



Adult male Harpy Eagle (Robert Rackliffe).

GUYANA & SURINAME

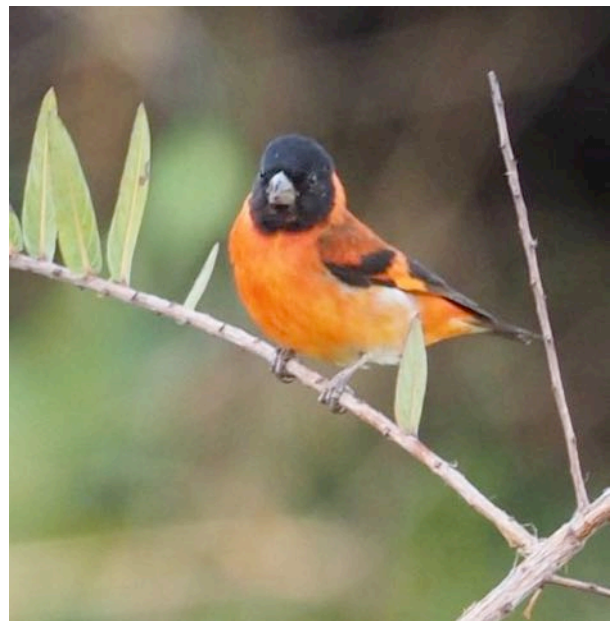
22 FEBRUARY – 8/14 MARCH 2022

LEADER: EUSTACE BARNES (with SEAN DILROSUN in Suriname)



Rufous Potoo at one of very few known roosts for the species (Eustace Barnes).

Post COVID, and back in Guyana and Suriname exactly two years after the last tour. Originally conceived as a targets-only tour for those who had visited eastern Venezuela and Manaus, this tour is now the default Guianan shield tour. It is a comprehensive tour of the region's rainforest and savanna habitats (assuming you do the extension) which is ever improving with the growing number of Guyanese and Surinamese birders and a suite of new sites. As the Guianan shield avifauna is now only accessed in Guyana and Suriname, this tour does present the best opportunity to see much of what the region has to offer. That is, since the failed state of Venezuela continues its descent into chaos and Manaus remains out of fashion. This does present some issues for those who have not birded the Guianan shield before, as there is not enough time to see all of the more widespread species. In any event, the tour does offer a great opportunity to see the best of what the region has to offer, and combining both countries in one tour makes good sense.



A superb male Red Siskin (Jonathan Newman)

Overall the tour produced a stunning set of endemics, regional specialties and other highlights. The wet season that started in April 2021 had not stopped, according to everyone we spoke to in both Guyana and Suriname. During the tour it rained several times a day and for extended periods on many nights, flooding large areas of savanna and forest and turning the roads to mud slides. The white sand forests in Guyana and Zintete lodge were completely flooded but, perhaps surprisingly, we lost little birding time and the bird list was better than ever! Overall, as usual, some species were easier to find and other less so; Woodpeckers were well advanced in the breeding cycle and harder and Cotingas more active and easier.



Spectacular views of White-winged Potoo at Atta (Robert Rackliffe).

Highlights, there were many. In the savannas, great views of Red Siskin on day 2, a nice session along the Ireng river with Hoary-throated Spinetail and Rio Branco Antbird on day 3, a great experience with the magnificent Sun Parakeets on day 4, a trio of Crestless Curassows, the other-worldly Capuchinbird, a Blue-backed Manakin display was very memorable, as were both a male Bearded Tachuri and Crested Doradito at Karanambu. In the rainforests, a male Harpy Eagle and an Ornate Hawk-Eagle made for very memorable additions at Surama. Blue-backed Tanager, Red and black Grosbeak, several Guianan Red Cotingas and the stunning Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at a lek were impressive. The Iwokrama forest reserve was very good for the specialties, producing outstanding views of the rare **Crimson Fruitcrow** in aerial display, White-winged Potoo, a roosting Rufous Potoo and Crimson Topaz. On the coast we found a pair of Blood-coloured Woodpeckers, a pair of Rufous Crab Hawks and those vexing Festive Amazons in the botanical gardens. Again, a huge list of spectacular target species for such a short period of time. In Suriname we enjoyed great views of Crimson-hooded Manakin and Arrowhead Piculet around Paramaribo. On the famous Brownsberg plateau we had great views of White-throated and White-fronted Manakins, a highly responsive Lined Forest Falcon, the delightful Musician Wren and, at the last minute, the resident Grey-winged Trumpeters. In the lowlands we had some outstanding moments with Collared Puffbird, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, White-chested Puffbird, Red-billed Pied Tanagers, Todd's Sirystes, Glossy-backed Becard and many others too numerous to mention.



The vast Rupununi savannas (Eustace Barnes).

It is huge relief to be able to travel again, with the removal of most of the restrictions imposed during the global Coronavirus panic. We began at the start, as is customary, with flights to Guyana and thence to the ramshackle shambles that is Georgetown. Rain and mud were issues from start to finish. Storm Eunice gave torrential rain in the UK, causing flights to be delayed or cancelled. Countless unnamed storms in Guyana and Suriname produced the same effect. In Guyana, our flights into and out of Lethem were both delayed several hours by continuous torrential rain.



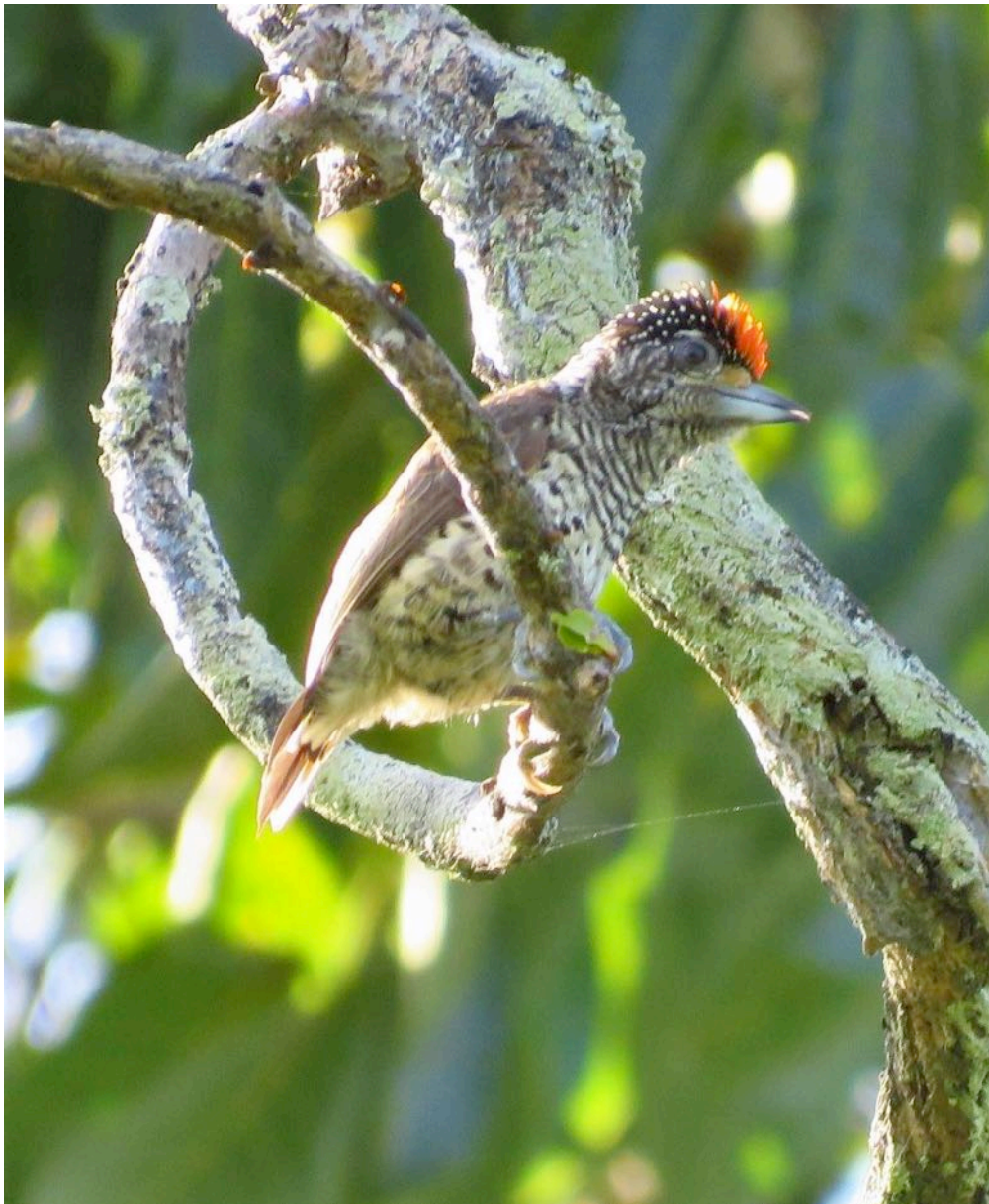
Mud, mud, glorious mud! It is fair to say that, for the first time, mud featured prominently on this tour (Eustace Barnes).

Throughout the tour, extended periods of heavy rain flooded forest trails and savannas almost every day. As a result, the River Essequibo was five meters higher than usual. The white-sand forests in particular were flooded and savanna wetlands more extensive than usual for this time of year. Ditto Suriname, with the added complication that Zintete lodge was actually underwater for much of our time in Suriname, although not during our stay. At this time of year the skies are usually clear and there is no rain at all. These are conditions typically associated with La Niña. Not far away in Peru, there was no rain during January and February, a period during which it normally rains heavily every day.



Yellow Oriole is common in Georgetown National Park (better called recreation ground) (Eustace Barnes)

Once assembled at the magnificent Cara Lodge, as opposed to the airport, we quickly made plans to visit the confusingly named National Park. We were told the Botanical Garden was closed, which was probably true. At the park we found our first Smooth-billed Ani, Pale-vented Pigeon, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Limpkin, Southern Lapwing, and Wattled Jacana. Overhead Magnificent Frigatebirds cruised along the coast accompanied by Black and Turkey Vultures. Our first Striated Herons, Great Egrets, Western Osprey and Savanna Hawk were sat about or hunting in the flooded fields. A surprise write-in was a wintering female Merlin, which was dismembering what looked like a Hummingbird. We also searched for and found White-bellied Piculet, which is endemic to the coastal plain of Guyana and Suriname.



White-bellied Piculet. The coastal form with heavily barred and spotted yellowish underparts (Ed Wilson).

Walking the park boundary we quickly found Brown-breasted Parakeet, Red-shouldered Macaw and several Orange-winged Amazon. We began to work our way through the myriad tyrannids, seeing Yellow-bellied Eleania, Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet, Common Tody Flycatcher, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbirds, Short-crested Flycatcher and the ubiquitous Ochre-ored Flatbill (aka Yellow-breasted Flycatcher). Also present was House Wren, numerous Yellow Orioles, a pair of Tropical Mockingbirds feeding a Shiny Cowbird fledgling, adult Shiny Cowbirds watching the Mockingbirds with approval, Carib Grackles and small numbers of Wing-barred Seed eaters. This part of the tour always provides a useful introduction to the commoner and more widespread birds. We then returned to our lodgings for a pleasant evening, far from the dreadful news about war in the Ukraine.

Interestingly, there were few taxonomic revisions to the list since the pre-COVID 2020 tour. Normally each succeeding tour requires a long list of revisions that need to be explained. The primary change has been of the Black-billed Thrush, although the paper was published back in 2016 and best thought of as 'ancient history'. This now gives this tour a good range-restricted campina species: the Campina Thrush. I had thought the regionally endemic forms of Blackish Antbird and Plain-crowned Spinetal might have been split and, as noted in previous reports, the White-bellied Piculet getting some attention.



Looking out over the vast Brokopondo reservoir from the Brownsberg plateau (Eustace Barnes)

Assembling bright and early we headed to the delightfully inefficient Ogle airport where we were greeted with the usual Caribbean urgency to get things done. Once checked in, and firmly confined to the departure lounge, we realized we were in for a long delay as we waited for our flight to Lethem. It was raining hard and few planes or ground staff were in evidence. Once we had been waiting three hours or so, with no promise of flying, information about flying, the conditions for flying and/or the presence/absence of aircraft, we quizzed the Trans Guyana ground staff. Not used to this, they quickly hatched some bizarre excuses including the unforgettable line that planes could not be fuelled in the rain. Unfortunately for him, a plane was actually being fuelled in the rain directly behind him while we were being told this. Anyway, enough of that. We did some birding from the lounge windows and found Snail Kites, a Great Black Hawk, a large flock of Lesser Yellowlegs and several Red-breasted Blackbirds. Eventually, a hole in the sky plus some hassling of ground staff produced a notably hurried departure. As we climbed out of Georgetown, far below us the vast forested interior stretched out to the horizon, giving some hope for the survival of the great tropical treasure house that are the rainforests.



The delicately marked Grey-lined Hawk (left) and discreetly attractive White-tipped Dove (right) (Eustace Barnes)



Peering down through the clouds at the network of mines and pools resulting from the search for gold (Eustace Barnes)

Any optimism we may have had, looking at the dense swathe of rainforests in central Guyana, quickly evaporated, as it became clear that huge areas are being cleared or degraded. The plague of miners and loggers are churning up the tropical 'treasure-house'. We did have great views of the intricate mosaic of savannas, gallery forests, and wetlands so typical of the southern region, as we slowly descended to Lethem airstrip. Lethem is a rapidly growing but dusty/muddy little settlement, whose existence is contingent upon a tax differential between Guyana and Brazil. This allows residents of the latter to buy industrial quantities of electrical goods, flip flops, and other consumer goodies in the former, before nipping back to the now bustling city of Boa Vista, replete with all the shoddy paraphernalia of consumer identity.



