau until lunch at 1200h. At 1330h we visited the plovercrest lek, where we experienced more rain and no plovercrests, so we drove to Sede de Pesquisas and birded from the covered carport until the rain stopped, and then in the immediate vicinity until 1800h before calling it quits.

10/25 - Intervalles State Park (Ribeirão Grande, São Paulo): Breakfast at 0530h, followed by alternating between birding the Carmo Road (on foot after the van got stuck), the trail to the plovercrest lek, and back to the Carmo Road (after the van was towed out) until returning for lunch at 1330h. After lunch and break, we departed at 1500h for late afternoon birding around an alternative plovercrest lek beyond Porteria #2 until 1800h.

10/26 - Intervalles State Park (Ribeirão Grande, São Paulo): Breakfast at 0530h, followed by all visit to the Onça Pintada feeding area for ca. 1 hour, after which, we drove to the trailhead for the Lajeado Trail, which we hiked and birded for the remainder of the morning, returning for lunch at 1300h. After lunch and break, we departed at 1430h for the Sede de Pesquisas, from which we hiked to the Royal Flycatcher trail, where we spent the rest of the afternoon in vain, waiting for the Royal Flycatcher to appear at its nest.

10/27 - Intervalles State Park (Ribeirão Grande, São Paulo): Breakfast at 0530h, after which, we hiked the Mirante Trail from 0615h–0930h, then returned to the lodge to pack-up. We left at 1015h (in retrospect, about an hour later than what would have been ideal, given unexpectedly bad traffic getting through São Paulo), and headed back through São Paulo and beyond, to Ubatuba. We stopped for lunch at Km 121.5 on the Castello Branco, and then again at Moji das Cruzes, for what needed to be (and was) a fairly surgical strike on the “São Paulo” (Marsh) Antwren, before continuing on to Ubatuba, where we arrived at our hotel at 2100h.

10/28 - Ubatuba/Itaguá (São Paulo): 0530h breakfast, with 0615h departure for Fazenda Angelim, where we birded all morning, before returning to town for lunch at 1330h. Post-lunch break until 1500h, after which, we drove to Folha Seca, and spent the remainder of the afternoon (until dusk) at Jonas’s feeders.

10/29 - Ubatuba/Itaguá (São Paulo): breakfast at 0530h, depart 0615 h for Folha Seca Road (including a brief stop at Jonas's feeders) and a nearby side track ("Puffbird Paradise"), where we birded for the entire morning. Lunch back in Ubatuba, followed by break until 1500 h, when we drove to the Santa Virginia sector of Serra do Mar State Park, where we birded in light rain for the remainder of the afternoon, before heading to nearby Pousada Oikos for dinner, followed by night-birding, with late return to our hotel in Ubatuba.

10/30 - Ubatuba/Itaguá (São Paulo): breakfast 0530h, departed 0615h for birding at Fazenda Capricornio, and a brief stop at Sertão das Catias, before returning to Ubatuba for lunch. After lunch, we returned to the hotel, packed up and checked out (1415h), then drove up the coast to Paraty, with brief stops at a couple of birding sites en route, including in the mangroves in historic Paraty itself, before continuing to our hotel (arriving at dusk).

10/31 - Hotel do Bosque, Pereque (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0530 h, depart 0615 h for Pereque antwren site arriving ca. 0645h. Birded the road until ca. 1200 h, then, following lunch at our hotel, we checked out and drove up BR101 to Angras dos Reis and then to RJ155 to the Dutra (BR116) and north on to Resende, where we spent some productive time birding the Resende marshes (Brejão de Kodak, or Lagoa de Tarfeira) until 1730h, before continuing on to Itatiaia town, the park and our hotel (arriving at 1915h).

11/01 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0530h, followed by 45 minutes of birding on the hotel grounds, before heading to the nearby Jeep (Maromba) Trail, where we walked/birded from 0700h–1130h, before heading back to the hotel for lunch. Following lunch and a break, we drove down to the Mirante Ultimo de Adeus, where we enjoyed some nice mixed-species flock activity, before exiting the park and birding some pasturelands between the park and the town of Itatiaia, until rain and impending dusk chased us back.

11/02 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0400h, departed 0445h for all-day birding up the Agulhas Negras Road (1670 m elevation at the beginning), to 2450 m elevation (ca. 15+ km up the road), and back down before a late afternoon run to "Snipe Valley" off the BR-354, where we remained until dusk, before heading back to the hotel, where we arrived at ca. 2030h.

11/03 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): breakfast at 0530h, departing at 0615h for birding around the Hotel Simon and along the Tres Picos Trail until 1130h, before returning to the hotel for lunch and break. Back out at 1530h, when we drove back to the Snipe Valley farm (with a couple of brief roadside stops en route), where we birded until 1815h, returning to the hotel by 1915h.

11/04 - Itatiaia National Park (Rio de Janeiro): **Time changed at midnight ("spring forward" in Brazil)**, so breakfast at 0630h, departing at 0715h for a couple of hours birding around the Hotel Simon, down below the Hotel Donati, and on the grounds of the Hotel Donati, before returning to the hotel at 1030h to clean up and pack prior to lunch. After lunch, we checked-out of the hotel and began the drive back to Rio and the airport, with some productive afternoon birding along RJ-139 en route, before delivering everyone to the international airport in Rio, where the trip ended. Late evening international flights for all departing participants.

11/05 - Morning arrival back in the USA, with connections home.

KEY:

IN - Intervales State Park (Riberão Grande, São Paulo) (including the entrance roads beyond park boundaries at Porteria #1 and #2)

IT - Itatiaia National Park (Including the Agulhas Negras Road, Snipe Valley, and pastures and marshes below the park on the outskirts of the town of Itatiaia.)

MO - antwren marsh at Mogi das Cruzes

PA - Paraty (Including the coastal shorebird stop just outside of town, and the walk past the mangroves in town.)

PE - Pereque

Rio - Seen on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, en route to the airport on the last day.

RJ139 - Our two wetland stops along state highway 139 that we birded on the final afternoon en route to the Rio airport.

RM - Resende Marshes near the city of Itatiaia.

SP - Seen along the highway as we navigated our way through and out of metropolitan São Paulo, including some things seen by people at our airport hotel on the first morning.

UB - Ubatuba & Vicinity (Including Fazenda Angelim, Fazenda Capricornio, Folha Seca, Serra do Mar State Park, Pousada Oikos and all roads in between.)

E - Species endemic to the Atlantic Forest biogeographic region including and surrounding southeast Brazil (including northern Argentina -- mostly Misiones -- and eastern Paraguay). A few of these designated species are endemic to a slightly broader area that includes the Atlantic Forest of northeast Brazil, and/or adjacent Planalto regions of interior southern Brazil.

e - subspecies endemic to this biogeographic region (see above). Many of these taxa are geographically isolated from (and morphologically and vocally distinct from) other forms currently considered to be conspecific. Many of these represent potential “splits”, and many are already treated as specifically distinct by some taxonomists.

X - Exotic/Introduced species not native to the region.

***** - heard only

BIRDS:

TINAMOUS (Tinamidae):

Solitary Tinamou (*Tinamus solitarius*) (**E**) - IN (Seen only along the Mirante Trail by some; heard most days by all.), UB*

Brown Tinamou (*Crypturellus obsoletus obsoletus*)* (**e**) - IN*, UB*, IT*

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL (Anatidae):

Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) - MO, RM, IT, RJ139

CHACHALACAS, GUANS & CURASSOWS (Cracidae):

Dusky-legged Guan (*Penelope obscura*) (e) - IN {These birds may have been of the more southerly distributed nominate subspecies *obscura*.}, IT {These birds were of the subspecies *bronzina*.}

Black-fronted Piping-Guan (*Pipile jacutinga*) (E) - IN (Singles seen on 4 different days.)



Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Intervaes SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

NEW WORLD QUAILS (Odontophoridae):

Spot-winged Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus capueira*) (E) - IN (Incredible views of a habituated covey on two different days; otherwise, heard daily), UB* (Heard at dusk, Serra do Mar SP)

GREBES (Podicipedidae):

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) - IN

HERONS & EGRETS (Ardeidae):

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) - UB (Glimpsed by a couple of us along the “Puffbird Paradise Road”), RM

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) - PA

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - SP, MO, UB, PA, PE, RJ139, Rio

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - SP, MO, UB, PA, Rio
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - PA
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - SP to IN, IN to UB, UB, PE, PE to IT, IT, RJ139
Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) - MO, RJ139
Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*) - UB, IT
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) - SP, PA, PE, RM
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) - PA

FRIGATEBIRDS (Fregatidae):

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificans*) - UB, PA, PE, PE to IT, Rio

BOOBIES & GANNETS (Sulidae):

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) - UB, PA

ANHINGAS (Anhingidae):

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - RJ139

CORMORANTS (Phalacrocoracidae):

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - IN, UB, PA, RJ139, Rio

IBISES & SPOONBILLS (Threskiornithidae):

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) - IN

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) - PA

NEW WORLD VULTURES (Cathartidae):

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - Seen all but 1 day, and at all locales visited.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - Seen all but 3 days, and at all locales visited.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) - PE, PE to IT, IT

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) - IT

HAWKS, KITES & EAGLES (Accipitridae):

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) - UB (1 photographed nicely by Bill at Puffbird Paradise on 10/29 was our only record.)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) - IN (singles on 10/23 and 10/25)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - IN (1-2 seen daily), PA (1), PE (2)

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) - IN (1 on 10/23), UB (1 at Fazenda Angelim on 10/28), IT* (1 heard along the Jeep Trail on 11/28)

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*) - UB (1 over Fazenda Capricornio on 10/30), PE (1 on 10/31), IT (1 photographed by Bill over our hotel on 11/2)

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) - RJ139 (6)

Rufous-thighed Kite (*Harpagus diodon*) - IN (2 on 10/23; 1 on 10/26); UB (3 over Fazenda Angelim on 10/28; 1 over Fazenda Capricornio on 10/30), PE (1 on 10/31)

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) - IN (2 on 10/23); UB (1 over Fazenda Capricornio on 10/30), RJ139 (1)

Sharp-shinned (“Rufous-thighed”) Hawk (*Accipiter striatus erythronemius*) - IN (1 perched bird on 10/26 was seen nicely and studied at length, after an incredible initial spot by Betinho.) {The AOS still treats this widespread South American taxon, as well as the even more different “White-breasted Hawk” of the Central American highlands, as being conspecific with our North American Sharp-shinned Hawk. I disagree, but there is no published analysis to justify changing the status quo.}

Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*) - IN (1 briefly perched adult seen from Sede de Pesquisas on 10/24 was our only record.)

