

IWOKRAMA



GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF IWOKRAMA



ACCIPITRIDAE

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

Elanoides forficatus

Conspicuous forked tail visible in flight. Often seen flying over forest. Roosts on exposed bare branches.



PLUMBEOUS KITE

Ictinia plumbea

Wings are long, and extend beyond tail when resting.

Flight is graceful and acrobatic. Grayish-brown on flight feathers visible during flight.

A P O D I D A E

BAND-RUMPED SWIFT

Chaetura spinicaudus

Found over forests, clearings and water in large flocks of over 20 individuals. Relatively slim and long tail compared to other species. White band on rump is a key feature.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Iwokrama Forest is located in central Guyana, approximately 300 km south of Georgetown. The area encompasses about 371,000 hectares and is covered in lush, intact lowland tropical forest. The wide range of intact habitats in the Iwokrama Forest is home to 471 bird species, 134 types of fish, 81 different reptiles, 56 species of amphibians and 142 different mammals. The forest is also home to South America's largest cat - the jaguar; the world's largest scaled fresh water fish - the Arapaima; the world's largest otters, river turtles, anteaters, snakes, eagles and caimans and more than 1250 recorded plant species.

ARDEIDAE

AGAMI HERON

Agamia agami

Shy, elusive and rare. Found in dark, secluded river banks and streams. Nests in colonies.



COCOI HERON

Largest heron in Guyana. Conspicuous. Found near water bodies, especially along rivers.

B U C C O N I D A E

BLACK NUNBIRD

Monasa atra

Commonly found along river edges. Makes a recognizable chortling call.



SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD

Chelidoptera tenebrosa

Found on bare exposed branches on the tops of trees. Nests in holes in sandy soils.

DID YOU KNOW?

Guyana has more than 800 species of birds and the Iwokrama Forest can boast to being home to more than half that number. The list is expected to exceed 600 species with further studies. Iwokrama has relatively high densities of larger frugivorous birds such as cracids, cotingas and parrots as compared to other forested areas in the Guiana Shield or Amazonia.

CATHARTIDAE

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE

Cathartes melambrotus

Found over patches of forest. Yellow head is key distinguishing feature from other vulture species.



BLACK VULTURE

Coragyps atratus

Common near human disturbance and population. Often seen perched near refuse. White under flight feathers.

VIEWING TIPS!

Be quiet. Birds are easily startled by loud noises and will flee to cover. While it is almost impossible to sneak up on a bird, because birds hear much better than human beings do, by minimising noise, you can get much closer to a bird.

CHARADRIIDIDAE

PIED LAPWING

Vanellus cayanus

Found near rivers, on sand banks, sides or in clearings. Often in pairs.



COLUMBIDAE

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON

Patagioenas plumbea

Large. Found mainly in the forest, especially in the canopy. Makes a call usually consisting of four quick and low whistles, with the first rising and the last rising then falling.



C O T I N G I D A E

GUIANAN COCK OF THE ROCK

Rupicola rupicola

Found in rocky vine tangle habitat usually on an incline. Leks of males compete for the attention of females.



SCREAMING PIHA

Lipaugus vociferans

Medium sized. Difficult to see but well known by their loud and iconic sound.
Found in the canopy.

VISIT THE IWOKRAMA FOREST!

Scientists, students, tourists, volunteers and interns are encouraged to visit the Iwokrama Forest- accommodation, transportation and research facilities are provided at the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre.

CRACIDAE

SPIX'S GUAN

Penelope jacquacu

Usually found in trees near clearings. Quiet, but makes loud calls.



BLACK CURASSOW

Crax alector

Quiet, found on forest floor, in trees and along roads, usually in groups.



FALCONIDAE

RED-THROATED CARACARA

Ibycter americanus

Makes a loud, recognizable “caw caw caw” call when other animals (and humans) come near.



FURNARIIDAE

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER

Glyphorynchus spirurus

Smallest woodcreeper species. Often seen climbing the trunks of trees.



FURNARIIDAE

BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER

Xiphorhynchus guttatus

Larger than Wedge-billed Woodcreeper with long bill. Also seen gripping to barks of trees. Feeds higher up. Makes a distinct call in the forest.