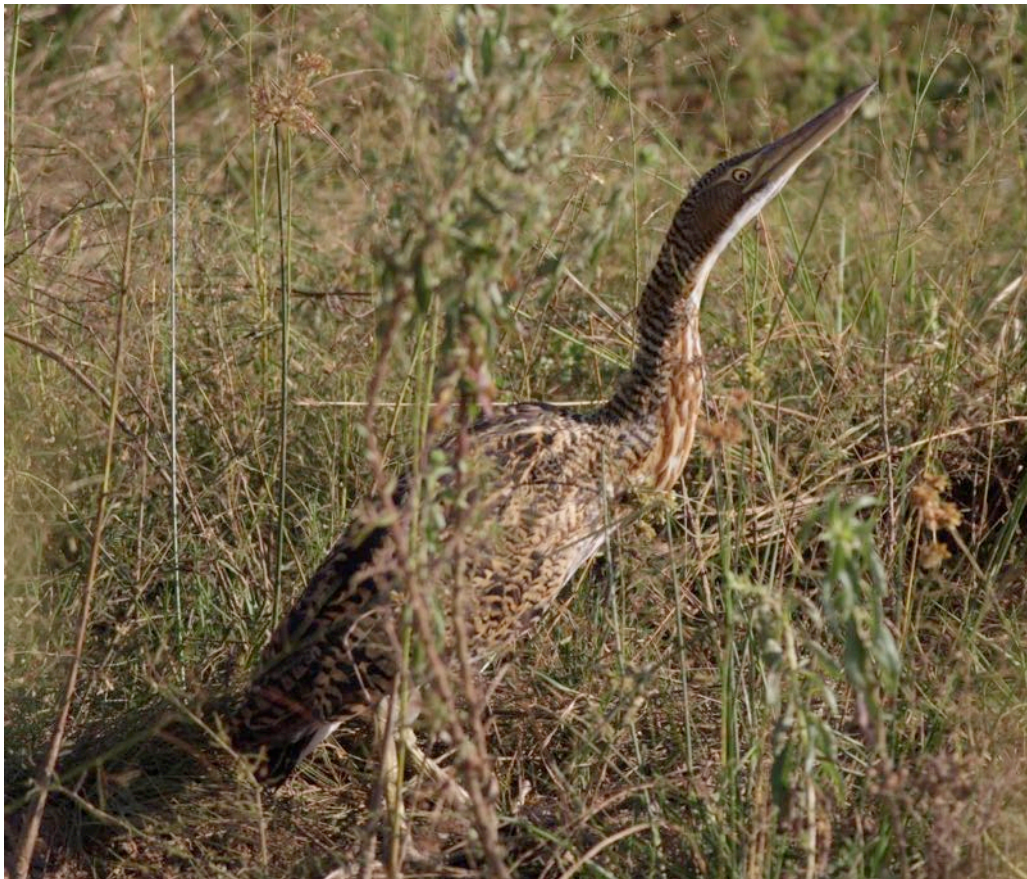
The southern savannas. (Eustace Barnes).

So, as noted in 2020, the savannas in the south present an intricate mosaic of grasslands and marshes. The region is usually very dry at this time of year and the savannas subject to repeated burning until the rains start. The problem is that the dry season is generally getting longer and drier and the burns ever more damaging as a result. Not this year, so some recovery is likely.



The large-headed Laughing Falcon (left) and dapper White-tailed Hawk (right) were common this year (Eustace Barnes)

Meeting up with the Dadanawa boys we began birding immediately as we made our way to Wichabai lodge. Crossing spectacular open savannas and wooded floodplains to reach this remote and delightful location. The lodge overlooks a swamp and is built on the Dadanawa ranch, tucked away in the vast expanses of the Rupununi. A more remote location is hard to imagine.



Pinnated Bittern. An early tour favorite, but forgotten in less than a day (Eustace Barnes).



Double-striped Thick-knee: a fairly common resident (Eustace Barnes).

On the way we found a number of widespread species including Crested Bobwhite, Lesser Nighthawk, Neotropical Palm Swift, Eared Dove, Buff-necked Ibis, our only South American Snipe, our first Jabiru, a stunning Pinnated Bittern, large numbers of Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures, White-tailed and Savanna Hawks, Brown-breasted Parakeets, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Vermillion Flycatcher, Grey-breasted Martin, Barn Swallow, Bicoloured Wren, Eastern Meadowlark and Ruddy-breasted and Plumbeous Seedeaters. On arrival, we were to be treated to a real surprise, as two **Sharp-tailed Ibises** flew in to roost in front of the new lodge (they were too distant to get a photo) where we then found an Azure Gallinule. We watched the now rarely seen Ibis with some satisfaction. This region may now offer the best opportunity to see this species, as, very sadly, many of the ranches in the Llanos of Venezuela have been destroyed.

There were also a few Muscovy Ducks and Limpkins, so ending a great day. With drinks, list, and dinner fast approaching, we quickly settled in and made the most of liberal quantities of rum punch; a notable feature of life on this tour. As to be expected, we did then enjoy a superb meal before getting our heads down for the night.



Female Merlin in Georgetown (left) and dapper White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (right) (Eustace Barnes)

Savanna Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Crested, and Yellow-headed Caracaras are all very common predators on these savannas.

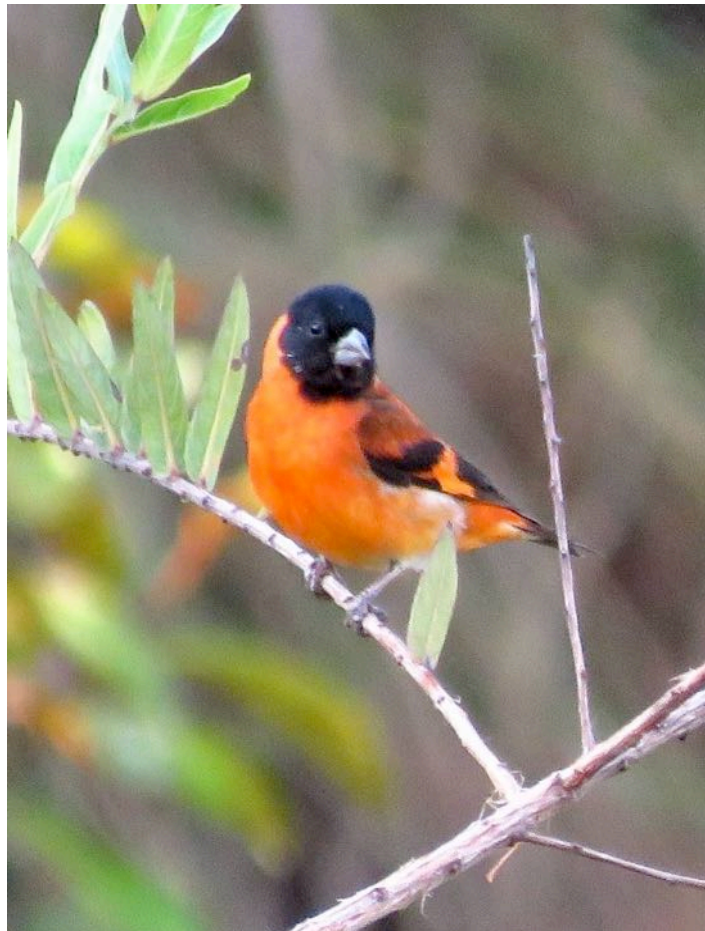


The very pretty Spotted Puffbird (Jonathan Newman)



The magnificent Buff-necked Ibis is now a common sight on the savannas (Eustace Barnes).

Heading off across the savannas, after a sumptuous breakfast, 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 relatively recently but seems to occur in reasonable numbers. Fortunately, finding them is now quite straightforward with only an extended morning session needed to find this beautiful little finch. That is, with our excellent crew and Asaf, our local expert on the Red Siskin. He is a really good birder with a great knowledge of the birds of the savanna. On this occasion we visited several springs along the base of a wooded hill, finding several pairs with young. After watching this stunning little finch we further explored the area.



The endangered Red Siskin (Jonathan Newman).

Unfortunately, aviculturists have not only discovered this population but also a legal loophole regarding 'natural resource' exploitation in indigenous communities. It goes like this - indigenous people (as they live in harmony with nature) are allowed to use resources in accordance with tradition; 'Controlled' burns, logging, hunting and hunting and, it seems, trapping Red Siskins for pets! These can then sold to the avicultural community quite legally. Are we surprised? Not really, this is a worldwide problem that arises with the identification of indigenous peoples as a 'species' apart that needs protection and encouraged to develop worthy traditions (annihilating the megafauna, burning the forests etc). Apart from the explicit racism embedded in these laws, they are basically allowing unscrupulous criminals to sub-contract logging, mining, hunting, and trapping activities to indigenous communities and get away with it.



Bicoloured Wrens (Eustace Barnes).

A short walk along the wooded borders nearby produced several small flocks of Brown-breasted Parakeets, numerous Orange-winged Amazons, Burnished-buff Tanagers, a pair of White-tailed Hawks, Savanna Hawk and, a pair of Grey-lined Hawks as well as several Siskins. Exploring a small woodland we found a smart pair of Spotted Puffbirds, Black-crested Antshrike, Southern White-fringed Antwren, Yellow-bellied Elaenias, Brown-crested Flycatcher, a long-suffering Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and a pair of Green-tailed Jacamars. We also found the localized White-barred Piculet, Red-eyed Vireos, Lemon-chested Greenlet, Finsch's Euphonia and Straight-billed Woodcreeper. Returning to the savanna numerous Lesser Elaenias called along with our first Tropical Gnatcatchers, Hooded Tanagers, Chestnut-vented Conebill amongst others.



Finsch's Euphonia and Maguari Stork (Eustace Barnes)

A really good start to the tour and hard to beat! Picking our way along the rocky highway we retreated to the shady peace of a nice gallery woodland. We quickly found a pair of Rusty-winged Antwrens, more pairs of White-barred Piculets, and a party of Cayenne Jays. Time to go and so we retreated from the first of many thorny tangles and headed for Wichabai for lunch. We were briefly held up while crossing a rocky river bed with a couple of Lesser Kiskadees, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Pale-legged Horner and an Anhinga. Rather unusually, the Dadanawa river was low and so we crossed for a brief stop in stunted gallery woodlands, which produced Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin bit little else.



The pretty Crested Bobwhite was not so common this year. We eventually secured great views (Eustace Barnes).



Pale-bellied Tyrant Manakin. A decidedly unobtrusive species but a very good find (Eustace Barnes).

Resuming our journey across the savannas, we also saw White-headed Marsh-tyrant, our first Wedge-tailed Grass-finch, and numerous Plumbeous and Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters before the heat and swarms of biting insects forced us to get a move on. We then arrived in darkness but still in time to enjoy a relaxing evening at the Manari ranch. Except for those trying to get the wi-fi to work and make essential phone calls. The government has sold off the concessions to companies that now charge US\$500 per month for Wi-Fi and only providing a slow and very poor service.



Road surfacing and the right vehicles for the job (left) and the impact of COVID (right) (Eustace Barnes)

Retracing our steps westwards across the savannas to Manari. It was hot, with temperatures rising above 37 degrees and the relative humidity soaring to 90% making for a sticky journey with quite unprecedented for the time of year. We did stop on our way to search for Plumbeous and Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters, Brazilian Teal and numerous groups of Buff-necked Ibis en route to the ranch for our afternoon entertainment.



A fine adult Northern Crested Caracara (Eustace Barnes).

A few hours later, after ten hours of heavy rain, we were crossing yet another savanna en route to yet another gallery forest in search of our next set of targets; the Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail. We found Savanna Hawk, numerous Buff-necked Ibises, Jabiru, Maguari Stork, numerous Red-bellied Macaws, Brown-breasted Parakeets, Grassland Sparrows, Grassland Yellow-Finches, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, numerous Fork-tailed Flycatchers and the ubiquitous Vermillion Flycatcher madly displaying.



An Eastern Meadowlark (left) and Cerrado-like savannas (right) (Eustace Barnes)



Moriche palm swamp (Eustace Barnes)

Having failed to find Rio Branco Antbird on the last tour we were using a new site. At the new site, the woodlands are not quite so rich with fewer large trees, less open acacia scrub, and viney tangles. The route there also did not pass through the maze of lagoons and flooded savannas we usually do. However, we easily managed to find Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Pale-legged Hornero, Black-crested Antshrike, Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet, and Ochre-lored Flatbill. We also needed to find the far from ubiquitous and indeed threatened Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail and so we buried ourselves in a tall dense vine tangle and began. A pair of antbirds and several spinetails began to call and they slowly crept in. A great show from the Antbird and a very pretty little furnarid. The birds crept about in the vine tangle around us and gave a great show.



Rufous-tailed Jacamar – restricted to Roraima and north-east Rupununi savannas (Jonathan Newman).



A male Rio Branco Antbird (left) and acacia lined savanna rivers (right) (Eustace Barnes)

It was time to retrace our steps along the floodplain for lunch at Manari. We only stopped to search suitable grassland patches for the localized Bearded Tachuri, the first of our grassland specialities. A nice male duly put in an appearance. In the afternoon we headed to the community of Moka moka at the base of the Kanuka mountains. Here we found a selection of tropical rainforest species that included Grey-winged Trumpeter, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Spectacled Thrush, and Red and green Macaws but little else. That can go from the schedule.



A fine male Bearded Tachuri (Eustace Barnes)



The magnificent Sun Parakeet (Eustace Barnes)

The following morning, after another night of heavy rain, we departed at a suitably early hour, sloshing across sodden savannas and through wooded hills and gallery forests to the remarkably dry village of Karasabai. 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.



Sun Parakeet – some of a dozen we saw at Karasabai (Eustace Barnes).

Working our stakeout for the parakeets, a small flock quickly appeared, affording great views. Usually, we have to search a good deal harder to find this species. Apparently, the population has risen and, at this time of year, many trees are fruiting making them easier to find in the valley.



A superb Sun Parakeet near the remote settlement of Karasabai (PL).