White-necked Hawk (*Buteogallus lacernulatus*) (E) - UB (A group of 3 birds soaring above the ridge at Fazenda Angelim on 10/30 were first spotted by Paul.), PE (A group of 4 distant soaring birds on 10/31.) {The transfer of this species from the genus *Leucopternis* to *Buteogallus*, dictated by molecular studies, was somewhat of a surprise given its close resemblance to some of the other species of *Leucopternis*.}

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) - Seen/heard on all but 2 days, and at all locales visited.

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*) - SP to IN (2), IN to UB (1), PE to IT (1), IT (1 over the Agulhas Negras high country on 11/2; 1 over Snipe Valley on 11/3)

Mantled Hawk (*Pseudaster polionotus*) (E) - IT (1 beautiful adult soaring low over the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3, thanks to a great spot by Dick!)



Mantled Hawk, Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

RAILS, COOTS & GALLINULES (Rallidae):

Rufous-sided Crake (*Laterallus melanophaius*) - IN (pair seen nicely on 10/25), PE*
Red-and-white Crake (*Laterallus leucopyrrhus*) - IN (Great looks at a pair coming in to feed on 10/23. Normally one of the most difficult crakes to actually see.)

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajaneus*) - PA (3 seen nicely on 10/30), PE*

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail (*Aramides saracura*) (E) - IN (1–3 seen daily), UB* (heard at Fazenda Angelim & Folha Seca), IT (seen on 2 days on the grounds of our hotel)

Ash-throated Crake (*Mustelirallus albicollis*) - IT (2 taped in for scope views at Snipe Valley on 11/3.)

Blackish Rail (*Pardirallus nigricans*) - IN (Heard by all on 10/22; seen by some on 10/26), PE*

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) - RJ139 (8)

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) - IN, MO, PE to IT, RJ139 {This bird is back to being called a “Gallinule” instead of a “Moorhen”, now that recent molecular studies have demonstrated that the Old World “Common Moorhen” and the New World “Common Gallinule” are not only different species, but also not even closest relatives to one another!}



Red-and-white Crake, Intervals SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

LIMPKIN (Aramidae):

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) - RJ139 (2)

STILTS & AVOCETS (Recurvirostridae):

Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt (*Himantopus [mexicanus] melanurus*) - SP to IN (perhaps leader only) {Stilt taxonomy is a mess! Some authorities lump the six taxa of “pied” stilts into a single, near globally distributed species (“Common Stilt”), whereas others break these down into anywhere from one to six different species. The AOS currently treats *melanurus* of southern South America as conspecific with *mexicanus* (Black-necked Stilt), which ranges from North America south all the way to northeastern Brazil. The contact zone between the two forms is worthy of study, to see how much (if any) hybridization occurs.}

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (Charadriidae):

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) - Seen daily, and at all locales visited.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) - PA

JACANAS (Jacanidae):

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) - SP to IN, IN, MO, UB, PE to IT, RJ139

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES (Scolopacidae):

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) - PA

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) - UB

Giant Snipe (*Gallinago undulata*) - IT (1 bird spotlighted in Snipe Valley on 11/2 sat for extended superb views.)

South American Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiae*) - MO

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) - PA

GULLS & TERNS (Laridae):

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) - UB, PA, PE, PE to IT

Sandwich (Cayenne) Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) - UB, PA

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) - UB, PA

PIGEONS & DOVES (Columbidae):

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) **X** - Widespread, in towns and cities throughout; yawn.

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - MO, UB (Fazenda Capricornio), IT

Picazuro Pigeon (*Patagioenas picazuro*) - Abundant, seen daily and at all locales.

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea plumbea*) (**e**) - IN, UB, PE*, IT {Keep track of where you see “Plumbeous Pigeons” because vocal differences strongly suggest that more than one species is involved.}

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - SP, SP to IN, IN, MO, UB, PA, PE, IT, RJ139

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) - UB (1 seen by Paul only at Folha Seca on 10/29)

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)* - IN*, UB*, IT*

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) - Common, seen daily and at all locales. (This species seems to be undergoing a population explosion in many parts of Brazil, and is now much more frequently encountered than just a few years ago.)

CUCKOOS & ANIS (Cuculidae):

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*) - SP to IN, RM, IT

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*)* - UB*

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) - SP, SP to IN, IN, UB, PE, PE to IT, RM, IT, RJ139

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) - PE (2 seen nicely), RM*, IT*, RJ139*

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - IN, PE (I'm not sure what was going on with this normally common and vocal species, but we saw only 5 individuals scattered over 3 days, and I didn't hear a single singing bird during the course of the trip.)

TYPICAL OWLS (Strigidae):

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) - IN

Long-tufted Screech-Owl (*Megascops sanctacatarinae*) (E) - IN (2 seen & heard on 10/22. This represents a northward extension from the known range for this species, and the first time that I have recorded it in the area.)

Tawny-browed Owl (*Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*) (E) - UB (1 seen well at Pousada Oikos on 10/29); IT* (heard on the hotel grounds on 10/31)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) - RM

Rusty-barred Owl (*Strix hylophila*) (E) - IN (Heard on 10/22, and then seen beautifully on 10/23. Ricardo and I also saw one near Esquilo house on 10/24.)

NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS (Caprimulgidae):

Short-tailed (Chestnut-banded) Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus nattereri*) - IN (Nice looks at multiple birds in flight on 10/23.), UB (Pousada Oikos on 10/29) {Some authorities advocate splitting this species into three allospecies: nominate birds from the lowlands of Central America and northern S. America (= Short-tailed), a highland form that ranges through much of the Andes from Colombia and Venezuela to Bolivia (= Rufous-bellied), and a lowland form that ranges east of the Andes south to Argentina, but which occurs north of the Amazon to Venezuela as an austral migrant (= Chestnut-banded). The AOS hasn't acted on this, mainly because no real analysis has ever been published.}

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) - IN, PA

Long-trained Nightjar (*Macropsalis forcipata*) (E) - IN (Crippling views of a spectacular male, perched, and in flight, on 10/22.)

POTOOS (Nyctibiidae):

Common (Gray) Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) - IN (Terrific views of spotlighted birds on 10/22 and 10/23, and of day-roosting birds on 10/24 and 10/25.), UB* {The "Mother of the Moon"!}

SWIFTS (Apodidae):

Sooty Swift (*Cypseloides fumigatus*) (E) - IN, MO, UB

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - Seen daily, and at all locales visited.

Sick's Swift (*Chaetura meridionalis*) (E) - IN, MO, UB, PA, PE, PE to IT, IT, RJ139 {This form was previously considered a subspecies of what was called "Ashy-tailed Swift", *C. andrei*. Reexamination of the type specimen of the nominate race of Ashy-tailed Swift revealed that it was a misidentified Vaux's Swift! Thus, Ashy-tailed Swift ceased to exist as a valid taxon. However, the disjunct Brazilian "race" *C.a. meridionalis* was recognized as distinct from all other taxa, and elevated to separate species status. It is named after Helmut Sick, the Brazilian ornithologist. This form is an endemic breeder, but occurs as an austral migrant to the Amazon.}

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) - UB, PE

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) - IN (3 over Sede de Pesquisas on the rainy afternoon of 10/24 were a treat. This is a generally uncommon-to-rare bird in the Atlantic Forest.)

HUMMINGBIRDS (Trochilidae):

Black Jacobin (*Melanotrochilus fuscus*) (E) - Seen daily, and at all forested locales visited.

Saw-billed Hermit (*Ramphodon naevius*) (E) - UB (High of 15 at Folha Seca on 10/28.)



Saw-billed Hermit, Sítio Folha Seca, Ubatuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Dusky-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis squalidus*) (E) - IN

Reddish Hermit (*Phaethornis ruber*) - UB*, PE

Scale-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis eurnome*) (E) - IN, UB (Pousada Oikos), IT (seen daily)



Dusky-throated Hermit, Interales SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

White-vented Violet-ear (*Colibri serrirostris*) - IT (1 that came in to mob the White-eared Puffbirds in the Agulhas Negras high country on 11/2.)