HIRUNDINIDAE

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN

Progne chalybea

Common, especially near human habitation. Relatively large, kite shaped body, sweeping flight; does not dart around as often as others.

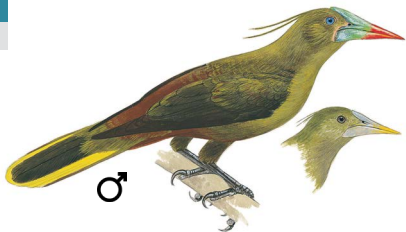


ICTERIDAE

GREEN OROPENDOLA

Psarocolius viridis

Relatively large, more often heard than seen. Forages in the canopy in small groups, but makes large hanging nests, and does so colonially.



YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE

Cacicus cela

Noisy, usually in flocks. Roosts are noisy and disruptive at dawn and dusk. Nests in colonies, often on river islands.

VIEWING TIPS!

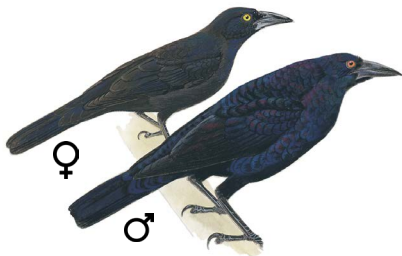
Take your time. In a tropical forest, birds can be very tough to spot. The sea of greenery, vines and bromeliads can obscure the view. Finding birds in such a forest requires patience. Walk slowly.

ICTERIDAE

EPAULET ORIOLE

Icterus cayanensis

Found in grasslands, savanna and forest clearings. Makes short musical calls at dawn and dusk.



GIANT COWBIRD

Molothrus oryzivorus

Medium sized. Makes sharp metallic call. Found in secondary habitat and clearings. Orange eyes.

VIEWING TIPS!

Get the sun at your back. It is not always possible but moving so that the sun is behind you will make it much easier to see and identify birds.

PICIDAE

LINEATED WOODPECKER

Dryocopus lineatus

Large woodpecker. Its call sounds somewhat like a repeating laugh. Drumming is a quick series of fading taps against a tree.



RED-NECKED WOODPECKER

Amazona amazonica

Large woodpecker found in the forest. Makes a double rap, similar to other species in its genus.

PSITTACIDAE

BLUE AND YELLOW MACAW

Ara ararauna

Large. Often seen flying in pairs or in larger groups. Distinguish from other macaw species by distinctive plumage.



RED-AND-GREEN MACAW

Ara chloropterus

Large. Often seen flying in pairs or in larger groups. Distinguish from Scarlet Macaw by lack of yellow on wing. Tail feathers do not move much in flight.

PSITTACIDAE

PAINTED PARAKEET

Pyrrhura picta

Flies around in noisy groups in search of food. Found within forest, and clearings.



GOLDEN-WINGED PARAKEET

Brotogeris chrysoptera

Bright yellow found on flight feathers not very visible while sitting, often seen in the canopy. Flies around in noisy groups in both forest and clearings.

PSITTACIDAE

BLUE-HEADED PARROT

Pionus menstruus

Makes a metallic squeak call, often in flight. Flies singly, in pairs or in large groups.



ORANGE-WINGED PARROT

Amazona amazonica

Medium sized. Often seen flying in pairs or in larger groups. Call is a double yelp.

MEALY PARROT

Amazona farinosa

Large parrot, often seen flying in pairs. Loud, raucous calls and white ring around eye.



PSITTACIDAE

SCARLET MACAW

Ara macao

Large. Often seen flying in pairs or in larger groups. Distinguish from Red-and-green Macaw by yellow on wing. Tail feathers wave during flight.



VIEWING TIPS!

Get started early. Dawn in a tropical forest brings a flurry of avian activity. Territorial birds sing and call to advertise their presence, as hungry birds search for food. The dramatic increase in sound and movement is worth waking up early for, especially in the tropics: some tropical species call only at dawn and are silent (or nearly so) for the rest of the day.