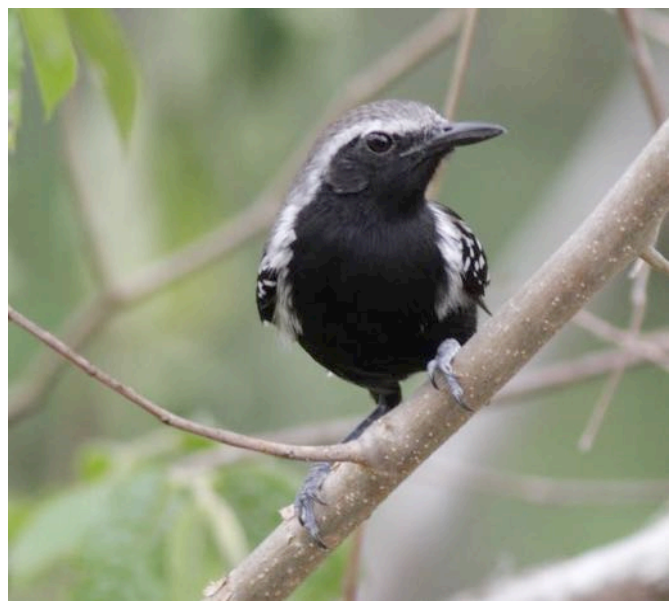
The area is very interesting with a good mix of more widely distributed open country, rainforest and deciduous woodland species. This does include Savanna and White-tailed Hawks, Crane Hawk, Lineated Woodpecker, Guianan Puffbird, Green Aracari, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Ashy-headed and Lemon-chested Greenlets, Finsch's Euphonia and Orange-backed Troupial. Red and green Macaw was fairly common and we saw well over 10 birds. 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.

However, less well known is that the tall woodlands here hold the *orenocensis* form of White-bellied Piculet. It is not recognised as such but does not remotely resemble the coastal form with its heavily barred chest, spotted flanks and otherwise yellowish underparts. We quickly connected with this very white-bellied form at our breakfast table.



A male White-bellied Piculet (left) and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (right) (Eustace Barnes)

The Piculet does have all the characteristics of the form *orenocensis* of the White-bellied Piculet. It is common at Karasabai, along the Ireng river and in gallery forests throughout northern Roraima in Brazil. The distribution of many taxa in the region reflects this pattern; there being many species with taxa occurring in the Llanos of Venezuela and the savannas of Roraima and Rupunini, such as Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Bicoloured Wren, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, and Streak-headed Woodcreeper. There are very few that occur on the Guyanan coast and Roraiman savannas but not in Venezuela. The Piculet is a heavy-billed bird with no barring on the chest and only very light spots on the flanks of otherwise uniformly white, not yellowish, underparts. Some birds here do have sparse barring on the chest, although not on the throat or chin. As noted, there is a need for more work on the piculets of the region and such variability may be irrelevant.



An adult King Vulture (left) and Southern White-fringed Antwren (right) (Eustace Barnes)

Once we had spent the morning watching the Sun Parakeets and White-bellied Piculets we returned to Karasabai for a splendid lunch at the uninvitingly named 'Snackette' and to celebrate having found all the principal target species in the southern savannas. We took a short break after lunch to write our notes, check the guidebook and talk about the conservation of Sun Parakeets before heading to the highway.



A great photo of the normally retiring Crested Doradito (Robert Rackliffe).

At a splendid little wetland, we then searched for and located a couple of Crested Doraditos, our second targeted grassland tyrannid. This is a very uncommon and highly localized species throughout its huge range which we enjoyed watching at length. There few other species to detain us but we did find Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Pied Water Tyrant, Amazon Kingfisher and a few Ruddy-breasted and Plumbeous Seedeaters.



The 'Snackette' diner at Karasabai (left) and Crested Doradito (right) (Eustace Barnes)

We then worked our way 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, but the otters are still present in good numbers. We have three nights at this splendid lodge, as finding Crestless Curassow has proven difficult in the past.



The extraordinary Capuchinbird at a small lek (Eustace Barnes)

Our first dawn excursion on the ranch was spent walking woodland trails, starting at a brisk pace in the half-light to a Capuchinbird lek. On arrival, there was a single bird sitting frozen. It was cold and overcast and the bird departed without displaying. A second visit was subsequently made to watch the magical spectacle of its display. The males inflating themselves in a ritualized manner before emitting an extraordinary booming call reminiscent of a distant chainsaw.



A Spotted Puffbird (left) and Grey-necked Wood-Rail (right) (Eustace Barnes)

Our return to the lodge through gallery forest and lake edge habitats produced Chestnut Woodpecker, Northern Slaty Antshrike, Dusky Antbird, White-flanked Antwren, Helmete Pygmy-Tyrant and White-bellied Antbird. A brief stop at an ox-bow lake to look for Curassow, produced good views of three Crestless Curassows at a favorite spot before we headed back to the lodge for breakfast. Also much in evidence were Lesser Kiskadee, Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, a pair of Large-billed and a single Yellow-billed Tern that patrolled the lake.



Crestless Curassow is often seen wandering along lagoon edges or river side beaches (Jonathan Newman)

The flooded forest edge gave us Black-chinned Antbird and your leader managed brief views of an Agami Heron which could not be relocated. Several of the group also saw an American Pygmy Kingfisher. At this time of year and when the river is so high finding Agami Herons can be very hard, and so it proved.



The gigantic Jabiru was very common on the savannas (Eustace Barnes).

Finding a suitable arena in the woodlands we 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 arena we had a good look at Black Nunbird, Green-backed Trogon and Green-tailed Jacamars et al.



Green-backed Trogon (the blue-backed form), aka Amazonian White-tailed Trogon (Eustace Barnes).

So, we continued upriver to visit Mobai pond, which involved a short walk through seasonally flooded woodlands to the lake. Interestingly, we were followed by an immature Yellow-headed Caracara, possibly thinking we were fishermen and likely to be discarding all manner of trash and food scraps.



Yellow-billed Tern (left) and Large-billed Tern (right)(Eustace Barnes)



Mobai pond (Eustace Barnes).

The lake only held Rufescent Tiger-Heron, a few Wattled Jacanas and various Kingfishers also put in an appearance. The woodlands here gave us great views of Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Plain-brown Woodcreeper and more Striped and Straight-billed Woodcreepers. Once the light began to fade a Collared Forest Falcon called and the languid tones of Undulated and Red-legged Tinamous drifted through the forests while numerous Band-tailed Nighthawks began their crepuscular hawking around our boats along with thousands of Greater Fishing Bats.



Pearl Kite (left) and a male Dusky Antbird (right) (Eustace Barnes)



Wedge-tailed Grass-finch (left) and Pinnated Bittern (right) (Eustace Barnes)

Our afternoon exploring the open savannas produced another Pinnated Bittern, several Muscovy Ducks and, White-faced Whistling-Ducks. 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, Wood Stork, Jabiru and a couple of Limpkin decorated the sky at dusk and an Ash-throated Crake called very distantly. Night birding produced very little except a few Least Nighthawks. So, birding complete, it was back to the ranch for rum punch and more tales of do and dare as yet another night of heavy rains began.



Lineated Woodpecker at its nest hole (Eustace Barnes).

Departure from Karanambu was early, as we had to reach Woowetta for dawn. The journey was largely uneventful, with little to detain us except perhaps a few Least Nighthawks and a some large puddles. We arrived in good time for a strangely dry and very birdy morning.



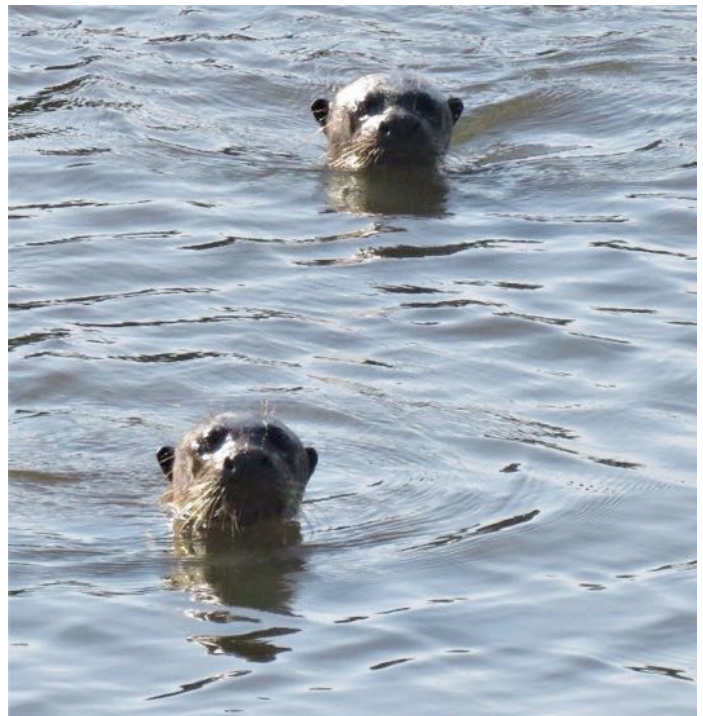
Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock; the forest fireball (Eustace Barnes).

Woowetta is the community from which we trek to a rocky inselberg, through an area of tall white sand forest and a more humid floodplain forest. It was to be rainforest from here on and therefore an entirely different set of frustrations to endure. For a start forest birding is always a challenge. Especially for those afflicted by deafness, poor sight and impatience. The light is often poor, the view largely comprises a wall of varying shades of green and the birdlife is primarily shy and or in the canopy 30m overhead.



Guianan Red Cotinga; same bird, same tree, different tour (Eustace Barnes)

Arriving with notable punctuality, for the start of our rainforest hike to the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek located high up on an isolated rocky outcrop overlooking superb terra firma forests, we met with our local guides and headed off. This was the start of our rainforest birding and it proved to be a great day. A rainless one, as it happens, which was just as well since we were some distance from any shelter. The walk began well enough with the Green Oropendola colony, a few Golden-headed Manakins at their daily dancing routines, and the huge Long-tailed Hermit lek.



Great Jacamar (left) and Giant River Otter (right) (Eustace Barnes)

After these distractions, we finally began to 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.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at court keeping an eye on those behind him (Eustace Barnes).

Retracing our steps, the most important issue was our appointment with the superb 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 sub-canopy. It always comes from the same direction and always sits in the same tree. So, at some point missable; being predictable makes for easy snacks for Forest Falcons. It was late and so we made our way to the vehicles for a late lunch where a Rainbow Boa crossed the road in front of the lead vehicle while we sat and ate lunch. Don't see those very often.



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

We hit a couple of mixed flocks and worked the usual process of extracting the flock constituents for all to see. These included Dusky-throated and Cinereous Antshrikes; the flock sentinels and pirates. Then also, White-flanked, Brown-bellied and Rufous-bellied Antwrens, Amazonian, Fasciated and Mouse-coloured Antshrikes, Tawny-crowned Greenlet and others. All good stuff and a welcome change from savanna birding.



A big tour highlight was watching male Blue-backed Mankins displaying (Robert Rackliffe).

Time to get moving and head for the famous Surama lodge, which, as is customary, continues to be 'under construction'. A condition it has enjoyed for as long as I can remember. We arrived in good time for an afternoon session with an exceptional local birder who took us to see an immature Eagle. A highly mobile immature bird was being seen periodically. We definitely scored, as the bird was sat high up in an open emergent near the road. This bird was said to be a Crested Eagle by every local birder, several of whom claimed to have seen the adults feeding it in the last few days. However, it seemed to be a rather slight bird and scrutiny of the photographs reveals it to be an Ornate Hawk-Eagle. It was less massive, had a greenish-yellow rather than blue-grey cere, barred thighs and blackish rather than grey upperparts. To be fair there are few birders who have any experience with Crested Eagle, let alone immature plumages. In any event, it was another superb moment in our rainforest birding. An evening session produced very little of note except a number of Least and Lesser Nighthawks.

A new challenge was on offer for us at Surama. An old Harpy Eagle nest was being rebuilt several hours up the Surama river. However, it had rained heavily and the river was high and rising. On the morning of our Harpy hunt, it had rained all night and looked as if it would continue to do so. It did not and the skies progressively cleared as we made our way. Lucky maybe, but becoming part of a pattern. On the way, we saw Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Green and rufous, Amazon, Green and Ringed Kingfishers, Black-chinned Antbird, Guianan Warbling Antbird, Green Oropendola, Purple-throated Fruitcrow and our first White-banded Swallows.

Once at the nest there was no sign of an eagle of any sort. My heart sank. How many times had I had to sit and wait for this species at an empty nest? We did wait until an adult called from across the river. This was followed by an extraordinary search, in which our boatmen (who were also hunters) found the bird perched high in an emergent tree! They then recrossed the river to collect us and return to see the bird which remained unmoved. We had the proverbial stellar views, providing an unforgettable moment for all. A fantastic experience. Winners all! It was time to go. The clouds were gathering and so we rushed back to Surama, stopping only to see Guianan Streaked Antwren. Shortly after the rains resumed.



A male Harpy Eagle high in an emergent near Surama (Eustace Barnes).

And so to Iwokrama in torrential rain, although it stopped for our arrival. Iwokrama is a stunning place, built on the banks of the Essequibo river with fabulous views of the river and great sunsets. Our time here is divided between the 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 rainforest. On this occasion, we devoted our time to the floodplain forests along the Turtle mountain trail. Visiting Iwokrama is simply part of the undeniable **More walking @ more Sites = More Birds** equation.

The entrance track and Turtle mountain trail can be good for mixed flocks and several 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 army ant swarm with a few White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbirds, but very little else. There are often army ants here and it can be good for the obligates and other faithful attendants.



The very pretty White-plumed Antbird (left) and male Mouse-coloured Antshrike (right) (Eustace Barnes)

The trail up Turtle Mountain can be rewarding, but our day was to be less productive than usual. Once on the trail, we set off across the flood plain, only to be stopped in our tracks by a large herd of White-lipped Peccary. We did not even hear a Spotted Antpitta on several well-known territories and subsequently did not hear them at Atta or in Suriname either. A Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo boomed distantly but did not move any closer. After forty minutes or so we agreed to call it a day and carried on. A small group of army ant obligates kept us busy and we eventually obtained views of both White-plumed and Rufous-faced Antbirds but the swarm petered out and the birds quickly dispersed.



Screaming Piha (left) and Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper (right) (Eustace Barnes).

As the Orange-breasted Falcons have not been in residence at Turtle Mountain for at least two years I decided not climb the 215m to the summit, which can be hard work in the heat and humidity. Vindication came from a group that climbed to the summit the following day and did not see it. Taped out?



The magnificent Crimson Fruitcrow (Ed Wilson).

On our return to the lodge, we extended the boat ride to the rapids, where we found Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns. Otherwise, the river held little life and we only found a few Great Egrets, Neotropic Cormorants, and a couple of Anhingas. The rocky islands and rapids in the river usually hold good numbers of Black-collared Swallows but on this occasion, as there were no rocky islands or rapids, there were few swallows. However, we did manage to find three but no more.



