



Visiting a lek of the stunning Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock is definitely a must for any birder. And there's no better place to do it than Suriname! (Dani Lopez-Velasco)

SURINAME

23 FEBRUARY – 9/14 MARCH 2015

LEADER: DANI LOPEZ VELASCO and SEAN DILROSUN

On our third tour to Suriname we amassed a great list of Guianan specialties, next to a splendid selection of more widespread, but rarely seen species. Our intrepid group recorded 404 species of birds, 16 mammals and some lovely 'herps' in this little country with its surface of about eight times Wales and its population of just over half a million people. We visited five different areas comprising three distinct ecosystems. It started with a short visit to the white sand grasslands and scrub of central Suriname where Black-faced Hawk, Bronzy Jacamar, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Black Manakin and Glossy-backed Becard grabbed our attention. It continued with the famous Raleigh Falls and the Voltzberg, where many Guianan Cocks-of-the-Rock put on an unforgettable show on their lek, while other major avian highlights included brilliant Pompadour Cotingas, massive Black-throated and the very localized Band-tailed

Antshrikes and delightful Red-billed Pied Tanagers. The misty forests of the Brownsberg were lighted up by incredibly tame Grey-winged Trumpeters and Black Curassows, rare Racket-tailed and stunning Tufted Coquettes, gaudy Blue-backed Tanagers and delicate White-fronted Manakins, colorful Rose-breasted Chats and much wanted Red-and black Grosbeaks. The coastal area held goodies like Scarlet Ibis, Rufous Crab Hawk, localized Arrowhead Piculets and Blood-coloured Woodpeckers and striking Crimson-hooded Manakins. During the extension, the bird-rich forests of Palumeu in the extreme south gave us a superb male Crimson Fruitcrow, bright Crimson Topaz, lekking Capuchinbirds, a rare Red-billed Woodcreeper, charming Ferruginous-backed Antbirds and cracking Spotted Antpittas.



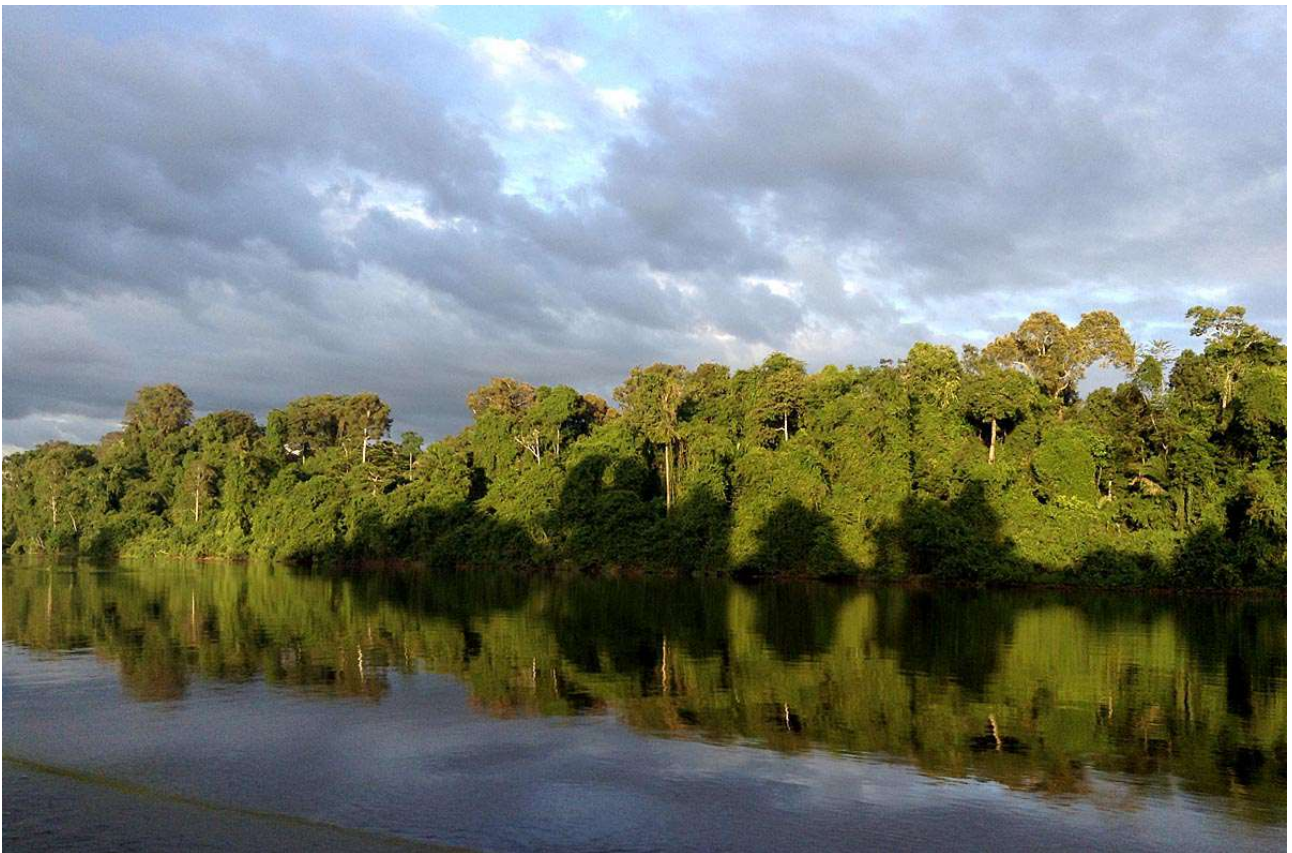
We enjoyed walk-away views of the charming Ferruginous-backed Antbird (Jan Hillman)

Upon arrival at Paramaribo airport a smiling Sean, our local and very friendly guide, welcomed us. We drove north into the sandy belt and checked in into our lodgings. A short owling session was very productive, resulting in smashing views of Black-banded Owl and Tropical Screech Owl, as well as Pauraque, while at dawn a singing Crested Owl gave excellent views as well. What a promising start! We then did some early morning birding in the surroundings of our accommodation, which was very successful. A cracking male Glossy-backed Becard – a localized Guianan speciality - was probably the highlight, although a perched Black-faced Hawk came close! Other good birds included some Plumbeous Kites, a Gray-lined Hawk, a few Red-shouldered Macaws, our first of many Golden-winged Parakeets and Orange-winged Parrots, Reddish Hermit, single Blue-chinned Sapphire and Green-tailed Goldenthrroat, as well as Glittering-throated Emerald, our first trogon in form of a male Green-backed, a pair of noisy Green-tailed Jacamars, Swallow-winged Puffbirds, Black-spotted Barbets, Green Aracari, a flock of great looking Channel-billed Toucans, a tiny Golden-spangled Piculet, a pair of Cream-colored Woodpeckers, a responsive Northern Slaty Antshrike, a Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant showing off its crest, two Yellow-throated Flycatchers, a nice male White-crowned Manakin, several Pale-breasted Thrushes, both Crested and Green Oropendolas, a party of curious Cayenne Jays, Turquoise and the ever present Silver-beaked, Blue-grey and Palm Tanagers, Blue Dacnis and some Wing-barred Seed eaters.



Cream-colored Woodpecker and Green Aracari (DLV and Jan Hillman)

By mid morning we started our drive to the distant village of Witagron, situated on the Coppename river. A well-sized dugout canoe took us upstream to the remote Raleigh Falls Nature Reserve. During the trip – in which the canoe was severely leaking, despite all of our efforts, but at least it didn't sink...- we picked up Green Ibis, elegant Swallow-tailed Kites, our first Black and Red-throated Caracaras, a pair of Bat Falcons, colorful Red-and-Green Macaws, a single Greater Ani, three Ladder-tailed Nightjars in the riverside vegetation, good numbers of kingfishers including Ringed, Amazon and Green, White-throated Toucans, a single Bare-necked Fruitcrow flying over the river and plenty of White-winged, White-banded and Black-collared Swallows, while a pair of marvellous Giant Otters was a most welcome sight. As soon as we reached our nice accommodation at Foengoe island in the early evening it started raining heavily.



