



*Orange-breasted Falcon. 'hey, you.....time to die" (Ed Wilson)*

# GUYANA

**17 FEBRUARY – 4 MARCH 2018**

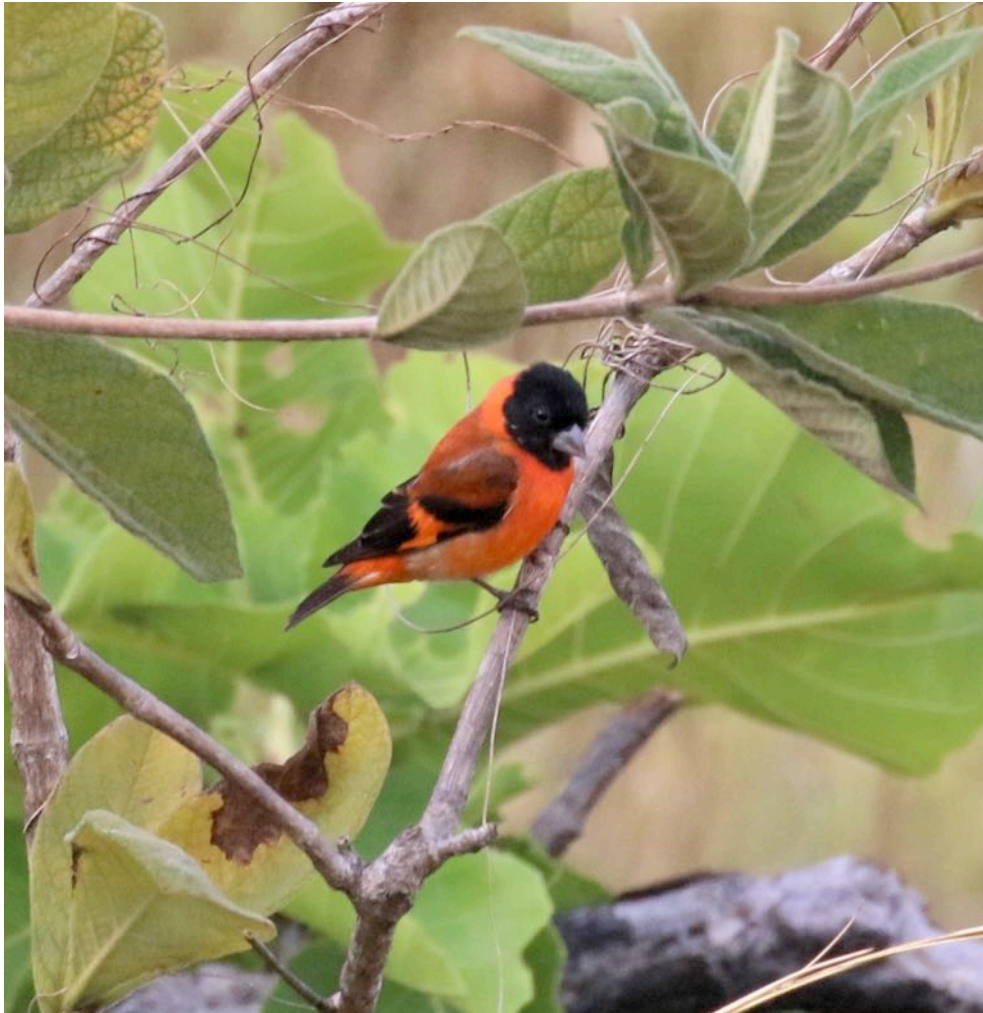
**LEADER: EUSTACE BARNES**



*Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock – looking somewhat Georgian (Eustace Barnes).*



The Guianan shield avifauna is now principally accessed in Guyana and Suriname, with Venezuela off-limits (economic meltdown plus general anarchy) and Manaus out of fashion (for no good reason). These tiny countries offer a great opportunity to see much of what the region has to offer, with Guyana more the trip to see specialities and many species not readily seen elsewhere. Anyway, time to lapse in to the cliched patter that so typically introduces trip reports and say that the tour was simply better than ever, and our expectations far exceeded. We did find practically all our targeted species with spectacular views of many rarely seen range restricted species etc etc.... All of which is true, just a rather tedious, if necessary, introduction to a trip report.



*The endangered Red Siskin (Thomas Reber)*

Highlights A to Z; outstanding views of Red Siskin on day 2, great experience with the magnificent Sun Parakeets on day 3, a nice session along the Ireng river with Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetails on day 4, at least six Crestless Curassows at Karanambu, the other-worldly Capuchinbird, Bearded Tachuri at three locations, a couple of Crested Doraditos, several Red and black Grosbeaks, a beautiful male Guianan Red Cotinga and the gorgeous Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at a lek. Exploring Iwokrama was way better than usual for the specialities, producing great views of the rare Crimson Fruitcrow, two or three White-winged Potoos, a roosting Rufous Potoo, Crimson Topaz, a Spotted Antpitta and a superb Orange-breasted Falcon at our secret stakeout. Oh, and lest I forget, a Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo at an ant swarm with good numbers of White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbirds, Amazonian Barred and White-chinned Woodcreepers amongst others. Mega! On the coast we found several pairs of Blood-coloured Woodpecker, Rufous Crab Hawk and those Piculets. **WHAT!** All that lot in two weeks I hear you say. Well yes, but the tour is designed to hunt down these species rather than provide a general rainforest experience and so, with a tireless leader, it is doable.





*The Rupununi savannas (Eustace Barnes).*

So, to begin at the beginning, jetting off to Barbados en route to Georgetown for our great tour is always a dreadful experience. Virgin Airlines, a sort of mega 'sun, sex and sand' airline for the chronically unimaginative that ferries huge numbers of said persons to the utterly ghastly Barbados. Not a good way for me to get my head in gear for the tour; reminding me, as it does, just how unimportant the natural world is to nearly everyone. In transit (a sort of perigatory) we find ourselves threading our way through the hordes of scrofulous sun worshippers, washed up hippies and assorted lost souls to get to our twin prop plane for our flight to Guyana. There would be no meeting of minds here, but as I contemplated our imminent dealings with the tremendous variety of biting things in the savannas and forests of Guyana I thought that maybe they have a point; maybe, we should soak up some rays, pickle our livers and splash out on some tasteless tat for the folks back home. I think not.



*The main national highway as it runs through the Iwokrama Rainforests (Ed Wilson).*





*The Cara Lodge (Eustace Barnes).*

Once assembled at our the delightful Cara Hotel we quickly made plans to visit the shabby 'botanical' gardens; a sort of city park for picnickers, families and drunken revellers and not the carefully arranged selection of Guyana's flora its name might suggest. These gardens are, nevertheless, always worth a visit as our time therein demonstrated. The hotel gardens, while rather more limited often have Plain-bellied Emeralds feeding on the flowering plants and so our birding started there, since that species can be tricky to find.



*Plain-bellied Emerald in the Hotel gardens (Eustace Barnes).*



We rounded up the taxi drivers/security and headed the short distance to the garden entrance. If visiting the gardens do not go alone or without some sort of security; this can be a dangerous place. Wandering around the gardens we quickly picked up the perky little Spotted Tody Flycatcher and Ochre-lored Flatbill which has often been misidentified as Boat-billed Tody Tyrant by local guides for some quite inexplicable reason. I can only suppose that they were told they were Boat-billed Tody Tyrants by birders visiting some time ago. Also present at this time are Grey Kingbirds, of which we saw several. The Yellow Orioles made a welcome splash of colour, along with the Rusty-margined Flycatchers, Great Kiskadees and Violaceous Euphonias. Raptors were well represented with several Zone-tailed Hawks, Snail Kites and Black-collared Hawks kicking about.



White-bellied Piculet. *Picumnus s. spilogaster*. (Ed Wilson).

Anyway, we were looking for other targeted species and in no time were looking at a pair of Blood-coloured Woodpeckers and thereafter several White-bellied Piculets. The nominate form here has a heavily barred breast with variable amounts of spots and or crescents on the flanks and belly unlike the form *orenocensis* in the south (contra Winkler and Christie in HBW7) which is white from chin to crissum and unmarked. It would seem that this form and the Arrowhead Piculet need looking at from Georgetown to Paramaribo.



The afternoon skies are always full of parrots and we were treated to great views of Red-shouldered Macaws, Brown-breasted Parakeets, extraordinary numbers of Orange-winged Amazons and a few of the resident Festive Amazon (of race *bodini*). The latter a now rare and somewhat localised species whose presence in these urban 'gardens' is open to question. Since we saw them we resolved the issue very satisfactorily. Check Thomas' excellent photograph below. As we found our target species and enjoyed the stunning profusion of Psittacids wheeling in to roost in the park we decided to return to our hotel after a busy stint of birding in this popular, if noisy little spot, so highly resonant of Caribbean life. Time for a Banks and good night's sleep, far, far, far from the snow bound UK (Well, it was for a few hours or so).



*Festive Amazon (Amazona festiva bodini) at the Botanical gardens (Thomas Reber).*

Departing Ogle airport for Lethem on the Brazilian border in the far south our tiny plane crossed the vast forested interior gave us hope for the survival of this great ecological treasure house, while giving us a tremendous panoramic spectacle at the same time. Our optimism was ill-founded, as all too soon we spotted the dense patchwork of illegal gold mines churning up said 'treasurehouse' destroying its real treasures forever. Thankfully, this gave way to the intricate mosaic of savannas, gallery forests and wetlands so typical of the southern region, heralding our arrival at Lethem. A bizarre settlement, whose existence is contingent upon a tax differential between Guyana and Brazil, allowing residents of the latter to buy industrial quantities of shoes, flip flops and other consumer goodies in the former, before nipping back to the now bustling city of Boa Vista; a city whose population is now greatly enlarged by the arrival of several hundred thousand Venezuelans fleeing the people's socialist republic of Venezuela. I assume they do not share Jeremy's liking for Maduro's vision. I had been in Venezuela a few months previously and it felt like being in a Mad Max movie.



*The view from our flight over the forested interior (Eustace Barnes)*

The flight south is real eye opener, with great views of the rainforests of the interior. These forests are still very extensive and the protection afforded large areas of these forests does give hope for the future of this biome. Some limited selective logging has started along the highway which is a concern.





*Gold mining in the interior has rapidly increased since 2008 (Eustace Barnes)*

Gold mining is a serious problem, as not only does it degrade large areas of forest but also the miners feed themselves by hunting. This is stripping large areas of wildlife from Monkeys and Tapirs to Parrots and Toucans. Additionally, the unregulated use of Mercury in the separation process contaminates rivers and lakes with a toxic heavy metal. This contamination disperses widely through the environment and, no doubt, can be detected in waters in and around Georgetown.



*The Southern Savannas (Eustace Barnes).*

The savannas in the south present an intricate mosaic of grasslands and marshes. The region is very dry at this time of year and these savannas are subject to repeated burning until the rains start. The problem is that the dry season is getting longer and drier and the burns ever more damaging as a result.



*Buff-necked Ibises are now a common sight on the savannas (Eustace Barnes).*

We met up with the Dadanawa boys and began our journey to the ranch after some peixe and feijoada (Brailian grub sold by the kilo – must be quality). We crossed the spectacular open savannas to reach the huge Dadanawa ranch (1700 square miles) tucked away in the vast expanses of the Rupununi. On the way we found a number of widespread species including Buff-necked Ibises, White-tailed and Savanna Hawks, Brown-breasted Parakeets, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Vermillion Flycatcher, Bicoloured Wren and Eastern Meadowlark. We did stop at some gallery woodlands but there was little or no activity as we were at the end of a ‘big dry’, accompanied by many big burns. Our final stop did produce Lineated Woodpecker, Green-tailed Jacamar, Black-crested and Barred Antshrike, Flavescent Warbler and Buff-breasted Wren but no Nighthawks, as on previous tours in September. On arrival, we quickly settled in and proceeded to imbibe liberal quantities of rum punch; a notable feature of life on this tour. As usual, we then enjoyed a superb meal before getting our heads down for the night.