PSOPHIIDAE

GREY-WINGED TRUMPETER

Psophia crepitans

Although they roost in trees, they are mainly found in groups on the forest floor and sometimes on roads. They make a low pitched short “hm”.



RAMPHASTIDAE

WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN

Ramphastos tucanus

Found in the forest canopy and sometimes along forest edges. Makes a recognizable yelping call.



RAMPHASTIDAE



CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN

Ramphastos vitellinus

Similar to White-throated Toucan but with yellow on the throat. Makes a croaking call.

BLACK-NECKED ARACARI

Pteroglossus aracari

Seen in groups foraging in the canopy, and along the forest edge. Call is like a metallic squeak.



THAMNOPHILIDAE

MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE

Thamnophilus murinus

Found near the forest floor. More often heard than seen. Call is a falling series of nasal notes with twist on final note.



T H R A U P I D A E

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER

Ramphocelus carbo

Commonly found in small groups near human habitation, secondary forest and bushy clearings. Noisy and active.



BLUE-GRAY TANAGER

Thraupis episcopus

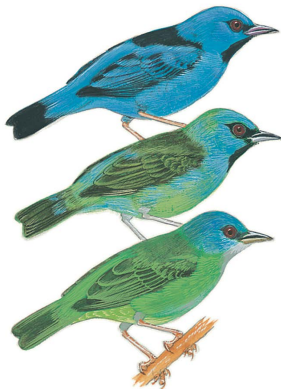
Common near human habitation and secondary forest. Often seen flying between trees. Call is a series of quick high pitched musical squeaks.

T H R A U P I D A E

PALM TANGER

Thraupis palmarum

Common near human habitation and secondary forest. Behaviour similar to Blue-gray Tanager (BGT). Found in pairs or larger groups. Call is similar to BGT but faster.



BLUE DACNIS

Dacnis cayana

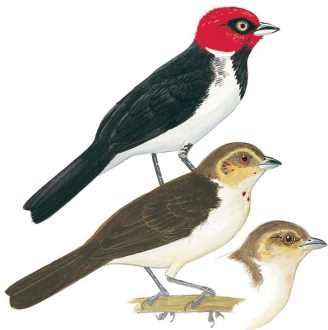
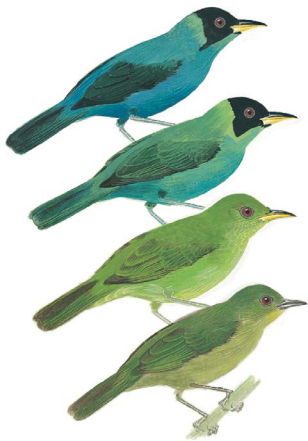
Found in forest clearings or along the forest edge. Forages around the tops of trees, usually solo or in a pair.

THRAUPIDAE

GREEN HONEYCREEPER

Chlorophanes spiza

Found in forest clearings or along the forest edge. Forages around the tops of trees, usually in a flock with other species.



RED-CAPPED CARDINAL

Paroaria gularis

Conspicuous and common. Found in open habitat, including forest clearings, almost always near water and in groups. Mostly quiet but makes a short chirp.

TINAMIDAE

GREAT TINAMOU

Tinamus major

Difficult to see but heard around dawn and dusk with an eerie falling whistle call.



TROGONIDAE

GREEN-BACKED TROGON

Trogon viridis

Medium sized. Found in the canopy, often perched and still. More easily heard than seen. Call is a rapid series of 15-20 notes.



TYRANNIDAE

HELMETED PYGMY-TYRANT

Lophotriccus galeatus

Difficult to see due to small size and habit of being in dense vegetation. Makes a call that sounds like a high pitched “pik”.



RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER

Myiozetetes cayanensis

Similar to the Great Kiskadee but with a much smaller bill, and different call. Call is a single whistle.

GREAT KISKADEE

Pitangus sulphuratus

Common with distinct and well known call. Seen and heard in secondary habitat and near human habitation.



TYRANNIDAE

TROPICAL KINGBIRD

Tyrannus melancholicus

Found in secondary habitat and near human habitation. Call is a high pitched tittering whistle.