Pristine forest along the Coppename River (DLV)

We stayed for a whole day on Foengoe island, and at first patrolled the airstrip with its fine viewpoints over the surrounding forest. A single Little Chachalaca was feeding in a fruiting tree, King Vulture, Great Black Hawk and two Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts soared overhead, parrots included a group of fast flying Painted Parakeets, some Caica, a pair of Dusky and plenty of confiding Red-fan Parrots, while regular Scarlet and

Red-and-green Macaws provided very colourful touches as well. A Plumbeous Pigeon sat on top a tree, noisy Black Nunbirds were much in evidence, a distant male Spangled Cotinga was spotted across the river, a singing Epaulet Oriole and a male Golden-sided Euphonia were also found nearby while a pair of White-browed Antbirds was lured out of a dense ticket. Common Squirrel Monkeys were common here and gave great photo opportunities. By mid morning we followed the main trail along the island and found some interesting species. A few hummingbirds were seen, including Straight-billed Hermit, Gray-breasted Sabrewing and Black-eared Fairy. A male Guianan Trogon posed nicely in the scope, and both Paradise and Great Jacamars obliged. A small flock of Guianan Toucanets was encountered, and five species of woodpeckers were also seen: Golden-collared, Chestnut, Lineated and the always impressive Red-necked and Crimson-crested. The skulking Rufous-capped Antthrush was admired in the open, singing from a log, although on the other hand, the retiring Thrush-like Antpitta played hide and seek with us, only giving brief views for some. We also spent some time in a Screaming Piha lek (its call being THE sound of the south American rainforest) and ended up getting good views of a couple of birds. In the afternoon we decided to try another trail on the opposite bank, and it was certainly a good decision. The highlight was the scarce and massive Black-throated Antshrike, of which we saw a stonking male. The appealing, ground dwelling Ferruginous-backed Antbird, always a trip favourite, put on a great show for us, and we also hit a couple of mixed flocks containing a number of news birds, including Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Chestnut-rumped and Buff-throated Woodcreepers, Cinereous Antshrike, Brown-bellied, Long-winged, Grey and Spot tailed Antwrens, Fulvous-crested Tanager and Black-faced Dacnis. On the way back, we located a singing Tiny Tyrant-Manakin – “Nicky the Greek” as its usually called-, which gave excellent views. After a well-deserved dinner we got ourselves organized for the overnight trip to the Voltzberg.



Two great birds seen very well at the Brownsberg: Guianan Toucanet and Musician Wren. (Jan Hillman)

Next morning we walked the 7km to the Voltzberg at birding pace and bumped into several flocks. Miraculously, it stayed dry, so we were able to really enjoy the walk to the full. The best bird of the morning was the scarce and range restricted Band-tailed Antshrike. This species has a tiny area of distribution in northeastern South America and we were really glad to have great views of a pair near a tree fall clearing - just the second time ever its been seen on a Birdquest tour! Other birds seen in the walk included Yellow-billed Jacamar, a heard only Rusty-breasted Nunlet that somehow stayed out of view despite all of our

efforts, Golden-green Woodpecker, Amazonian, Cinereous and Great Antshrikes, a Rufous-bellied Antwren seen by Christoph, Guianan Warbling Antbird, Black-faced Antthrush, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Lemon-chested Greenlet, Coraya Wren and Long-billed Gnatwren. In the early afternoon we arrived at the granite shield which offered a great view over the imposing granitic Voltzberg. We settled into the dilapidated research station, had lunch and spent the afternoon exploring the forest edges and bushy areas of the shield. We located a stunning male Pompadour Cotinga, which posed nicely in the scope for half an hour, a Blue-throated Piping Guan, a group of Black-headed Parrots and we scoped a distant Cliff Flycatcher on the slopes of the Voltzberg as well as a family of Black Spider Monkeys. The bare granite surface held many black lizards of the genus *Tropidurus*. At dusk we had great views of Blackish Nightjar and after dinner enjoyed point blank views of a Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. No words needed to describe the beauty of this species. (DLV and Jan Hillman)

After a memorable night in hammocks - comfortable for some, not so for others - we walked along an obscure trail to the world famous Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek where we spent a fabulous time observing the antics of these unmatched birds. No fewer than 17 males could be seen and when a female appeared they all went berserk and tried to impress her by their crazy behaviour. A fabulous showing, and definitely one of the highlights of the trip! Other nice sightings included a group of Grey-winged Trumpeters, Grey Antbird, Wing-barred Piprites in a flock and some Purple-throated Fruitcrows. Best to forget the incident that took place on the walk back: as a summary, never walk away from the group without telling the leader! In the afternoon we returned to our lodgings on the Coppename river. The walk was enlivened by a couple of mixed flocks, which held, amongst other things, Fasciated Antshrike, Pygmy, White-flanked and Dot-winged Antwrens and Whiskered Myiobius.



Suriname is an excellent place to see good numbers of Red-fan Parrots. (Jan Hillman)

We started our final day at Raleigh Falls by paying another visit to the airstrip, where, apart from the usual suspects, including a nice Blue-throated Piping Guan and some toucans and parrots, we saw a single Muscovy Duck in flight over the river as well as a Green ibis. A rare Pavonine Cuckoo was heard by Sean nearby, and we quickly went to the place where he heard it, but the bird was already silent by the time we reached the spot, and wouldn't respond to playback. We paid another visit to the trail on the other side of the river, where Black-throated Antshrike was seen again, this time a female. Some mixed flocks were encountered and we added a few species to our list, including a Great Tinamou that flushed from the trail. A vocal Ringed Woodpecker didn't stay perched for long, a pair Dusky-throated Antshrikes was seen, a very confiding Common Scale-backed Antbird sat motionless for a while, some Buff-cheeked Greenlets were encountered and best of all, a group of scarce Red-billed Pied Tanagers showed well. The afternoon was spent slowly floating down the Coppename river in our dugout canoe, as we felt a bit claustrophobic after two days in the rain forest. It was pretty quiet but we finally caught up with some cracking Blue-and-yellow Macaws in flight, while a female Crimson Topaz was sadly only seen briefly.

Next morning we said farewell to Foengoe island and motored down the Coppename river. It was really birdy and highlights on the three hour journey included lots of Greater Yellow-headed Vultures, Grey-headed and Double-toothed Kites, Western Osprey, Bat Falcon, many macaws, two Bare-necked Fruitcrows, several parties of Greater Anis, a couple groups of Venezuelan Red Howler Monkeys and lots of Proboscis Bats. We arrived just before midday at Witagron and drove along the pothole-riddled road to Colakreek. A few stops yielded White-tailed Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Chestnut-Bellied Seed eater, although we couldn't find the White-throated Pewee that had been seen in a certain spot recently.



Scarlet Macaws in flight over the river. (Jan Hillman)

Next day visited the white sand savanna and scrubby woodland in the surroundings of the international airport. The weather wasn't particularly good at first, but nevertheless we did very well, getting all of our main targets. In the open areas we found roosting Lesser Nighthawk and Pauraque, and saw Green-tailed Goldenthrout, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, Plain-crested and the localized Rufous-crowned Elaenias, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Barred Antshrike, Black-faced, Red-shouldered and Burnished-buff Tanagers, Red-breasted Blackbird and Eastern Meadowlark. The scrubby woodland gave us a striking Bronzy Jacamar, a responsive Black Manakin that never perched for long, a pair of Southern White-fringed Antwrens and modestly-plumaged Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin uttering its insect like song. We then drove for a short distance and soon found our target: a pair of Point-tailed Palmcreepers that posed so beautifully in their Mauritia palm. We then drove to Paramaribo for the night.