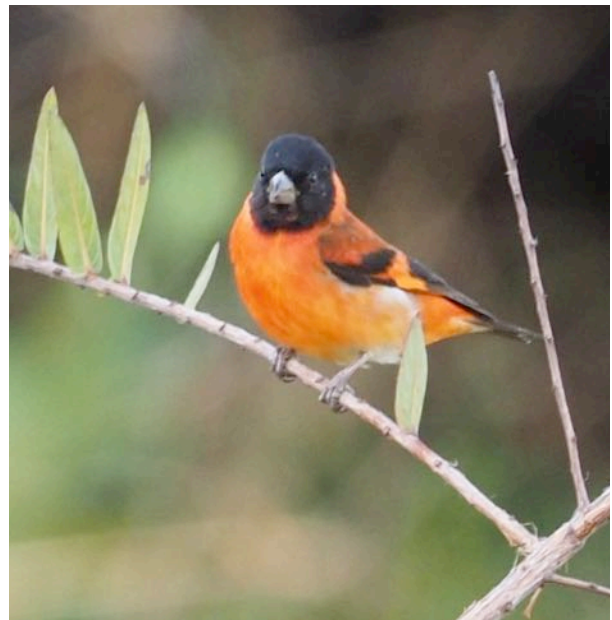
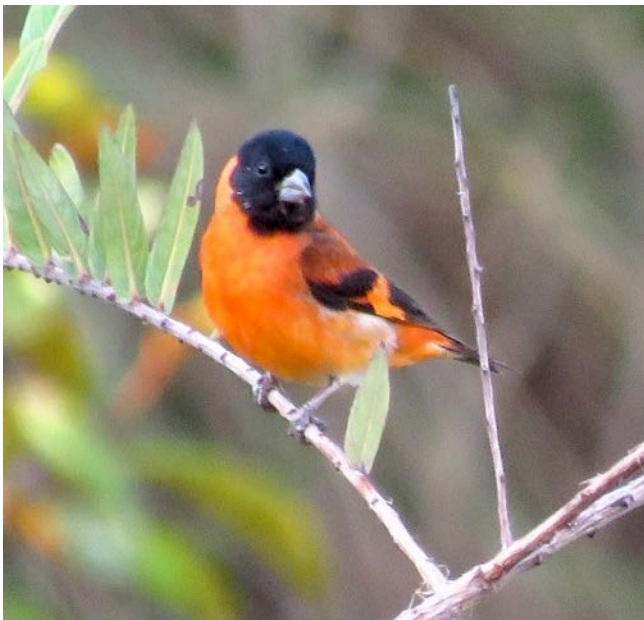


*Eastern Meadowlark (Eustace Barnes) and Short-crested Flycatcher (Jonathan Newman)*



Heading off across the starlit savannas before dawn we traversed one of the least known corners of 'The Bird Continent' in search of one of the rarest and most vulnerable denizens of the forest-island savanna ecotone; the Red Siskin. This, highly endangered, species was found here only relatively recently but seems to occur in reasonable numbers. Nevertheless, finding them is not straightforward and an entire day is devoted to finding this beautiful little finch with our excellent crew; Asaf (and delightful 4 year old trainee), Leroy and Chris. Patience, patience, patience is the key to this search. We selected the most promising site at a barely visible trickle of water the locals called a spring.

All was quiet for a while. The first species to appear was Finsch's Euphonia followed by a few Brown-throated Parakeets but little else. A short walk along the hillside above the spring then produced a number of Least Nighthawks, Burnished-buff Tanagers, a pair of White-tailed Hawks and a Savanna Hawk but no Siskins. We headed back to the spring and sometime before 7.30am a few Plumbeous Seed eaters began to come to drink along with Common Ground Doves. Waiting a short while and, as usual, Asaf heard a Siskin and we began to search the tall woodlands behind us. At 8.00am, on the dot, a male Siskin was at the spring and stayed there some time. Absolutely superb! No one could be in any doubt as to what it was. Or could they? It was then joined by an immature male. We subsequently saw another couple of males and a female before we returned to the ranch for lunch.



*A superb male Red Siskin (Ed Wilson left and Jonathan Newman right)*

Hard to beat! Anyway, the sun rose and temperatures soared. We retreated to the shady peace of a nice gallery woodland not so far away. We picked up Red-eyed Vireo, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Green-tailed Jacamar, Rufous-winged Antwren, a pair of White-barred Piculets and our first Spotted Puffbird. At that point, Leroy came to fish us out of the thorny tangle as time was pressing. Just as well someone keeps an eye on proceedings. We headed back to the ranch for lunch and a brief rest before packing up and retracing our steps westwards.

It was a bit hot, with temperatures rising above 37 degrees. Luckily we only had to surf the dust plume back to Lethem and on to the Manari ranch for our afternoon entertainment. We did, however, stop and wait as the dust settled to search for the somewhat local Bearded Tachuri. We did find the tiresome creature which did not put on a great show. Still, we saw it well enough and there were options to look for it again. We also saw White-headed Marsh-tyrant, our first Wedge-tailed Grass-finch and numerous Ruddy-breasted Seed eaters before we were forced to get a move on. Re-entering the dust plume it was time to part company with Asaf and so we returned him to his village. He had another ascription with a birding in group in the next couple of days; the 'Swedes' – they had to wait 12 hours and only glimpsed a female type bird. No doubt they took no notice of Asaf; always a mistake to ignore this solid guy and no doubt patience was in short supply.



*Asaf and his able bodied assistant (Eustace Barnes).*

We enjoyed a relaxing evening at the Manari ranch. There was a Glittering-throated Emerald at the flowering bushes by the hammocks but little else. This hapless creature, whose name vastly exaggerates its attractiveness would be better named *Amazilia horribillis* or *tristi*. A few hours later, we were crossing yet another starlit savanna in a light smoke haze en route to another gallery forest in search of another set of targets.



*Finsch's Euphonia and Maguari Stork (Eustace Barnes)*

That open grassland, dotted with marshes and criss-crossed by numerous forest-lined rivers, just to the north of Manari unfolded before us as dawn broke. We took the time to enjoy a brief session at a lovely wetland. We found Pearl Kite, Savanna Hawk, numerous Buff-necked Ibises, Jabiru, Maguari Stork, a couple of Azure Gallinules, hundreds of White-faced and Black-bellied Whistling-ducks, numerous Red-bellied Macaws, Brown-breasted Parakeets, Grassland Sparrows, Grassland Yellow-Finches, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, our only White-throated Kingbirds, numerous Fork-tailed Flycatchers and the ubiquitous Vermillion Flycatcher.





*One of the few remaining wetlands and full of life as a result (Eustace Barnes)*

On arrival at the gallery forest we could actually hear a Rio Branco Antbird calling. We entered the gallery forest and began our wait for the highly range restricted Antbird. It appeared very quickly and we all enjoyed great views of one of the more distinctive members of a somewhat uniformly dull genus. The gallery woodlands were very dry but nevertheless rang to the songs of numerous birds, including Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Pale-legged Hornero, Steak-headed Woodcreeper, Black-crested Antshrike, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet, Fuscous Flycatcher and Ochre-lored Flatbill. We also found Spot-breasted Woodpecker, another species not mapped as occurring in the region. We also needed to see the far from ubiquitous and indeed threatened Hoary-throated Spinetail and so we buried ourselves in a thorny thicket and began. Several Spinetails began to call but they were there anyway, creeping about, rodent-like, on the ground. A very pretty little furnarid. On the downside, we did not find the Guianan Gnatcatchers, Roraiman Antwrens, Fiery-shouldered Parakeets or Great Elaenias described in a well thumbed trip report of recent times. That's since they don't occur in the region, of course!



*Spot-breasted Woodpecker (Jonathan Newman) and Flavescent Warbler (Thomas Reber)*





*Rufous-tailed Jacamar – we all like Jacamars. Love that bronzy iridescence (Jonathan Newman).*

Anyway, it is a bit 'hamy' but, mission accomplished and so we took our leave and returned to Manari for lunch and a siesta. At the ranch, I met up with an old friend who was guiding a group of Swedish birders; they had missed both Crimson Fruitcrow and White-winged Potoo further north! Bad news that spread through my lot faster than a dose of the green-apple two-step. Grim! So things were to get harder, maybe.



*The unburnt savana (Ed Wilson).*





*White-tailed Hawk and Buff-necked Ibis (Ed Wilson)*

I briefly suggested taking pictures of birds in flight with bridge cameras was more difficult. Ed then set about proving me wrong with commendable zeal, as can be seen from the above photos.



*Crab-eating Fox is fairly common on the southern savannas (Eustace Barnes)*

Another baking afternoon and we were on the move again crossing savannas, wetlands and gallery forests on our way to Karasabai for the night. A truly remote spot! Tucked away in the middle of nowhere on the Brazilian border sandwiched between two vast indigenous reserves. It is precisely the protection afforded by this remoteness and the fierce native community that has allowed for the survival of the Sun Parakeet. Without the extraordinary actions of a small number of people in Karasabai it is doubtful the Sun Parakeet would have a viable wild population at all. As it is, this somewhat unremarkable area and an otherwise unremarkable community plays host to the last barely sustainable population of this beautiful psittacid. As it happens, the population is at last increasing. We arrived to a smiling community leader and those taking care of us for our brief stay. Great to see they want to show off their parrots.



*Sun Parakeet – one of thirty or so we saw at Karasabai (Jonathan Newman).*

The area is interesting and we found a good number of more widely distributed open country and scrubby woodland species including Savanna Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, Lineated Woodpecker, Green-tailed Jacamar, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Finsch's Euphonia, Hooded Tanager and Orange-backed Troupial. Red and green Macaw was notably common and we probably saw over 40 birds in total. Perhaps interestingly, Red siskin has also been reported from here by another tour company (the same as mentioned earlier) but after two weeks of searching Asaf and his team failed to find any and the local people have never seen them here either. If they can't find them here they are not here. Of the world of parrots we also saw good numbers of Brown-breasted Parakeets, Orange-winged and Yellow-crowned Amazons and a few Green-rumped Parrotlets.





*The stunning Sun Parakeet (Thomas Reber).*

However, less well known is that the tall woodlands here hold the *orenocensis* form of White-bellied Piculet (unmapped for the region but quite common). We quickly connected with this very white-bellied form with little or no breast and flanks markings. It differs so markedly from the coastal form it may warrant specific recognition in its own right (I feel a paper coming on). We then continued to our stakeout for the parakeets which appeared rather quickly and we then went on to watch them at a couple of areas during the course of the morning. What a superb species and well worth the time devoted to it. Usually, we have to search a good deal harder to find this species. Apparently, the population has risen to about 35 or so and, at this time of year many trees are fruting.



*Red sky at night = scattering of light through smoke (Ed Wilson).*



*White-bellied Piculet Picumnus spilogaster orenocensis (Eustace Barnes).*

So, this must be the form *orenocensis* of White-bellied Piculet. It is very common at Karasabai, along the Ireng river and in gallery forests throughout northern Roraima in Brazil. A heavy-billed bird with no barring on the chest and only very light spots on the flanks of otherwise uniformly white underparts.