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*) - UB, PA, PE, RM

Frilled Coquette (*Lophornis magnifica*) (E) - IT (seen daily on the hotel grounds)

Festive Coquette (*Lophornis chalybeus chalybeus*) (e) - IN (1 female in front of Onça Pintada on 10/26), UB (40+, including many males, at Folha Seca on 10/28, with smaller numbers seen there the following morning.) {This, the nominate subspecies, is endemic to the Atlantic Forest of e Brazil, and is likely to be split from the highly disjunct subspecies *klagesi* (se Venezuela) and *verreauxii* (w Amazonia), which differ in several plumage characters. Among other differences, males of the other two forms have a fairly pronounced crest, which is lacking in males of the nominate form.}

Brazilian Ruby (*Clytolaema rubricauda*) (E) - IN, UB, PE, IT

Stripe-breasted Starthroat (*Heliomaster squamosus*) - IT (1 bird, seen perched and hovering, at the Hotel Donati on 11/4 was a surprise. This species is typically found to the north and west, and is only a wanderer to this region.)

Amethyst Woodstar (*Calliphlox amethystina*) - IN, UB, IT

Glittering-bellied Emerald (*Chlorostilbon aureoventris*) - IN, UB

Green-crowned Plovercrest (*Stephanoxis lalandi*) (E) - IT {Recently split from the next species. Males of this northern species [Rio de Janeiro and parts of Minas Gerais and São Paulo] differ from those of southern *loddigesii* in having a more extensive and much brighter purple breast patch, and an emerald green crest. There are also some vocal differences.}

Purple-crowned Plovercrest (*Stephanoxis loddigesii*) (E) - IN {Recently split from the preceding species. Males of this southern species *loddigesii* [s São Paulo south into NE Argentina and N Paraguay] differ from those of more northerly *lalandi* in having a

darker and more restricted breast patch, and a bluish-purple crest. The latter species [endemic to Brazil], which we saw in Itatiaia, are much brighter and more extensively purple on the breast and have a green crest. There are also some vocal differences. }



Purple-crested Plovercrest (male), Intervalles SP (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupetomena macrourus*) - UB, RM

Violet-capped Woodnymph (*Thalurania glaucopis*) (E) - Seen daily, and at all major locales visited.

Sombre Hummingbird (*Aphantochroa cirrochloris*) (E) - UB (only 1 bird seen briefly at Folha Seca on 10/28.)

White-throated Hummingbird (*Leucochloris albicollis*) - IN, UB, IT

Versicolored Emerald (*Amazilia versicolor*) - Seen daily, and at all major locales visited.

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*) - UB, PE

Sapphire-spangled Emerald (*Amazilia lactea*) - IN (1 at the marsh on 10/25), IT (Bill photographed one on the hotel grounds on 11/2.)

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



Violet-capped Woodnymph (male), Sítio Folha Seca, Ubatuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

TROGONS (Trogonidae):

Green-backed Trogon (*Trogon viridis melanopterus*) (e) - UB (seen all 3 days), PE* {Formerly considered part of the wide-ranging “White-tailed Trogon”, but birds on either side of the Andes are now considered separate species.}

Surucua Trogon (*Trogon surrucura*) (E) - IN (2–6 seen/heard daily), IT (seen/heard 3 of 4 days) {We saw both the orange-yellow bellied northern race *aurantius* (IT), and the red-bellied southern race *surrucura* (IN).}

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus chrysochloros*) (e) - IN {This subspecies is endemic to E Brazil, NE Argentina and E Paraguay.}

MOTMOTS (Momotidae):

Rufous-capped Motmot (*Baryphengus ruficapillus*) (E) - IN (Seen/heard daily.), IT

PUFFBIRDS (Bucconidae):

Buff-bellied Puffbird (*Notharchus swainsoni*) (E) - UB (1 seen at Fazenda Angelim on 10/28, and a pair watched at length at “Puffbird Paradise” on 10/29.) {This is often one of the tougher endemics to pin down during a short trip to the Atlantic Forest.}



Buff-bellied Puffbirds near Ubatuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

White-eared Puffbird (*Nystalus chacuru*) - IT (pair seen nicely in the Agulhas Negras high country on 11/2), RJ139 (2)

Crescent-chested Puffbird (*Malacoptila striata*) (E) - UB (1 seen nicely at “Puffbird Paradise” on 10/29.)

Rusty-breasted Nunlet (*Nonnula rubecula*) - IN



Crescent-chested Puffbird, near Ubatuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

JACAMARS (Galbulidae):

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

TOUCANS & ARACARIS (Ramphastidae):

Saffron Toucanet (*Pteroglossus bailloni*) (E) - IT {Recently subsumed to genus *Pteroglossus* from the monotypic *Baillonius*. These cool birds are much more reliable visitors to the Ypé feeders in July-August, when there are fewer fruiting trees in the forest. Nonetheless, we had great views.}



Saffron Toucanet, Hotel do Ypé, Itatiaia NP (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Spot-billed Toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*) (E) - IN (3 seen on 10/23), UB*

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*) - IT, RJ139

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus ariel*)* (e) - UB*

Red-breasted Toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*) (E) - IN (2–5 seen/heard daily), IT (1–6 seen/heard daily)

WOODPECKERS (Picidae):

White-barred Piculet (*Picumnus cirratus cirratus*) (E) - UB, PE, IT

Ochre-collared Piculet (*Picumnus temminckii*) (E) - IN

White Woodpecker (*Melanerpes candidus*) - PE to IT, RJ139

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes flavifrons*) (E) - IN, UB, IT



Yellow-fronted Woodpecker (male), Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

White-spotted Woodpecker (*Veniliornis spilogaster*) (E) - IN, IT

Yellow-eared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis maculifrons*) (E) - PE

White-browed (Yellow-browed) Woodpecker (*Piculus aurulentus*) (E) - IN, IT
 (“White-browed Woodpecker” is a most misleading name, given that the brow, in most individuals, is distinctly yellowish.)

Green-barred Woodpecker (*Colaptes melanochloros*) - PE, RJ139

Campo Flicker (*Colaptes campestris campestris*) - SP, SP to IN, IN, IN to UB, MO, RM, IT {Most authorities treat this black-throated form as conspecific with *C. campestris*, the “Field Flicker”, which participants on Part I saw in Rio Grande do Sul. In that case, “Campo Flicker” would have nomenclatural priority.}

Blond-crested Woodpecker (*Celeus flavescens*) (E) - IN, UB, PE*

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus erythropus*)* (e) - IT*

Robust Woodpecker (*Campephilus robustus*) (E) - IN, UB, IT



Blond-crested Woodpecker (male), São Paulo state, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)



Robust Woodpecker (female), Fazenda Angelim, Ubatuba, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

SERIEMAS (Cariamidae):

Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*) - IN to UB (seen only by a few folks along the highway, where we could not stop)

FALCONS & CARACARAS (Falconidae):

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis ruficollis*) (e) - IN {This rufous-collared nominate subspecies is very different looking, and somewhat different sounding from other subspecies of Central and South America, and should be considered a potential future split.}

Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) - Seen daily. {This is now officially split from Crested Caracara, *C. cheriway* group, of northern S. America, Central America and the southwestern U.S.}

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - SP to IN, IN, UB, PA, PE, PE to IT, IT, RJ139

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - IT (1 seen by Paul over the Hotel Simon on 11/3 was our only record.)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) - SP to IN, IN to UB, PE to IT, RM, RJ139

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) - UB

MACAWS, PARROTS & PARAKEETS (Psittacidae):

Brown-backed Parrotlet (*Touit melanonotus*)* (E) - IN* (distinctive flight calls heard on 10/23 along the Carmo Road), UB* (distinctive flight calls heard over Folha Seca on 10/28 and again on 10/29)

Plain Parakeet (*Brotogeris tirica*) (E) - SP, IN, UB, PE, IT (Seen all but 2 days of the trip.)

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

Pileated (Red-capped) Parrot (*Pionopsitta pileata*) (E) - IN (Seen/heard daily, including some spectacular studies of feeding birds at Onça Pintada on 10/23 and 10/24.), UB*



Pileated Parrot (male), Intervaes SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Blue-bellied Parrot (*Triclaria malachitacea*) (E) - IN (Heard along the Carmo Road on 10/23; a pair seen nicely in flight from the plovercrest lek beyond Porteria #2 on 10/25; and another pair seen in flight, with the female eventually seen perched for nice scope views along the Lajeada Track on 10/26.) {Typically one of the toughest endemics to pin down.}

Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*) - IN (daily), UB, IT (Seen all but 3 days of the trip.)

Blue-winged Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthopterygius*) - IN, PE, IT

Maroon-bellied Parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis*) (e) - IN, UB, IT {At IT we saw nominate *frontalis*. At IN, I believe we saw the subspecies *chiripepe*, which lacks red on the upper surface of the tail and has red-orange at the bend of the wing.}

Blue-winged Macaw (*Primolius maracana*) - IT (Peak of 13 on 11/4.), RJ139 (20)

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*) - IT (daily), RJ139

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS (Thamnophilidae):

Spot-backed Antshrike (*Hypodaleus guttatus*) (E) - IN, UB (Seen/heard all three days), PE*

Giant Antshrike (*Batara cinerea*) - IN (Recorded all 5 days, with particularly memorable sightings of males on 10/24 from the lodge deck, and on 10/25 at the plovercrest lek #2), IT (heard on 11/1 and seen nicely along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3)

Large-tailed Antshrike (*Mackenziaena leachii*) (E) - IT (After missing it at known territories in Intervaes and Serra do Mar State Park, it came down to the 11th hour on the Agulhas Negras Road before we scored with this one! Great looks at the “Starry Night Antshrike”!)