Three Black-collared Swallows and the beautiful Sunbittern (Eustace Barnes).

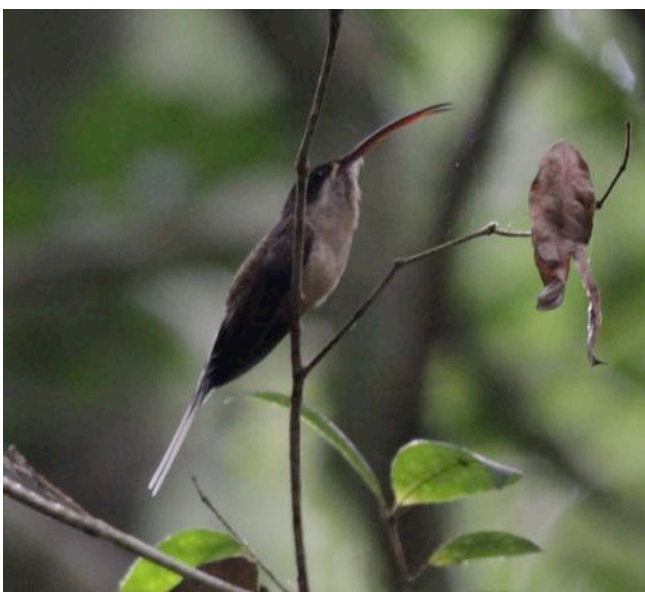
Then it really was time to get back to base for lunch and a brief rest before heading to Atta Lodge. As the afternoon was very hot we drove directly to the lodge. This turned out to be a very good decision as, on arrival, a male **Crimson Fruitcrow** displayed over the clearing for all to see. A fantastic sight! One of the greatest spectacles of neotropical birding and yet another mega highlight for the tour. Perhaps, the best moment of the tour for your leader and certainly the most unexpected. We then headed to the highway to bird the road for the late afternoon. Red and green and Scarlet Macaws shrieked all around us. Red fan Parrots and Yellow-crowned, Southern Mealy, and Blue-cheeked Amazons provided a cacophonous backdrop to the late evening. We also found a roosting Crimson Topaz, Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, Guianan Tyrannulet, Amazonian Antshrike, numerous Band-rumped and a few Chapman's Swifts.

As dusk approached we positioned ourselves in readiness for another tour highlight: the once near-mythical and indeed enigmatic **White-winged Potoo**. A male duly appeared and gave cracking views. We then returned to Atta for a great dinner and a very busy time recalling the highlights of the day and the many others during the tour so far. Fruitcrow and Potoo on the same day! Too many highlights perhaps and maybe undeserved!



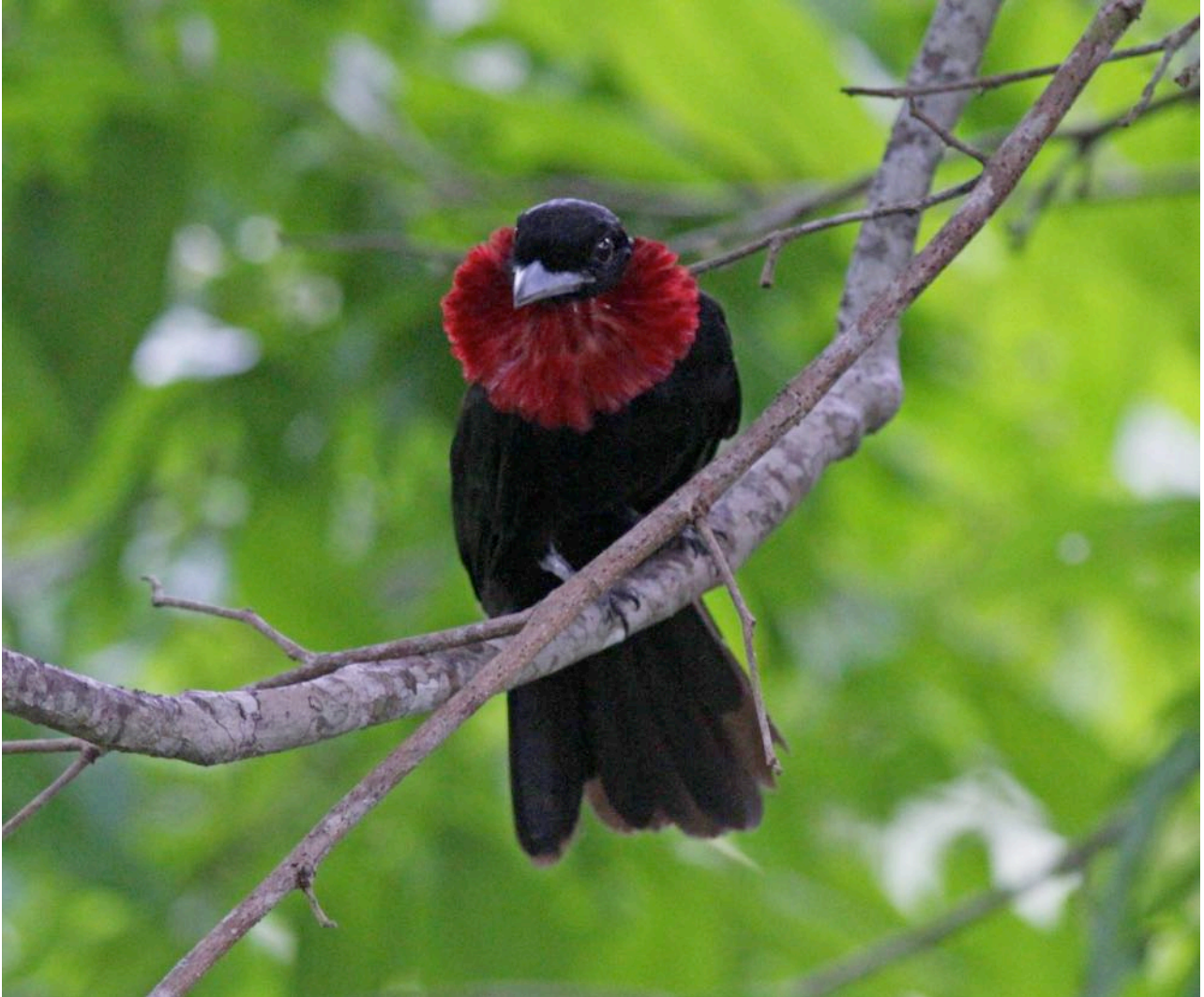
Guianan Puffbird (Eustace Barnes).

Atta is one of few remaining places that can still boast large numbers of Macaws, parrots, cracids, and monkeys. All-day one can hear Screaming Pihas, Purple-throated Fruitcrows, numerous Macaws and parrots, and, of course, the Howlers a few meters from lodge buildings. At dawn one is treated to a deafening chorus of these species that have largely disappeared from many apparently pristine forests. As we were to discover in Suriname.



A Long-tailed Hermit at its lek and the beautiful Cream-coloured Woodpecker (Eustace Barnes).

Early morning birding the clearing at Atta is essential. A time lying between dawn and it being light enough to see anything in the forest while coffee is to hand. Our first Marail Guans in a tall Cecropia was a good start. The clearing then gave us many more colorful inhabitants of these immense forests. Around the clearing Ringed, Cream-coloured and Waved Woodpeckers gave good views while a large group of Purple-throated Fruitcrows continuously fussed about. We also had several more sightings of the male Crimson Fruitcrow. More memorable moments. There is a flock that travels around the clearing which takes time to work through but which did produce a substantial list of species, including Bay-headed and Spotted Tanagers, Fluvous-crested Tanager, Blue and Black-faced Dacnis, Red-legged and Purple Honeycreepers, Guianan Tyrannulet, Lemon-chested and Buff-cheeked Greenlet.



Purple-throated Fruitcrow is very common around the clearing (Eustace Barnes).

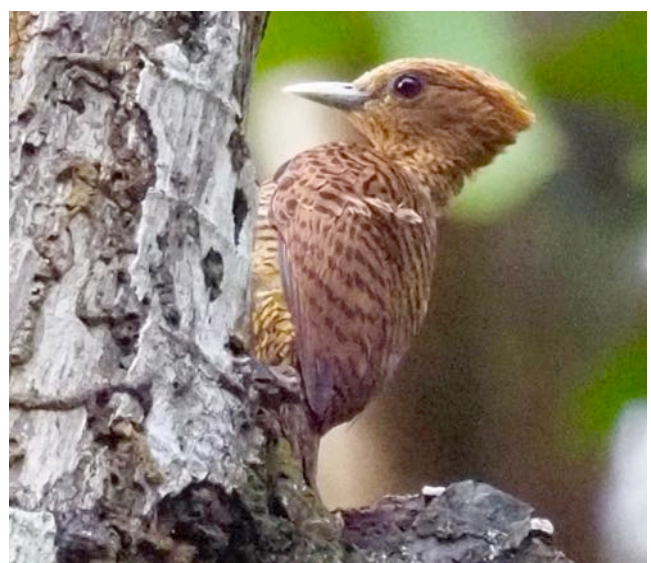
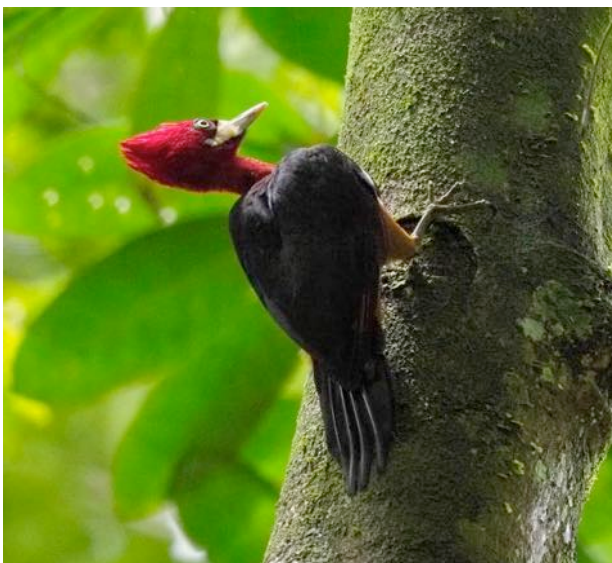
We then headed back to the highway in search of various target species, where we found several pairs of Blue-cheeked Amazons, a big target for the tour. We also saw Black-headed Parrots, Yellow-crowned, Southern Mealy, and a few Orange-winged Amazons, plus a roving group of Red fan Parrots, numerous pairs of Scarlet Macaws and all the toucans, including Guianan Toucanet. Guianan Puffbird sat up in its usual tree along with many of the aforementioned species. Time to return to the lodge clearing where we watched patiently as a number of species were picked up; these included Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Paradise Jacamar, a superb male Pompadour Cotinga, and the resident family of Purple-throated Fruitcrows that circumnavigate the clearing all day long.

Then we headed to the canopy walkway, which can be good for many species but which is almost always rather slow. It is a very pleasant break from walking trails or the highway.



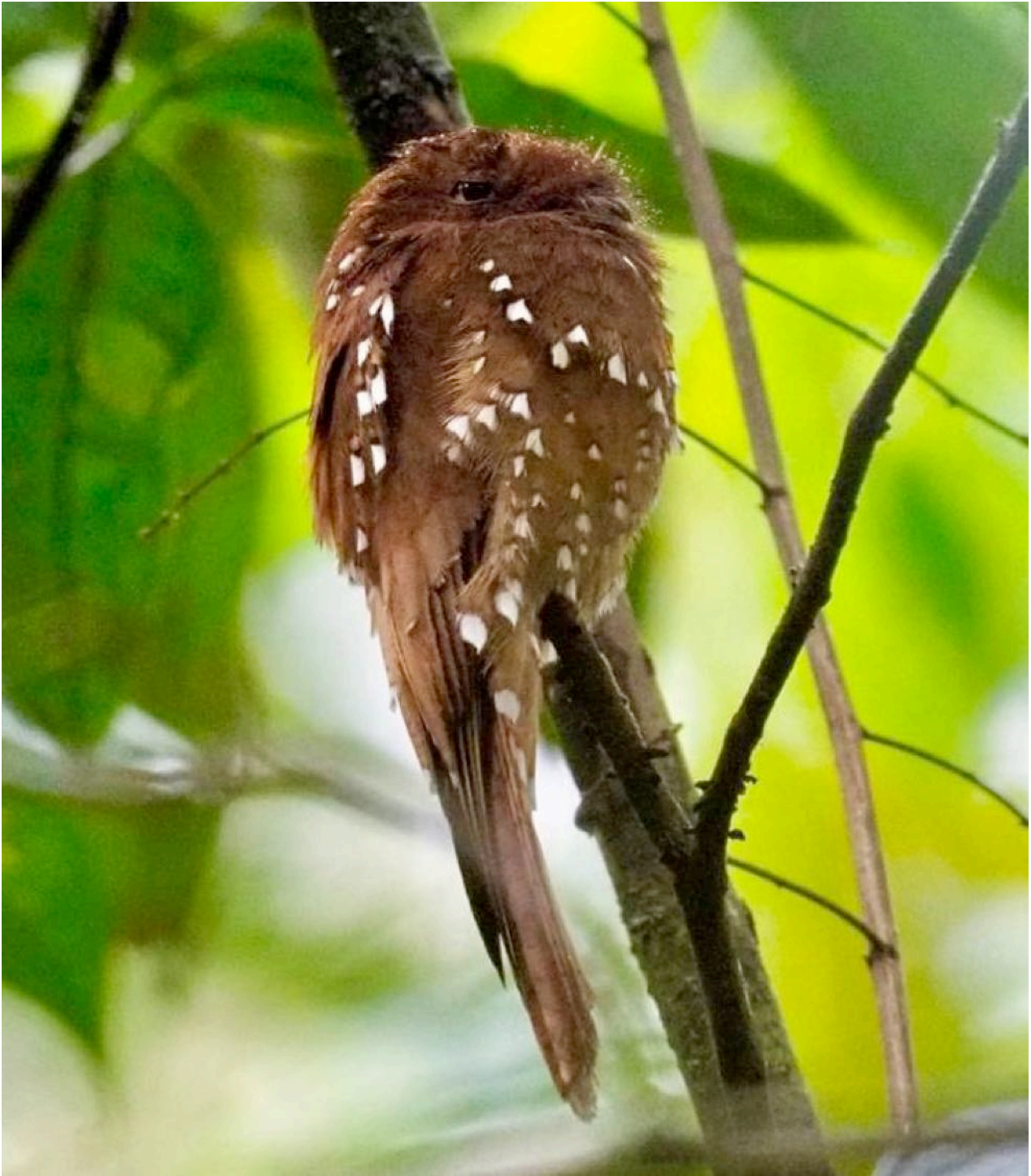
The canopy walkway is a highlight of any visit to the Atta rainforest lodge (Eustace Barnes).