ABOUT IWOKRAMA

The Iwokrama International Centre was established in 1996 under a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat to manage the Iwokrama Forest. It is a key environmental programme dedicated by the Government of Guyana to the Commonwealth in 1989 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malaysia.

Iwokrama is a key environmental programme established to show how tropical forests can be conserved and sustainably used for ecological, social and economic benefits to local, national and international communities.

Find out more at www.iwokrama.org

SIGHTING CHECKLIST

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. BLUE AND YELLOW ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. PLUMBEOUS KITE ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | MACAW | |
| 3. BAND-RUMPED SWIFT ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. SCARLET MACAW ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. AGAMI HERON ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. RED-AND-GREEN MACAW -- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. COCOI HERON ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. PAINTED PARAKEET ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. BLACK NUNBIRD ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 30. GOLDEN-WINGED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. SWALLOW-WINGED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | PARAKEET | |
| PUFFBIRD | | 31. BLUE-HEADED PARROT ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. GREATER YELLOW-HEADED -- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 32. ORANGE-WINGED PARROT -- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| VULTURE | | 33. MEALY PARROT ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. BLACK VULTURE ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. GREY-WINGED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. PIED LAPWING ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | TRUMPETER | |
| 11. PLUMBEOUS PIGEON ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. WHITE-THROATED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. GUIANAN COCK OF ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | TOUCAN | |
| THE ROCK | | 36. CHANNEL-BILLED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. SCREAMING PIHA ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | TOUCAN | |
| 14. SPIX'S GUAN ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. BLACK-NECKED ARACARI -- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. BLACK CURASSOW ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 38. MOUSE-COLORED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. RED-THROATED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | ANTSHRIKE | |
| CARACARA | | 39. SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER -- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. WEDGE-BILLED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 40. BLUE-GRAY TANAGER ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| WOODCREEPER | | 41. PALM TANAGER ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. BUFF-THROATED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 42. BLUE DACNIS ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| WOODCREEPER | | 43. GREEN HONEYCREEPER ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN -- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 44. RED-CAPPED CARDINAL ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. GREEN OROPENDOLA ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 45. GREAT TINAMOU ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. YELLOW-RUMPED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46. GREEN-BACKED TROGON -- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CACIQUE | | 47. HELMETED PYGMY-TYRANT -- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. EPAULET ORIOLE ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 48. RUSTY-MARGINED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. GIANT COWBIRD | | FLYCATCHER | |
| 24. LINEATED WOODPECKER --- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 49. GREAT KISKADEE ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. RED-NECKED ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> | 50. TROPICAL KINGBIRD ----- | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| WOODPECKER | | | |

ABOUT THE GUIDE

This guide is an introduction to 50 of the 471 bird species that have been recorded in the Iwokrama Forest. It contains concise descriptions of each species and/or guidance on where each specie may be seen and outstanding colour illustrations.

The Guide is the second in a series developed and published by the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development. The first is the Guide to the Mammals of Iwokrama which was first published in 1999 and reprinted in 2017.

The author Meshach Pierre is a Guyanese conservation biologist with an interest in birds, mammals, and human-wildlife coexistence. He also has a passion for photography and film-making.

Iwokrama would like to acknowledge the efforts of Ms. Daisy Payne in the compilation of this publication.

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
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Legend

