

MANU EXPEDITIONS BIRDING TOURS

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A TRIP REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP TO GUYANA

**June 3rd – 11th 2008, with some sightings from
November 16th -24th 2008.**

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**With –Eddie Williams, Dexter Torres, Huxley Moses, Rovin
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Mandook, Kenneth Mandook, Gabriel Andries, Chris Li,
Gary Sway, Archer Moses.**

This in reality was not a regular tour – we had been invited to Guyana to improve the birding skills of some of the already established tour leaders in the Rupunumi and Iwokroma areas and some from Georgetown. As part of our training technique, when not doing classroom work we ran this course as if we were running a birding tour and so it became a de facto bird tour and here is the result of our efforts and a bird list. Everyone learned something including and especially the leaders and we had a lot of fun along the way. Included in this trip report are a few sightings from a later brief visit to Guyana in November 2008 to give an idea of what you can see on a Guyanan bird tour.

Guyana is only now on the birding map and although having no endemics to the country, it shares a lot of range restricted and difficult to see birds of the Guianan Shield that it shares with neighbouring Surinam, French Guyana, Brazil and Venezuela. We include 45 range restricted species in this report and in total 430+species. It's also Parrot capitol of the world – an astonishing amount and variety of Parrots and Macaws were seen frequently throughout the trip and we recorded an astounding 20 species. Guyana is a tropical country with the climate being hot and humid. There were great accommodations and the people are extremely friendly. Guyana produces a damn fine beer, the world's finest rum and the food is excellent with strong Indian and Caribbean influence. Compared to other South American countries Guyana has the huge advantage of being an English speaking nation making it possible for all to communicate with your hosts and even with children in Amerindian communities. The peoples of the coastal area are a racial mix of Oriental, Indian and Afro-Americans with some influence of the old British colony still to be detected. The interior of the Rupunumi is dominated by the Amerindian Makushi indigenous group. Birding is exciting, and we covered tropical savannahs where Giant Anteaters roam to gallery forests along rivers, forest islands in the savannas, low foothills, true rainforest and nutrient poor varrillal forest. An astounding journey to be recommended to all.



Black Curassow – Chris Collins

The Agenda

June 2nd: Road from Rockview Lodge to Ginep Landing with late afternoon at Bina Hill. Night Rockview Lodge

June 3rd: Birding the savannahs and rainforest along the road from Rockview lodge to Surama. Night at the Surama Ecolodge.

June 4th: Surama. Morning walking the trails to the Burro Burro River and afternoon and dusk on the savannahs outside the village. Night at the Surama Ecolodge.

June 5th: Surama. Morning walking the trails to the Burro Burro River and evening night birding close to the village. Night at the Surama Ecolodge.

June 6th: Surama to Atta Rainforest Lodge with stops at Corkwood, the Cockof the Rock trail and the Prince Charles trail. Afternoon at kilometer 39 along the main road. Night Atta Rainforest Lodge.

June 7th: Atta Rainforest Lodge. Morning on the canopy walkway and trails. Afternoon birding the track down to the main road. Night Atta Rainforest Lodge.

June 8th: Atta Rainforest Lodge. Morning on the canopy walkway and Jaguar trail. Afternoon canopy walkway trail. Night Atta Rainforest Lodge.

June 9th: Atta Rainforest Lodge to Iwokrama Field Station. Stop in the varillal forest (Mori scrub). Night Iwokrama Field Station.

June 10th: Iwokrama Field Station. Morning on local trails near the lodge. Night Iwokrama Field Station

June 11th: Iwokrama Field Station. Trail to Turtle Mountain in the morning and access road in the afternoon. Night Iwokrama Field Station.

June 12th: Iwokrama Field Station. Morning along the road in the tall white sand forest at 5 miles creek. Night Iwokrama Field Station.

June 13th: Drive to Annai and flight to Georgetown (Chris continues to Letham for a post trip few days exploring)

November 15th: Arrive in Georgetown and nigh Grand Coastal Inn,

November 16th: Morning at the Abarri River at kilometre 66 and afternoon in the Botanical Gardens. Night Cara Lodge

November 17th: Morning Botanical gardens and then flight to Kaitur falls with 2 hours there and then on to Karanambu and by boat to Yupacari. Night excursion along the river. Night Caiman House.

November 18th: am along the Honeypalm trail and then by boat to Karanambu. Afternoon walk on the Capuchinbird trail. Night Karanambu.

November 19th: Karanambu to Rockview Lodge. Road to Ginep Landing in the afternoon. Night Rockview Lodge.

November 20th: Morning at Ginep Landing and then to Surama with an afternoon along the Harpy eagle trail. Night at the Surama Ecolodge

November 21st: Morning on the trail to the Burro Burro River and afternoon to Atta. Night Atta Rainforest Lodge.

November 22nd: Atta to the Iwokrama Field Station stopping in the Mori scrub. Night Iwokrama Field Station.

November 23rd: Iwokrama Field Station. Trail to Turtle Mountain in the morning and access road in the afternoon. Night Iwokrama Field Station.