Waiting for the canoe at Raleigh Falls, and a tired group enjoying some rest after the 7 km hike to the Voltzberg! (DLV)

In the early morning we visited the Peperpot Reserve, a well managed old coffee and cocoa plantation just

outside the capital of Paramaribo. We arrived just after dawn, and in the course of the morning we managed to see a great selection of birds. Highlights included the localized Blood-coloured Woodpecker, which we finally found as we were walking back to the vehicle, the minute Arrowhead Piculet, and some gorgeous displaying males Crimson-hooded Manakin. Several Little Cuckoos sat in the open, we found a Great Potoo on its dayroost, a trio of Cream-coloured Woodpecker obliged at length, a tiny Painted Tody-Flycatcher gave excellent views, a Cinnamon Attila was admired and both Pied and the cracking Spotted Puffbirds drew our attention. We also heard Cinereous Tinamou and noted other interesting species like Grey-fronted Dove, Rufous-breasted Hermit, Plain-bellied Emerald, Blackish Antbird of the isolated nominate race, Black-crested Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Ochre-ored Flatbill building a nest, Fuscous Flycatcher, Ashy-headed Greenlet and Buff-breasted Wren. A Pale-throated Three-toed Sloth was seen here as well. We then travelled a short distance to our next destination, a coastal mangrove area, where we went on a relaxed boat ride that lasted the whole afternoon. Our main target was the fabulous Rufous Crab Hawk and soon we were enjoying point blank views of this attractively patterned mangrove specialist. Another specialty, the stunning Scarlet Ibis, was seen in numbers and other new birds included Roseate Spoonbill, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Tricoloured Heron, Savannah Hawk, Laughing Falcon, a good assortment of waders, Brown-throated Parakeet, a nice male Green-throated Mango, several American Pygmy Kingfishers, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Black-chinned Antbird, Pale-tipped Inezia, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher and Bicoloured Conebill.



Two most-wanted species in Suriname: Blood-colored Woodpecker and Crimson-hooded Manakin. (Jan Hillman)

The Weg naar Zee (the road to the sea) was our destination for the following day. The extensive fresh water marshes and adjoining secondary growth near the coast produced a wide range of species like Striated Heron, a brief Least Bittern, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, lots of Snail Kites, 2 Grey-headed Kites, Limpkin, Wattled Jacana, Ruddy Ground Dove, Green-rumped Parrotlet, an accommodating Striped Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Pied Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, Grey Kingbird, Black-capped Donacobius, Tropical Mockingbird, Masked Yellowthroat, Cinereous Becard, Yellow and Yellow-hooded Orioles, Wing-barred Seedeater, Greyish Saltator and Red-breasted Blackbird. Along the muddy, mangrove-lined coast we noted Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Royal Tern, Peregrine, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. By late morning we

drove towards the Brownsberg along a steep and slippery track. After a fun ride, where we got stuck in the mud for a while, we checked into our accommodation at 1300 feet altitude. This 30,500 acre well protected Nature Park is owned by Suriname's Nature Protection Organization (Stinasu) and offers a multitude of trails and scenic waterfalls. The viewpoint overlooking the artificial Van Blommestein reservoir just outside our simple dwelling produced a beautiful perched White Hawk and a nice adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle in flight, and on our walk around the clearing we noted Waved Woodpecker, some terrific Guianan Toucanets and a cracking male White-fronted Manakin feeding on *melastoma* berries. A nearby flowering tree held a number of hummers, definitely highlighted by the rare Racket-tailed Coquette, which was seen at length, joined at times by a couple of equally stunning Tufted Coquettes! And then it was time for the special trumpeter spectacle... Nowhere else in the world are wild Trumpeters – Grey-winged here - so easily seen as on the Brownsberg. We admired these exclusive creatures at length and at very close range whilst going about their daily tasks. A Black Currassow also joined them and, all in all, it was a truly remarkable and unforgettable spectacle!



The localized Rufous Crab Hawk showed exceptionally well along the coast. (DLV)

Over the next three and a half days we explored the various trails and clearings of the reserve. It was misty and rainy at times, but overall we did very well and managed to find a great selection of specialities, while large mixed flocks were encountered several times and kept us busy looking at treetops. A few birds deserve special mention. The fantastically tame, amazingly obliging Grey-winged Trumpeters stole the show here and during the course of our visit we spent quite a bit of time just sitting and enjoying up to 20 of these remarkable creatures together. A pair of very secretive Variegated Tinamous was seen by some of us just a few metres from the trail, Marail Guans gave wonderful views, a pair of very responsive Lined Forest Falcons showed brilliantly, the aptly named Musician Wren gave an incredible performance, singing its heart away from a branch just a couple of feet away, the scarce Sharpbill was seen no less than 3 times, even posing in the scope for long, cracking and highly desired Red-and-black Grosbeak and Blue-backed Tanagers were both seen very well after some effort, the smallest passerine on Earth, the diminutive Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant, gave good views, and last but not least, a gorgeous male Rose-breasted Chat obliged. An after

dinner owling session gave us cracking views of a very well behaved Roraiman (Foothill) Screech Owl. Other species noted during our stay included heard-only Marbled Wood Quail, Lilac-tailed Parrotlets, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Black-throated Trogon, Golden-collared, Golden-olive and Yellow-throated Woodpeckers, a brief Guianan Red Cotinga, White-throated Manakin, White-winged Becard, Lineated Woodcreeper, Guianan (Olivaceous) Schiffornis, Pectoral Sparrow, Mouse-coloured Antshrike, Black-headed Antbird, Todd's, Spot-winged and Ash-winged Antwrens, Golden-headed Manakin, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, Yellow-crowned and Guianan Tyrannulets, Flame-crested Tanager, Tropical Parula and a splendid pair of Finsch's Euphonias. After enjoying excellent views of the serious-looking Guianan Sakis and a last look at the fantastic Grey-winged Trumpeters, we packed our luggage, had lunch, loaded into the bus and headed back to Paramaribo. Some late afternoon birding from the hotel platform overlooking the river produced several species, including a mega rarity for the country in form of three first winter Lesser Black-backed Gulls roosting with the Laughing Gull flock in the river.



Suriname is THE place to see Grey-winged Trumpeters. The views can't get any better than this... (DLV)

In the early morning we paid another visit to the Weg Nar Zee, seeing more or less the same species as in our previous visit, although a pair of Least Bitterns offered great views, with the male singing from top of the reeds, and we also added Black-collared Hawk, Long-winged Harrier and Northern Waterthrush to our list. After saying goodbye to the ones leaving, those who were taking the extension got transferred to the domestic airport called Zorg and Hoop and soon boarded a trusty Twin Otter that took us south to the remote village of Palumeu. It came as a nice surprise to the participants that most of the time we flew above endless stretches of undisturbed rainforest. Upon arrival we were taken to our nice cabins over the river, had a tasty lunch and settled in. In the afternoon we explored a patch of nearby primary forest where a Spotted Antpitta gave us a hard time, only letting the leader get some brief views. No problem though, there would be more chances over the following days. We also spent some time birding in a pretty relaxed way from our canoe, seeing Guianan Puffbird, a Capuchinbird in flight, a roosting Great Potoo found by our boatman and both Spangled and Pompadour Cotingas.

Early in the morning we took the boat downriver and walked fairly briskly towards famous Potihill, an

illustrious rocky outcrop that offers majestic views over the surrounding forests. We then climbed the hill and started scanning for the main reason to come to this spot: the stunning and little known Crimson Fruitcrow. We scanned and scanned the seemingly endless treetops hoping for our target to show up, but the bird had other plans! We spent 8 hours looking non-stop at the forest canopy, under blue and very hot skies, but no fruitcrows were seen. During the course of the day we collected a nice list of species which included loud-mouthed Red-throated Caracaras, Bat Falcon, Painted and Golden-winged Parakeets, Blue-headed and Black-headed Parrots, splendid Red-fan Parrots, lots of Band-rumped Swifts, Black-necked Aracari, three male Spangled and yet another male Pompadour Cotinga, a pair of Red-shouldered Tanagers in the shrubs around the outcrop, Green Oropendola, Epaulet Oriole and a group of loud Venezuelan Red Howler Monkeys. On the return walk we heard a pair of Amazonian Pygmy Owls, but they kept high to the canopy and sadly remained invisible. From the boat we noted Cocoi and Capped Herons, Green Ibis and Ladder-tailed Nightjar. We returned back in the late afternoon and birded some open areas and secondary habitat around the airstrip, seeing a few new species that included Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Collared Plover.