We worked through Todd's and Spot-tailed Antwrens, Buff-cheeked and Lemon-chested Greenlets, Red-legged, Purple and Green Honeycreepers, and a number of Flame-crested, Bay-headed and Spotted Tanagers and Dusky Purpletuft. We ended up seeing the latter around the clearing and repeatedly at the walkway. On the last tour, we did not see it all, either in Guyana or Suriname. We also found Green Aracari, Waved Woodpeckers, and a pair of Golden-sided Euphonias. We again saw the male Crimson Fruitcrow sat in a large open canopied tree. He climbed to the top and then performed his aerial display again! Mega! I was surprised at how often we saw this species on this tour. It is a species that could very easily be missed but which is one of the key species for the tour.



Red-necked Woodpecker (left) and Waved Woodpecker (right) (Robert Rackliffe)

Several years ago the Atta boys had devoted some considerable time to find another great bird; the Rufous Potoo. So, we headed off to see this stunning species at a daytime roost. Exceptional, although it is now the norm!



Rufous Potoo – how often does this bird appear in trip reports? (Robert Rackliffe)

On this occasion, conditions were indeed exceptional. The forest was flooded and we had to wade the 600m or so to the roost site. We spent some 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, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet and so on. As it was starting to rain and hopeless to look for these birds we then headed back to the mudslide in the torrential rain to dry off.



We all got soaked on the 600m slog through the flooded forest to see the Potoo. It was well worth it (Eustace Barnes.)

It was hot and very humid. We had our target species and so we headed back to Atta to spend the remainder of the afternoon watching the flocks around the clearing. Indeed, the clearing can be very productive and we enjoyed some good sightings of several species. These included Black-spotted Barbet, Black-tailed Tityras, Guianan Tyrannulet, a late Blackpoll Warbler, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Black-faced and Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, more Red-necked and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers and, of course, the resident Black Curassow. We also saw the Crimson Fruitcrow AGAIN!



Grey-winged Trumpeters; cryptically patterned. Easy to miss, even when only a few meters away (Eustace Barnes.)

We then headed off to another area of taller white sand forest, which was less productive, although we did find a very cooperative Saffron-crested Tyrant Manakin we did not find the Guianan Schiffornis. 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 the 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 and others we visit are such areas of White sand forest and so we returned to this fascinating area again in time for a good show from the skulking denizens of this dense habitat. 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 fieldwork has been conducted in them and few birders have devoted much time to them. However, recently the Pelzel's Tody Tyrant has been found to occur in Guyana; a rare species, which we did not find but we did find Bronzy Jacamars and several Black Manakins. Anyway, lunch was in prospect and it was starting to rain so we retreated to the lodge.



Bronzy Jacamar (Eustace Barnes)

Lunch, clearing and highway were the order of play for the afternoon. Another group turned up to interfere with our birding, cutting short birding around the clearing. The highway was good to us. We enjoyed more views of Guianan Toucanet, Yellow-throated Flycatchers and a superb male Purple-breasted Cotinga along with more Pompadour Cotingas, Black-tailed Tityra and the now very familiar chorus of Red and green and Scarlet Macaws. We would learn not to take them for granted very soon.

The trail system at Atta has been extended and now includes quite several great routes through the tall forests around the lodge. Again we started our morning watching the clearing with good views of Marail Guan and many others. So, time to hit the trails for other secretive inhabitants of the understory; Black-throated Antshrike and Red and black Grosbeak. We began a steady search through open forest and seemingly sparse understory. The Antshrikes are now tape wary and immune to digital invitation. We did manage views of the resident pair but now that more groups are coming through it is getting very difficult. The Grosbeaks remain a little easier. 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 see and I could sense the troops were getting 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 understory and there they were. A male and a female chasing around about four or five meters in the understory. Again this species is much more difficult than it used to be. I used to practically have the place to myself. How things have changed. Perhaps, predictably enough, another group was following us around. Unfortunately, the guide was needlessly blasting out recordings continuously.

Our final morning was to be another spectacular session. Walking from the clearing we saw our first Blue-backed Tanager, which hung about long enough for us all to get great views. We then walked to the highway and enjoyed great views of Black-headed Parrots, Paradise Jacamar, Crimson-crested and Lineated Woodpeckers, Pompadour Cotingas, Crimson Topaz, Amazonian Antshrike and Cinnamon-throated Woodcreepers at their nest.



The pretty White-naped Xenopsaris (Eustace Barnes)

Departing from Atta after lunch we drove south making a number of stops en route to Manari. A suitably close lodge from which we could catch our flight to Georgetown the following morning. Leaving the rainforest behind us we headed off in search of our final localized grassland tyrannid; the White-naped Xenopsaris. A brief search produced a male for great looks. It looks a bit like a Becard, sounds like a Becard and so maybe it is a cryptic Becard. Its time at this site is, perhaps, coming to end as the understory 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 Camoudi Bash. Said gallery forest was singularly unproductive, although we did see Black-chinned Antbird, a Green-backed Trogon, Rufous-browed Peppershrike and large numbers of Yellow-crowned and Orange-winged Amazons and a few Red and green Macaws following the river. We then stopped at Ginep landing, finding only Red-shouldered Macaws and a few Pale-tipped Inezias. Time to go, only to screech to a halt in the dark for a South American 'Rupununi' Rattle Snake. Don't see those so often.



Rupununi (South American) Rattlesnake Crotalus durissus trigonicus

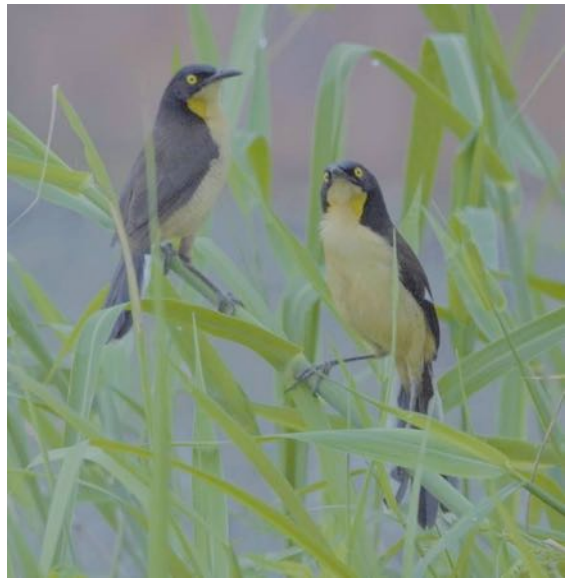
It rained all night again. The savanna was flooded and our journey to the airport again was rather damp (as they say in Yorkshire when everything is flooded). Our flight was delayed of course, but not enough to disrupt our afternoon birding on the coast. After a quick lunch in Georgetown, we headed along with the aforementioned geographical feature in search of White-bellied Piculet, Blood-coloured Woodpecker and Rufous Crab Hawk. All of which we found in quick succession.

As the tide was rising, we headed back to Georgetown, stopping to search several areas of mangroves and mudflats. As noted in previous reports, these areas are rapidly returning to the original dense mangroves making wader bashing more difficult. We did see a few Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers and a few Spotted Sandpipers. However, pride of place goes to the startlingly bright Scarlet Ibis, of which we saw a great many.



Rufous Crab Hawk on the Georgetown foreshore (Rob Rackliffe).

There were also Tricoloured and Little-blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Snowy and Great Egrets and a few Cocoi Heron. Of more interest to all were the Mangrove Rails that we managed to see running about along the edges of the mangroves. Walking a section of the seawall where many trees had died we had good views of more Blood-colored Woodpeckers, Straight-billed Woodcreepers and another pair of White-bellied Piculets, along with Bicoloured Conebills and Yellow Warbler, but no Northern Waterthrush. Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, Black-crested and Barred Antshrikes also performed nicely so making a pleasant birdy interlude. Although list padding has never been part of the BirdQuest MO we cut our losses with the waders and headed off to the Mahaica River.



The electric Scarlet Ibis and lively Donacobius (Eustace Barnes)



A splendid adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Eustace Barnes).

At the Mahaica river, we enjoyed spectacular views of a profusion of roosting birds, including Scarlet Ibis, Great and Snowy Egret, Tricoloured and Little Blue Herons and a couple of Hoatzin at a huge heron roost. The latter, Guyana's national bird. An odd choice, given it is so uncommon in the country.



The graceful Tricoloured Heron (Eustace Barnes).

It remains a COVID-dominated world and so we had to have PCR tests in order to enter Suriname. Early morning we headed off to New Vision (money-making) Laboratories inc' for our tests, which took up much of the morning. Rather than go birding late morning we packed, printed off test results and had a quick lunch before heading to the botanical gardens late afternoon. They were said to be closed and that we needed a permit to enter, with a local guide and all the paraphernalia officialdom increasingly manages to impose on our every move.



Toco Toucan and Grey-lined Hawk are easily seen in the Botanical gardens (Eustace Barnes)

The gardens were largely empty, but there were security guards everywhere and the afternoon skies full of parrots. We were treated to great views of numerous groups of Red-shouldered Macaws, Brown-breasted Parakeets, extraordinary numbers of both Yellow-crowned and Orange-winged Amazons. There were both Red and green and Blue and Yellow Macaws hanging about which I suspect had been released from the zoo during one of the lockdowns. We eventually found a pair of the resident Festive Amazon (of the race *bodini*). The latter a now rare and somewhat localized taxon whose presence in these urban 'gardens' seems to be questioned. However, as with all the other parrots found in urban Georgetown the races are appropriate to their natural range and distribution, although they are not questioned.



The lovely Blood-coloured Woodpecker (Rob Rackliffe left and Eustace Barnes right)



A regal looking Rufous Crab Hawk at Hope beach (Eustace Barnes).

The gardens also gave us more Grey Kingbirds, Violaceous Euphonia, a single Blood-coloured Woodpecker, Yellow Orioles and Short-crested Flycatcher. We quickly connected with the resident pair of Toco Toucans, at their nest hole in a now-dead tree. We also managed to find the resident Great Horned Owl which can be more tricky to locate.

As it was getting dark, we had found our target species and enjoyed the stunning spectacle of dozens of Psittacids wheeling into roost we decided to return to our hotel and head out for a spectacular meal at the extravagantly named Maharajah's Palace for an Indian meal. Indeed time for a Banks and a good night's sleep, far, far, far from rain and floods in the UK but not from the unprecedented rains in the Guianas.



Festive Amazon (Amazona festiva bodinii) in 2020 (Eustace Barnes)

Often our birding in the gardens produces great views of the Festive Amazon, but on this occasion, we only saw them in flight. The above photo was taken on our 2020 pre-COVID tour.

We were not finished, although Hendrik had already departed, as the group had chosen to endure the Suriname extension. So, on to Suriname for a few days in search of a few tricky endemics and to mop up the remaining Guianan specialties in the extensive forests found in that country, which we did. PCR test results in hand we headed to the airport for our flight to Paramaribo (Pronounced Para – mari – bo). It was raining and we knew the flight would be delayed but we knew the excuses now, or so we thought. The plane was not in sight but once again having been checked in and secured in that horrendous departure lounge we were told we were overweight! Had not seen that one coming as we had paid for excess luggage during a quick check-in. However, we were the equivalent of two people or all of our luggage overweight! In other words, if anyone had any luggage the plane would be over-loaded. Well, needless to say, the Trans Guyana staff were, again, treated a lesson in why this made no sense by a bunch of white people, which I could see they greatly enjoyed. The solution was to wait and see what the pilot said, as it was his decision. So, he arrived and we went in the rain. Overloaded apparently, but we did go. Of course, we were late and there was little time left for that initial exploration so frequently mentioned in the brochure entries. On meeting up with Sean (pronounced we headed to the oddly named botanical gardens. They are nothing of the sort, but infact a government-run agroforestry research station. We did see a Tiny Hawk which was a write-in but not the promised Arrowhead Piculet or Crimson-hooded Manakin.



Arrowhead Piculet is common in Paramaribo (Eustace Barnes).

Sean was on strict orders to search out a few endemics and a short-list of Guianan species we had not seen in Guyana, leaving him with a challenge, but one he was well able to meet. At dawn, we returned to the 'Botanical gardens'. We soon found several Arrowhead Piculets and had great views of this lovely little species. We then picked up the regional form of Plain-crowned Spinetail, which may be a distinct species. A fruiting tree produced a Mango which could have been a Green-throated Mango, but we did not see its throat. The manakins were again not performing, and so we headed off to another site where they displayed right above our heads. This site also gave us Yellow-crowned Elaenia, which was new for most of the group. A cracker but it did not make the top ten.

We then had to move on. It rained. The roads were flooded. There were sites to visit and a long bad road to negotiate on way to the Brownsberg plateau. Site 1 in the scrubby Campinas: Cayenne Jays, White-lined Tanagers, Plain-crested Eleanias, and not much else. It was late morning at this point but we did then score with a responsive pair of Russet-crowned Crakes. A good species to see. Site 2 in the scrubby Campinas: Red-shouldered Tanager, Plain-crested and Rufous-crowned Eleanias and a pair of Campina Thrushes (ex Black-billed Thrush). A good one to see so well. Then lunch at Cola Kreek, both watching and watched by a pair of roosting Tropical Screech Owls. All good stuff.



Tropical Screech Owls at a day roost (Eustace Barnes).