Once we had spent the morning watching the Sun Parakeets and scrutinising the White-bellied Piculets we returned to base for a splendid lunch and to celebrate having found the four principal target species in the southern savannas in style. We took a short break after lunch to write our notes, read through the guidebook and talk about the conservation of Sun Parakeets. We packed our bags said our thanks to the local community and began to retrace our steps to the highway before heading to the Karanambu ranch, made famous by David Attenborough. It is at Karanambu where Diane McTurk took care of Giant River Otters orphaned by fishermen or hunters. Unfortunately, Diane has passed away since my last visit, but the otters were still present in good numbers. We had three nights at this splendid lodge, as finding Crestless Curassow has proven very difficult on recent tours. So, it was a belt and braces measure. On arrival I immediately began to arrange an exhaustive schedule of boat trips in search of the aforementioned Cracid. Karanambu is now pretty much the only site where this rapidly declining species can be found with any degree of regularity. I need not have worried. As we were boarding our fine water craft on our very first river trip Jonathan exclaimed 'curassow walking along the beach'. Indeed there were three Crestless Curassows walking along the beach! Engines not even started and the principal target of our visit was bagged! We then drifted down river until we were quite close to them, enjoying great views of this often elusive denizen of stunted gallery forest and varzea forests.





*Crestless Curassow at Karanambu (Jonathan Newman)*

This 'luck' was to be repeated through the tour for many of our target species. Although, as a friend once commented, 'Eustace, I find that the more time one spends in the field the more luck one enjoys in the field.' Not luck then, but the idea of it is infectious.



*Spotted Puffbird – one of four we saw during the tour (Eustace Barnes).*



Our first dawn excursion on the ranch was spent walking the trails. Exploring the light woodlands lining the river banks took us very quickly to the Capuchinbird lek. At first, we were greeted with silence, but there was a bird frozen, watching us as we arrived! As the sun rose, two other birds began to shuffle about and put on their extraordinary display, making for the most memorable experience of the tour. We watched the birds displaying in the low canopy; inflating themselves in a highly ritualised procedure before emitting their extraordinary booming calls. Once the birds had finished, we continued birding the trails. Finding a cavernous space in the woodlands I progressively taped in Striped and Buff-throated Woodcreeper, White-bellied, White-browed and Dusky Antbirds, Northern Slaty and Black-crested Antshrikes and White-flanked Antwren as well as Buff-breasted Wren and Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher. A nice session. Heading to a similar spot with a more open cathedral-like architecture we had a good look at Black Nunbird, Green-backed Trogon and Green-tailed Jacamars. Another confiding Spotted Puffbird also put in an appearance before we headed back to base for coffee and a break.



*The extraordinary Capuchinbird (Jonathan Newman).*



What to do? We had seen our targets as well as we could have hoped for and we had another day. So another river trip was planned. We could look for Giant River Otter, Skimmers and Jabiru but not Agami Heron. At this time of year the water levels are too low and the birds safely concealed in the damp forested pools away from the river channels. On arrival at the port the call went up – ‘river otters’! There they were, before we had even got into the boats. We set off down-river, exploring the various side channels and the only ox-bow lake we could enter. We saw a group of Currassows and then had another one feeding quietly along the lake shore for ten minutes or so. We photographed Green Ibis, Jabiru, Pied Lapwing and Grey-necked Wood-Rail. Once the light began to fade the languid tones of Red-legged Tinamous could be heard and numerous Band-tailed Nighthawks began their crepuscular hawking around our boats.



*Jabiru at Karanambu (Eustace Barnes).*

River trips are always fun for an hour or so and we did see a lot on our various water borne adventures here.



*The immaculate Grey-necked Wood-Rail (Eustace Barnes).*

The following morning we headed off to a marsh where, a few years back, Manuel had found Crested Doradito. On arrival we found to our horror that someone had burnt the marsh!!! This is a measure used by local communities to round up their horses. Incredible. Anyway, we did find a couple of Doraditos at what is almost certainly their best site. Manuel has undertaken a survey of the site and found as many as twenty eight birds. He has tried to raise money to protect the site but without success. In the afternoon we made for an area of open savanna, where we saw another Bearded Tachuri, this time a superb male. Across the savannas, the marshes were mostly dry. We did see several Pinnated Bitterns, a couple of Azure Gallinules and, very briefly, a Yellow-breasted Crake at one very wet wetland. In spite of devoting some time to trying to see the bird it did not reappear.



*Crested Doradito (Eustace Barnes).*

The area also produced Ruddy-breasted and Plumbeous Seedeaters, dozens of Grassland Yellow-Finches, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Grassland Sparrows and many many Eastern Meadowlarks. Great Egret, Jabiru and a couple of Roseate Spoonbills decorated the sky. Several pairs of Buff-necked Ibises walked through the savanna along with a couple of Burrowing Owls watching our every move. A little later, we waited and watched the sunset, before night birding. It produced very little except a pair of Nacunda Nighthawks and a couple of White-tailed Nightjars. So, it was back to the ranch for rum punch and more tales of do and dare.





*Bearded Tachuri (Eustace Barnes).*

Exploring the savannas had been great. We had seen all of our targets and had great views of the lot.

So, after a relaxed breakfast we once again we entered the dust train and headed for Colinville; a delightful establishment owned and run by an eccentric Englishman called Colin. Actually, it is more commonly known by the rather more prosaic name Rock View. Still, more entertaining to embrace the nihilistic Colinville. The group were forewarned they might have to sit through a tirade of self aggrandising nonsense but he was ill and so we were spared. Once we had seen the preparation of Cashews and watched the Catfish being fed we headed off in search of another localised grassland tyrannid; the White-naped *Xenopsaris*. A few minutes after arrival and with some digital assistance the bird duly appeared in front of us for a good show. It looks a bit like a Becard and sounds like a Becard so maybe it is a Becard. Its time at this site is perhaps coming to end as the understorey is all but burnt out now. It remains rather more numerous in Roraima where burning is prohibited by the Brazilian authorities. I think the *Xenopsaris* was a new species for many. Anyway, we continued on our merry way to some gallery forest at Camundi Bach. This concluding our savanna birding for the tour. Said gallery forest was singularly unproductive, although we did see a Green-backed Trogon, Rufous-browed Peppershrike and a Buff-throated Saltator but very little else.

Well before dusk we headed back to Rock View for dinner, a few beers and to prepare for the following day's planned exertions. We were to be birding in rainforests from here on and therefore suffering an entirely different type of birding.



*White-tailed Goldenthrroat stretching (Ed Wilson)*



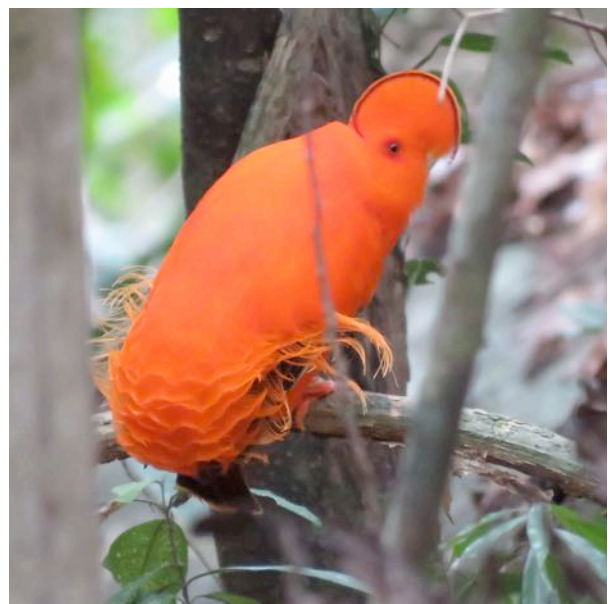
*White-naped Xenopsaris; our final grassland tyrannid (Eustace Barnes left and Ed Wilson right)*





*A pair of Aplomado Falcons and a female Cream-coloured Woodpecker (Ed Wilson)*

Next morning and offsky, as we headed to the remote settlement of Wowetta in the stygian pre-dawn for the start of our rainforest trek to a spectacular Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek located high up on an isolated rocky outcrop overlooking superb terra firma forests. This was the start of our rainforest birding and proved a great morning/day. The walk began well enough with a Green Oropendola colony, a couple of sneaky Cayenne Jays, a few Golden-headed Manakins at their daily dancing routines and a pair of White-crested Spadebills. As we plodded on we found a good number of Dusky Parrots, a pair of Crane Hawks, a Black Caracara and several Plumbeous Kites. The forests were fairly quiet but we spied a couple of Grey-winged Trumplers as they stumbled out on to the trail. After all the distractions we began the climb to the lek where we were able to watch the antics of the ultimate jungle dandy; the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. We spent some time watching the males at their courts and seeing them chase one another around, glowing like fireballs in the greenery. Some of us then climbed down to the caves where four females were sat on their nests. It was quite fascinating to see the nests and that several birds were nesting in such close proximity. Should I ever tire of watching these birds it is time to stop birding.



*Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at his court (Ed Wilson)*



*Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at court (Eustace Barnes).*

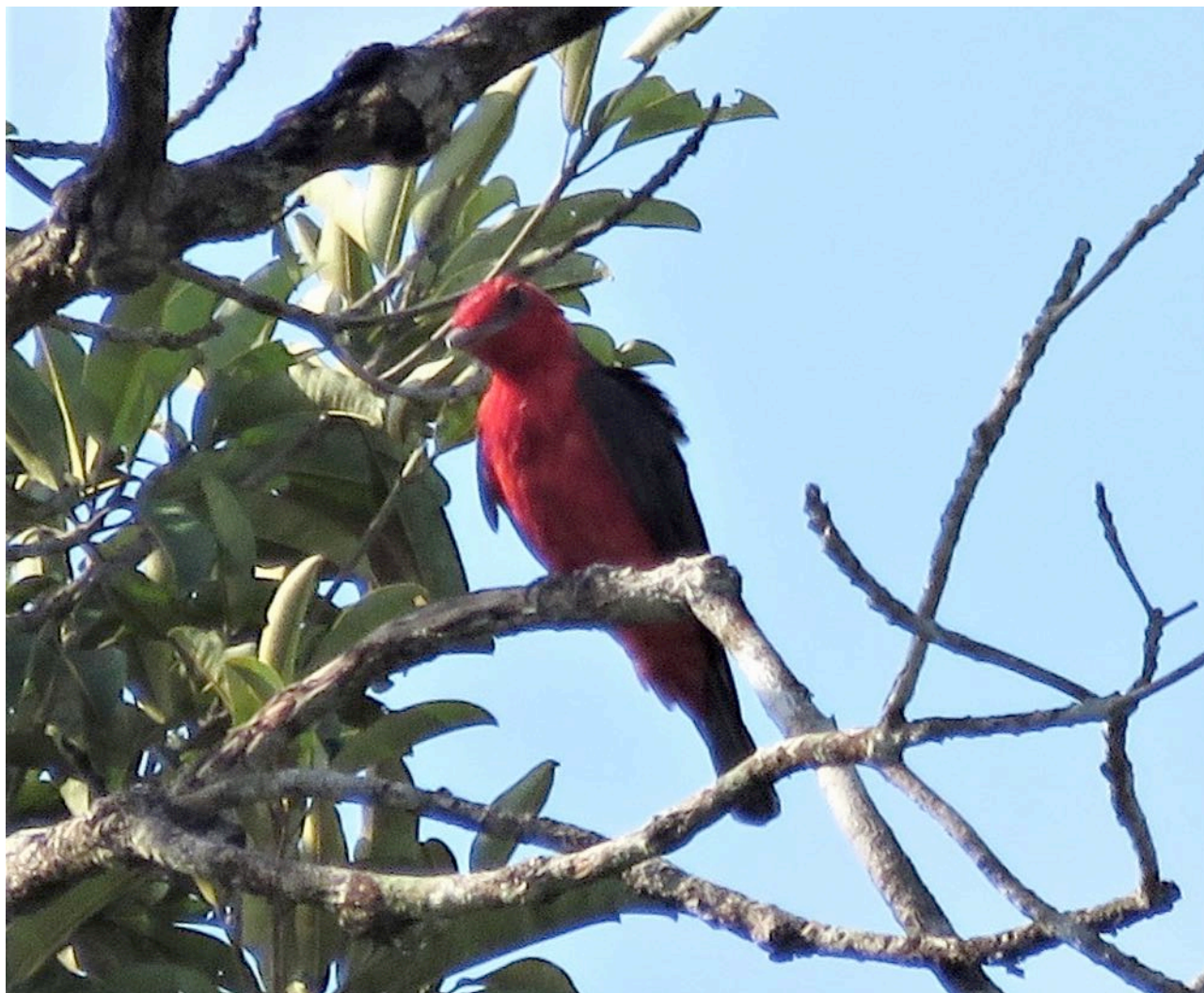
Retracing our steps we called in a superb male Guianan Red Cotinga. What a spectacular bird and we saw it so well. Always a joy to see these beautiful and somewhat retiring denizens of the evergreen gloom glowing in the understorey. At the clearing where the village has begun to build a lodge we found Red-rumped Caciques, Guianan Toucanets, a White Hawk and a couple of Yellow-throated Woodpeckers. It was late and so we made our way to the village for a late lunch.