The view from Potihill over the surrounding forest, with the Kasikasima mountains in the back. Seemingly endless treetops in every direction you look. (DLV)

The next morning found us slowly floated downriver, mainly looking for Crimson Topaz. We eventually heard its distinctive calls and soon located a female that gave good views. While watching it a Capuchinbird flew across the river and landed not far from the canoe, and all of us managed great views of it perched. By 9 am we were back at Potihill and our battle with the fruitcrow. The weather was good and the spirits were high, but after a few hours of persistent and unsuccessful scanning our moods started to deteriorate. By midday, the temperatures were above 30 centigrade and the chances of seeing the fruitcrow seemed almost non-existent. But never giving up is a synonym of Birdquest, so we kept looking and looking. I told the group we would be leaving by 3:30, and at 3:25 I started doing my last scan. Suddenly, a scarlet thing popped up in my scope, and this time it wasn't a colorful fruit ... It was a male fruitcrow in all its glory! I quickly alerted everyone and we enjoyed great scope views of a cracking adult male for 10 minutes. Persistence pays off! Now it was time to concentrate on other species, and we all happily walked back to our canoe, getting excellent looks at a lekking Capuchinbird uttering its bizarre calls. Two great cotingas in just a matter of minutes!



Displaying Capuchinbird. What a bird, and what a sound! (DLV)

We also explored the Tapanahony river from our canoe. One of the first birds we heard was a Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, and soon we were enjoying great views of this massive woodcreeper. Nearby, a Green-and-rufous Kingfisher was found, and a bright male Crimson Topaz was also seen briefly. However, our main target here, the localized and rarely seen Red-billed Woodcreeper was nowhere to be found. After some time we decided to try further downriver, and eventually a bird responded. Unfortunately it was calling from behind a thick wall of vegetation, and refused to move to a more open tree. No matter how much we tried from various angles, the bird was just not visible. Plan b was now to try to land in the bank somewhere, and then try from inside the forest. Easier said than done but eventually we all made it to dry land. As luck would have it, the woodcreeper was very responsive, quickly flying in and giving excellent and prolonged views. Mission accomplished! We spent the rest of the morning along the river seeing, amongst others, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Silvered Antbird and Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant. In the afternoon we tried a different trail not far from our accommodation, with a specific bird in mind: Spotted Antpitta. This time, after a bit of coaxing, we managed gripping views of this adorable critter. A giant Goliath Birdeater Tarantula highlighted the walk back.



We enjoyed terrific views of the seldom seen Red-billed Woodcreeper. (DLV)

We spent part of the morning back at the river, where we finally connected with some cooperative Crimson Topaz feeding in a flowering tree, while a male White-bearded Manakin was found nearby. After an early lunch we packed up, said goodbye to our kind hosts and flew over endless stretches of forest, over the international airport and the coastal plain dotted with villages to the domestic airport in Paramaribo.



Black-capped Donacobius and Spotted Puffbird, both seen near Paramaribo. (JH and DLV)

We spent our last morning of the tour birding in a patch of coastal mangroves, where three Rufous Crab Hawks showed incredibly close, as did a pair of Blood-colored Woodpeckers and a trio of Arrowhead

Piculets, as well as other mangrove specialists such as Northern Scrub Flycatcher and Bicoloured Conebill. Our last stop was at the Cultuurtuin, the old Botanical gardens of Paramaribo. We admired a couple of superb male Green-throated Mangos flitting about in a red flowering Erythrina tree and could compare it to the more common Black-throated Mangos, while a Ruby-topaz Hummingbird put on a brief appearance. We stood in awe at a startling male Crimson-hooded Manakin, and managed to add three more species to our list, in form of Plain-crowned Spinetail, Yellow-crowned Elaenia and a migrant American Redstart, before leaving to the airport. It had been a truly wonderful and successful trip! Thanks Sean for making the trip such a success, thanks to Mark van Beirs for all his essential pre tour advice, and also to Jan for letting me use some of his incredible photos.





This inquisitive Roraiman Screech Owl gave wonderful views down to a few feet. (DLV)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* Seen briefly a couple of times.

Cinereous Tinamou ◊ *Crypturellus cinereus* (H) Heard at several locations.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (H) We heard this widespread species in the Palumeu gardens.

Variegated Tinamou ◊ *Crypturellus variegatus* Two of these mega skulkers were seen at the Brownsberg.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* Two sightings.

Little (Variable) Chachalaca ◊ *Ortalis motmot* Regular at Palumeu and at Raleigh Falls.

Marail Guan ◊ *Penelope marail* Good views of this Guianan shield speciality on the Brownsberg.

Blue-throated Piping Guan *Pipile cumanensis* Several excellent looks in the Raleigh Falls area.

Black Curassow ◊ *Crax alector* Cracking views of several on the Brownsberg.



Black Curassow and Laughing Falcon (Jan Hillman)

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus* (H) Heard in the Zanderij savanna.

Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* (H) We heard the distinctive antiphonal duet at a couple of sites.

Scarlet Ibis ♦ *Eudocimus ruber* We admired good numbers of these gems at Warappa Creek.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Good views of this vociferous species Raleigh Falls and Palumeu.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* A single bird seen along the coast.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* Excellent views of a pair near the coast.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Regular in the mangroves.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Regular in Paramaribo.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* Lots of encounters.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Numerous and widespread in the coastal belt.

Cocoi Heron (White-necked H) *Ardea cocoi* Regular encounters with this large heron.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* A handful of observations.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* We found this attractively-patterned species at Palumeu.

Tricoloured Heron (Louisiana H) *Egretta tricolor* A heron of mostly salt/brackish water areas along the seacoast.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Regular observations of this well-known bird.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Another regularly observed species along the coast

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* A few distant birds along the coast.

Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C) *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Just a handful of encounters.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* A few sightings. 'Anhinga' is a Tupi (Brazilian) Indian name for the Devil bird, an evil spirit.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Regular observations in the coastal and savanna belts.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* A few sightings over the open areas of the coast.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* Many excellent encounters all over Suriname.

Black Vulture (American B V) *Coragyps atratus* Common in the coastal area and inland where people live.

King Vulture *Sarcorampus papa* 16 birds seen. Both adults and dark immatures were seen.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Regular observations of this well-known piscivore.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* A few sightings of this handsome bird of prey.

Swallow-tailed Kite (American S-t K) *Elanoides forficatus* Many observations of this magnificently elegant species.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus* An adult seen perched in a tree on the Brownsberg.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* A cracking adult seen in flight on the Brownsberg.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* A couple of sightings. Scope views of a perched bird at Brownsberg.

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni* Smashing looks at a male of birds along Weg naar Zee. Really smart!

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* Many sightings of this very aerial and elegant bird of prey.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* A couple of these fish eaters showed well in the coastal belt.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* A common inhabitant of Paramaribo and surroundings.

Slender-billed Kite ♦ *Rosthamus hamatus* Good albeit brief views of a perched bird in the coastal area. White eyes!

Rufous Crab Hawk ♦ *Buteogallus aequinoctialis* Excellent looks at various birds in the mangroves along the coast.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* (LO) A single bird seen briefly along the coast.



Clockwise, from top left. Blood-colored, Waved, Yellow-throated and Chestnut Woodpeckers. (DLV and JH)

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* Regular encounters with this widespread species.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* A few observations of this well-known species.

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albicaudatus* A couple of sightings of this well-marked bird of prey.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* Great views of several birds at Brownsberg.

Black-faced Hawk ♦ *Leucopternis melanops* One seen very well near Colakreek.

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus* A few sightings of this widespread species.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (NL) One seen at Foengoe Island by some.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* A few sightings.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* One bird seen.

Russet-crowned Crane ♦ *Anurolimnas viridis* Heard at several locations, and seen by Christoph.

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajanea* Seen a few times.



Crested Owl and Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl (Jan Hillman and DLV)

Ash-throated Crane *Porzana albicollis* (H) Heard only.

Purple Gallinule (American P G) *Porphyrio martinicus* Seen near Paramaribo.

Grey-winged Trumpeter ♦ *Psophia crepitans* Magnificent views at close range of up to 20 birds on the Brownsberg.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* This elegant, snail-eating bird was scoped in the Paramaribo area.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* A few along the coast.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few seen along the coast.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* Six birds showed very well at the Palumeu airstrip.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Many great looks at both adults and immatures.