November 24th: Drive to Georgetown via Linden. Night Hotel Pegasus.

November 25th: Flights home.

THE BIRDS

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol *

RED – IUCN RED LIST CATEGORY

SACC = South American Checklist Committee

IOC = International Ornithological Congress

RR – Regional endemic and range restricted species

TINAMOUS

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major** Heard commonly throughout.

Cinereous Tinamou *Crypturellus cinereus** Only at Karanambu

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui**

Red-legged Tinamou *Crypturellus erythropus** Only at Surama.

Variagated Tinamou *Crypturellus variegates** Heard on the Harpy Eagle trail near Surama.

PELICANS

Brown Pelican - *Pelecanus occidentalis* 2 individuals along the coast

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

DARTERS

Anhinga - *Anhinga anhinga* Many sightings throughout the tour.

FRIGATEBIRDS

Magnificent Frigatebird - *Fregata magnificens*

HERONS AND EGRETS

Pinnated Bittern - *Botaurus pinnatus*. Two seen in marshy grasslands on the way to Ginep Landing on June 2nd.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron - *Tigrisoma lineatum* A few records in the wetlands in the savannah

Cocoi Heron - *Ardea cocoi*. The common large Heron. Formally called White-necked Heron but the IOC has deemed it to be Cocoi

Great Egret - *Ardea alba* Many records along the roads.

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula*. Not as common as the former.

Little Blue Heron - *Egretta caerulea* Several individuals seen in the savannas

Tricolored Heron - *Egretta tricolor* Common along the coast on November 16th

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*. Many records along the roads, always in areas cleared for cattle grazing.

Striated Heron - *Butorides striatus*. Seen regularly in small numbers throughout the tour.

Agami Heron - *Agamia agami*. Nice looks at an adult on the Rupanuni river and then astounding views of an immature bird at Surama – what a neck!

Capped Heron - *Pilherodius pileatus*. Not common but 4 seen well.

Black-crowned Night Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax* Just one in the Botanical gardens

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - *Nyctanassa violacea*. 2 along the coast.

Boat-billed Heron - *Cochlearius cochlearius* 6 of this nocturnal Heron on the Rupanuni River during our Black Caiman hunt.

IBIS

Scarlet Ibis – *Eudocimus ruber*: 6 on the coastal mudflats on November 16th an unbelievable colour.

Green Ibis - *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* A few in swampy forested areas.

Buff-necked Ibis - *Therstiictus caudatus*. Common on the savannas and roosting at Rockview Lodge

Roseate Spoonbill - *Ajaia ajaja* Just one near Ginep Landing

AMERICAN WOOD STORKS

Jabiru - *Jabiru mycteria*. Several sightings of this huge Stork with good views of adults and young in the nest near Karanambu

American Wood Stork - *Mycteria Americana*: Common

Maguari Stork - *Ciconia maguari*: 2 on the way from Karanambu to Ginep.

NEW WORLD VULTURES

King Vulture - *Sarcoramphus papa* Fairly common over forested areas.

Black Vulture - *Coragyps atratus* Daily views in all locations.

Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*. Daily views of resident race *ruficollis* which shows a distinctive white collar. The birds here may be a different species from North American birds.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*. Fairly common over the grasslands.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture - *Cathartes melambrotus*. Replaces the former over forested areas and quite common.

DUCKS AND GEESE

White-faced Whistling-Duck - *Dendrocygna viduata*. Fairly common on the Ruperuni savannas, the largest flock being 45 birds.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck- *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Fairly common on the Ruperuni savannas, the largest flock being 50 birds.

Muscovy Duck - *Cairina moschata*. Common on ponds and rivers.

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Osprey -*Pandion haliaetus*. Fairly common in November but none in June – presumably migrants from North America.

American Swallow-tailed Kite - *Elanoides forficatus*. Pleasantly frequent – always a pleasure to see this elegant species

White-tailed Kite - *Elanus leucurus*. Only one near Surama

Snail Kite - *Rostrhamus sociabilis*. Common along roadside ditches and in the Botanical gardens and even along ditches in Goergetown

Double-toothed Kite - *Harpagus bidentatus*. 4 on 4 separate days in June of this monkey following specialist.

Plumbeous Kite - *Ictinia plumbea* Daily encounters in the lowland forested areas in June but none in November. Does not breed in Guayana and is a migrant from the south.

Black-collared Hawk - *Busarellus nigricollis*. A few near pond shores.

Crane Hawk - *Geranospiza caerulescens*. 2 seen in total on the Rupununi savannas

Black-faced Hawk - *Leucopternis melanops*. Typically a bird of nutrient poor soils and we recorded 3 in such habitat.

White Hawk - *Leucopternis albicollis*. 5 individuals in total.

RR Rufous Crab-Hawk - *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*. One of Guyana's special birds inhabiting mangroves along the coast. It has a restricted range and is being affected by habitat destruction.