*Guianan Red Cotinga – always hard to photograph (Jonathan Newman).*



On to the famous Surama lodge after a short break in the village and a chat with the locals at the shop. We arrived very late, much to the annoyance of Stephano, and immediately headed off to the nearby gallery forests. It was hot and very dry. The birds were not very active and we were tired but we still found a Black Currassow ambling about in the leaf litter. We chased about, off trail, for a Spotted Antpitta but the light was failing and we gave up after a while. We also heard a couple of Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owls which did not budge. Phil got up at 4am the following morning and saw them.



*The superb Crimson Fruitcrow (Ed Wilson).*

On the move again, we were headed to Atta Lodge this time, stopping to walk the Harpy Eagle trail. The primary objective of the exercise was a little more demanding as the area is very good for Crimson Fruitcrow. Tall white sand forest being their favoured forest type. Early morning and we began our pains-taking search for the aforementioned mega-target. We called in a Ringed Woodpecker, found a group of Marail Guans, saw numerous White-throated and Channel-billed Toucans, Green and Black-necked Aracaris and a single female Pompadour Cotinga. Birding was good with a steady stream of new species for us to scrutinise. Then a large bird, in bounding flight, crossed the road and landed beneath the canopy. **CRIMSON FRUITCROW!** There it was for all to see – the most wanted target species of the tour. In the scope and great to see at such close quarters for a good long while. Again, our first attempt at a species produced the goods. We walked the trail to the Harpy Eagle nest where we knew the immature bird was now very mobile. We did not want to devote the day to finding it and so we concentrated on general forest birding. We worked through a couple of sub-canopy flocks; Dusky-throated and Cinerous Antshrikes, Brown-bellied, Grey, White-flanked and Long-winged Antwrens with the occasional Plain Xenops or Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner. What a day. Time to get to the Atta lodge.

Atta lodge is one of those places that leaves an impression; it is hemmed in on all sides by tall forest. In the early morning the deafening roar of Howlers, ear splitting shrieks of innumerable parrots, macaws and Spix's Guans shake the buildings while throughout the day the piercing whistles of Screaming Pihas echo around the tiny clearing. It all adds up to the ultimate wilderness experience and certainly one never forgotten!



*Screaming Piha uttering the most distinctive of all songs (Ed Wilson).*

This magnificent location provides a number of great options to search for the numerous target species found in the vicinity of our lodgings. We divided our time between birding the entrance track and main road, the forest trails and the canopy walkway a short distance from our lodge. On our first afternoon we walked the 'highway' in search of parrots and Crimson Topaz. We were treated to a constant chorus of yelping White-throated Toucans and croaking Channel-billed Toucans as well as Yellow-crowned and Mealy Amazons. After a brief moment of confusion we found our only Blue-cheeked Amazons, of which there are very few around now. We should not forget the good numbers of Red and green and Scarlet Macaws and many other parrots. It was indeed a parrot heaven! However, there were few cotingas in evidence although we did spot a female Pomapdour Cotinga. The roadside vegetation produced very little as we made our way to the bridge to wait for the stunning Crimson Topaz to appear at a well known roost site. They did so and we had great views of a bird along with a lovely Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper. We then sauntered back towards the lodge as dusk crept up on us. We had to hang about a bit but sure enough just before darkness fell the errie whistles of White-winged Potoo rang through the forest. The bird was called in and very briefly seen by some of us. This bird is regularly called and is somewhat weary of the tiresome routine, as was I.



While everyone was occupied trying to see this bird I headed off to find another, which I did. We had to walk about 600m or so but we all ended up seeing another bird very well. It sat in the scope and did not budge. So that was Crimson Fruitcrow and White-winged Potoo on the same day!! Sweet! It certainly put the concerns raised by the disgruntled Swedes, we had met earlier, to rest. I say met, they barely acknowledged our presence.



*Female Racket-tailed Coquette around the clearing (Thomas Reber).*

So, that was our first afternoon. The following morning we headed to the walkway. The forests were very quiet and the walkway is in exactly the wrong place to see mixed flocks. It was not a great success but no worse than usual. We saw a number of parrots and toucans, a Waved Woodpecker, Jonathan spotted a pair of Pied Puffbirds (possibly on the Suriname border) but little else. We then returned to the lodge, seeing a pair of Black-faced Hawks on the way. We then readied ourselves for a mega morning along the highway.



*The pretty Black-faced Hawk and massive Scarlet Macaw (Ed Wilson)*

The Atta boys had devoted a week or so to finding another great bird; the Rufous Potoo. So, we headed off to see this stunning species at a day-time roost. Absolutely superb! I'll let the photos do the talking I think.



*Rufous Potoo – how often does this bird appear in trip reports? (Jonathan Newman)*

We spent a good deal of time wandering around the site looking at the bird from a number of angles. When a little spooked it rocked back and forth and blinked at us. All the while there was a mixed flock overhead, but the various antwrens we had not yet seen remained out of sight. Todd's and Spot-tailed Antwrens, Wing-barred Piprites, Ash-winged Antwren, Yellow-crowned tyrannulet and so on. As it was hopeless to look we then headed back, stopping at the Mori Scrub where we found numerous Black Manakins, several pairs of Rufous-crowned Eleanias and a pair of Bronzy Jacamars before the crushing heat forced our retreat to the lodge. The Jacamars are not always so obvious but at this time of year they have young and call every now and then.





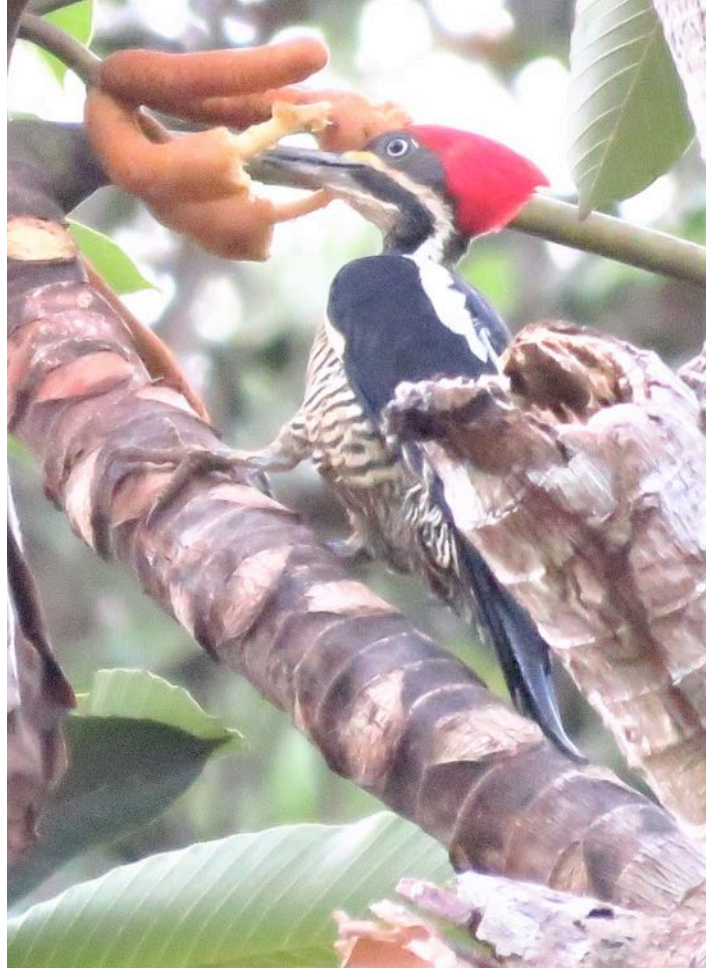
*Bronzy Jacamar at the Mori Scrub (Jonathan Newman).*

It was hot. We had our target species and so we headed back to Atta for lunch and an afternoon watching the flocks around the clearing. A pleasant way to spend the afternoon and often productive.



*The Black Curassow and a male Mouse-coloured Antshrike (Jonathan Newman)*

Indeed, the clearing can be very productive and we enjoyed some good sightings of a number of species. These included Spix's Guan, Black-tailed Tityras, Guianan Tyrannulet, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Black-faced and Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, more Red-necked and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers and, of course, the resident Black Currassow. A flock passed through that kept us occupied for a while. We worked through Spot-tailed and Ash-winged Antwrens, Buff-cheeked and Lemon-chested Greenlets, Guianan Woodcreeper, Plain Xenops, Red-legged, Purple and Green Honeycreepers and a number of Fulvous-crested, Flame-crested, Yellow-backed and Spotted Tanagers. A huge clump of mistletoe was watched a while and we found a Dusky Purpletuft while numerous Screaming Pihas crossed the clearing back and forth. Better than the walkway, as usual.



*Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper and Lineated Woodpecker (Ed Wilson)*

A spot of night birding? Why not, and so we headed along the highway a few kilometers and waited out a pair of Black-banded Owls. They duly gave stellar views, fairly soon after dark, in the various scopes at our disposal. Again, another mega moment among many and the owls did not even make the top ten! How is that possible? Well the other sightings and target species just swept them off the radar.

The trail system at Atta has been extended and now includes quite a number of great routes through the tall forests around the lodge. We found a sneaky male Black-throated Antshrike that circled us giving reasonable views for some. A number of understory flocks gave us good views at a number of Antbirds including Mouse-coloured, Cinereous and Dusky-throated Antshrikes, Long-winged, Brown-bellied and Rufous-bellied Antwrens, Plain Xenops, Chestnut-rumped and Buff-throated Woodcreepers. We also saw Yellow-throated and Red-necked Woodpeckers and a couple of Guianan Trogons. It would be great if they put in a long trail around the hill behind the walkway. I would think that this would be where Wing-banded Antbird, Black-faced Anthrush, the various Leaf-tossers, Guianan Gnatcatcher and Olive-green Tyrannulet might be found. A watchpoint from the hill top would give better raptor and, indeed, swift watching.