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiæ* Two seen near the airport.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* Small numbers were found along the coast.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* A small flock seen on our boat trip.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* Small numbers recorded.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Nice views of a handful along the coast

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* The most regularly encountered northern migrant.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Small numbers showed on the coast.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* A few were foraging on the coastal mudflats.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* A few in the coastal area.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* Seven birds along the river.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* Several hundred birds seen.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* Up to three first winters seen with the laughing gulls.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Just one record along the coast.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* No comment.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* This species is much more common here than in most parts of its wide range.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* A few sightings in the savanna.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plúmbea* Seen a couple of times.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* Regularly heard, but also seen several times.

Common Ground Dove (Scaly G-D) *Columbina passerina* Regular encounters with this diminutive dove.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Many observations.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* A few encounters.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* Several excellent sightings. The melancholic song was often heard.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* Seen along the Coppename river.



More nightbirds... Blackish Nightjar and Great Potoo. (Jan Hillman and DLV)

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* The most frequently encountered ani.

Striped Cuckoo (American S C) *Tapera naevia* Great scope looks at a singing bird along Weg naar Zee.

Pavonine Cuckoo *Dromococcyx pavoninus* (H) We heard it at Raleigh Falls. There are only a few records.

Little Cuckoo *Coccyzua minuta* Very nice looks at three at Peperpot.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* A regularly recorded well-known species.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* Seen very well at Colakreek.

Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl *Megascops watsonii* Seen very well in the Voltzberg.

Roraiman Screech Owl ♦ (Foothill S O) *Megascops roraimae* Great views on the Brownsberg.

Black-banded Owl *Stris huhula* One seen very well at Colakreek.

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata* Excellent views at Colakreek.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (H) Heard at Raleigh Falls.

Amazonian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium hardyi* (H) A pair kept high in the canopy at Palumeu.

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* Excellent views of a roosting bird at Peperpot.

Common Potoo (Grey P) *Nyctibius griseus* (H) Heard at Raleigh Falls.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* A few birds seen.

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* One seen briefly on the Brownsberg.

Blackish Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigrescens* Three birds showed well on the Voltzberg plateau.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* A couple of sightings.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar *Hydrosalis climacocerca* Great looks at several along the river at Raleigh.

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus* The most commonly seen swift away from the coastal belt.

Chapman's Swift ♦ *Chaetura chapmani* A single observation of this rare species.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* Regular in the Paramaribo area.

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift (Neotropical P-S) *Tachornis squamata* Regular in the neighbourhood of Mauritia palms.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* Seen at Raleigh Falls.

Rufous-breasted Hermit (Hairy H) *Glaucis hirsutus* Good looks at one at Peperpot.

Long-tailed Hermit (Eastern Long-tailed H) *Phaethornis superciliosus* Many sightings.

Straight-billed Hermit ♦ *Phaethornis bourcierii* Good looks at several birds.

Little Hermit ♦ *Phaethornis longuemareus* A few seen.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber* Several birds seen.

Grey-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* Several observations of this vocal species.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* A couple of observations.

Green-throated Mango *Anthracothonax viridigula* A number of birds seen well near Paramaribo.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothonax nigricollis* Several in the Paramaribo area.

Crimson Topaz ♦ *Topaza pella* A few observations of this fancy hummingbird at Palumeu and Raleigh Falls.



Two good hummingbirds. Record shot of the rare Racket-tailed Coquette, and Green-throated Mango. (DLV)

Ruby-topaz Hummingbird ♦ *Chrysolampis mosquitus* (LO) One seen briefly at the botanical gardens.

Tufted Coquette ♦ *Lophornis ornata* Up to three, including males, seen on the Brownsberg.

Racket-tailed Coquette ♦ *Discosura longicaudus* A female was seen very well on the Brownsberg.

Blue-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes notata* A nice sighting in flowering bushes.

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* Seen in Palumeu.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* The most regularly encountered hummingbird in the forests.

Rufous-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis sapphirina* Males and females seen very well at Brownsberg.

White-chinned Sapphire *Hylocharis cyanus* Seen at Brownsberg.

Green-tailed Goldenthrout ♦ *Polytmus theresiae* Good looks in the Zanderij area.

Plain-bellied Emerald ♦ *Amazilia leucogaster* Seen at Peperpot.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* A few encounters with this widespread species.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliothryx auritus* Several nice encounters with this showy creature.

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystina* Good views of a female near Colakreek.

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus* A couple of observations at Palumeu.

Green-backed Trogon (Amazonian White-tailed T) *Trogon viridis* The most commonly encountered trogon.

Guianan Trogon (Amazonian Violaceous T) *Trogon violaceus* Several great studies.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* Good looks at a couple of males.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* Up to 10 seen very well in the coastal belt and mangroves.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* Great views at Palumeu.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A few birds seen.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Lots of observations.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Regular observations along the rivers at Palumeu and Raleigh Falls.

Amazonian Motmot *Momotus momota* (H) Heard several times, but never close enough.

Yellow-billed Jacamar *Galbula albirostris* Perfect studies of 2 birds at Raleigh Falls.

Green-tailed Jacamar ♦ *Galbula galbula* Great looks on several occasions.

Bronzy Jacamar ♦ *Galbula leucogastra* Two showed very well in the Zanderij area.

Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea* Three sightings of this elegant canopy creature.

Great Jacamar *Jacameroops aureus* We all got great looks at this largest of jacamars at Raleigh Falls.

Guianan Puffbird ♦ *Notharchus macrorhynchos* Several performed well at Palumeu.

Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus* Several observations of this small puffbird.

Spotted Puffbird *Bucco tamatia* Fantastic close up views of a single bird at Peperpot. So very impressive!

Rusty-breasted Nunlet ♦ *Nonnula rubecula* (H) We tried hard at the Voltzberg, but it never came down.

Black Nunbird ♦ *Monasa atra* This Guianan shield special was common at Raleigh Falls.

Swallow-winged Puffbird (Swallow-wing) *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* Many sightings of this aberrant species.



Three of the 5 Jacamar species seen on the trip. Yellow-billed, Green-tailed and Great. (Jan Hillman)

Black-spotted Barbet ♦ *Capito niger* A regularly encountered, colourful species.

Green Aracari *Pteroglossus viridis* Regular sightings of this small, alluring species.

Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus aracari* Many observations.

Guianan Toucanet ♦ *Selenidera piperivora* Fantastic eye-ball to eye-ball looks at this extremely attractive bird.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* Easily as common at the same places. This one is the 'croaker'.

White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus* We recorded this 'yelper' at all the visited venues.

Golden-spangled Piculet *Picumnus exilis* A couple of sightings.

Arrowhead Piculet (Guianan P) ♦ *Picumnus minutissimus* Great looks at several near Paramaribo.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* Five birds were seen at Palumeu.

Blood-coloured Woodpecker ♦ *Veniliornis sanguineus* Great looks at this localized, important species at Peperpot.

Golden-collared Woodpecker *Veniliornis cassini* A few sightings at different locations.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula* Several excellent sightings of this attractive species.



A nice selection of cracking male manakins. Clockwise, from top left: The rare White-fronted, Crimson-hooded, White-throated and Golden-headed. (Jan Hillman)

Golden-green Woodpecker *Piculus chrysochloros* A single bird noted at Raleigh.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* Two birds were seen at Brownsberg.

Waved Woodpecker ♦ *Celeus undatus* Several very nice observations of this Guyanan shield speciality.

Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans* A few observations.

Cream-coloured Woodpecker *Celeus flavus* Magnificent views of 8 birds. Cracker!

Ringed Woodpecker *Celeus torquatus* Fair looks at two birds.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* Regular encounters with this well known species.

Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis* Several great observations of this impressive creature.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* Regular great looks at this always impressive species.

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* Regular at Palumeu and Raleigh Falls.

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* We had many sightings. Suriname is the place for this one!

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* A few observations in the coastal belt.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Seen a few times.

Barred Forest Falcon ♦ *Micrastur ruficollis* (H) We heard its yapping notes at Raleigh.

Lined Forest-Falcon ♦ *Micrastur gilvicollis* We saw this secretive species well at Brownsberg.

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* (H) Heard at Palumeu.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* Several sightings of this lovely, dashing species.