Tufted Antshrike (*Mackenziaena severa*) (E) - IN (Good looks at a pair along the Carmo Road on 10/25; heard on the other days), UB*, PE*, IT (Pair seen nicely along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3)

White-bearded Antshrike (*Biatas nigropectus*) (E) - IN (High count of 6 birds seen/heard along the Carmo Road on 10/24, including several good views of males and females. We had great looks at another male on the Mirante Trail on 10/27, and birds were heard on two other days.) { With the widespread die-off and disappearance of the bamboo from Itatiaia, this marked our first visit to the park in 23 years that failed to record this species. }

Rufous-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ruficapillus*) (e) - IN (We had walk-away great views of a tailless male at the marsh on 10/23; heard the other days.), IT* (heard in the Agulhas Negras high country)

Chestnut-backed Antshrike (*Thamnophilus palliatus*) - PE (Nice looks), RJ139*

Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens caerulescens*) (e) - IN (daily), UB (Serra do Mar SP), IT (daily)

Star-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula gularis*) (E) - IN, IT

Spot-breasted Antwren (*Dysithamnus stictothorax*) (E) - IN, UB, IT

Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) (e) - IN, UB*, IT

Rufous-backed Antwren (*Dysithamnus xanthopterus*) (E) - IN (1 singing male seen along the Mirante Trail on 10/27 was my first record of this species in the park, and at ca. 900 m elevation, was near the low end of its recorded elevational range.), IT



Rufous-backed Antwren (male), November 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Salvadori's Antwren (*Myrmotherula minor*) (E) - UB (Great looks at a male bird at Sertão das Catias on 10/30. This is one of the tougher endemics to find, because there are few group-suitable trails or roads that access the foothill forest in its tiny range.)



Salvadori's Antwren (male), Ubatuba area, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Unicolored Antwren (*Myrmotherula unicolor*) (E) - UB (Seen very well along the Folha Seca Road on 10/29.)

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus rufimarginatus*) (e) - UB, PE, IT {This, the nominate subspecies, is a near-certain split from other members of this complex.}

Black-hooded Antwren (*Formicivora erythronotos*) (E) - PE {This species, which was known from ca. 20 specimens collected in the latter half of the 1800s, was lost to science until rediscovered in 1987. We enjoyed nice studies of multiple birds, and located [by voice] no fewer than 7 different territories on 10/31.}

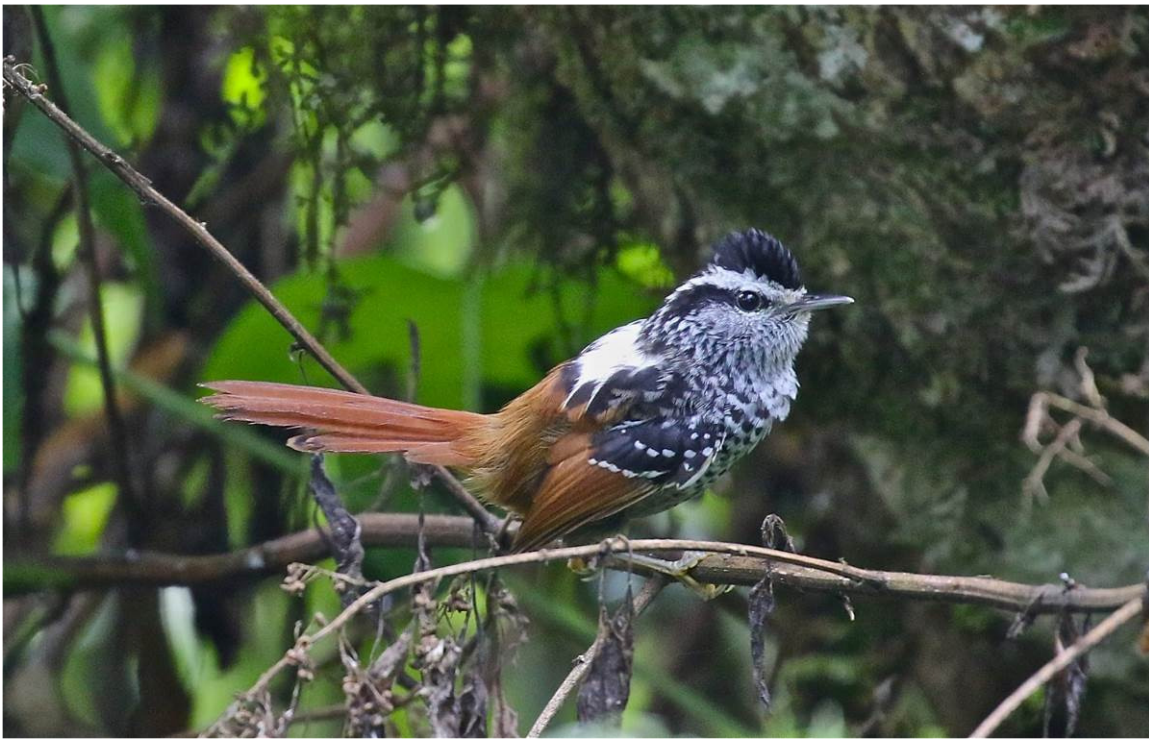
Marsh ("São Paulo") Antwren (*Formicivora acutirostris paludicola*) (E) - MO {This taxon was just formally described in 2013. Although it was described as a distinct species (São Paulo Antwren, *Formicivora paludicola*) by its discoverers, the South American Classification Committee (SACC) of the American Ornithologists Society (AOS) has chosen instead to treat it as a subspecies of the Marsh (or Paraná) Antwren, the clear sister taxon found in similar habitats to the south in Paraná and Santa Catarina. Females of the two forms are essentially indistinguishable, and each form responds well to playback of the other -- I know I can't tell their voices apart! However, males of "São Paulo" Antwren are nearly black below, whereas male "Paraná" Antwrens are medium gray. It is pretty clear that the two taxa are descended from the same common ancestor, which likely inhabited marshes up and down the coast from at least São Paulo to Santa Catarina before anthropogenic habitat changes resulted in habitat fragmentation and

isolation of two populations. The two forms are disjunctly distributed with respect to one another, so, barring an unlikely range expansion by one or the other, they are likely on different evolutionary trajectories.}

Ferruginous Antbird (*Drymophila ferruginea*) (E) - IN, UB (Daily, with a high count of 10 seen/heard at Fazenda Angelim on 10/28.), PE, IT (Seen/heard on 3 of 4 days.)

Bertoni's Antbird (*Drymophila rubricollis*) (E) - IN, UB* (heard at Fazenda Angelim), IT (A pair seen along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3 represented our only record from the park. This is yet another bamboo-inhabiting species that is disappearing from the park following the regional die-off of bamboo.)

Rufous-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila genei*) (E) - IT (It took some work, but we were eventually rewarded with superb views of both male and female. Perhaps the most striking of the six species of beautiful and endemic members of this genus that were seen on the trip.)



Rufous-tailed Antbird (male), Agulhas Negras Road, Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Ochre-rumped Antbird (*Drymophila ochropyga*) (E) - IN (Seen/heard on three consecutive days.), IT*

Dusky-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila malura*) (E) - IN (Seen/heard on 6 consecutive days here, but not recorded elsewhere on the tour.)

Scaled Antbird (*Drymophila squamata*) (E) - UB (Seen on all three mornings.)

Streak-capped Antwren (*Terenura maculata*) (E) - IN, UB (daily), PE (Exceptional views of a responsive bird that came down almost to eye-level.), IT

White-shouldered Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leucoptera*) (E) - IN (daily), UB*, PE*, IT

White-bibbed Antbird (*Myrmeciza loricata*) (E) - IT (Seen nicely along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3.)

Squamate Antbird (*Myrmeciza squamosa*) (E) - IN (More difficult than usual this trip, but we still managed good views of a male along the trail to the first plovercrest lek, after hearing several others.)

GNATEATERS (Conopophagidae):

Black-cheeked Gnateater (*Conopophaga melanops*) (E) - IN (Great looks at 2 different males along the Lajeado Trail.), UB (Seen nicely at Fazenda Angelim and Folha Seca.)



Black-cheeked Gnateater (male), Fazenda Angelim, Ubatuba area (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Rufous Gnateater (*Conopophaga lineata*) (E) - IN (Seen on 3 days), PE, IT

ANTPITTAS (Grallaridae):

Variiegated Antpitta (*Grallaria varia imperator*)* (e) - IN* (Heard daily, including a particularly frustrating individual with a song perch less than 50 m outside Esquilo House, but we never managed to see it. Last year's group was treated to great views of a habituated individual that was coming in to be fed worms, but that wasn't happening this year.) {This much larger race from e Brazil differs vocally from other populations, and may be a valid species, *G. imperator*, the "Imperial Antpitta".}

Speckle-breasted Antpitta (*Hylopezus nattereri*)* (E) - IT* (Unfortunately, we just couldn't get any birds at Itatiaia to respond this year. The only bird located called back distantly a couple of times at the same spot where we saw the Rufous-tailed Antthrush on the Agulhas Negras Road on 11/2.)

TAPACULOS (Rhinocryptidae):

Spotted Bamboowren (*Psilorhamphus guttatus*) (E) - IN (Great looks at 1 bird on 10/23 that, in response to playback, came into the very bush that Betinho predicted!)

“Southern” Slaty Bristlefront (*Merulaxis ater*) (e) - IN (1 male seen well on 10/25 was our only record. Bristlefronts were oddly non-vocal throughout our trip this year, and when these skulkers don’t vocalize, they are nearly impossible to find.) {As I explained at the time, this monotypic “species” is on the brink of being split. Southern and northern populations, although morphologically nearly indistinguishable, are very different in all of their various vocalizations. The break between the two forms occurs in central São Paulo.}

“Northern” Slaty Bristlefront (*Merulaxis ater*)* (E) - UB*, PE* {See taxonomic note above.}

White-breasted Tapaculo (*Eleoscytalopus indigoticus*) (E) - IN (Also surprisingly non-vocal during our trip, but fortunately, we found one singing individual that was buried in a hole in a tree [which this species does routinely, using tree cavities or insides of bromeliads as resonating chambers to amplify their voice, while simultaneously providing cover and protection from would-be predators]. We were able to put the scope on the hole, and by waiting patiently, everyone was eventually able to see the singing bird poke his head out of the hole!)