*Green Ibis and Sunbittern (Ed Wilson)*

We devoted our final morning session at Atta to finding the rarely seen Red and black Grosbeak. We began our steady search through open forests and seemingly sparse understorey. We heard the indistinct contact calls of a couple of birds, but they quickly melted away and we moved on to be treated to the same experience again. They can be mighty difficult to actually see and I could sense the troops were getting a bit restless. Still, that's part of being a leader and on we went, quietly walking the trail. A little later and more quiet calls. A bit of playback, some indistinct movements in the understorey and there they were. Two males and a female chasing around about four or five meters off the ground. We got the female in the scope and all were able to watch her at length. The males were more mobile and harder to cue up as they uttered their loud ringing song from some unseen perch. However, mission accomplished.



*Striated Heron fishing (Ed Wilson)*

This bird was using a twig, with a bit of red 'fluff' attached, as a lure, to fish. It dropped it up stream and followed it as it floated past. Then picked it up and repeated the exercise. We watched it do this about a dozen times.





*Atta Canopy walkway (Eustace Barnes.)*

It was time to leave the Atta Rainforest lodge and head to the Iwokrama River lodge perched on the banks of the Essequibo River. As it was, after lunch we planned only to stop at another patch of white sand forest. Time perhaps for that well rehearsed biogeography. Central Guyana is covered by a vast swathe of rainforest, housing much of the country's biodiversity. Rainforests may appear uniform but, in reality, are comprised of a complex mosaic of forest types determined by drainage, flood periodicity, edaphic factors, slope, aspect and elevation. One of the most distinctive forest types is White Sand forest; a type of forest that developed on



relictual dune systems deposited as the Amazon basin extended eastwards as the Andes were pushed up. The Mori Scrub is such an area of White sand forest close to Iwokrama and we headed to this fascinating area after breakfast in time for a good show from the skulking denizens of this dense habitat. We again found several Black Manakins and a few White-crowned and Golden-headed Manakins. These and a few other species are only found in white sand forests, which have recently received a lot of attention from biologists with the discovery of new species in Peru. Although few of the specialties have been found in the white sand forests of Guyana it is true to say that little field work has been conducted in them and few birders have devoted much time to them. We saw another Bronzy Jacamar and, after some effort, secured good views of Guianan Schiffornis; a vocally very distinct species in its own right. It does not respond to the song of Amazonian birds. The temperatures rose, and we continued on our way to the Iwokrama Rainforest lodge.



*The view over the Essequibo river from the veranda at Iwokrama (Eustace Barnes)*

Iwokrama. is a stunning place and very different from Atta, located as it is adjacent to a wide river. Our time here is usually divided between the spectacular forests of the entrance track, the river edge habitats and the Turtle Mountain trail that climbs to a watch point that looks out over the vast swathes of forest described above.



*Swallow-tailed Kite one, and along the Iwokrama river two (Ed Wilson)*



*Yellow-billed Jacamar (Jonathan Newman)*

Staying at Iwokrama is simply part of the basic **More walking + more Sites = More Birds** equation. The entrance track and Turtle mountain trail can be good for mixed flocks and a number of other species not readily found at Atta. We worked the track on a couple of occasions but found very little. We did connect with a small antswarm at which we found several Rufous-throated Antbird and a couple of White-plumed Antbirds, although they dispersed very quickly. Around the clearing there were a few pairs of Moriche Orioles, Chestnut-bellied Seedeaters and Giant Cowbirds. Watching from the Veranda we did see Blue and Yellow Macaws heading off to there roost and on the river we found Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns and Black Skimmer. The rocky islands in the river hold good numbers of Black-collared Swallows and we made sure to go and have close look at the pretty little things.



*An interesting combination. White-plumed Antbird and Western Osprey (Jonathan Newman)*

The trail up Turtle Mountain is always interesting, and our day was to be exceptional. So, Spotted Antpitta on the flood plain section of the trail, march up the hill for Orange-breasted Falcon and then descend as quickly as possible to search out Rufous-winged Ground-cuckoo.



Sounded like a plan, if one infused with hopeless optimism. It was listened to in respectful, if disbelieving silence. So, we set off across the flood plain and heard a couple of Spotted Antpittas. One was some way from the trail. Should we commit or carry on. We got stuck in and eventually all managed great views of this very pretty little antpitta. It hopped about and fed on the forest floor and eventually jumped up to call from an exposed perch. Time to move on, each at their own pace, climbing the 250m ascent to the summit. Once on top, I waited until we were all assembled. We had a good look at the Swallow-tailed Kites and after a few minutes the call was made and, almost immediately, a male Orange-breasted Falcon thundered across the forest in front of us to land in the dead tree just above our heads! Outstanding. We watched the falcon, the falcon glared at us. We scratched our chigger bites, drank some water and prepared to descend.



*Orange-breasted Falcon in relaxed mode (Ed Wilson).*

It was hot, the chiggers were biting and there seemed little bird vocalisation. However, as I walked across the flood plain I could hear the churrs, growls and songs of obligate army ant followers. In no time we were watching several spectacular White-plumed Antbirds, numerous Rufous-throated Antbirds, Common Scale-backed Antbirds, Amazonian Barred, White-chinned and Chestnut-rumped Woodcreepers. A spectacular moment and a real highlight of the tour without doubt, although not one that would be listed in the top ten.

Then it was time for silence and focus! At ant swarms, Ground-cuckoos can be present and so the call was issued. A nano-second later, loud bill snapping was heard to our right. During the next hour or so we saw a large male Rufous-winged Ground-cuckoo on several occasions. It ran alongside a fallen log, peered underneath it at me. It then retreated to a tree angled across the trail, which it climbed slowly to a narrow branch where it stopped and peered round at us. It is one of the hardest rainforest species to see and so it proved for some of the group. The bird then flew from one perch to another calling constantly. I put the bird in the scope but even so, as we were focusing through layers of vegetation, some could not see it with the very fine focusing demanded.



*Black-collared Swallows. (No photos of Ground-cuckoo, it was hard enough seeing it) (Ed Wilson).*

Eventually, the bird took itself off and we began our return to the river. We only had to stop to call in a pair of Yellow-billed Jacamars. They only called once and so did we. In it came like a rocket and all obtained great views. Then it really was time to get back to base for lunch and a well earned rest as it was already well after midday. What a morning, one of the best in a long time. The afternoon, what little remained of it, was spent taking a boat trip to see Black-collared Swallows and a few Blue and yellow Macaws along the river. Thereafter, we had a pleasant evening recalling the highlights of the day and others during the tour. Too many really.

The following morning we departed Iwokrama at a good hour with our trusty, highly experienced driver and headed for Georgetown, quite some distance away. Our very patient driver gave us the time we wanted to do quite a bit of birding in the tall forest on the east bank of the Essequibo. We caught up with a number of commoner species we had not taken the time to look for until now. Guianan Warbling Antbird, Black-throated Antbird, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Todd's Antwren and so on. We hammered on, battling the muddy horror on the highway to Georgetown (sounds like a bad rock song). Incredible as it seems, the driver did not scrape the bottom of the van once and seemed to know every bend, pothole and bridge along the entire route. We stopped for lunch and the locals came out to fight over the space to try and sell us peanuts and plantain crisps. We then continued on our merry way arriving the capital late afternoon.





*Rufous Crab Hawk at New Amsterdam. A really good photograph of this bird in the mangroves (Thomas Reber)*

Our final day was to be spent to the east of Georgetown. We left well before dawn and headed along the coast. At the Abary Road site, most of the woodland there has been cleared and as it was raining hard we continued to another area of tall woodland I had identified on google earth. A privately-owned property and well protected as a result. This area was just north of New Amsterdam and surely presents us with a new area to be explored. I wanted to come here anyway, to check the Piculets and see if we could find Arrowhead or Guianan Piculet alongside the *spilogaster* form of White-bellied Piculet as described in HBW7 and the Restall Field Guide. We found several pairs of Piculets. The first male had olive green upperparts and pale yellowish underparts with large clearly defined spots on the flanks. This was clearly the nominate form *spilogaster*. In another pair, the male was perhaps a little duller above, but certainly white below, not yellowish. The underparts had dense but indistinct barring (or ruffled scalloping) on the breast breaking up in to scalloping on the upper breast and flanks. This then reduced to light crescents on the lower breast and flanks. I think this was most likely Guianan Piculet as it resembles this species rather more than the nominate White-bellied Piculet. However, the markings on the breast and upper flanks were more profuse than illustrated in HBW7. However, this does accord with markings on birds depicted in photographs of Guianan Piculet from Suriname. Those having been taken at sites only 50km further along the coast and across two more large rivers in similar habitat. In any event, the two pairs were sufficiently different to warrant more work in various woodlands en route to Paramaribo.

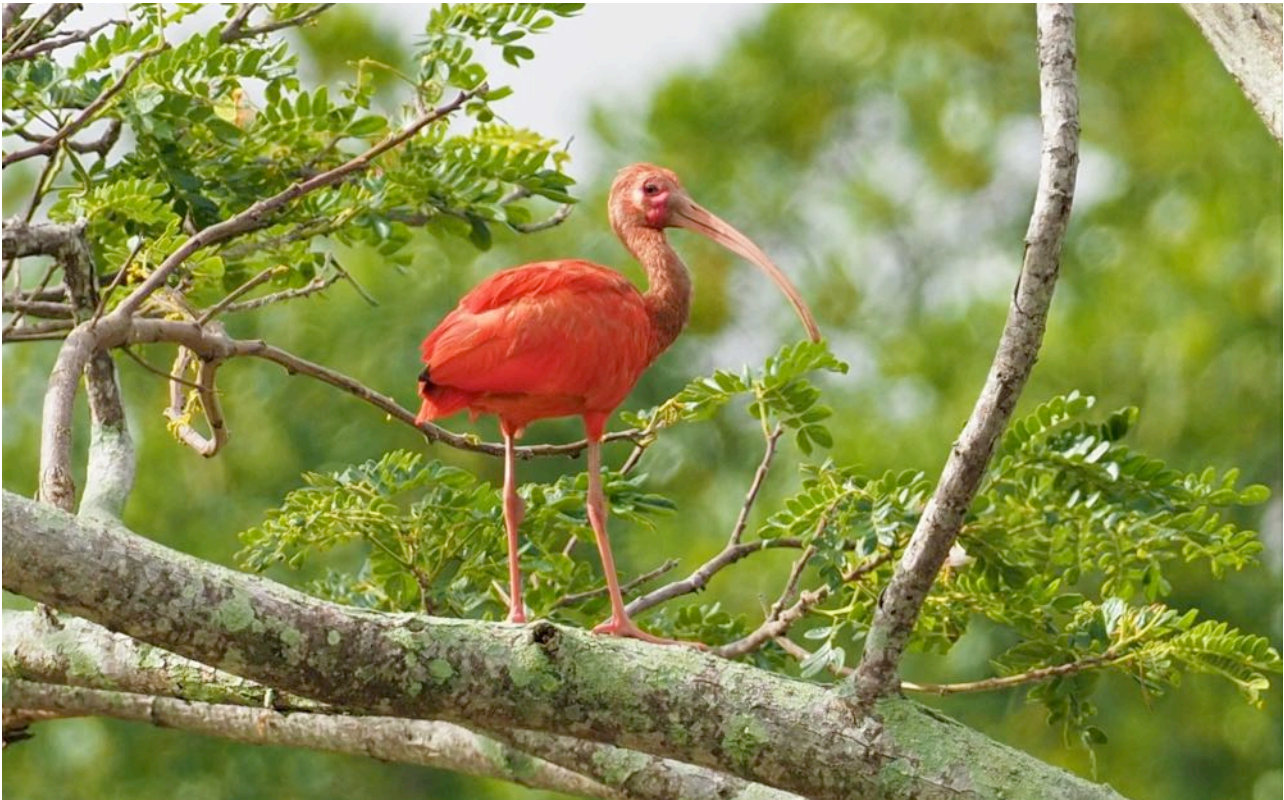
At this woodland we found several Rufous Crab Hawks, a couple of Blood-coloured Woodpeckers, Straight-billed Woodcreepers, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Tropical Gnatcatcher (Not Guianan), several Scarlet Ibises and a selection of other commoner species including Ashy-headed Greenlet, Pale-tipped Inezia and Pied Water Tyrant.