Peregrine Falcon (Peregrine) *Falco peregrinus* Four of these northern migrants were seen in the coastal belt.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* Six of these impressive birds were seen at Palumeu and Raleigh.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* Regular splendid observations of these gorgeous birds at Palumeu and Raleigh Falls.

Red-and-green Macaw (Green-winged M) *Ara chloroptera* Seen in about equal numbers at the same locations.

Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilata* Small numbers were found in the Zanderij savanna.

Red-shouldered Macaw *Diopsittaca nobilis* One record.

White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalma* Several encounters with small parties.

Brown-throated Parakeet *Aratinga pertinax* Regular encounters in the coastal areas.

Painted Parakeet ♦ *Pyrhura picta* Good views Raleigh and at Palumeu.

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus* Several splendid sightings in the coastal areas.

Golden-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris chrysoptera* Regular sightings of flying groups.

Lilac-tailed Parrotlet ♦ *Touit batavicus* Great views at Brownsberg.

Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephalus* A few sightings, including perched birds.

Caica Parrot ♦ *Pyrilia caica* Seen at Raleigh Falls.



White-winged Swallow, Wing-barred Seedeater and Fulvous Shrike-Tanager. (Jan Hillman)

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* The most commonly encountered psittacid of the tour.

Dusky Parrot ♦ *Pionus fuscus* This Guianan shield speciality only showed in flight at several venues.

Orange-winged Parrot (O-w Amazon) *Amazona amazonica* Regular sightings all over our itinerary.

Mealy Parrot (M Amazon) *Amazona farinosa*: A few encounters only with this very vocal species.

Red-fan Parrot (Hawk-headed P) *Deroptyus accipitrinus*: We saw no fewer than 46 birds on our travels.

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* Several were seen in the Zanderij savanna.

Plain-crowned Spinetail ♦ *Synallaxis gujanensis* A couple of birds performed very well at the botanical gardens.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (Yellow-throated S) *Certhiaxis cinnamomea* Good scope views along Weg naar Zee.

Point-tailed Palmcreeper *Berlepschia rikeri* Great scope studies of 2 in a Mauritia palm in a patch of riparian forest.

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Phylidor ruficaudatus* Several were noted in the understory and mid level flocks.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* A few observations in the mixed flocks.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* A regular member of the understory flocks.

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper *Dendrexetastes rufigula* Cracking views of one at Palumeu.

Red-billed Woodcreeper ♦ *Hylexetastes perrotii* Great looks at this rarity at Palumeu.

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper (Southern B W) *Dendrocolaptes certhia* Two at Raleigh.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus picus* Good looks at several in the Paramaribo area.

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper ♦ *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus* A regular member of the understory flocks.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* A very distinctive voice of the forest. Regular nice looks.

Lineated Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus* A few observations of this canopy inhabitant.

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* Several first-rate observations of this widespread subcanopy dweller.

Black-throated Antshrike ♦ *Frederickena viridis* Good looks at a male and a female at Raleigh Falls.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* This prevalent species showed well a few times.

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis* Very nice looks at both males and females at Peperpot.

Band-tailed Antshrike ♦ *Thamnophilus melanothorax* Great views of a pair of this localized species at the Voltzberg.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* A fine-looking male and female posed at length at Zanderij.

Mouse-coloured Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* We finally tracked down this often heard species at Brownsberg.



White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Swallow-winged Puffbird and Green-backed Trogon. (Jan Hillman)

Northern Slaty Antshrike (Guianan S-A) ♦ *Thamnophilus punctatus* Good views of both sexes near Zanderij.
Amazonian Antshrike ♦ *Thamnophilus amazonicus* Several observations of this mid level inhabitant.
Dusky-throated Antshrike *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* Regular encounters with this understory flock sentinel.
Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesi* A very distinctive voice of the forest, betraying the presence of a flock.
Brown-bellied Antwren ♦ *Epinecrophylla gutturalis* Great views.
Rufous-bellied Antwren ♦ *Myrmotherula guttata* (NL) Christoph saw one at Raleigh Falls.
Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura* Several very nice encounters with this widespread diminutive bird.
Guianan Streaked Antwren ♦ *Myrmotherula surinamensis* Regularly seen along the rivers at Palumeu.
White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris* One of the regular members of the mixed species flocks.

Long-winged Antwren *Myrmotherula longipennis* Every understory or mid level mixed species flock held this bird.
Grey Antwren *Myrmotherula menetriesii* Another regularly seen, restless member of the flocks.
Spot-tailed Antwren ♦ *Herpsilochmus sticturus* This tiny canopy species was seen at Raleigh and Brownsberg.
Todd's Antwren ♦ *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus* A pair performed well in the lower canopy at Brownsberg.
Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhophias quixensi* Several very nice encounters with males and females.
Southern White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora grisea* Good looks at both sexes at Zanderij.
Ash-winged Antwren *Terenura spodiopila* Seen well at Brownsberg.



Black-crested Antshrike, Common Scale-backed Antbird, Bay-headed Tanager and Pale-tipped Inezia. (Jan Hillman)

Grey Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* An often heard voice. The squeaking honeymoon bed... Also seen.
Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* Another often heard species. Good looks at male and female at Brownsberg.
Blackish Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens* Perfect views of both sexes at Peperpot. The isolated nominate race.
White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* A couple of fine encounters on Foengoe island.
Guianan Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis cantator* Several very much appreciated sightings.
Black-chinned Antbird ♦ *Hypocnemoides melanopogon* Three records. A water edge specialist.
Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia* This waterside professional eventually showed quite well at Palumeu.
Black-headed Antbird ♦ *Percnostola rufifrons* Male and female gave good views at Brownsberg.
Spot-winged Antbird ♦ *Percnostola leucostigma* (H) Heard at Raleigh Falls.
Ferruginous-backed Antbird ♦ *Myrmeciza ferruginea* This stunner performed very well. A Guianan shield speciality.
Black-throated Antbird *Myrmeciza atrothorax* Seen once.
Common Scale-backed Antbird *Willisornis poecilinotus* Cracking views of a male at Raleigh Falls.
Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma* Seen very well at Raleigh Falls.
Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* This widespread species was seen well at the Voltzberg.
Spotted Antpitta ♦ *Hylopezus macularius* Good views of a singing bird in the forest understory at Palumeu. Magic!

Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* Nice studies of one at the Brownsberg. Mega!
Wing-barred Piprites (W-b Manakin) *Piprites chloris* Good looks at this unobtrusive species at Raleigh Falls.
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* A regularly heard voice. We had several good looks.
Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* Seen several times.



Clockwise: Straight billed Woodcreeper, Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, Golden-olive Woodpecker and Spotted Tody-Flycatcher.

(Jan Hillman)

Yellow-crowned Elaenia ♦ *Myiopagis flavivertex* Seen at the botanical gardens.
Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* A few encounters.
Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cristata* Good looks at several in the Zanderij savanna.
Rufous-crowned Elaenia ♦ *Elaenia ruficeps* Seen well in the Zanderij savanna.
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Amazingly thin on the ground in Suriname.
Guianan Tyrannulet *Zimmerius acer* Regularly heard and finally seen well in the scope at the Brownsberg clearing.
Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum* Good looks at the edge of mangrove near Paramaribo.
Pale-tipped Inezia (P-t Tyrannulet) *Inezia caudata* Good views of this unassuming bird in the mangroves.
Boat-billed Tody-Tyrant ♦ *Hemitriccus josephinae* Heard and glimpsed at Palumeu.
Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis ecaudatus* Great looks at the smallest passerine on earth!
Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant ♦ *Lophotriccus vitoriosus* Seen and heard at Palumeu.
Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus galeatus* Good looks at various places.



Channel-billed Toucan. (Jan Hillman)

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum* Immaculate views of several in the Paramaribo area.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Regular encounters with this well-known species.

Painted Tody-Flycatcher ♦ *Todirostrum pictum* Smashing looks at a couple at Peperpot.

Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus* One seen at Raleigh Falls.

Ochre-lored Flatbill *Tolmomyias flaviventris* Great views of a nesting pair at Peperpot.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurens* A couple of sightings.

Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus* Seen well at the Voltzberg.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* We scoped a distant bird on top of the Voltzberg.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* A single bird was noted at Peperpot.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* One bird seen.