“Southern” Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus sp. novum*) (e) - IN {There is some support for splitting this monotypic species based on published differences in pace of the loudsongs between northern and southern populations, and, upon unpublished qualitative differences in some calls, but to this point the published evidence hasn’t been sufficient to swing the AOS.}

“Northern” Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus spelunca*) (E) - IT (6 seen/heard along the Agulhas Negras Road on 11/2. {See taxonomic note above.}

ANTTHRUSHES (Formicariidae):

Rufous-capped Antthrush (*Formicarius colma*) - IN (Seen parading around at our feet at the wood-quail feeding station on 10/23 and 10/26; heard on 2 other days.)

Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona campanisona*) (e) - IN (Sensational views of a singing bird on 10/26 near Onça Pintada; others heard along the Carmo Road, Lajeado Trail, and Mirante Trail on different days.)

Such’s (Cryptic) Antthrush (*Chamaeza meruloides*) (E) - IT (Heard on 3 days, but seen only with great effort along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3.) {E. Willis, who first pointed out the presence of this previously “nested” taxon, proposed the English name “Such’s Antthrush”, which the AOS has followed. “Cryptic Antthrush” is the name used by Ridgely & Tudor in *Birds of South America*.}

Rufous-tailed (Brazilian) Antthrush (*Chamaeza ruficauda*) (E) - IT (Seen nicely off the Agulhas Negras Road on 11/2.) {This taxon is restricted to se Brazil, and is now considered to be specifically distinct from the geographically far-removed *C. turdina* and *C. chionogaster* of the Colombian and Venezuelan Andes. The latter two forms are currently lumped under the common name of “Scalloped Antthrush”, although they too

may prove to be distinct! Sibley & Monroe use the common name of “Brazilian Antthrush” for nominate *ruficauda*, whereas the AOS and Ridgely & Tudor retain the established name of Rufous-tailed. }



Short-tailed Antthrush, Intervals SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS (Furnariidae):

Rufous-breasted Leaftosser (*Sclerurus scansor*) (E) - IN (2 on 10/24 and 6 along the Lajeado Trail on 10/26, along with discovery of an active nest.)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus sylviellus*) (e) - IN (Up to 12 birds seen/heard daily.), IT (2–4 seen/heard daily) {This subspecies is so different in voice and plumage from more northern and western populations of “Olivaceous Woodcreeper” as to be unrecognizable. This complex is a sure candidate for future splitting. }

Plain-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla turdina*) (E) - IN, UB, PE* {This species has, in the past, been lumped with the widespread, but allopatric Plain-brown Woodcreeper. However, its vocalizations are quite different, and work by E. Willis argues convincingly for treatment as a separate species, a course followed by Sibley & Monroe, Ridgely & Tudor, and now (based partly on recent molecular evidence), also by the South American Classification Committee of the AOU. This form is restricted to e Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. Also known as “Thrush-like” Woodcreeper or “Plain” Woodcreeper. }

Planalto Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes platyrostris platyrostris*) (e) - IN, IT

White-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes albicollis*) (E) - IN, IT (Great looks at the “Beast of the East”!)

Lesser Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus fuscus*) (E) - IN (Seen on 4 different days, with high counts of 12 seen/heard on 10/26, and 10 seen/heard on 10/25.), UB, IT {Recently

moved to the genus *Xiphorhynchus* from *Lepidocolaptes*, and likely to be split into 2-3 species in the near future. We saw nominate *fuscus* at IN and UB, but I believe the birds found at IT are referable to the subspecies *tenuirostris*. Both of these subspecies are very different vocally from *atlanticus* of northeastern Brazil. }

Black-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus falcularius*) (E) - IT (Seen nicely along the Jeep Trail on 11/1, and along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3.) (Fabulous studies of this improbable looking bird!)



Black-billed Scythebill, Itatiaia NP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*) - IT (A pair seen and photographed in Snipe Valley on 11/3 was something of a surprise. This is one of many open country/*cerrado* species that has expanded its range into SE Brazil with deforestation.)

Scaled Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes squamatus*) (E) - IT

Scalloped Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes falcinellus*) (E) - IN {This is a relatively recent split from Scaled Woodcreeper. }

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus minutus*) (e) - IN {These nominate birds, which are endemic to the Atlantic Forest, are noticeably smaller than other subspecies in this wide-ranging complex, and have somewhat different voices. A good candidate for splitting! }

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) (e) - IN, UB, IT {All of the subspecies of Streaked Xenops sound pretty similar to my ears [although I've never made a quantitative analysis of their voices], but these Atlantic Forest birds are markedly different in plumage from birds found elsewhere in Central & South America. Hmmm... }

Wing-banded Hornero (*Furnarius figulus*) (E) - RM, IT, RJ139

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*) - SP, SP to IN, IN, MO, UB, PA, PE, RM, IT, RJ139

Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper (*Lochmias nematura*) - IN (Seen by some along the Mirante Trail, while waiting for the Royal Flycatcher to show. Unusually quiet this trip.)

White-collared Foliage-gleaner (*Anabazenops fuscus*) (E) - IN (Seen on 4 different days.), UB*, IT

Pale-browed Treehunter (*Cichlocolaptes leucophrus leucophrus*) (E) - UB {This polytypic species will likely be split. Birds from the southern part of the range, *C. l. holti*, which we heard at IN, are morphologically and vocally distinct from the nominate birds, which we saw in UB and often see (but not this year) in IT. The break between the two forms seems to be in northern São Paulo state.}

Pale-browed Treehunter (*Cichlocolaptes leucophrus holti*)* (E) - IN*

“Northern” Sharp-billed Treehunter (*Heliobletus contaminatus contaminatus*) (E) - IT (1 seen nicely along the Agulhas Negras Road on 11/2.) {We saw two subspecies on this tour: nominate *contaminatus* (unstreaked mantle and lightly streaked underparts, without strong yellowish or buff tones to the face, throat and supercilium) at IT, and the more southerly *camargoi* (distinguished by its more extensively streaked back and underparts, and by the stronger yellowish tinge to the supercilium, face and throat) at IN. The two forms supposedly intergrade in n São Paulo state, but vocal and morphological differences suggest that they could represent distinct species.}

“Southern” Sharp-billed Treehunter (*Heliobletus contaminatus camargoi*) (e) - IN (Seen on three consecutive days, with a high of 5 seen along the Lajeado Trail on 10/26.) {See taxonomic note under preceding account.}

Black-capped Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor atricapillus*) (E) - IN (1 seen well along the Lajeado Trail on 10/26 was, amazingly, the only one seen or heard on the entire trip.)

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufus*) - IN (2–12 birds seen/heard daily), IT (seen on 3 of 4 days)

White-browed Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia amaurotis*) (E) - IN (Seen well along the Lajeado Trail, where we saw 6 on 10/26, and along the Mirante Trail on 10/27.)

Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia lichtensteini*) (E) - IN {Note that, based on recently published molecular work, this species has been transferred out of the genus *Philydor*, and placed in *Anabacerthia*, despite its extreme similarity in plumage to Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner.}

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) (e) - IN (daily), IT (seen/heard on 3 of 4 days)

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus leucophthalmus*) (E) - IN (high count of 10 seen/heard along the Lajeado Trail on 10/26.), UB, PE* {This species was recently split into two: birds from Bahia south (= White-eyed), and birds from Sergipe north to Pernambuco in ne Brazil (= Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner). The two look nearly identical in the field, but have very different voices.}

Araucaria Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura setaria*) - IT (1 seen by some in the Agulhas Negras highlands on 11/2.)

Rufous-fronted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*) - IT, RJ139

Orange-eyed Thornbird (*Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*) (E) - UB, PE, IT, RJ139* {What was called “Red-eyed Thornbird” is now recognized to have consisted of

two species that are very distinct vocally and morphologically. The two forms are even known to nest in many of the same marshes in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo states without interbreeding. We had excellent studies of both species. This, the species with the glaring orange eye and less orange on the underparts, was seen at UB, PE and IT. Both species are endemic to the Atlantic Forest region. }

Orange-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*) (E) - IN, UB* (Heard in the high country of Serro do Mar SP on the afternoon of 10/29.) {See preceding taxonomic discussion. }

Firewood-gatherer (*Anumbius annumbi*) - PE to IT*, RJ139 (Nice looks at a responsive pair.)

Itatiaia Spinetail (Thistletail) (*Oreophylax moreirae*) (E) - IT (Superb looks at this highland specialty of SE Brazil.)

Pallid Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pallida*) (E) - IN (seen/heard daily), IT (seen/heard daily)

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomea*) - IN, PE, RM, IT, RJ139

Gray-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis cinerascens*) (E) - IN

Rufous-capped Spinetail (*Synallaxis ruficapilla*) (E) - IN, PE*, IT

Spix's (Chicli) Spinetail (*Synallaxis spixi*) (E) - IN, UB (Pousada Oikos)

Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*)* - RJ139*



Orange-eyed Thornbird, Pereque, Rio de Janeiro, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)



Orange-breasted Thornbird, Intervals SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (Tyrannidae):

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) - IN, MO*, UB, PE, IT (daily)

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) - UB (Fazenda Angelim), PE, IT

Gray-backed Tachuri (*Polystictus superciliaris*) (E) - IT (This one was a real bonus – only the 2nd time that we’ve ever seen the species on this route [the first was last year, in approximately the same spot], a likely by-product of the road being improved enough for us to get much higher in elevation than we’ve made it in the past.)