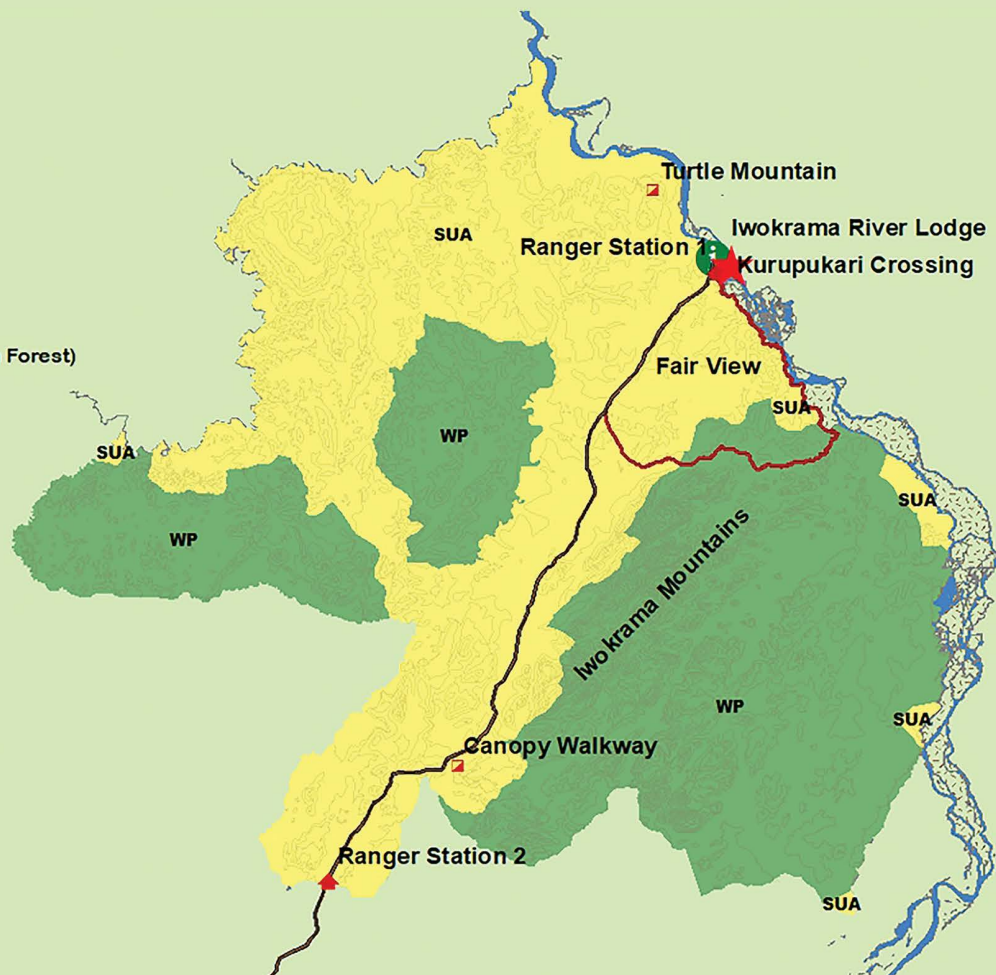
-  Turtle Mountain & Canopy Walkway
-  Ranger Station
-  Iwokrama River Lodge
-  Kurupukari Crossing
-  Road
-  Fair View

Zones - WP & SUA

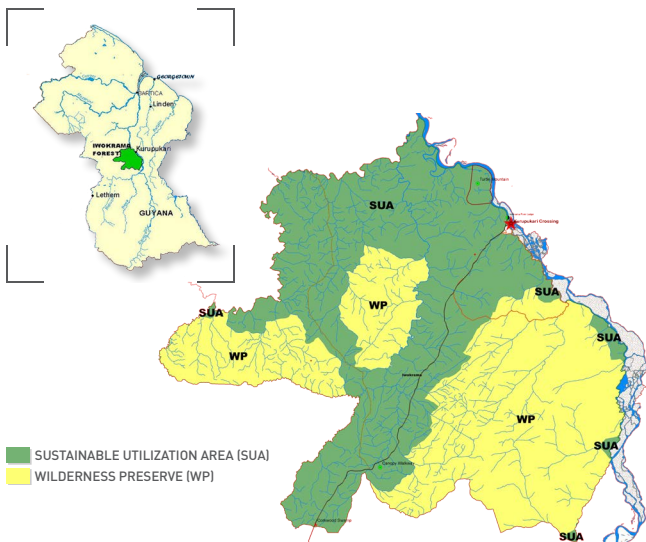
-  SUA: Sustainable Utilization Area
-  WP: Wilderness Preserve (Protection Forest)

Hydrology

-  Island
-  Lakes
-  Rivers



MAP OF IWOKRAMA



IWOKRAMA

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