Pied Water Tyrant *Fluvicola pica* A common inhabitant of the coastal belt.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* Regular observations of this attractive bird.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Many sightings of this familiar species.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* One of the most commonly seen Tyrant Flycatchers.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* A very common species of more open places, called "Grietjebie" in Suriname.

Yellow-throated Flycatcher ♦ *Conopias parva* This canopy inhabitant was seen a couple of times.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Seen in the coast.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Regularly seen and heard in the coastal belt and the savanna.

Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* Good views on a couple of occasions in their Mauritia palm habitat.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* The famous TK. Very common in open habitat.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* Seen around the airstrip at Palumeu.

Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* Several wintering birds were noted on the coast.

Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex* A few records of this inconspicuous species travelling with a mixed flock.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* Regular observations of this modestly-clad species.

Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus* Great looks at this bright and vocal varzea species at Peperpot.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* (H) This widespread species was regularly heard.

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock ♦ *Rupicola rupicola* The amazing lek at the Voltzberg offered a mind-boggling spectacle.

Guianan Red-Cotinga ♦ *Phoenicircus carnifex* A male was seen sadly only very briefly at Brownsberg.

Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana* Good looks at fancy males and at more modestly-plumaged females.

Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans* One of characteristic sounds of the Neotropics! Often heard and also seen.



Clockwise. Pied Puffbird, Greater Ani, Black Caracara and Arrowhead Piculet. (JH and DLV)

Pompadour Cotinga ♦ *Xipholena punicea* Great views of a male at the Voltzberg, and a few more at Palumeu.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus* Good views of several along the Coppename river near Raleigh Falls.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* A few encounters with this vocal species.

Crimson Fruitcrow ♦ *Haematoderus militaris* It took 2 days, but eventually good scope views of a male at Palumeu.

Capuchinbird ♦ *Perissocephalus tricolor* Splendid views of displaying males at Palumeu. Exquisite stuff!

Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin ♦ *Neopelma chrysocephalum* Lovely looks at this unobtrusive species.

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin ♦ *Tyranneutes virescens* “Nicky the Greek” was regularly heard and very well seen.

White-throated Manakin ♦ *Corapipo gutturalis* Nice looks at males and females at Brownsberg.

White-fronted Manakin ♦ *Lepidothrix serena* Great views at Brownsberg. A very localized species.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* We saw a male at Palumeu.

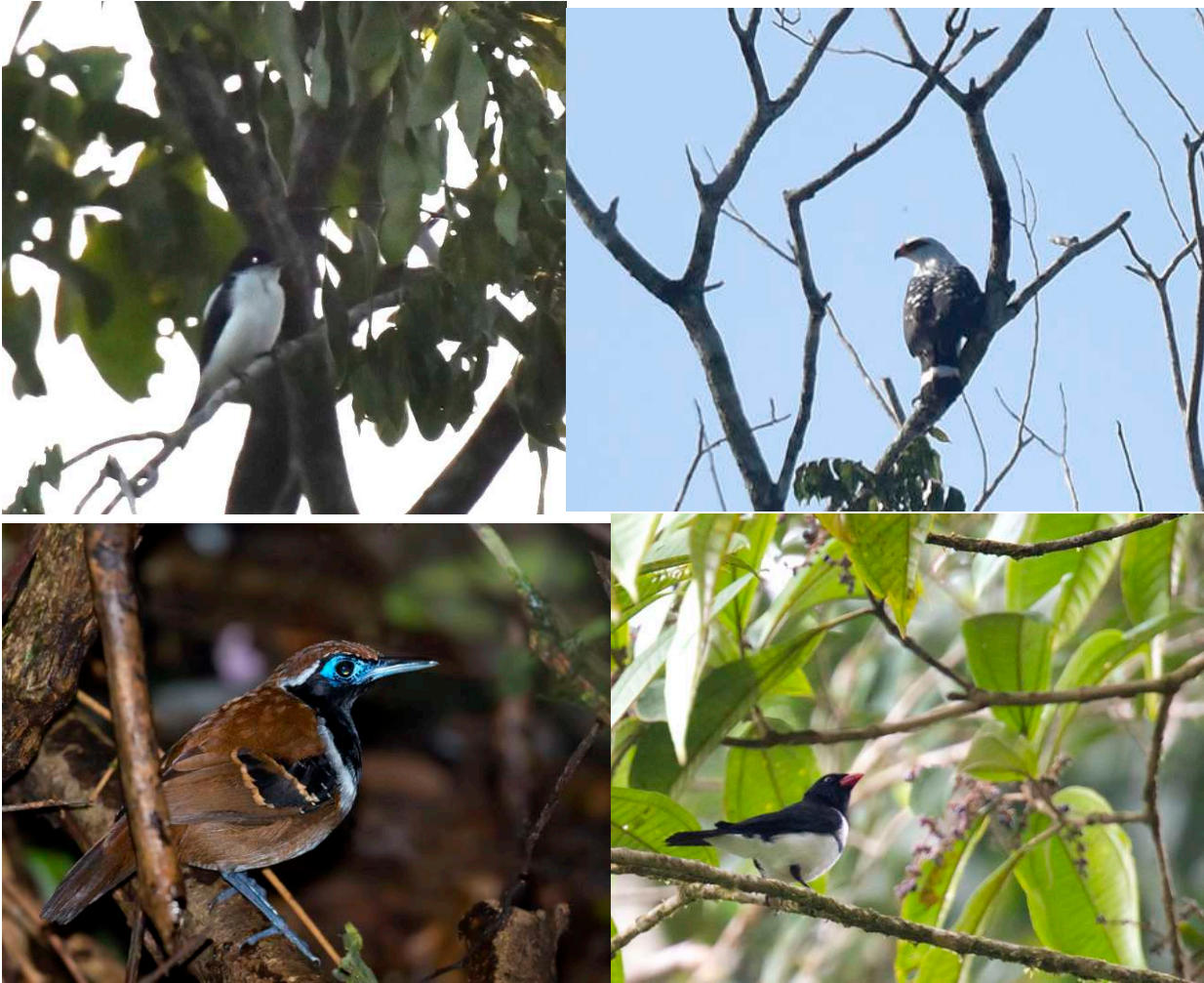
Black Manakin ♦ *Xenopipo atronitens* We had pretty good views in the stunted savanna woodland at Zanderij.

Crimson-hooded Manakin ♦ *Pipra aureola* Very nice views of several males at Peperpot and the botanical gardens.

White-crowned Manakin *Dixiphia pipra* Perfect looks at various spots.

Golden-headed Manakin *Pipra erythrocephala* Males and females showed well at Brownsberg.

Sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus* No less than three sightings at the Brownsberg!



Clockwise. Three difficult species: Glossy-backed Becard, Black-faced Hawk and Red-billed Pied Tanager. Ferruginous-backed Antbird is not rare, but it's a cracker! (JH and DLV)

- Whiskered Myiobius (Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher) *Myiobius barbatus*** A couple of sightings.
- Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*** One bird seen.
- Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*** Just one observation of this widespread species.
- Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*** Regular observations of this well-known bird.
- Guianan Schiffornis (Olivaceous S) *Schiffornis olivacea*** Seen very well at Brownsberg.
- Cinereous Becard *Pachyramphus rufus*** A few sightings.
- White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychropterus*** Three records.
- Glossy-backed Becard** ♦ ***Pachyramphus surinamus*** A male showed beautifully in the Zanderij area. A speciality!
- Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*** Eventually seen at Palumeu. Many heard.
- Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* (H)** Heard at Palumeu and at Brownsberg, but always too far away.
- Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*** A few encounters.
- Lemon-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus thoracicus*** A couple of encounters with this canopy inhabitant.
- Ashy-headed Greenlet** ♦ ***Hylophilus pectoralis*** Great looks at several at Pepperpot.
- Buff-cheeked Greenlet** ♦ ***Hylophilus muscicapinus*** Seen a couple of times in mixed canopy flocks.
- Cayenne Jay** ♦ ***Cyanocorax cayanus*** Excellent studies of this attractive species in the Zanderij area.
- White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*** Common over rivers and marshes.
- Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*** Many all along our itinerary.
- Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*** Seen at Palumeu.
- White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*** Quite a few were noted at Palumeu and at Raleigh Falls. Endearing!
- Black-collared Swallow *Pygochelidon melanoleuca*** Good numbers showed at Palumeu and at Raleigh Falls.
- Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*** Small numbers were noted here and there.
- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*** We only saw this northern migrant a couple of times.
- Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus*** Several birds showed well near the coast.
- Coraya Wren *Thryothorus coraya*** Heard at the three forest sites and several nice encounters.