Crested Doradito (*Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*) - MO (Seen [only?] by Paul, while most of us were still working on the Marsh Antwren.)

Gray Elaenia (*Myiopagis caniceps caniceps*) (e) - UB (Got it to perch on a wire at Fazenda Angelim!), PE, IT (Stellar views on more than one occasion of this canopy-dwelling flycatcher!) {This, the nominate race, shows relatively little sexual dimorphism, and differs vocally from Amazonian birds. A split seems likely.}

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - IN, MO, IT, RJ139

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

Olivaceous Elaenia (*Elaenia mesoleuca*)* - IT* (These migrants apparently had not yet arrived this spring – they are normally fairly common and very vocal at IN and IT. We heard only the one bird along the Agulhas Negras Road, but we were in the middle of trying to see something more important at the time, and by the time we were done, so was the elaenia.)

Highland Elaenia (*Elaenia obscura sordida*) (e) - IN (daily), UB (highlands of Serra do Mar SP), IT {There is currently a proposal before the SACC to split this endemic

subspecies off from the Andean birds, and elevate it to full-species status. The two populations are quite different vocally.}

White-crested Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga subcristata*) - IT (Much less conspicuous than usual.)

Gray-hooded Flycatcher (*Mionectes rufiventris*) (E) - IN, UB

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) - IN, UB, IT

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes ventralis*) - IN, IT

São Paulo Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes paulistus*) (E) - IN (Great looks at this rare and hyperactive little sprite, whose Brazilian nickname (*ele não pode parar*) means “he can’t stop”), UB* (Heard at Fazenda Angelim on 10/28.)

Oustalet’s Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes oustaleti*) (E) - IN (Seen/heard daily. The tail shiverer!)

Serra do Mar Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes difficilis*) (E) - IT (Great views at different points along the Agulhas Negras Road.)

Bay-ringed Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes sylviolus*) (E) - IN (Seen well on the Carmo Road on 10/23, and then not seen again. These little canopy-dwelling tyrannulets are uncommon and easy to miss.)

Rough-legged Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias burmeisteri burmeisteri*) (e) - IN (The first one, along the Carmo Road on 10/23, was a typical neck-breaker. The second, seen on our rain-out morning of birding off the deck at Pica-Pau, came so low and close that my photos clearly show the “warty” bumps on the legs that give this species its name!), IT* {Generic and species limits within this group remain controversial. This species was formerly placed in a monotypic genus, *Acrochordopus* (named for a type of wart, and referencing the rough-scaled appearance of the legs of these tyrannulets), which was later subsumed into *Phyllomyias*. That genus, as currently constituted, is almost certainly polyphyletic, and will likely be split up. Meanwhile, taxonomists cannot agree on species limits within “Rough-legged Tyrannulet”, with some authorities recognizing only a single, wide-ranging species (Rough-legged Tyrannulet) from Central America to Argentina, whereas others treat *zeledoni* of Costa Rica/Panama as one species, the various Andean populations as another, and the nominate birds, which are largely restricted to the Atlantic Forest region, as a third. I personally favor this latter approach, but, pending a published analysis, the AOS is sticking with the one-species treatment for the time being.}



Rough-legged Tyrannulet, Intervals SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Greenish Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias virescens*) (E) - IT (Seen beautifully in the Agulhas Negras highlands.)

Planalto Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias fasciatus brevirostris*) (e) - IN, UB, IT (Seen on all but 3 days of the tour, and by far the most common of the many tyrannulets that we encountered.)

Gray-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseocapilla*) (E) - IN, UB, PE, IT {Repeated great looks at this little mistletoe-specialist, which I really believe is incorrectly placed in the genus *Phyllomyias*. Everything about it, from its bill structure, to wing pattern, to voice, and its general behavior and association with mistletoe, points to it being a *Zimmerius*, like the Paltry Tyrannulet of Central America. }

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis auricularis*) (E) - IN (2-6 seen/heard daily), UB, IT*

Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus diops*) (E) - IN, IT {Also known as “Drab-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant”. }

Brown-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus obsoletus*) (E) - IN, IT* {Also known as “Brown-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant”. We saw the subspecies *zimmeri* at IN; nominate *obsoletus* was heard at IT. }

Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus orbitatus*) (E) - UB (Seen nicely at Fazenda Capricornio, after being only heard at Folha Seca.)



Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, Fazenda Capricornio, Ubatuba area, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Hangnest Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus nidipendulus*) (E) - IN (1-2 seen/heard daily)

Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus furcatus*) (E) - UB (Fazenda Angelim), PE, IT (Jeep Trail) (We enjoyed exceptional views of this rare and distinctive little flycatcher at all three locations.) { Also known as “Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant”. }

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum plumbeiceps plumbeiceps*) (e) - IN (seen/heard daily), UB, IT

Gray-headed (Yellow-lored) Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum poliocephalum*) (E) - UB, PE (10 seen/heard), IT

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - PE to IT, RJ139

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens sulphurescens*) (e) - IN (seen/heard daily), UB (seen/heard daily), PE*, IT (daily), RJ139* {Look for this complex to be split multiple ways in the near future – as soon as I can wrap up the paper!}

White-throated Spadebill (*Platyrinchus mystaceus*) - IN (3 different days)

“Atlantic” Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus swainsoni*) (e) - IN (We got this one at the 11th hour, after dipping at a different, supposedly active nest the afternoon before. Great prolonged studies of this amazing bird!) {The AOS/SACC still treats all of the Royal Flycatchers, which, collectively, range from Mexico to Argentina, as a single species, largely because there has never been a published taxonomic analysis showing otherwise. Many taxonomists split the complex into as many as four species: trans-Andean *mexicanus* of Central America (Northern Royal Flycatcher), cis-Andean *coronatus* and *castelnaui* (Amazonian Royal Flycatcher), the range-restricted *occidentalis* of w Ecuador & nw Peru (Pacific Royal Flycatcher), and *swainsoni* of Brazil’s Atlantic Forest (Atlantic Royal Flycatcher). Plumage differences between the various groups are fairly pronounced, with the two most brightly colored taxa

(*occidentalis* and *swainsoni*) being the rarest and most range-restricted, and with their ranges separated by that of the dull-plumaged and widespread Amazonian group. Vocal differences are subtle, and more qualitative, but require rigorous analysis. My personal view is that the 4-species treatment is the one that makes the most sense.}

Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea bellicosa*) - IN, UB, PA, PE, IT (Seen all but 3 days of the tour.) {Sibley & Monroe treat this taxon as distinct from nominate *ferruginea*, calling these eastern/southern birds “Swallow Flycatcher”, a treatment that hasn’t gained much support.}

Whiskered (Yellow-rumped) Flycatcher (*Myiobius barbatus mastacalis*) (e) - UB (Fazenda Angelim) {The taxonomy of this whole genus is a mess. Some taxonomists lump all of the members of this species complex into a single species, “Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher”. Others split the birds east of the Andes as Whiskered Flycatcher. Still others also split the isolated Atlantic Forest population from the Amazonian birds, and call them “Yellow-rumped Flycatcher”. I think the latter is the best treatment, but the AOS is waiting for a published vocal analysis before making this move.}

Black-tailed (Buff-rumped) Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus ridgwayi*) (e) - IT (pair seen nicely along the Jeep Trail) {This is yet another case in which an endemic, disjunctly distributed “subspecies” is considered by many to be worthy of recognition as a distinct species, separate from widespread “Black-tailed Flycatcher.” But, as with the preceding species, there is still no published analysis on which to hang our taxonomic hats!}

Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) - IN, MO, UB, IT, RJ139

Euler’s Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus euleri*) - IN (daily), UB*, IT

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus cinereus*) (e) - IT {More than one species is certainly contained under the umbrella of what is currently called “Tropical Pewee”. These nominate birds are distinctly darker and have a very different voice from some of the other populations, particularly those of Central America and northern South America.}

Crested Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus lophotes*) - PE to IT, IT

Velvety Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus nigerrimus*) (E) - IT

Blue-billed Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus cyanirostris*) (E) - IT

Yellow-browed Tyrant (*Satrapa icterophrys*) - IN (Seen by some at a marsh just outside the park on 10/27.), IT (2 at the Snipe Valley marsh on 11/3), RJ139

White-rumped Monjita (*Xolmis velatus*) - IT (2 seen in pasturelands below the park on 11/1.)

Streamer-tailed Tyrant (*Gubernetes yetapa*) - RM, IT (Snipe Valley), RJ139 (Not a regional endemic, but this one is always a big hit!)

Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant (*Muscipipra yetapa*) (E) - IN (Sede de Pesquisas), IT (Agulhas Negras)

Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*) - UB, PA, PE, RM, IT, RJ139 (The “washer woman”.)

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*) - RM

Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - IN*, UB, PE, IT

Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosus*) - MO, UB (Fazenda Capricornio), PE, RM, IT

Large-headed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon megacephala megacephala*) (e) - IN (Great views of this bamboo specialist.) { This subspecies differs vocally and morphologically from the more widespread Amazonian populations, and represents a potential split. }

Rufous-tailed Attila (*Attila phoenicurus*) - IN (Seen/heard on 4 days. We had several great views.) (This species breeds in southeastern Brazil, then spends the Austral winter in the Amazon Basin. It is one of the last arriving migrants to make its way back south to the breeding grounds.)