Next was the climb up to Brownsberg. The road was dreadful with several large mudholes and steep rutted sections. Of these, we got stuck in the first mudhole and it looked uncertain we would pass. It turned out the four-wheel drive was not working and so began a lengthy phone call with a distant mechanic to fix it. Amazingly they managed and we finally got to the top of the plateau, at 460m. The decidedly scruffy and ramshackle accommodations have enjoyed only neglect since they were constructed and nothing really works. We did have water, unlike the last group, but the toilets and showers did not function properly. Nevertheless, it is a magnificent location and we managed, despite some unhappiness with the lack of en suite facilities, air conditioning and a comfortable lounge area to enjoy our mercifully brief stay. All of this discomfort was more than compensated for with exceptional meals produced by our excellent cook, Benny. Also, of course, the forest here is spectacular and perhaps the best in Suriname for many foothill species.



The pleasantly rustic, if very shabby and poorly maintained, Brownsberg accommodation (Eustace Barnes)

The first bit of bad birding news was that the highly localized White-throated Peewee had not been seen since its favorite tree had fallen about a year ago.



The confiding Ferruginous-backed Antbird (Rob Rackliffe).

Nevertheless, our first day produced a couple of nice understorey and sub-canopy flocks. I think the group may have been as frenzied as the birds themselves, but once the initial bustle had subsided we settled into a

more productive routine, working through the species one by one. Fulvous-crested and Fulvous Shrike Tanagers were clearly pinned down. A Grey-breasted Sabrewing sat in clear view for everyone. The canopy Honeycreepers and Dacnises performed (again), the Spot-tailed and Todd's Antwrens performed (again) and some of us managed to connect with the tiny Ash-winged Antwren in his canopy hideaway. The understory flocks all contained Dusky-throated and Cinereous Antshrikes along with Grey, White-flanked and Brown-bellied Antwrens and Chestnut-rumped Woodcreepers as they had done in every single such flock in Guyana. This time however, Long-winged Antwren also put in an appearance, adding to our list of regionally distinct taxa. On the forest floor, we called in a Pectoral Sparrow and a pair of Black-headed Antbirds.



The beautiful Grey-headed Kite on the Brownsberg plateau (Eustace Barnes),

Descending the escarpment we searched for and found White-throated Manakin followed by a fine male White-fronted Manakin. Lined Forest Falcon called and was then called in. A particularly responsive bird as it turned out. We also saw Golden-olive Woodpecker, a Red-necked Woodpecker and a Golden-collared Woodpecker. The forests here are tall primary forests on the escarpment but of a more stunted structure on the plateau itself. Probably secondary growth for the most part.

The bad news just kept coming. Zintete lodge was flooded after the unprecedented rains. It was receding but not fast enough to allow us to visit, or so we were told. We quickly replanned the itinerary, giving us four nights on the plateau and a single visit to Zintete. As it happened the water retreated and the original

itinerary restored. Of course, this was not without some disquiet being expressed by the troops as it was feared Zintete would be even worse than Brownsberg. Especially after having been submerged.

Another session produced great views of the very pretty White-breasted Wood-Wren and a Musician Wren along with a superb Grey-headed Kite. We also found a pair of Red and black Grosbeaks and decided to have a third look. A great species, often hard to find at all. Another nice set of birds.

Late evening and we made our way out for an owling session, of the Sean Dilrosun variety. That is after dinner, rather than before dawn. The latter my preferred form of night birding. An activity few actually enjoy but which can be rewarding. At the appointed spot we heard Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl on the east side of the track and Foothill (Roraima) Screech Owl on the west. We worked a while and ended up seeing both species along with a Spiny Tree Rat running about in a vine tangle.



Grey-winged Trumpeter came to see us off at Brownsberg (Eustace Barnes).

Departing the delights of the plateau, we headed for Zintete lodge, our base for the next couple of nights. Our exit was blocked by a family group of Grey-winged Trumpeters that came to see us off. They wandered about around our feet apparently expecting to be fed. We were then stopped by a Smooth-fronted Caiman in a puddle in the road. Once extracted from said puddle we slithered downslope without further delay. Zintete lodge is a new lodge born of the entrepreneurial vision and energy of a very gifted young birder called Fred Pansa. He was a hunter and has, as with many rainforest hunters, a particularly well-developed ability to find things to eat in the forest. His ability to find such things (understorey birds) is quite remarkable. We did arrive but only after yet more mud-related adventures.

The bus driver reached the first of several large mudholes and was not prepared to pass. Fred arrived on the other side of a particularly deep mudhole and we ferried our gear from the bus to his 4x4. It took quite some time to get the gear, group, cook and food from one bus to a 4x4 and on to the lodge fifteen clicks and

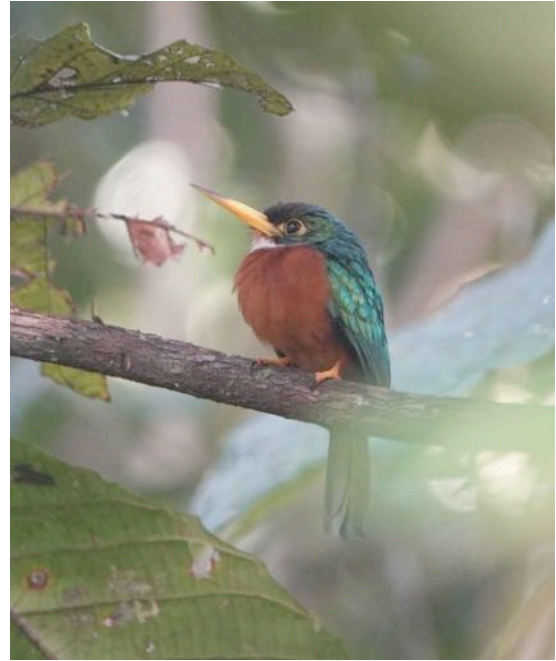
several gigantic mudholes down the road to our new accommodations. It is a new rainforest lodge and a sense of adventure rather than the expectation of luxury essential for the time being. Once luxury is installed the birds have been long taped out.



There was mud. However, suffice to say the locals were used to it and just got on with sorting everything out (Eustace Barnes).

On arrival, we had little time for the time-honored 'initial exploration' at our new location. The accommodation was great, there were no biting insects and the evening temperatures very comfortable. The waters were fast receding, thousands of frogs calling around the lodge and Benny quickly produced a fabulous meal. There was nothing to complain about, except having nothing to complain about. Something we Brits often enjoy. Luckily, a great list of targets and suitable sites was planned for the following day. Fred was on top form and Virginia on maneuvers again and so we were well placed to complete the task of mopping up the remaining Guianan specialties. We then had a great day of birding forest trails and the road. Unfortunately, Band-tailed Antshrike was not in play, although we searched for it at every site it had been seen in the preceding ten years. A strategy not likely to succeed given it is a species adapted to ephemeral early successional habitats, but we had little option.

We walked out along the entrance road, finding a Black-faced Hawk, Red-necked Woodpecker, Yellow-green, a Yellow-billed Jacamar, more Golden-sided Euphonias and many other species we had already seen in Guyana. At a swamp we called in the endemic nominate Blackish Antbird and McConnell's Spinetail. We also enjoyed reasonable views of Capped Heron feeding on frog spawn in a large roadside puddle. Band-rumped and Short-tailed Swifts sped about above us.



We added both the pretty Black-faced Hawk and diminutive Yellow-billed Jacamar to the list at Zintete (Eustace Barnes).

Trail birding produced Collared Puffbird, White-chested Puffbird, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Ringed Woodpecker, Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant, Painted Tody-Flycatcher and our principal target, the enigmatic and inexplicably rare Boat-billed Tody-Tyrant. We found it and all of us got good views after a bit of time. Walking under the tall canopy we heard several Crimson Fruitcrows along with Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock but did not stop to look for them. In fact there is a lek here which we could visit if time permitted.



Guianan Toucanet (Eustace Barnes).

Each morning, dawn was announced by the resident Cocoa Thrush. A pre-dawn search for Zig-Zag Heron only produced a vocalizing bird some distance from our watch-point. Despite an heroic effort by Fred, the bird would not come closer. Taped out! It knew the drill and was having none of it. We did find a couple of Silvered Antbirds pottering about in the half-light and a Green and rufous Kingfisher a little later.



The newly developed Zintete lodge recently released from flood waters (Eustace) Barnes)

Birding the road and working flocks produced a fine flock with Red-billed Pied Tanagers, Todd's Sirystes and a pair of Glossy-backed Becards along with a long list of canopy species with which we had become very familiar; including Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, Channel-billed toucan, White-throated Toucan, Crimson-crested, Waved, Chestnut and Golden-collared Woodpeckers and huge numbers of parrots. A Caica Parrot then appeared in the same tree completing our list of Guianan parrots. We found a Black Curassow along the road and after some time an Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, another Guianan Trogon, several more Paradise Jacamars and so on.

A great area indeed but no Macaws, relatively few parrots, no cracids to speak of and very few monkeys! It had been a logging area and these species were most likely hunted out long ago. Nevertheless, a great area for birding. With strict conservation measures plus support for Fred's work many of those species may well return in the future.

After a spectacular lunch, we began to head to the airport with that immortal BQ phrase ringing in our heads; 'we were sorry indeed when the time came to leave this wonderful place'. We still had the mud holes to negotiate and so began the relay exit ; load the vehicles, drive to the mud hole for 2 pm, get stuck precisely where our driver said the bus would slide into a deep hole and topple over. It all went as expected and the driver was right. As a result we then had to tow out the 4x4 and slither along to the next mud hole etc. Still, we made it just before it started to rain again. This would have made our crossing the mud holes and getting back to the hard top impossible. We were in luck and off we headed in the torrential rains to the airport.

We had been unlucky with the weather overall but we had lost nothing, It was exceptional and unlikely to happen again. However, despite conditions we still found nearly all of our targets and a great many more besides in a highly memorable tour.



The gang after a long and, at times, tiring trip (Eustace Barnes)

It had been a major tour and we had seen nearly all of the target species and a large proportion of the Guianan shield endemics plus a magnificent male Harpy Eagle! Cliché's aside, a great tour packed with a long list of highlights.

Top Ten highlights/species of the tour.

Harpy Eagle – The moment of the tour!

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

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

Crimson Fruitcrow – a superb displaying male high over the canopy. Nowhere easier or better to see this bird.

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

Ornate Hawk-Eagle – another highly memorable moment on a long list.

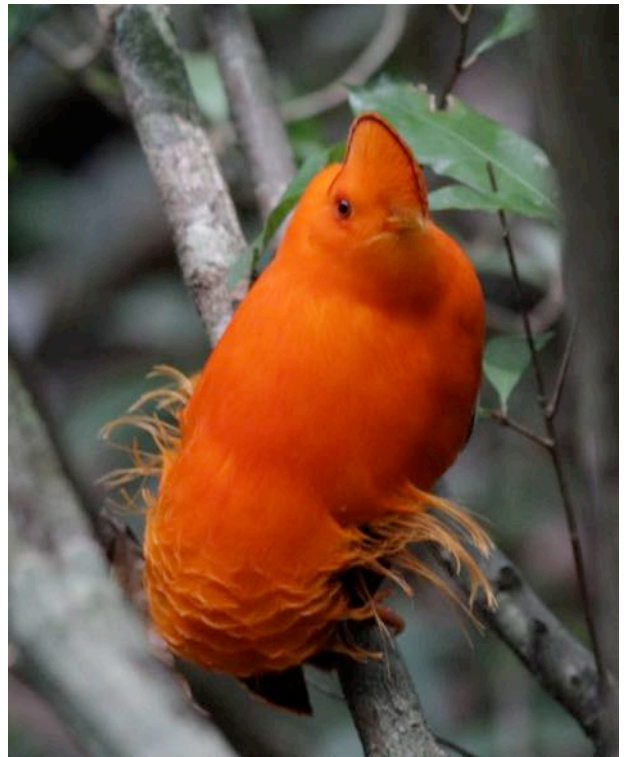
Capuchinbird – lek at 5 meters above your head. Can't be beaten. It is the best lek.

Crimson-hooded Manakin – a real cracker.

Blue-backed Manakin – males dancing. What an incredible moment.

Lined Forest Falcon – the display was extraordinary.

So, Lined Forest Falcon, White-throated and White-fronted Manakins? Pinnated Bittern, Bearded Tachuri, Crested Doradito, Red and black Grosbeak, Blue-backed Tanager, Red-billed Pied Tanager did no feature in the top ten. That does tell you we have a spectacular rainforest tour.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (Eustace Barnes).



Immature Ornate Hawk-Eagle (Eustace Barnes).

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follow 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 that were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

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

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

All species recorded in Suriname indicated by the symbol (SE) of heard only indicated the by symbol (H/SE).

All species are recorded only (heard or seen) by the leader in Suriname indicated by the symbol (LO/SE).

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 exploding from the forest floor one afternoon.

Cinereous Tinamou ♦ *Crypturellus cinereus* One seen near Woowetta. Heard Atta.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* Heard Surama and Suriname.

Red-legged Tinamou ♦ *Crypturellus erythropus* One seen at Karanambu (NL). Many others heard. (H/SE).

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus* (H) Heard Karanambu and elsewhere in floodplain thickets.

Variegated Tinamou *Crypturellus variegatus* (H/SE) Heard Suriname.

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

Black-bellied Whistling Duck A small group at the botanical gardens in Georgetown.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* Seen Rupununi. Small numbers elsewhere.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis* Up to 12 noted near Wichabai.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*. A single bird found near Georgetown.

Little Chachalaca *Ortalis motmot* 1 Sand Creek. Others Karanambu. Heard elsewhere. Also (SE)

Marail Guan ♦ *Penelope marail* A few seen at dawn feeding on Cercropias at Atta.

Spix's Guan *Penelope jacquacu* Only seen on a couple of occasions.

Blue-throated Piping-Guan *Pipile cumanensis* Several seen at Surama.

CRESTLESS CURASSOW ♦ *Mitu tomentosum* Three seen together at Karanambu. Superb.

Black Curassow *Crax alector* Several groups noted. Also (SE).

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus* Small numbers this year on the savannas.

Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* (H) Heard at Zintete lodge.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Several flocks noted on the central savannas.

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari* Surprising numbers seen near Manari.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* Small numbers in the southern savannas.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus* Common and increasing in the south.

SHARP-TAILED IBIS ♦ *Cercibis oxycerca* Two seen at Wichabai. Tougher to see now that Venezuela is closed.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Several seen at Karanambu and elsewhere.