*Female Blood-coloured Woodpecker. A great shot (Jonathan Newman).*

As the tide was rising we headed back to Georgetown, stopping to search several areas of mudflats. All these areas had been severely damaged by the storms of the previous autumn and held no waders, herons or egrets. The mangroves were ripped up and the trunks lay piled up against the remnant woodlands. Even Hope beach was utterly destroyed and it was indeed hopeless to persist with the wader bashing described in trip reports from previous tours. Since list padding is no longer part of the BirdQuest MO we cut our losses and returned to Georgetown for a late lunch. So, no waders to pad out the list! Oh well, we'll have to content ourselves with remembering the Crimson Fruitcrow.





*Scarlet Ibis (Jonathan Newman).*

The afternoon was then given to visiting the Demerara bridge to see the Egret and Scarlet Ibis roost. Waiting at a couple of points on the rising tide to see if we could see Mangrove Rail being driven through the mangroves was depressing. In the extreme, that is! As the waters rose a vast tide of plastic bottles washed through the mangroves, such that all you could see beneath the trees was a carpet of bottles. No rails, needless to say. Anyway, we did enjoy the Ibis roost and a Peregrine eyeing its chances for an easy meal. Not in the Birdquest group, of course, oh no, in the heron roost. Although, some of the group were looking a little peaky. That, as they say was that, the end of the tour! How did that happen so quickly? A mega trip packed with so many highlights it was hard to pick out a top ten species but we managed.

#### **Top Ten species of the tour.**

Sun Parakeet – one of the most stunning Psittacids. The only place to see it now.

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock – check the photos. One of many great places to see this bird.

Red Siskin – critical now. In any event a stunner. The only place to see this species.

Rufous Potoo – what a bonus. One of two places to see this bird.

Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo – mega. Well, nowhere better to even look for it now.

Crimson Fruitcrow – superb views. Nowhere easier or better to see this bird.

Capuchinbird – lek at 5 meters above your head. Can't be beaten. It is the best lek.

Guianan Red Cotinga – looks more beautiful every time I see it. The easiest tour on which to see this bird.

Crestless Curassow – we have cracked this one, and it is the only place to see it now.

Orange-breasted Falcon – absolutely fantastic experience with this bird. The best place to see this by far.

So, the top ten was spot on.

Bubbling under at numbers 11 through 15 were White-winged Potoo, Red and black Grosbeak, White-plumed Antbird, Spotted Antpitta and Black-banded Owl. What a great list of birds for such a short period of time. I guess these did not make it as they can, with the exception of White-winged Potoo be seen in Suriname.



*Rufous Potoo. (Ed Wilson).*

## 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 (L).

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* A few heard and another seen sitting in the road one afternoon.

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (H) Heard at Karanambu.

**Red-legged Tinamou** ◊ *Crypturellus erythropus* (H) Several heard along the Rupununi river and at the Mori scrub.

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* Several hundred seen near Manari in the south.

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Small numbers seen with the above mentioned species.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* A flock of twenty seen Karanambu.

**Brazilian Teal** *Amazonetta brasiliensis* A few noted.



**Little Chachalaca** *Ortalis motmot* Several seen near Dadanawa and along the Ireng river.  
**Marail Guan** ♦ *Penelope marail* A few seen.  
**Spix's Guan** *Penelope jacquacu* Only seen on a couple of occasions.  
**Crestless Curassow** ♦ *Mitu tomentosum* Three seen together at Karanambu and two on another afternoon. Superb.  
**Black Curassow** *Crax alector* A group of maybe five or six at Karanambu. One Surama and common at Atta.  
**Crested Bobwhite** *Colinus cristatus* Commonly seen on the savannas.  
**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus* Seen on the savannas.  
**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* A few noted.  
**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* A single bird seen along the Ireng river.  
**Maguari Stork** *Ciconia maguari* Surprising numbers seen in the rice fields.  
**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* Small numbers in the southern savannas.  
**Buff-necked Ibis** *Theristicus caudatus* Common and increasing in the south.  
**Green Ibis** *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Several seen at Karanambu.  
**Scarlet Ibis** *Eudocimus ruber* A good number on the coast.  
**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* Four seen at Karanambu.  
**Rufescent Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* A couple at Karanambu  
**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* Several seen at Karanambu.  
**Pinnated Bittern** *Botaurus pinnatus* Three seen at Karanambu.  
**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen at Karanambu.  
**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* Common on the coast.  
**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Seen around Georgetown and in the south.  
**Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* Small numbers throughout.  
**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Common in the south and on the coast.  
**Capped Heron** *Pilherodius pileatus* A single bird seen at Karanambu.  
**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* A few on the coast.  
**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Seen on the coast.  
**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* A commonly recorded bird.  
**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* A single bird seen on the coast.  
**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* Seen on the coast.  
**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* One at Karanambu.  
**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* Several noted.  
**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Common.  
**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* Common on the savannas.  
**Greater Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes melambrotus* A common species at Atta.  
**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Abundant.  
**King Vulture** *Sarcorampus papa* A few noted.  
**Western Osprey (American O)** *Pandion [haliaetus] carolinensis* Commonly seen northern migrant.  
**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus* A couple seen.  
**Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* A common species in the south.  
**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* A single bird seen in the south.  
**Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* A single bird seen at Karanambu.  
**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* A few seen.  
**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* A couple noted.  
**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* A common species in Georgetown.  
**Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens* One noted near Manari.  
**Rufous Crab Hawk** ♦ *Buteogallus aequinoctialis* A good many pairs noted on the coast.  
**Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* Very common in the south.  
**Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* A few noted.  
**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Common along the rivers.  
**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* Abundant on the savannas.  
**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* A couple at Woowetta.  
**Black-faced Hawk** ♦ *Leucopternis melanops* A pair at Atta.  
**Grey-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* A couple noted.  
**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* Three seen in the botanical gardens in Georgetown.

**Sunbittern** *Eurypyga helias* A couple at Karanambu.  
**Yellow-breasted Crane** *Porzana flaviventer* A single bird flushed near Manari ranch.  
**Grey-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides cajaneus* A few noted at Karanambu.  
**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* Common.  
**Azure Gallinule** *Porphyrio flavirostris* A few noted near Manari.  
**Grey-winged Trumpeter** ♦ *Psophia crepitans* Somewhat uncommon this year.  
**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* A common species.  
**Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus* An uncommon species on the savannas.  
**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* A single bird seen at Hope Beach.  
**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* Common in the south and the north.  
**Semipalmated Plover (W)** *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few on the coast.  
**Pied Plover** *Hoploxypterus cayanus* A few along the Rupununi river.  
**Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* Abundant.  
**Spotted Sandpiper (W)** *Actitis macularius* A few noted.  
**Solitary Sandpiper (W)** *Tringa solitaria* A common wintering bird.  
**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* A pair on the Essequibo river.  
**Yellow-billed Tern** *Sternula superciliaris* A couple noted.  
**Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex* A few on the Essequibo river.  
**Rock Dove (introduced)** *Columba livia* Least said.  
**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa* (H) Heard at the Mori scrub.  
**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* Common along rivers.  
**Plumbeous Pigeon** *Patagioenas plumbea* A few seen and heard.  
**Ruddy Pigeon** *Patagioenas subvinacea* Recorded at all rainforest sites.  
**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerine* Common in the south.  
**Plain-breasted Ground Dove** *Columbina minuta* A few noted in the south.  
**Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* Commonly recorded.  
**Blue Ground Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* (H) Heard Karanambu.  
**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* (H) Heard at Atta.  
**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* Commonly seen.  
**Grey-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* Very few noted.  
**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* A very common species.  
**Greater Ani** *Crotophaga major* A few noted.  
**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* Common to abundant.  
**Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo** ♦ *Neomorphus rufipennis* A superb calling male found at Turtle mountain.  
**Little Cuckoo** *Coccyzua minuta* A pair seen in Georgetown.  
**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* Commonly recorded.  
**Black-bellied Cuckoo** *Piaya melanogaster* (H) Heard at Woowetta.  
**Tawny-bellied Screech Owl (Northern T-b S O)** *Megascops [watsonii] watsonii* A pair seen at Surama.  
**Amazonian Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium hardyi* (H) Heard at Atta.  
**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* A few noted.  
**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* Seen in the savannas in the south.  
**Black-banded Owl** *Ciccaba huhula* A pair seen near Atta.  
**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* (H) Heard distantly at Karanambu.  
**White-winged Potoo** ♦ *Nyctibius leucopterus* A couple seen very well at Atta.  
**Rufous Potoo** *Nyctibius bracteatus* A single bird seen at a day roost. Absolutely superb.  
**Nacunda Nighthawk** *Chordeiles nacunda* A few seen.  
**Least Nighthawk** *Chordeiles pusillus* Commonly seen in the savannas.  
**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* A few found.  
**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* A single bird flew around the clearing at Karanambu.  
**Band-tailed Nighthawk** *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* Common at Karanambu.  
**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* (H) One heard at Karanambu. Not a good time for Nightjars.  
**White-tailed Nightjar** *Hydropsalis cayennensis* Common on the savannas.  
**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* A pair seen flying along the highway one afternoon.  
**Band-rumped Swift** *Chaetura spinicaudus* A common species.



**Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* Another common species.  
**Chapman's Swift** ♦ *Chaetura chapmani* A couple seen well enough.  
**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* Common.  
**Neotropical Palm Swift** *Tachornis squamata* Another common swift.  
**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* A few pairs noted.  
**Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* A bird seen in rainforest understory on a few occasions.  
**Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothonax nigricollis* A single bird.  
**Crimson Topaz** ♦ *Topaza pella* Seen at Atta.  
**Blue-tailed Emerald** *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* Only few noted.  
**Racquet-tailed Coquette** *Discosura longicaudus* A female plumaged bird seen at Atta.  
**Tufted Coquette** *Lophornis ornatus* A female seen at Atta.  
**Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* A couple of females noted.  
**White-tailed Goldenthrout** *Polytmus guainumbi* A superb adult watched at length at Karanambu.  
**Plain-bellied Emerald** ♦ *Amazilia leucogaster* Seen on flowering shrubs in Georgetown.  
**White-chested Emerald** *Amazilia brevirostris* A single bird noted in the botanical gardens.  
**Glittering-throated Emerald** *Amazilia fimbriata* A common species.  
**Black-eared Fairy** *Heliothryx auratus* A few seen.  
**Long-billed Starthroat** *Helimaster longirostris* A single bird seen.  
**Green-backed Trogon (Amazonian White-tailed T)** *Trogon viridis* Several pairs noted throughout.  
**Guianan Trogon** *Trogon violaceus* Several noted.  
**Black-throated Trogon** *Trogon rufus* (H) Heard on the east bank of the Essequibo.  
**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* A single bird in the Botanical gardens seen by a few of us.  
**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* A few noted.  
**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona* Seen at Karanambu.  
**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* The common Kingfisher.  
**Amazonian Motmot** *Momotus momota* (H) Commonly heard but never spotted.  
**Bronzy Jacamar** *Galbula leucogastra* A species seen infrequently on this tour. We saw at least two pairs this year.  
**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* Seen near Manari and Karasabai.  
**Green-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula Galbula* The common Jacamar.  
**Yellow-billed Jacamar** *Galbula albirostris* A pair noted at Turtle mountain.  
**Paradise Jacamar** *Galbula dea* (H) Heard around the clearing at Atta.  
**Great Jacamar** *Jacamerops aureus* Seen en route to the Harpy Eagle nest.  
**Guianan Puffbird** *Notharchus macrorhynchos* A single bird seen near Atta.  
**Pied Puffbird** *Notharchus tectus* A pair spotted from the Canopy Walkway.  
**Spotted Puffbird** *Bucco tamatia* Seen at Dadanawa, Karanambu and near Surama.  
**Black Nunbird** *Monasa atra* A few noted.  
**Swallow-winged Puffbird** *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* A common species.  
**Black-spotted Barbet** *Capito niger* (H) We did not see this common species this year.  
**Green Aracari** *Pteroglossus viridis* Quite a number of pairs noted this year.  
**Black-necked Aracari** *Pteroglossus Aracari* A common species.  
**Guianan Toucanet** ♦ *Selenidera piperivora* A pair noted near Woowetta.  
**Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus* A common species.  
**Toco Toucan** *Ramphastos toco* A single bird seen by some at Karasabai.  
**White-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos tucanus* A common species.  
**Golden-spangled Piculet** *Picumnus exilis* A species seen at Karanambu.  
**White-bellied Piculet** ♦ *Picumnus spilogaster orenocensis* A common taxon near Karasabai.  
**White-bellied Piculet** ♦ *Picumnus s. spilogaster* Very common on the coastal plain and at New Amsterdam.  
**White-barred Piculet** *Picumnus cirratus* We saw this species near Dadanawa.  
**Guianan Piculet** *Picumnus minutissimus* After some deliberation, I think we saw this species. See Notes  
**Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes cruentatus* Yellow-tufted what? Often, these birds are without a yellow tuft.  
**Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Colaptes punctigula* Spot-breasted what? A pair found along the Ireng river.  
**Little Woodpecker** *Veniliornis passerinus* (H) Little what? Heard but not seen.  
**Blood-colored Woodpecker** ♦ *Veniliornis sanguineus* Blood-coloured what? Yes. Many in the coastal plain.  
**Yellow-throated Woodpecker** *Piculus flavigula* Yellow-throated what? Yes, one or two.

**Waved Woodpecker** ◇ *Celeus undatus* Waved what? Yes, many.  
**Chestnut Woodpecker** *Celeus elegans* Chestnut what? Yes many.  
**Cream-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus flavus* Cream-coloured what? Yes many.  
**Ringed Woodpecker** *Celeus torquatus* Ringed what? Yes one seen very well.  
**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* A what? Yes very common.  
**Red-necked Woodpecker** *Campephilus rubricollis* Red-necked what? Yes, extremely common.  
**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos* Crimson-crested what? Yes.  
**Black Caracara** *Daptrius ater* Common this year.  
**Red-throated Caracara** *Ibycter americanus* Several groups noted.  
**Northern Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway* Common in the southern savannas.  
**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* Noted throughout.  
**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinans* Seen Karasabai.  
**Barred Forest Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* (H) Heard at Atta.  
**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* A savana bird.  
**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* Another savanna bird. We saw a good number.  
**Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* (NL) Seen by Phil at Rock View.  
**Orange-breasted Falcon** ◇ *Falco deiroleucus* A superb male seen on top of Turtle mountain.  
**Peregrine Falcon (W)** *Falco peregrinus* A couple seen on the coast.  
**Golden-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris chrysoptera* Common at rainforest sites.  
**Dusky Parrot** *Pionus fuscus* A few noted.  
**Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* Quite common.  
**Festive Amazon** ◇ *Amazona festiva* A few pairs noted in the botanical gardens.  
**Blue-cheeked Amazon** ◇ *Amazona dufresniana* A pair found near Atta.  
**Yellow-crowned Amazon** *Amazona ochrocephala* Commonly seen.  
**Southern Mealy Amazon** *Amazona farinosa* Only seen at Atta and Iwokrama.  
**Orange-winged Amazon** *Amazona amazonica* Commonly seen in drier areas.  
**Green-rumped Parrotlet** *Forpus passerinus* Seen at several sites in the south.  
**Black-headed Parrot** *Pionites melanocephalus* A few in the south.  
**Red-fan Parrot** *Derophtus accipitrinus* Only seen at Iwokrama.  
**Painted Parakeet** *Pyrrhura picta* Small flocks noted.  
**Brown-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula pertinax* Very common in the south and around Georgetown.  
**Sun Parakeet** ◇ *Aratinga solstitialis* Up to 31 seen around Karasabai.  
**Red-bellied Macaw** *Orthopsittaca manilatus* A common Macaw.  
**Blue-and-yellow Macaw** *Ara ararauna* Only seen near Iwokrama along the river.  
**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* Fairly common.  
**Red-and-green Macaw** *Ara chloropterus* The most numerous of the larger Macaws.  
**Red-shouldered Macaw** *Diopsittaca nobilis* Seen on the coast and in the south.  
**Pale-legged Hornero** *Furnarius leucopus* Seen at Dadanawa and Manari.  
**Hoary-throated Spinetail** ◇ *Synallaxis kollari* Three seen along Ireng river.  
**Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* A very numerous species.  
**Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor pyrrhodes* One seen near Woowetta.  
**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus* (H) Heard from the canopy walkway.  
**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* A few noted.  
**Black-tailed Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus caudacutus* (H) Heard at Turtle Mountain.  
**White-chinned Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla merula* One or two noted at our huge ant swarm.  
**Long-tailed Woodcreeper** *Deconychura longicauda* (H) Heard very distantly at Atta.  
**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* A few seen. Not common in Guyana.  
**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Seen at many sites.  
**Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper** *Dendrexetastes rufigula* Common near Atta.  
**Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes certhia* A pair at our ant swarm.  
**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* The common woodcreeper outside humid areas.  
**Striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus* Seen at Karanambu, where common.  
**Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus* Not uncommon.  
**Buff-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* A few noted throughout.



**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* Seen along the Ireng river.  
**Guianan Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus* Seen at Atta in mixed flocks.  
**Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus* Seen and heard by a few of us.  
**Black-throated Antshrike** ♦ *Frederickena viridis* A single bird briefly glimpsed by some of us.  
**Black-crested Antshrike** *Sakesphorus canadensis* The common open country Antshrike.  
**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* A pair seen near Dadanawa.  
**Mouse-colored Antshrike** *Thamnophilus murinus* Common.  
**Northern Slaty Antshrike** *Thamnophilus punctatus* A common species at Karanambu.  
**Dusky-throated Antshrike** *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* A flock leader.  
**Cinereous Antshrike** *Thamnomanes caesi* The other flock leader.  
**Brown-bellied Antwren** ♦ *Epinecrophylla gutturalis* One of the led.  
**Rufous-bellied Antwren** ♦ *Isleria guttata* Forest floor Antwren.  
**Pygmy Antwren** *Myrmotherula brachyura* A canopy Antwren.  
**White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* An understory Antwren.  
**Long-winged Antwren** *Myrmotherula longipennis* Another understory Antwren.  
**Grey Antwren** *Myrmotherula menetriesii* Another led species  
**Spot-tailed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus sticturus* Canopy wanderer.  
**Todd's Antwren** ♦ *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus* A close cousin to the above species.  
**Rufous-winged Antwren** *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* Seen at one site in the south.  
**Southern White-fringed Antwren** *Formicivora grisea* The common dry country Antwren.  
**Ash-winged Antwren** *Euchrepomis spodiopila* A less obvious canopy Antwren.  
**Grey Antbird** *Cercomacra cinerascens* (H) We did not look for this one. It called everywhere.  
**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacra tyrannina* Common at Karanambu.  
**Rio Branco Antbird** ♦ *Cercomacra carbonaria* Yes. Seen very well along the Ireng river.  
**White-browed Antbird** *Myrmoborus leucophrys* Seen at Karanambu.  
**Guianan Warbling Antbird** *Hypocnemis cantator* Seen on our last day. Heard on almost all others.  
**Black-chinned Antbird** *Hypocnemoides melanopogon* Seen at Karanambu.  
**Silvered Antbird** *Sclateria naevia* A pair found along the trail to Turtle Mountain.  
**Black-throated Antbird** *Myrmeciza atrothorax* A few pairs noted east of the Essequibo river.  
**White-bellied Antbird** *Myrmeciza longipes* We made an effort with this one at Karanambu.  
**Ferruginous-backed Antbird** ♦ *Myrmeciza ferruginea* In the end it gave itself up.  
**White-plumed Antbird** *Pithys albifrons* Superb!  
**Rufous-throated Antbird** ♦ *Gymnopithys rufigula* Also superb.  
**Common Scale-backed Antbird** *Willisornis poecilinotus* An ant swarm bird.  
**Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarioides analis* (H) Heard at Turtle Mountain.  
**Spotted Antpitta** ♦ *Hylopezus macularius* We got this one after some work.  
**Thrush-like Antpitta** *Myrmothera campanisona* (H) We had no time to look.  
**Wing-barred Piprites** *Piprites chloris* (H) Heard only.  
**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** *Tyrannulus elatus* Yes, of course.  
**Forest Elaenia** *Myiopagis gaimardii* Ditto.  
**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* We saw this species most days in open areas.  
**Plain-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia cristata* A savana bird.  
**Lesser Elaenia** *Elaenia chiriquensis* A few noted.  
**Rufous-crowned Elaenia** ♦ *Elaenia ruficeps* At the Mori scrub.  
**White-lored Tyrannulet** *Ornithion inerme* A couple seen. One scoped.  
**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* Yes.  
**Mouse-colored Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias murina* A few.  
**Bearded Tachuri** ♦ *Polystictus pectoralis* Seen at three sites!! Must be the country to see this species.  
**Crested Doradito** ♦ *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri* Several seen near Karanambu lodge. Excellent.  
**Guianan Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius acer* A common species.  
**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* (H) We did not look.  
**Northern Scrub Flycatcher** *Sublegatus arenarum* A few noted.  
**Pale-tipped Inezia** *Inezia caudata* A couple noted.  
**Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant** *Myiornis ecaudatus* (NL) Phil spotted this one while were flock watching.

Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus galeatus* Yes, after some work.  
 Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant *Atalotriccus pilaris* At Karanambu.  
 Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus Sylvia* After a bit of work we saw a nice pair, so to speak.  
 Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum* Common in Georgetown.  
 Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Yes.  
 Painted Tody-Flycatcher ♦ *Todirostrum pictum* We did try but failed to get good looks at this one.  
 Zimmer's Flatbill *Tolmomyias assimilis* (H) I think we only heard this one.  
 Ochre-lored Flatbill *Tolmomyias flaviventris* Common.  
 White-crested Spadebill *Platyrinchus platyrhynchos* Yes. We saw this one at Woowetta feeding young.  
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terentotriccus erythrurus* A couple noted.  
 Whiskered Myiobius *Myiobius barbatulus* Several seen in mixed flocks.  
 Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* Seen in the south.  
 Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus* Good numbers.  
 Pied Water Tyrant *Fluvicola pica* A common species.  
 White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* We did a few of these.  
 Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Very uncommon this year. We heard a few.  
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* The common flycatcher.  
 Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Also common.  
 Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lictor* Seen at many sites.  
 Yellow-throated Flycatcher *Conopias parvus* Seen at Woowetta and our Rufous Potoo stakeout.  
 Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* A few.  
 Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* We saw them wherever we went.  
 Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* A pair at our Rufous Potoo site.  
 Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius* A few noted in the south.  
 White-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus albigularis* A pair noted along the Ireng river.  
 Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicanus* A few found in Georgetown.  
 Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Abundant.  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna* A common species at this time.  
 Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex* A few noted.  
 Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* Yes.  
 Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus Tyrannulus* The dry country Myiarchus.  
 Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* (H) A single bird heard at Atta.  
 Guianan Cock-of-the-rock ♦ *Rupicola rupicola* Several males and females at Atta.  
 Guianan Red Cotinga ♦ *Phoenicircus carnifex* A least one superb male.  
 Purple-breasted Cotinga ♦ *Cotinga cotinga* Two birds at Atta, where nesting.  
 Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana* A female at Atta.  
 Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans* Common.  
 Pompadour Cotinga ♦ *Xipholena punicea* Several.  
 Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* Commonly seen and heard.  
 Crimson Fruitcrow ♦ *Haematoderus militaris* A superb bird seen near Surama.  
 Capuchinbird ♦ *Perissocephalus tricolor* Several seen at the Karanambu lek.  
 Tiny Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannetes virescens* Heard everywhere. We tracked one down at Atta.  
 Blue-backed Manakin *Chiroxiphia pareola* Seen at Karanambu.  
 Black Manakin ♦ *Xenopipo atronitens* common at the Mori Scrub.  
 White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* (H) Heard at Atta.  
 White-crowned Manakin *Pseudopipra pipra* Seen at the Mori scrub.  
 Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala* Yes, everywhere.  
 Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana* A few seen.  
 Guianan Schiffornis *Schiffornis olivacea* A single bird tracked down at the Mori Scrub.  
 Dusky Purplelet ♦ *Iodopleura fusca* A single bird seen at Atta.  
 Cinereous Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* A female seen near Karasabai.  
 White-naped Xenopsaris ♦ *Xenopsaris albinucha* Found near Rock View.  
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Several.  
 Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* (H) Heard only. A time eater.



**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* Common in drier woodlands.  
**Lemon-chested Greenlet** *Hylophilus thoracicus* A few seen.  
**Ashy-headed Greenlet** *Hylophilus pectoralis* Yes, seen around Georgetown.  
**Buff-cheeked Greenlet** *Hylophilus muscicapinus* Common.  
**Cayenne Jay** ♦ *Cyanocorax cayanus* A few noted.  
**White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* Several seen.  
**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Abundant.  
**Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera* Common at Karanambu.  
**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* A single bird seen.  
**Black-collared Swallow** ♦ *Atticora melanoleuca* Common on the Essequibo river.  
**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* A few seen.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* A common winter visitor.  
**Black-capped Donacobius** *Donacobius atricapilla* A couple noted.  
**Bicolored Wren** *Campylorhynchus griseus* Seen in the south. A distinctive sub-species in the region.  
**Coraya Wren** *Pheugopedius Coraya* Found in Iwokrama.  
**Buff-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus leucotis* Common in the south.  
**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Seen throughout.  
**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Several heard and seen.  
**Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila plumbea* Common in the south.  
**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* A very common species.  
**Pale-breasted Thrush** *Turdus leucomelas* The common thrush.  
**Spectacled Thrush (Bare-eyed T)** *Turdus nudigenis* Seen in the south in small numbers.  
**White-necked Thrush** *Turdus albicollis* (H) heard at Surama.  
**Yellowish Pipit** *Anthus lutescens* A small number in the open savannas.  
**Red Siskin** ♦ *Spinus cucullatus* Several noted. A superb species. 'Was that the red bird'.....  
**Finsch's Euphonia** ♦ *Euphonia finschi* A common species in the south.  
**Violaceous Euphonia** *Euphonia violacea* The common Euphonia around Georgetown.  
**Golden-sided Euphonia** ♦ *Euphonia cayennensis* A superb male seen on our travel day to Georgetown.  
**American Yellow Warbler (W)** *Setophaga aestival* A few found.  
**Northern Waterthrush** (H) Heard in the mangroves where they winter.  
**Flavescent Warbler** *Myiothlypis flaveola* Found at several sites.  
**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* Common on the savannas.  
**Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* A common icterid.  
**Green Oropendola** *Psarocolius viridis* Seen at Woowetta.  
**Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* Not so common.  
**Red-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus haemorrhous* Common in Iwokrama.  
**Yellow Oriole** *Icterus nigrogularis* Common.  
**Orange-backed Troupial** *Icterus croconotus* Evidently increasing in the south.  
**Epaulet Oriole (Moriche O)** *Icterus [cayanensis] chrysocephalus* Seen at Iwokrama.  
**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* Common.  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Very common.  
**Carib Grackle** *Quiscalus lugubris* Seen in Georgetown.  
**Yellow-hooded Blackbird** *Chrysomus icterocephalus* A few in the south.  
**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* Common.  
**Grassland Sparrow** *Ammodramus humeralis* Abundant.  
**Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis* Seen at Karanambu.  
**Hooded Tanager** *Nemosia pileata* A few seen.  
**Fulvous Shrike Tanager** *Lanio fulvus* A rare species in Guyana.  
**Flame-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus cristatus* A couple noted.  
**Fulvous-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus surinamus* Several pairs noted.  
**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* Noted.  
**Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* Yes, as always..  
**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* Yes.  
**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* Yes.

**Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara Mexicana* Several in the Botanical gardens.  
**Spotted Tanager** *Tangara punctata* A couple at Atta.  
**Burnished-buff Tanager** *Tangara cayana* Yes.  
**Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* A couple seen at Atta.  
**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* A small number recorded.  
**Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* A few noted.  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Not uncommon.  
**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* Several noted.  
**Yellow-backed Tanager** *Hemithraupis flavicollis* A few at Atta.  
**Chestnut-vented Conebill** *Conirostrum speciosum* A couple noted.  
**Grassland Yellow Finch** *Sicalis luteola* Common at Karanambu.  
**Wedge-tailed Grass Finch** *Emberizoides herbicola* Recorded in the grasslands.  
**Slate-colored Grosbeak** *Saltator grossus* (H) heard at Atta.  
**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* A couple.  
**Greyish Saltator** *Saltator caeruleus* Yes.  
**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* Common.  
**Plumbeous Seedeater** *Sporophila plumbea* A common species in the south.  
**Grey Seedeater** *Sporophila intermedia* A few in the southern savannas.  
**Wing-barred Seedeater** *Sporophila americana* A number seen around Georgetown.  
**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** *Sporophila minuta* Common in the savannas.  
**Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila castaneiventris* A common species.  
**Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis* A few noted in the Iwokrama Forest reserve along the road.  
**Red Tanager (Red T)** *Piranga flava* Several noted in the southern savannas.  
**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* One maybe two seen in the southern savannas.  
**Yellow-green Grosbeak** *Caryothraustes canadensis* A common species.  
**Red-and-black Grosbeak** ♦ *Periporphyrus erythromelas* A numbers of males and females seen at Atta. Superb.  
**Rothschild's (Blue-black) Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa rothschildii* (H) Heard on many occasions.

We also had a very good trip for mammals. The sightings of Giant anteater were exceptional. We also enjoyed great views of a Tapir that came to feed on fallen fruit around the clearing. Primates were very quiet and unobtrusive. This may have has something to do with the fact that the resident Harpy Eagles were feeding hungry sub-adult young. The bat situation is a tough one. There are a lot of bat species in Guyana and little information as to their identity.

## MAMMALS

**Giant Anteater** *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* A couple seen. One approached very close at Karanambu.  
**Guianan Brown Capuchin** *Cebus apella* Seen at a couple of locations.  
**Weeper Capuchin** *Cebus olivaceus* A couple noted near Iwokrama.  
**Common Squirrel Monkey** *Saimiri sciureus* Seen poorly at Surama.  
**Colombian Red Howler Monkey** *Alouatta seniculus* A huge row we had to put up with every day.  
**Guiana Spider Monkey** *Ateles paniscus* We saw a few.  
**Red-rumped Agouti** *Dasyprocta leporine* Seen at many locations.  
**Crab-eating Fox** *Cerdocyon thous* Seen on the savannas.  
**Tayra** *Eira Barbara* One seen up a tree eating fruit.  
**Giant Otter** *Pteronura brasiliensis* A couple seen at Karanambu.  
**Tapir** *Tapirus terrestris* One seen at Atta.  
**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* Seen along the rivers at Karanambu.  
**Lesser Bulldog Bat** *Noctilio albiventris* Common at Karanambu.  
 (There were many other unidentified bat species seen during the tour)

## REPTILES

**White Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus* A large number seen at Karanambu.  
**Black Caiman** *Caiman niger* A few at Karanambu.



**Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman** *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* One individual seen along the entrance road at Iwokrama.

**Golden Tegu** *Tupinambis teguixin* A few seen in the Iwokrama.

**Black-spotted skink** *Mabuya nigropunctata* Not uncommon on the forest floor at Atta.



#### NOTES:

The question of Piculet distribution and taxonomy in Guyana.

**White-bellied Piculet** ♦ *Picumnus spilogaster orenocensis* A common taxon near Karasabai.

The birds in south west Guyana, at Karasabai and those in neighbouring Roraima in Brazil are placed in the nominate form *spilogaster* by Winkler and Christie in HBW7. The birds from south-west Guyana are white from crissum to chin and practically unmarked. As such they do not resemble the nominate form but rather the form *orenocensis* described for eastern Venezuela. It is clear they are better placed with that taxon. A distribution that matches that for many other species in the region; Bicoloured Wren and Streak-headed Woodcreeper for example both have populations in Venezuela in dry wooded areas and then found in a disjunct population in the savannas of Roraima and neighbouring Guyana.

The call/song also differs between this taxon and the nominate. It should be noted that this is observed from a small number of recordings of the taxa and so may not be borne out with more recordings.

**White-bellied Piculet** ♦ *Picumnus s. spilogaster* Very common on the coastal plain and at New Amsterdam.

The taxon has for the most part a pale yellow belly, but never white. The underparts are heavily marked below but, unlike the Guianan Piculet, it has well defined spots on its flanks and, most importantly a tightly barred breast. The illustrations in Birds of Northern South America by Restall et al show this form as having lightly barred rather than spotted flanks, which is incorrect. The flanks show spots and are variably marked with thick indistinct scallops but they are not lightly

barred.

Given the morphological differences, biogeographical issues and probably vocal differences between the nominate form and *orenocensis* it would seem a taxonomic revision is appropriate for these taxa, with the two regarded as separate species.

**Guianan Piculet *Picumnus minutissimus*** After some deliberation, I think we saw a pair at New Amsterdam.

The illustrations in Birds of Northern South America by Restall et al of this taxon exaggerate the differences between the nominate White-bellied and Guianan Piculets and confuse the issue of their identity in the field. The flanks of Guianan Piculet are shown as being dark yellowish or even ochraceous with heavy scalloping. In fact the underparts are white and this is borne out by photographs of this species from Suriname. All photographs show white underparts with fine barring or light scalloping. This is how this taxon is illustrated in HBW7. However, this illustration also shows the breast as being equally finely barred. However, this differs from those photographs of the species, all of which show much heavier markings on the breast that give the appearance of barring or ruffled scalloping.