Gray-hooded Attila (*Attila rufus*) (E) - IN, UB*, PE*, IT (We enjoyed several sensational views of this attractive Attila at IN, after which, we did not put in the effort usually required to see it, despite the fact that it was heard on all but 1 day for the rest of the tour. I think it was also seen by some folks at IT, but it was mostly just heard once we left IN.)



Gray-hooded Attila, Interales SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Sibilant Sirystes (*Sirystes sibilator*) (E) - IN, IT {What was called simply “Sirystes”, has now been split into 4 species, a move that was long overdue given the significant vocal and morphological differences between the various populations. Ridgely had long treated the complex as two species, with the break on either side of the Andes, but the situation was clearly more complicated than a simple two-way split. This, the nominate form, is essentially a regional endemic that extends from the Atlantic Forest into adjacent southcentral Brazil. }

Swainson’s Flycatcher (*Myiarchus swainsoni*) - IN (3–5 seen daily), IT

Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*) - PE, IT (seen daily)

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) - IN (daily), MO, UB, IT

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - UB, PE, RM, IT, RJ139

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

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus solitarius*) - IN, UB (daily), PE, IT , RJ139{More than one species is almost certainly included within the “Streaked Flycatcher complex”. The birds we saw are austral migrants that breed throughout se Brazil, but range widely (particularly to the Amazon Basin) during the austral winter. They are much more boldly streaked and darker overall than are other populations from Central America and northern South America.}

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - UB (daily), IT

Variiegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) - IN, UB (daily), IT

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

SHARPBILL (Oxyruncidae):

“**Sooretama**” **Sharpbill** (*Oxyruncus cristatus cristatus*) (e) - {Sharpbill has a large, but highly fragmented distribution, and there are marked plumage and [especially] vocal differences between some of the populations. The isolated Atlantic Forest population [nominate subspecies] is very different from all of the others, and I have little doubt that it will prove to be a distinct species.}

COTINGAS (Cotingidae):

Hooded Berryeater (*Carpornis cucullatus*) (E) - IN (Seen/heard daily, with particularly remarkable studies of obliging males near the Slaty Bristlefront spot, and on the Lajeado Trail. One of the iconic avian voices of the Serra do Mar.), UB* (heard in Serra do Mar SP)



Hooded Berryeater (male), Intervaes SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Swallow-tailed Cotinga (*Phibalura cristata*) (E) - UB (A pair initially spotted by Paul at Fazenda Capricornio on 10/29 was a good pickup after we missed the bird at IN, where there were no nesting birds yet this year.), IT (A pair studied at length along the Jeep Trail offered closer and more prolonged views, which was particularly sweet given that the staked-out nest at the Hotel Simon appeared to be abandoned.) {With the recent rediscovery of the isolated Bolivian population, and possible elevation of those birds to species-level, the nominate birds will represent yet another Atlantic Forest endemic.}



Swallow-tailed Cotinga (male), Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (*Pyroderus scutatus scutatus*) (e) - IN (Incredible close views on 10/23 of a bird that was visiting an outside building light to snatch large moths attracted to the light. Also seen during the rainy morning of 10/24 from the deck at Pica-Pau, and 3 were seen along the Lajeado Trail on 10/26. An absolutely spectacular bird!), IT (Seen by Paul below the Hotel Simon on 11/3.)

Cinnamon-vented Piha (*Lipaugus lanioides*) (E) - IN

Black-and-gold Cotinga (*Tijuca atra*) (E) - IT (We enjoyed prolonged scope views of a singing male, and, later, encountered a foraging female.)

Bare-throated Bellbird (*Procnias nudicollis*) (E)* - IN* (heard on 3 days), UB* (heard from Folha Seca and Serra do Mar SP, both on 10/29), IT* (heard near the Hotel Donati on 11/3). {Despite having been heard on 5 different days, this species was essentially missing-in-action compared to what is normal at this season. Typically, their far-carrying calls constitute a near constant vocal backdrop at nearly every stop on the tour, and the only challenge is to find one perched in the open to put in the scope. Such was not the case this year, when we heard only a handful of mostly distant individuals, issuing only sporadic calls. Even the local guides at IN kept remarking on how strange it was to not be at least hearing bellbirds. They were still quiet and essentially inconspicuous the week after the tour, although I did manage to track down 1 singing male at Serra do Mar SP.}

MANAKINS (Pipridae):

Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin (*Neopelma chrysolophum*) (E) - IN (Seen nicely on a couple of occasions.), IT* (heard along the Agulhas Negras Road) {This form has

recently been treated as specifically distinct from Wied's Tyrant-Manakin, *N. aurifrons*. The name "Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin" is not really accurate, since the species is not confined to the Serra do Mar. Because of this, some authors have taken to calling it simply "Serra Tyrant-Manakin".]

Swallow-tailed (Blue) Manakin (*Chiroxiphia caudata*) (E) - IN (daily), UB, IT (daily)

Pin-tailed Manakin (*Ilicura militaris*) (E) - IN (A female that came to a fruiting tree right off the deck at Pica-Pau on 2 consecutive days.), IT (An incredibly responsive male that taped in almost to my feet on 11/1 was my personal highlight of the trip!)

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*) - UB (Seen by some at Fazenda Angelim on 10/28; seen by others at Folha Seca on 10/30), PE



Swallow-tailed Manakin (male), Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

TITYRAS & ALLIES (Tityridae):

Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana braziliensis*) - IN, UB, IT

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - IN, UB, IT

Greenish Schiffornis (*Schiffornis virescens*) (E) - IN, IT {Formerly called "Greenish Manakin" or "Greenish Mourner".}

Buff-throated Purpletuft (*Iodopleura pipra*) (E) - UB (3 seen at Fazenda Angelim on 10/28; 2 seen at Fazenda Capricornio on 10/30.)

Green-backed Becard (*Pachyramphus viridis*) - IN (1 male seen nicely at Sede de Pesquizas on 10/24.), UB*

Chestnut-crowned Becard (*Pachyramphus castaneus castaneus*) (e) - IN, UB, PE, IT

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) - IN, UB*, IT

Black-capped Becard (*Pachyramphus marginatus*) - UB (A pair seen exceptionally well [down to eye-level] at Fazenda Capricornio on 10/30.)

Crested Becard (*Pachyramphus validus*) - IN, UB, PE, IT (At nearly every stop on the tour, these birds were building nests.)

TYRANNI INCERTAE SEDIS (which means we don't know where they belong taxonomically!):

Wing-barred Piprites (*Piprites chloris*) - IN (Seen nicely at Esquilo House on 10/24, and then heard on three days after that.)

Black-capped Piprites (*Piprites pileata*) (E) - IT (Prolonged, close studies of both male and female of this handsome endemic – one of the best group experiences with this bird that I've ever had!)

VIREOS, GREENLETS & ALLIES (Vireonidae):

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis ochrocephala*) (e) - IN (daily), UB*, IT (seen/heard daily)

Rufous-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus poeilotis*) (E) - IN (daily), UB, IT (seen/heard daily)

Lemon-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus thoracicus thoracicus*) (e) - UB (Fazenda Capricornio), PE {This endemic subspecies, which occupies a narrow range along the coast, could be split from birds of the Amazonian lowlands, based primarily on vocal and ecological differences. HBW & BirdLife International apparently already treat it as a distinct species, calling it “Rio de Janeiro Greenlet”. SACC has not made this move, preferring to wait for a published analysis.}

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus chivi*) (e) - IN (daily), UB (daily), PE, IT {As we talked about during the tour, these are not migrants from North America. Rather, they are a separate taxon that breeds in this region and spends the austral winter in Amazonia. Some authorities already treat this as a separate species (= Chivi Vireo); SACC is waiting for a more comprehensive analysis.}

JAYS, CROWS & MAGPIES (Corvidae):

Curl-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax cristatellus*) - RM, IT (This is a *cerrado* bird that has moved into Southeastern Brazil as a result of deforestation.)

SWALLOWS (Hirundinidae):

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) - Seen daily, and at every stop on the tour.

Tawny-headed Swallow (*Alopochelidon fucata*) - PE to IT, IT (pasturelands below the park on 11/1)

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - Seen daily, and at every stop on the tour.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) - IT (1 male seen over pasturelands below the park on 11/1.)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - Seen daily, and at every stop on the tour.

Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*) - RJ139

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*) - RJ139

White-rumped Swallow (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*) - IN, MO, PE, RM, IT

WRENS (Troglodytidae):

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - Seen/heard daily, and at every stop of the tour.

Long-billed Wren (*Thryothorus longirostris longirostris*) (E) - UB (Folha Seca), PE, RJ139*

GNATWRENS & GNATCATCHERS (Poliopitidae):

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - IN, UB*, PE*

DONACOBIUS (Donacobiidae):

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*) - RM

THRUSHES (Turdidae):

Yellow-legged Thrush (*Turdus flavipes*) (e) - IN, UB, IT (seen daily)

Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*) - IN, UB

Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*) - Seen daily, and at every stop on the tour.