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* A few on the coast.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* A flock of 25 seen at Manari and several more at Karanambu.

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* A couple at Karanambu

Agami Heron *Agamia agami* (LO) One seen briefly at Karanambu. Much more difficult tis time of year.

Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* Seen at Wichabai and Karanambu where quite commonly seen.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen near Karanambu and on the coast.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Common along the coast.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Common on the coast.

ZIG-ZAG HERON ♦ *Zebrilus undulates* (H/SE). Unfortunately only heard this year. Getting a bit tape shy perhaps?

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Seen around Georgetown and in the south. Also (SE).

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* Small numbers throughout.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Common in the south and on the coast. Also (SE).

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* A flock of seven at Karanambu. Also (SE).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* A flock of twenty on the coast.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Seen on the coast. Also (leader only SE).

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* A commonly recorded bird.

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* Seen along the Mahaica river.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* A few noted this year.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Several noted.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Common.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* Common on the savannas. Also (SE).

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* A common species at Atta. Also around Paramaribo (SE).

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Abundant. Also (SE).

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* A few noted.

Western Osprey (American O) *Pandion [haliaetus] carolinensis* Commonly seen northern migrant.

Pearl Kite *Elanus leucurus*

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* A single bird at Brownsberg.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* A few noted.

HARPY EAGLE ♦ *Harpia harpyja* Seen Surama.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* Seen Atta and heard Surama. Also (SE).

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* Seen Surama and Brownsberg. See note.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*

Tiny Hawk *Accipiter superciliosus* One seen Paramaribo botanical gardens.

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni* One en route to Karanambu.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* A few seen. Also (SE).

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* A couple noted.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* A common species in Georgetown.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens* Several noted at sites from Karasabi to Karanambu.

RUFIOUS CRAB HAWK ♦ *Buteogallus aequinoctialis* A couple 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* A few on the savannas. Also (SE).

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* One seen Atta.

Black-faced Hawk ♦ *Leucopternis melanops* A single bird at Zintete lodge. (SE).

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus* Several pairs noted throughout. Also (SE).

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* One seen in the botanical gardens in Georgetown. Also (LO) Paramaribo.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* Seen (SE).

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias* Noted at Karanambu and Atta.

Grey-cowled Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus* Noted Karanambu and Surama.

Ash-throated Crake *Porzana albicollis* (H) Head in Guyana and Suriname.

Yellow-breasted Crake (LO) *Laterallus flaviventer* A single bird flushed near Manari lodge.

Russet-crowned Crake *Laterallus viridis* Seen near Leyldorp in the savannas.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* Common.

Azure Gallinule *Porphyrio flavirostris* A single bird seen at Wichabai.

Grey-winged Trumpeter ♦ *Psophia crepitans* As usual seen Atta and Brownsberg (SE).

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* A common species.

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus* A fairly common species on the savannas.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* Common in the south and the north.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* A few on the coast near Georgetown.

Pied Plover *Hoploxypterus cayanus* A few along the Rupununi river.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Abundant. Also (SE).

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae* A single bird flushed near Karanambu.

Spotted Sandpiper (W) *Actitis macularius* Commonly noted.

Solitary Sandpiper (W) *Tringa solitaria* A common wintering bird.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* Several seen on the coast.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* Seen near Georgetown.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Seen near Georgetown.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Small numbers seen Arbury road mudflats.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Small numbers near Georgetown.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* Single birds at Karanambu and on the Essequibo river.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* A few at Karanambu.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregatta magnificans* Seen on the coast.

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* Least said.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* Seen along the highway.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Common along rivers. Also (SE).

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* A few seen and heard. Also (SE).

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* Recorded at Karanambu and other rainforest sites. Also (SE).

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine* Common in the south. Also (SE).

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta* A few noted in the south.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Commonly recorded. Also (SE).

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* (LO) Zintete lodge.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Commonly seen.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* Also (H/SE).

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* A very common species.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* A few noted near Georgetown.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Common to abundant. Also (SE).

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H).
Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo ♦ *Neomorphus rufipennis* (H) Distantly heard at Surama and Turtle mountain.
Little Cuckoo *Coccyzua minuta* Heard Georgetown. Also around Paramaribo, where seen.
Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Commonly recorded. Also (SE).
Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* Seen (SE)
(Northern) Tawny-bellied Screech Owl Seen Brownsberg.
(Roraiman) Foothill Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops roraimae* Seen Brownsberg plateau (SE).
Amazonian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium hardyi* After some effort seen Zintete lodge (SE).
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* A few noted.
Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* A few seen in the savannas in the south. Also (SE).
Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* Seen at Surama and Karanambu. (H/SE) Heard Suriname
WHITE-WINGED POTOO ♦ *Nyctibius leucopterus* A couple seen very well at Atta.
RUFIOUS POTOO ♦ *Nyctibius bracteatus* A single bird seen at a day roost. Absolutely superb.
Least Nighthawk *Chordeiles pusillus septentrionalis* Commonly seen in the savannas.
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* A few noted. (H/SE) Heard Suriname.
Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* Common at Karanambu.
Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* Seen at Atta along the highway.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* Seen Surama. Not a good time of year for Nightjars. (H/SE) Heard Suriname.
White-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis cayennensis* (H) A few heard and a few poorly seen on savanna night drives.
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* A couple seen along the highway in Guyana.
Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus* A common species. Also (SE).
Chapman's Swift ♦ *Chaetura chapmani* Seen well at Atta.
Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* Common. Also (SE).
Neotropical Palm Swift *Tachornis squamata* Another common swift.
Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus* A bird seen in rainforest understory on a few occasions. Also (SE).
Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus* Seen at a large lek near Woowetta and elsewhere. Also (SE).
Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber* A few seen.
Black-throated Mango *Anthracothonax nigricollis* A few. Also (SE).
Crimson Topaz ♦ *Topaza pella* A fine male at Atta. Also (SE).
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird *Chrusolampis mosquitus* Seen Wichabai. (Also SE).
Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* Commonly seen in the south. Also (SE).
Grey-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* A few noted.
Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* A few noted. Also (SE).
Rufous-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis sapphirina* A few noted. Also (SE).
White-tailed Goldenthrout *Polytmus guainumbi* Several seen.
Plain-bellied Emerald ♦ *Amazilia leucogaster* Seen on flowering shrubs in Georgetown.
White-chested Emerald *Amazilia brevirostris* A few noted.
Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* A common species. Also (SE).
Black-eared Fairy *Heliothryx auratus* A few seen throughout.
Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* Singles Moka Moka and Karanambu.
Green-backed Trogon (Amazonian White-tailed T) *Trogon viridis* Several pairs noted throughout. Also (SE).
Guianan Trogon *Trogon violaceus* Several noted. Also (SE).
Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* (H/SE).
American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* A single bird at Karanambu seen by a few of us.
Green and rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* A couple seen at Surama along the river. (Also SE).
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A few noted. Also (SE).
Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Seen throughout.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* The common Kingfisher. Also (SE).
Amazonian Motmot *Momota momota* (H) Heard Turtle mountain (H/SE).
Brown Jacamar *Brachygalba lugubris lugubris* Seen (SE). A widespread species with disjunct populations.
Yellow-billed Jacamar *Galbula albirostris* Heard Turtle mountain. Seen Zintete lodge. (SE).
Bronzy Jacamar ♦ *Galbula leucogastra* A species seen in the white sand forests.
Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* Seen near Manari and Karasabai.
Green-tailed Jacamar *Galbula Galbula* The common Jacamar near Manari.
Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea* Seen around the clearing at Atta. Also (SE).
Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus* (H) Heard at Atta.

Guianan Puffbird ♦ *Notharchus macrorhynchos* Seen Karasabai and Atta. Also (SE).
Pied Puffbird *Notharcus tectus* Seen Guyana and Suriname.
Spotted Puffbird *Bucco tamatia* Seen at Karanambu.
Collared Puffbird *Bucco capensis* Seen Zintete lodge.
White-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila fusca* Seen Zintete lodge.
Rusty-breasted Nunlet *Nonnula rubecula* Seen Zintete lodge.
Black Nunbird *Monasa atra* A commonly noted species.
Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* A common species. Also (SE).
Black-spotted Barbet *Capito niger* A few seen.
Green Aracari *Pteroglossus viridis* First recorded at Karasabai. Quite a number of pairs noted this year.
Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus Aracari* A common species. Also (SE).
Guianan Toucanet ♦ *Selenidera piperivora* A pair noted Atta on two days. Also (SE).
Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* A common species. Also (SE).
Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco* A pair found in the botanical gardens.
White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus* A common species. Also (SE).
Golden-spangled Piculet *Picumnus exilis* Seen at Zintete lodge. (SE).
White-bellied Piculet ♦ *Picumnus spilogaster orenocensis* A common taxon near Karasabai.
White-bellied Piculet ♦ *Picumnus s. spilogaster* Very common on the coastal plain.
ARROWHEAD PICULET ♦ *Picumnus minutissimus* Seen near Paramaribo and at Peperpot. See notes.
White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus* We saw this species near Dadanawa.
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* Common. These birds are without a yellow tuft. Also (SE).
Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* (LO) At Peperpot, where common.
Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus* Seen Karanambu.
BLOOD-COLOURED WOODPECKER ♦ *Veniliornis sanguineus* Seen at the Enmore flats.
Golden-collared Woodpecker *Veniliornis cassini* Seen at Atta on several occasions. Often hard to see. Also (SE).
Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula* (H) Heard Iwokrama lodge. Seen (SE).
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* (SE). Seen Brownsberg.
Waved Woodpecker ♦ *Celeus undatus* Not uncommon. Also (H/SE).
Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans* A superb family group at Karanambu.
Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus* A few pairs noted.
Ringed Woodpecker *Celeus torquatus* Yes, several seen Guyana and Suriname.
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* Very common. Also (SE).
Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis* Commonly recorded. Also (SE).
Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* Yes. Also (SE).
Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* Common this year at Iwokrama.
Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* Several groups noted. Also (SE).
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Common in the southern savannas.
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* Noted throughout.
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinans* Seen Wichabai. Also (H/SE).
Lined Forest Falcon ♦ *Micrastur gilvicollis* Seen (SE) only.
Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* (H) Heard Karanambu.
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* A savana bird.
Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* Another savanna bird. We saw a good number.
Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis* Seen at several locations.
Merlin *Falco columbarius* Single female at the National Park in Georgetown.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* A single bird seen Moka moka.
SAPPHIRE-RUMPED PARROTTLET ♦ *Touit battavicus* Several seen (SE).
Golden-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris chrysopte* Common at rainforest sites. Also (SE).
Caica Parrot *Pyrilia caica* Several groups flying fast through the forest. Also (SE).
Dusky Parrot *Pionus fuscus* A few noted. Also (SE).
Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* Quite common. Also (SE).
Festive Amazon ♦ *Amazona festiva bodini* A few pairs noted in the botanical gardens.
BLUE-CHEEKED AMAZON ♦ *Amazona dufresniana* Several pairs seen very well near Atta.
Yellow-crowned Amazon *Amazona ochrocephala* Commonly seen.
Southern Mealy Amazon *Amazona farinose* Only seen at Atta and Iwokrama. (H/SE).
Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica* Commonly seen in drier areas. Also (SE).

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus* Seen at several sites in the south.
Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephalus* A few in the south. Also (H/SE).
Red-fan Parrot *Deroptyus accipitrinus* Only seen at Iwokrama. One escape in the botanical gardens. Also (SE).
Painted Parakeet *Pyrrhura picta* Small flocks noted. Also (SE).
Brown-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula pertinax* Very common in the south and around Georgetown. Also (SE).
SUN PARAKEET ♦ *Aratinga solstitialis* Up to 12 seen around Karasabai.
Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilatus* A few seen.
Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* A pair seen. None Suriname.
Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* Fairly common in Iwokrama forest. None Suriname.
Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus* The most numerous of the larger Macaws. None Suriname.
Red-shouldered Macaw *Diopsittaca nobilis* Seen on the coast and in the south. Also (SE).
Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus* Seen at Wichabai and Manari.
Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia rufocauda* (SE) only.
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus* (SE) only.
HOARY-THROATED SPINETAIL ♦ *Synallaxis kollari* Seen along Ireng river.
McConnell's Spinetail *Synallaxis macconnelli obscurior* (SE) only. A disjunct population.
Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* A very numerous species.
Plain-crowned Spinetail *Synallaxis g. gujanensis* Regionally endemic taxon, likely a distinct species.
Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* (H) Heard Manari ranch.
White-chinned Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla merula* Seen Guyana.
Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* Seen at several sites
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Seen at many sites.
Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper *Dendrexetstes rufigula* Seen at a couple of sites
Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia* Seen at Karanambu.
Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* Seen at an 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.
Guianan Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus* Seen at Zintete.
Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H) Heard at Iwokrama. Also (H/SE).
Black-throated Antshrike *Frederikena viridis* Seen Atta.(H/SE). More tricky this time of year.
Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis* The common open country Antshrike. Also (SE) but not Canada.
Great Antshrike *Taraba major* Seen at a few places.
Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*
Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* (H) Many heard. Also (H/SE).
Northern Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus punctatus* A common species at Karanambu.
Amazonian Antshrike *Thamnophilus amazonicus* Seen Woowetta to Turtle Mountain. Also (SE).
Dusky-throated Antshrike *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* A flock leader. Also (SE).
Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesioides* The other flock leader. Also (SE).
Brown-bellied Stipplethroat ♦ *Epinecrophyllos gutturalis* One. Also (SE).
Black-throated Antbird *Myrmophylax atrothorax* Seen Turtle mountain. (H/SE).
Rufous-bellied Antwren ♦ *Isleria guttata* Forest floor Antwren. Also (H/SE).
Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura* A canopy Antwren. Also (SE).
Guianan Streaked Antwren *Myrmotherula surinamensis* Riverine Antwren. Also (SE).
White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris* An understory Antwren.
Long-winged Antwren *Myrmotherula l. longipennis* Another understory Antwren. A vocally distinct taxon.
Spot-tailed Antwren *Herpsilochmus sticturus* Canopy wanderer.
Todd's Antwren ♦ *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus* A close cousin to the above species. Also (SE).
Rusty-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus frater* Seen at one site in the south.
Southern White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora grisea* The common dry country Antwren. Also (SE).
Grey Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* (H) We did not look for this one. Also (H/SE).
Blackish Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens nigrescens* An endemic taxon, likely a distinct species. Seen Zintete.
RIO BRANCO ANTIBIRD *Cercomacra carbonaria* Seen near Manari lodge.
Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* Common at Karanambu. Also (H/SE).
Black-headed Antbird *Percnostola r. rufifrons* (SE) Guianan nominate likely a distinct species