Grey-winged Trumpeter. You can't get tired of watching these creatures! (DLV)

Buff-breasted Wren *Thryothorus leucotis* Excellent looks at two at Peperpot were followed by many audio records.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Common near human habitation.

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* Good looks at this lovely critter at Brownsberg.

Musician Wren *Cyphorinus arada* Excellent views of this cracking wren at Brownsberg.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Seen at Raleigh Falls.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* A few sightings of this well-known species.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* A common bird of northern Suriname.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* A very common bird in northern Suriname.

Spectacled Thrush (Bare-eyed T) *Turdus nudigenis* Seen at Colakreek.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* Several nice sightings. A regularly heard song in the forest.

Finsch's Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia finschi* Great views at Brownsberg. A Guianan Shield speciality.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* Regular observations.

Golden-sided Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia cayennensis* A few seen. An attractive Guianan Shield speciality.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* One seen in the mangroves.

Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis* Seen along Weg naar Zee.

Tropical Parula *Parula pitayumi* A few observations of this familiar species.

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* A few seen.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* Seen along Weg naar Zee.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* A few showed quite well in the savanna.

Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* Regular in the open areas of the coastal belt.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* The most frequently encountered oropendola.

Green Oropendola *Psarocolius viridis* Many excellent sightings of this vocal and social species. Lovely display.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* Common throughout.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous* Regular encounters with this noisy species.

Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis* A couple of sightings along the coast.

Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis* A few birds noted.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivora* Very common at the Foengoe and Palumeu airstrips. A brood parasite.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Just one near the coast.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* Common and cute.



Afternoon light at the Coppename River, from our canoe. DLV

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* (H) Heard at Zanderij.
Pectoral Sparrow *Arremon taciturnus* Seen very well at Brownsberg.
Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopis* Several first-class sightings in the savanna.
Red-billed Pied Tanager ♦ *Lamprospiza melanoleuca* Excellent views of this rare tanager at two sites.
Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata* A couple of records.
Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus* A few observations only.
Fulvous-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus surinamus* Just a couple of birds seen.
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* Regular sightings of both sexes.
Red-shouldered Tanager ♦ *Tachyphonus phoenicius* Good looks at several males in the savanna, and 2 at Potihill.
Fulvous Shrike-Tanager *Lanio fulvus* A few seen at Brownsberg and also at Raleigh Falls.
Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* One of the most common species in Suriname.
Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*: Another commonly seen species.
Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Very common all over Suriname.
Blue-backed Tanager ♦ *Cyanicterus cyanicterus* Good views of a pair at Brownsberg. Another speciality!
Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana* Several excellent observations, often seen feeding on cecropia catkins.
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* Several were seen at Brownsberg.
Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana* A male seen at the Zanderij.
Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata* We saw it very well a couple of times.
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* Commonly recorded.
Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* Many observations.
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Also common, and very attractive.
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* A few sightings.
Bicoloured Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor* Four of these mangrove specialists gave a nice performance at the coast.
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Small numbers were noted in the open areas.
Wing-barred Seedeater *Sporophila americana* Quite common in the coastal belt. A localized species.
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* (NL) One seen at Witagron.
Rose-breasted Chat ♦ *Granatellus pelzelni* Excellent looks at a cracking male at Brownsberg.

Red-and-black Grosbeak ♦ *Periporphyrus erythromelas* Good views, after some effort, of a male at Brownsberg.
Slate-coloured Grosbeak (Slaty G) *Saltator grossus* Seen three times.
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* A few observations in secondary habitat.
Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* A couple of encounters only.
Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* Excellent views of a male at Raleigh falls.

MAMMALS

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus* Brief looks at one at the Brownsberg.
Pale-throated Three-toed Sloth (P-t S) *Bradypus tridactylus* Excellent looks at Peperpot.



Guianan Sakis are truly fascinating animals. (JH)

Neotropical Pygmy Squirrel *Sciurillus pusillus* Seen a few times.
Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta agouti* A regularly seen creature, especially common at Brownsberg.
Grison *Galictis vittata* One of these rare mammals seen near Witagron.
Kinkajou *Potos flavus* One seen at Brownsberg.
Neotropical Otter (Southern River O) *Lutra longicaudis* Nice views of one.
Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* Cracking views of two of these huge otters along the Coppename river.
Proboscis Bat (Long-nosed Bat) *Rynchonycteris naso* Many at Raleigh Falls and along the Coppename river.
Red-handed Tamarin (Golden-handed T) *Saguinus midas* Great looks at this lovely creature.
Common Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri sciureus* The most commonly encountered monkey.
Brown Capuchin *Cebus paella* A few were noted at Raleigh Falls and in the Paramaribo area.
Guianan Saki (White-faced Saki) *Pithecia pithecia* Three showed brilliantly at Brownsberg.
Black Spider Monkey *Ateles paniscus* These extremely lithe monkeys showed well a few times.
Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta macconnelli* Regular encounters with this very vocal species.
Red Brocket Deer *Mazama gouazoubira* A couple seen in the forest.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. Gill, F and Donsker, D (Eds). 2012. IOC World Bird Names (v4.4). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

An emigrant from the Old World that may have arrived on the northeast coast of South America as early as the 1870s (first reported in Colombia in 1917). The date of arrival in Suriname is unknown. Largely a terrestrial feeder, reports of stomach contents have shown that grasshoppers are their main prey item.

Grey-winged Trumpeter *Psophia crepitans*

These 'mini rheas' are related to cranes and rails. The three closely-related, allopatric species comprise the whole family and occur over most of Amazonia. They make excellent and cute pets and are known for their prowess as snake hunters.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

The name jacana is derived from the Tupi (Brazilian) Indian word jasaná, so the right pronunciation should really be 'jasaná'. The Portuguese spelling is jaçaná. Amazingly long toes!!

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Note that the generic name has been derived from the Greek words *kroton*, a tick, and *phagos*, 'eater'. In many parts of South America Smooth-billed Anis have the (false?) reputation of eating ticks off cattle, the reason for the recent introduction and spread of this species in the Galapagos Islands (where of course it is having an impact on the fragile island ecology)

Striped Cuckoo (American S C) *Tapera naevia*

One of only three parasitic cuckoos of the New World, favouring hosts with domed nests like spinetails and wrens.

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus*

Uniquely among caracaras, it mainly feeds on the larvae of bees and wasps, but will also take the adult insects, fruits and berries.

Black-throated Antshrike *Frederickena viridis*

A Guianan shield speciality! The scientific name refers to Frederick Vavasour McConnell (1868-1914), an English traveller and collector, who travelled in (British) Guyana between 1894 and 1898. He also has a Spinetail (McConnell's Spinetail *Synallaxis macconnelli*), a Flycatcher (McConnell's Flycatcher *Mionectes macconnelli*) and Guyanan Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta macconnelli* named after him.

Common Scale-backed Antbird *Willisornis poecilinotus*

One of the antbirds in which the females show distinctive geographic variation, a pattern that is called heterogynism.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaius*

A small but fierce bird, so called because of its habit of harassing other bird species to appropriate their newly finished nests for its own use. Hilty calls it, very appropriately a bird with 'chutzpah'!

Guianan (Olivaceous) Schiffornis *Schiffornis olivacea*

This is one of the splits in the Thrush-like Schiffornis complex.

Finsch's Euphonia *Euphonia finschi*

The bird is named after Professor Doctor Friedrich Finsch (1839-1917), a German diplomat, colonial administrator, ethnographer, ornithologist and collector. He travelled widely in the old world and has 14 birds named after him.



Guianan Toucanet (DLV)



Flying over endless stretches of undisturbed primary forest, on our way to Palumeu, was a great and encouraging sight. (DLV)