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*) - IN, MO, UB, PA, PE, RJ139

White-necked Thrush (*Turdus albicollis albicollis*) (e) - IN, UB, IT {This, the nominate race, along with *crotopezus*, is much brighter in coloration, having rich rufous flanks and an extensively bright yellow bill, than are northern and western populations, although vocalizations do not seem to differ much.}

THRASHERS & MOCKINGBIRDS (Mimidae):

Chalk-browed Mockingbird (*Mimus saturninus*) - SP to IN, IN, MO, UB, PA, PE, RM, IT, RJ139

NEW WORLD WARBLERS (Parulidae):

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*) - IN, MO, UB*, RM

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) - IN (daily), UB (daily), PE*

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) - IN, UB*, IT (daily)

White-browed (White-rimmed) Warbler (*Basileuterus leucoblepharus*) (E) - IN, UB*, IT

Riverbank Warbler (*Phaeothlypis rivularis*) - UB (Seen nicely at Fazenda Capricornio; only heard at Fazenda Angelim.), PE* {Previously known by the names of “River Warbler” and “Neotropical River Warbler”.}



Riverbank Warbler, Fazenda Capricornio, Ubatuba area, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

TANAGERS, HONEYCREEPERS & ALLIES (Thraupidae):

Brown Tanager (*Orchesticus albeillei*) (E) - IN (Seen daily.), IT

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leverianus*) - IN, IT

Olive-green Tanager (*Orthogonys chloricterus*) (E) - IN, UB

Buff-throated Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza lateralis*) (E) - IT {As we talked about during the tour, what was called “Red-rumped Warbling-Finch [*Poospiza lateralis*] has recently been split into two species: the more northern *lateralis*, and the more southern *cabinisi*. The former, which is restricted to the mountains of coastal se Brazil (states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro), has very little supercilium, and is gray-backed with a buffy throat and extensively deep-rufous chest and flanks. The latter form is found farther south (we have recorded it as far north as Intervales) and into Paraguay, Uruguay, and n Argentina, and is browner-backed with a distinct white superciliary and a gray throat and chest. The AOS has accepted the split. Ridgely suggested the modifiers of “Buff-throated” for *lateralis* and “Gray-throated” for *cabanisi*, and the AOS has adopted these as well.}

Black-goggled Tanager (*Trichothraupis melanops*) - IN (daily), IT (daily)

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus brunneus*) (e) - UB (daily), PE* {This is a disjunct race that occurs only in coastal Brazil from Paraíba to São Paulo.}

Ruby-crowned Tanager (*Tachyphonus coronatus*) (E) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

Brazilian Tanager (*Ramphocelus bresilius*) (E) - IN, UB (daily), PE, IT, RJ139

Diademed Tanager (*Stephanophorus diadematus*) (E) - IN (daily), IT (Not nearly as common or conspicuous here as it once was – we saw it only on the Agulhas Negras Road.)

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) - IN, PE, IT



Fawn-breasted Tanager, Intervaes SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) - Common; seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

Azure-shouldered Tanager (*Thraupis cyanoptera*) (E) - IN (daily), UB

Golden-chevroned Tanager (*Thraupis ornata*) (E) - Seen every day of the trip except for 10/22, which was mostly a travel day from SP to IN. Also seen at every stop on the tour, except for MO and PA.

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - SP, UB, PE, IT, RJ139

Burnished-buff Tanager (*Tangara cayana*) - IN, IT

Green-headed Tanager (*Tangara seledon*) (E) - Seen every day of the trip except the travel day of 10/22, and at all stops except PA.



Green-headed Tanager, Sítio Folha Seca, Ubatuba area, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

- Red-necked Tanager** (*Tangara cyanocephala*) (E) - IN, UB (daily) (This is my personal favorite of Southeastern Brazil's many flashy endemic tanagers!)
- Brassy-breasted Tanager** (*Tangara desmaresti*) (E) - IN (seen 4 different days), UB (Serra do Mar SP highlands), IT (daily)
- Gilt-edged Tanager** (*Tangara cyanoventris*) (E) - IT (Jeep Trail and Mirante Ultimo de Adeus) (Yet another stunner of an endemic tanager!)
- Swallow-Tanager** (*Tersina viridis*) - IN, UB, PE, IT
- Blue Dacnis** (*Dacnis cayana*) - IN (daily), UB (daily, with a high of 40+ on 10/30), PE, IT
- Green Honeycreeper** (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - UB
- Rufous-headed Tanager** (*Hemithraupis ruficapilla*) (E) - IN, UB, IT
- Bicolored Conebill** (*Conirostrum bicolor*) - PA (pair in the mangroves on 10/30)
- Uniform Finch** (*Haplospiza unicolor*) (E) - IN*, IT (Nice looks along the Tres Picos Trail.)
- Bay-chested Warbling-Finch** (*Poospiza thoracica*) (E) - IT (Agulhas Negras)



Gilt-edged Tanager, Itatiaia NP, Nov 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)



Rufous-headed Tanager (male), Intervales SP, Oct 2018 (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch (*Emberizoides ypiranganus*) - RM, IT

Great Pampa-Finch (*Embernagra platensis*) - IN (Seen only by 1-2 people, in the marsh on 10/26.), IT (2 seen by all in the Agulhas Negras highlands.)

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - SP to IN, IN, MO, RM, IT, RJ139
Lined Seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*) - IN (1 male seen by Paul & Barbara on 10/25.)
White-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila leucoptera*) - RM, IT (Snipe Valley)
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*Sporophila angolensis*)* - IT* (Heard singing repeatedly from across the swimming pool at the old Hotel Simon on 11/3, but we couldn't get it to come in.)
Double-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*) - SP to IN, UB, PE, PE to IT, RM, IT
Temminck's Seedeater (*Sporophila falcirostris*) (E) - IN* (Heard in bamboo along the Mirante Trail on 10/27, but we couldn't lure it in.), IT (Seen by Paul along the Tres Picos Trail on 11/3, and heard by some of us along the Agulhas Negras Road on 11/2.)
Buffy-fronted Seedeater (*Sporophila frontalis*)* (E) - IN* (Heard from an isolated patch of seeding bamboo beyond Porteria #2 on 10/26)
Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - Seen on all but 2 days of the tour, and at every major stop.
Green-winged Saltator (*Saltator similis*) (e) - IN, UB, IT
Thick-billed Saltator (*Saltator maxillosus*) (E) - IT (Exceptional studies; Agulhas Negras Road)
Black-throated Grosbeak (*Saltator fuliginosus*) (E) - IN, UB, IT

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES (Emberizidae):

Grassland Sparrow (*Ammodramus humeralis*) - RM, IT, RJ139*
Half-collared Sparrow (*Arremon semitorquatus*) (E) - IT (Tres Picos Trail)
Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.

CARDINALS & ALLIES (Cardinalidae):

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) - UB (Folha Seca)

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES (Icteridae):

White-browed Meadowlark (*Sturnella superciliaris*) - IT (pasturelands below the park)
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) - UB (daily), IT
Golden-winged Cacique (*Cacicus chrysopterus*) - IN, UB, IT
Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*) - UB (daily), PE, IT (daily)
Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) - Seen daily, and at all stops on the tour.
Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) - UB (Fazenda Capricornio)
Chopi Blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*) - UB (near Pousada Oikos), IT* (Snipe Valley)
Unicolored Blackbird (*Agelasticus cyanopus*) - RM
Chestnut-capped Blackbird (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*) - PA, RM
Yellow-rumped Marshbird (*Pseudoleistes guirahuro*) - IN, MO, RM, IT (Snipe Valley)

FINCHES, SISKINS, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES (Fringillidae):

Blue-naped Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia cyanea cyanea*) (e) - IT (Jeep Trail) {This endemic race is more extensively blue above than some of the more northern races, which are green-backed with blue restricted to the nape. SE Brazil birds also lack the yellow frontlet that characterizes most other races.}

Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*) - UB (the feeders at Folha Seca)

Green-throated (Green-chinned) Euphonia (*Euphonia chalybea*) (E) - IN (Pair seen from the deck at Pica-Pau on our rainout day on 10/24; photographed by Bill.), UB (Distant scope views of a calling bird at Serra do Mar SP on the rainy afternoon of 10/29.)

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia pectoralis*) (E) - IN, UB, IT

Hooded Siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*) - IN (entrance road on 10/22, leader only), PE to IT, IT

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (Passeridae):

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) X - SP, SP to IN, UB (daily), PA, PE, PE to IT, IT (pasturelands and town below park, and highway below Agulhas Negras Road)

WEAVERS & ALLIES (Ploceidae):

Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) X - UB, RM

TOTAL = 410 species, including 150 regional (mostly Atlantic Forest) and/or Brazilian endemics (Not to mention at least 47 more endemic subspecies, many of which are certain to be split in future taxonomic changes.)



FAVORITE BIRD OF THE TRIP FOR 2018: Green-crowned Plovercrest, Agulhas Negras Road, Itatiaia NP (© Kevin J. Zimmer)

MAMMALS:

Maned Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus torquatus*) - An adult with a baby at PE.

Brown (Tufted) Capuchin (*Cebus apella*) - IN, IT

Brazilian (Guianan) Squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*) - IN, IT

Lesser Cavy (*Cavia sp.*) - IN?

bat spp.

HERPS:

unidentified Coral Snake sp. - IN

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu Lizard (*Tupinambis meriana*) - IN

Golden Tegu Lizard (*Tupinambis teguixen*) - IN

Mediterranean House Gecko - IN

leaf litter frog #1 (*Eleutherodactylus guentheri*) - IN (This one is the common little frog of the leaf litter in this part of the Atlantic Forest.)

leaf litter frog #2 (*Proceratophrys boiei*) - IN (This is the leaf litter mimic with the oddly shaped head, that looks as if it has horns.)

“Atlantic Forest” Cane Toad (*Bufo/Rhinella [marinus] ranela*) - IN, UB, IT (I keep hearing different things on whether these Atlantic Forest Cane Toads are actually a separate species, or just a subspecies of the widespread, and native to Central & South America, Cane Toad.)

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:

unidentified huge snails - 2 or 3 different species at IN