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* Seen at Karanambu. Also (H/SE).
Spot-winged Antshrike *Pygiptila stellaris* Seen Brownsberg.
Common Scale-backed Antbird *Willisornis poecilinotus* (H) (SE).
Guianan Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis cantator* Seen at Atta. Also (SE).
Black-chinned Antbird *Hypocnemoides melanopogon* Seen at Karanambu.
Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia* Seen Zintete lodge.
White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes* We made an effort with this one at Karanambu.
Ferruginous-backed Antbird ♦ *Myrmeciza ferruginea* A pair at Atta. (H/SE).
White-plumed Antbird *Pithys castanea* Seen at ant swarms.
Rufous-throated Antbird ♦ *Gymnopathys rufigula* A few seen at Iwokrama.
Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* (H/SE).
Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma* Seen Surama. Very cooperative bird (H/SE).
Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona dissors* (H/SE). We did not look.
Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* Seen Brownsberg.
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* Yes, of course. Also (H/SE).
Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* Ditto. Also (H/SE).
Yellow-crowned Elaenia *Myiopagis flavivertex* (L/SE) Seen at Chocopot, near Paramaribo
Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* We saw this species most days in open areas.
Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cristata* (SE) A few noted.
Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis* A few noted.
Rufous-crowned Elaenia ♦ *Elaenia ruficeps* At Zanderij scrubby campinas (SE).
White-lored Tyrannulet *Ornithion inerme* (H) Many heard.
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Yes.
Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina* A few.
BEARDED TACHURI ♦ *Polystictus pectoralis* Seen at several sites!! Must be the best country to see this species.
CRESTED DORADITO ♦ *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri* Several seen near Karanambu lodge.
Guianan Tyrannulet *Zimmerius acer* A common species. Also (H/SE).
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* Noted at Woowetta.
McConnell's Flycatcher *Mionectes macconnelli* Noted at Zintete.
Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* Recorded (SE).
Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum* A few noted.
Pale-tipped Inezia *Inezia caudata* Commonly noted.
Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* (H)
Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis ecaudatus* (SE). Found at Brownsberg.
Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus galeatus* Yes, after some work. Also (H/SE).
Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus vitosus guianensis* Only recorded (SE).
Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant *Atalotriccus pilaris* At Wichabai, Karasabai and Karanambu.
BOAT-BILLED TODY-TYRANT A single bird seen st Zintete lodge. (SE).
Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus Sylvia* After a bit of work we saw a nice pair.
Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum* Seen near Paramaribo.
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Yes.
Painted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum pictum* Seen Zintete lodge.
Zimmer's Flatbill *Tolmomyias assimilis* (H) We only heard this one.
Grey-crowned Flatbill *Tolmomyias poliocephalus* (H) Another necking breaking canopy species we did not look for.
Ochre-lored Flatbill *Tolmomyias flaviventris* Common. Also (SE).
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. Also (SE).
Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonia* Seen near Surama. Also (SE).
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Early on in the tour, while looking at Finsch's Euphonia. Also (SE).
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 Atta. Also (SE).
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* A few.
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* We saw them wherever we went.

Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius* A few in Suriname.
Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicanus* Common in Georgetown.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Abundant. Also (SE).
Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna* A common species at this time.
Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex* (H) Heard at Karanambu and Zintete.
Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* (H) Heard while watching Cotingas. No takers, unsurprisingly.
Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus Tyrannulus* The dry country Myiarchus.
Todd's Sirystes *Sirystes s. albocinereus* (SE). Now largely accepted as a full species.
Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* (H) Heard at several locations.
Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus* (H). Common (SE). We were short of time to look for it.

THE COTINGA LIST.

Guianan Cock-of-the-rock ♦ *Rupicola rupicola* Several males and females at Woowetta. (H/SE)
Guianan Red Cotinga ♦ *Phoenicircus carnifex* A least one superb male at Woowetta. Great views.
Purple-breasted Cotinga ♦ *Cotinga cotinga* Seen south of Atta. Not always seen. Another superb cotinga!
Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana* Several seen at Atta. Also (SE).
Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans* Common.
Pompadour Cotinga ♦ *Xipholena punicea* Several. Superb males and females at many locations. Also (SE).
Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* Commonly seen and heard. Also (SE).
CRIMSON FRUITCROW ♦ *Haematoderus militaris* Fabulous experience at Atta. Dazzling male in aerial display.
Capuchinbird ♦ *Perissocephalus tricolor* Seen Karanambu, Woowetta and Surama. An amazing experience.

THE MANAKIN LIST

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannetes virescens* Heard at many locations. Seen Turtle mountain. Also (H/SE).
Saffron-crested Tyrant Manakin ♦ *Neopelma chrysocephalum* Seen near Atta in tall white sand forest.
Pale-bellied Tyrant Manakin ♦ *Neopelma* A single bird found near Wichabai.
Blue-backed Manakin *Chiroxiphia pareola* Seen at Karanambu. A pair of males displaying was a tour spectacle.
White-throated Manakin ♦ *Corpipo gutturalis* Seen (SE).
Black Manakin ♦ *Xenopipo atronitens* Common at the Mori Scrub. Heard (SE)
White-fronted Manakin ♦ *Lepidothrix serena* Seen (SE).
White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* (H/SE).
Crimson-hooded Manakin ♦ *Pipra aureola* Recorded (SE). Several at Peperpot. A superb species.
White-crowned Manakin *Pseudopipra pipra* Seen at the Mori scrub and elsewhere (H/SE).
Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala* Common in rainforests.

Sharpbill *Oxyrunchus cristatus* (H/SE) Brownsberg. No luck with this one.
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terentotriccus erythrurus* Seen Atta from the walkway. (H/SE).
Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana* A few seen. (H/SE)
Guianan Schiffornis *Schiffornis olivacea* (H) Heard Woowetta. Glimpsed by some.
Dusky Purpletuft *Iodopleura fusca* We saw a number this year, having missed it on the last tour.
Cinereous Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* Seen Moka moka and other sites.
White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychropterus* One noted at Woowetta. Heard elsewhere in Guyana. H/SE).
Black-capped Becard *Pachyramphus marginatus* Recorded (SE).
GLOSSY-BACKED BECARD ♦ *Pachyramphus surinamus* A pair near Zintete lodge (SE).
White-naped Xenopsaris ♦ *Xenopsaris albinucha* At its usual spot. I don't understand why it is only at this site.
Pink-throated Becard *Pachyramphus minor* Seen.
Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Several.
Slaty-capped Shrike-vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* (H) Heard at Atta. (H/SE).
Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi* Common in drier woodlands.
Lemon-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus thoracicus* A few seen. Also, (SE).
Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis* Yes, seen around Georgetown. Also, (H/SE).
Buff-cheeked Greenlet *Hylophilus muscicapinus* Common. Also, (H/SE).
Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps* Understorey flock bird.
Cayenne Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax cayanus* A few noted.
White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* Several seen. Also, (H/SE).
Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera* Common at Karanambu.

Black-collared Swallow ♦ *Atticora melanoleuca* A few on the Essequibo river.

White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata* Seen Surama and Iwokrama (H/SE).

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* A few seen.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*

Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus griseus* Seen in the south. A distinctive sub-species in the region.

Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius Coraya* (SE). Seen Brownsberg plateau.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis* Common in the south. Also, (H/SE).

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Seen throughout.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte* (SE). Seen Brownsberg plateau.

Musician Wren *Cyphorinus arada arada* (SE). Guianan taxa likely a full species

Trilling (Long-billed) Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Seen and heard throughout. Also, (SE).

Collared Gnatwren *Microbatas collaris torquatus* (H/SE) One to keep an eye on, but we did not have time to do so.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea* Common in the south. Also, (SE).

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* A very common species.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* Only recorded (SE).

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* The common thrush. Also, (SE).

Spectacled Thrush (Bare-eyed T) *Turdus nudigenis* Seen at Karasabai and elsewhere. Also (SE).

Campina Thrush *Turdus arthuri* Ex Black-billed thrush. Seen very well in the campina scrub at Zanderij. (SE)

Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus* (H) Heard Zintete and Surama.

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens* A small number in the open savannas.

RED SISKIN ♦ *Spinus cucullatus* 5 birds. A great experience.

Finsch's Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia finschi* A common species in the south. Also (SE)

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* The common Euphonia around Georgetown. Also (SE)

Golden-sided Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia cayennensis* A superb male seen on our travel day to Georgetown. Also (SE).

Tropical Parula *Septophaga pitaiayumi* Seen Suriname.

American Yellow Warbler (W) *Setophaga aestival* A few found.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* A single female observed at Atta in a mixed feeding flock.

Rose-breasted Chat *Granatellus pelzelni* (LO) A single male seen at Woowetta.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* Common on the savannas. (H/SE).

Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* A common icterid. Also (SE)

Green Oropendola *Psarocolius viridis* Seen at Woowetta and elsewhere. (H/SE).

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* Fairly widespread although not so common.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous* Common in Iwokrama. Also (SE).

Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis* Common.

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus* Only in the south of Guyana.

Epaulet Oriole (Moriche O) *Icterus [cayanensis] chrysocephalus* Seen at Iwokrama. Also (SE).

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* Common.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Very common.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris* Seen in Georgetown area.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* Seen Mahaica river.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* Abundant. (H/SE).

Pectoral Sparrow *Arremon taciturnus* Seen Brownsberg. (SE)

Red-capped Cardinal *Paroaria gularis* Seen at Karanambu.

Black-faced Tanager *Schistoclamys melanopis* (SE) only.

Red-billed Pied Tanager *Lamprospiza melanoleuca* (SE). A good country in which to see this species.

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus* A couple noted.

Fulvous-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus surinamus* A couple noted. Also, (SE).

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* Noted at several sites. Also, (SE).

Red-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus phoenicius* (SE) only. Zanderij savannas.

Fulvous Shrike-Tanager *Lanio fulvus* Brownsberg and Zintete lodge. (SE)

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* Yes, as always. Also, (SE).

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* Yes. Also, (SE).

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Yes. Also, (SE).

BLUE-BACKED TANAGER *Cyanicterus cyanicterus* A big target for this tour. A distinct monotypic genus.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara Mexicana* Several in the Botanical gardens. Also, (SE) but not Mexico.
Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata* A couple at Atta. Rare here.
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* Seen at Atta. Also, (SE).
Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana* Yes.
Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata* A couple seen at Atta. Also (SE).
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* A small number recorded. Also, (SE).
Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* A few noted. Also, (SE).
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Not uncommon. Also, (SE).
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* Several noted. Also, (SE).
Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis* A few at Atta.
Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*
Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor* Seen in mangrove at Hope beach.
Grassland Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteola* Common at Karanambu.
Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *Emberizoides herbicola* Recorded in the grasslands.
Slate-coloured Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* (SE) only. Fairly common at Zintete lodge.
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* Seen Moka moka.
Wing-barred Seedeater *Sporophila americana* A number seen around Georgetown. Also, (SE).
Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* Common at Iwokrama.
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta* Common in the savannas.
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* A couple at Iwokrama.
Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* Seen at Atta. Now rare. A popular cage bird.
Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis* A few seen. Also (SE).
RED-AND-BLACK-GROSBEAK ♦ *Periporphyrus erythromelas* Males and females seen at Atta and Brownsberg.
Rothschild's (Blue-black) Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa rothschildii* Seen at Atta. Also, (H/SE).
Bananaquit *Coreba flaveola* Seen Guyana. Also, (SE).

MAMMALS

Guianan Brown Capuchin *Cebus apella* At least heard, at a couple of locations.
Common Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri sciureus* (LO) Seen at Peperpot.
Guiana Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta seniculus* A huge row we had to put up with every day. Also (SE)
Guianan Spider Monkey *Ateles paniscus* We saw a few at Karanambu and Atta. Also (SE)
Golden-handed Tamarin *Saguinas midas* A small troop seen Brownsberg.
Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporine* Seen at many locations.
Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* One seen on the savannas.
Tayra *Eira Barbara* Seen (SE). A ferocious killer.
Giant River Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* A couple at Karanambu. Waters high this year and hard to find.
Proboscis (Long-nosed) Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* Seen along the rivers at Karanambu.
Lesser Bulldog Bat *Noctilio albiventris* Common at Karanambu.
Spiny Tree Rat *Mesomys hispidus* Seen in Guyana and Suriname.
Guianan Squirrel *Sciurus aestuans* One seen at Zintete lodge.

REPTILES

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* A large number seen at Karanambu.
Black Caiman *Caiman niger* A few at Karanambu and a huge adult at Iwokrama.
Smooth-fronted Caiman *Paleosuchus trigonatus*, also known as Schneider's Dwarf Caiman or Schneider's Smooth-fronted Caiman, is a crocodilian from the Amazon and Orinoco Basins. It is the second-smallest species of the family Alligatoridae. One immature seen at Brownsberg.
Musurana *Clelia Clelia*. A rear-fanged species that kills other snakes by constriction. It is immune to the venom of members of the genus *Bothrops* (fer-de-lance and allies), its chief prey.
Rupnuni Ratlesnake *Crotalus durissus trigrionicus* Seen on the Rupununi savannas, where said to be common.
Rainboa Boa *Epicrates cenchria* One seen by a few of us at Woowetta.

Notes

(1) At the Surama lodge, local guides had found a recently fledged immature Eagle. They called it a Crested Eagle. It was being seen by many groups, including several led by Guyana's better bird guides. Additionally, it was said that adult birds had been observed feeding it. As such, it seemed it must be a Crested Eagle. Our photographs show it to be an immature Ornate Hawk-Eagle. The bird had a long thin crest which immature Crested Eagles do not have. Also, the cere was a dull greenish-yellow rather than blue-grey. The bird has pale irides and does not appear masked as immature Crested Eagles do. The legs and flanks are barred but should be unmarked. The upperparts are uniformly dark grey rather than a mottled paler grey. The bird we were shown was an immature Ornate Hawk-Eagle and not a Crested Eagle.