Common Black-Hawk - *Buteogallus anthracinus*. A few in the mangroves along the coast. The SACC says "Evidence for treating *Buteogallus subtilis* (Mangrove Black Hawk) which does not occur in Guyana, as a species separate from *Buteogallus anthracinus* is weak. It was treated as a full species by Stresemann & Amadon (1979), Thiollay (1994), AOU (1998), and Ferguson-Lees & Christie (2001), following Amadon (1961) and Monroe (1963, 1968); see Howell & Web (1995), Stiles & Skutch (1989), and Ridgely et al. (2001), and especially Clark (2007) for opposing view. It was considered a synonym of *B. anthracinus* by Hellmayr & Conover (1949) and as a subspecies of *B. anthracinus* by Friedmann (1950). [SACC proposal passed to remove species rank for *subtilis*](#). The two were treated as forming a superspecies by Sibley & Monroe (1990) and Thiollay (1994). Stresemann & Amadon (1979) suspected that *Buteogallus subtilis* and *B. aequinoctialis* form a superspecies. However Restall 2006 treats them as two separate species.

Great Black-Hawk - *Buteogallus urubitinga*. The commonest raptor in the Rupunumi

Savanna Hawk - *Buteogallus meridionalis* Scattered records in cleared areas for cattle pasture. Somewhat common and seen at the nest near Ginep landing.

Grey Hawk - *Buteo nitidus*. Fairly common. The SACC says "AOU (1998) followed Pinto (1938), Stresemann & Amadon (1979), Amadon (1982), and Sibley & Monroe (1990) in using the monotypic genus *Asturina* for this species, rather than including in *Buteo* (as in e.g., Hellmayr & Conover 1949, Friedmann 1950, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Meyer de Schauensee 1970); Amadon (1982) provided reasons why *Asturina* might be closer to *Leucopternis* than to *Buteo*. However, this is generally not followed (e.g., Thiollay 1994, Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001) because of this species' proposed close relationship to *Buteo magnirostris* and other buteos. Genetic data (Riesing et al. 2003, Lerner & Mindell 2008) indicate that *Asturina* is nested within *Buteo* (but not at all close to *B. magnirostris*). Banks et al. (2006) recently merged *Asturina* into *Buteo*. [SACC proposal passed to merge *Asturina* into *Buteo*](#). Sibley & Monroe (1990) considered the Middle American subspecies *plagiata* to deserve recognition as a separate species from *Asturina nitida*, but in part because no rationale was published,

this treatment has not been widely accepted; see Hellmayr & Conover (1949) for rationale for treating them as conspecific. Called "Grey-lined Hawk" by some (e.g., Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001)." British versus American spelling – the IOC says "The names reflect the committee's view that spelling should be consistent throughout the list. Easily stated and on its face obvious, this rule became difficult to apply where the same words have for centuries been spelled differently in different English-speaking countries. The problem essentially involves British and American spellings, with some countries being on one side and some on the other. The committee decided to select one spelling for each variant word, because to state these words in the alternative in every case would produce a cumbersome list."

Roadside Hawk - *Buteo magnirostris*. Many records, along the roadside! But also along rivers.

Short-tailed Hawk - *Buteo brachyurus*. Only one near Atta.

Zone-tailed Hawk - *Buteo albonotatus*. One only of this Turkey Vulture imitator near Ginep landing.

White-tailed Hawk - *Buteo albicaudatus* The common *Buteo* of open country. Venezuela

Harpy Eagle - *Harpia harpyja*. Some folks had excellent views of a 1.8 years old individual near a nest at Surama. **NEAR THREATENED**

Black and White Hawk Eagle - *Spizatur melanoleucus*. At least 3 individuals seen and photographed.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

Lined Forest-Falcon – *Micrastur gilvicollis**

Black Caracara – *Daptrius ater*.

Red-throated Caracara - *Ibycter americanus*. Common and noisy family groups.

Northern Crested Caracara - *Caracara cheriway*. Common scrounging for carrion on roads. As there are no true Crows in South America, Caracaras occupy that niche as omnivorous scavengers. Small numbers at several sites. Formerly placed in the genus *Polyborus* but, this species has been switched to the genus *Caracara*. Note also that the former species known as Crested Caracara, has been split into three species with those ranging north of north-west Peru and the Amazon River (i.e Colombia) are referable to Northern Crested-Caracara *C. cheriway* while another form, the extinct Guadalupe Caracara *C. lutosus*, of Guadalupe Island, Mexico, has also been given its untimely species status. The SACC says "*Caracara cheriway* and *C. plancus* were formerly considered conspecific (e.g., Hellmayr & Conover 1949, Phelps & Phelps 1958a), sometimes also including *C. lutosus* of Guadalupe Island (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Stresemann and Amadon 1979), but the ranges of *cheriway* and *plancus* are nearly parapatric with no sign of intergradation, contrary to earlier interpretations (see Banks REF); they constitute a superspecies. The three forms had previously been considered separate species by REFS, Pinto (1938), and Friedmann (1950)."

Yellow-headed Caracara - *Milvago chimachima*. Common and recorded daily.

Laughing Falcon - *Herpetotheres cachinnans*. Common vocally at dawn and dusk and several seen.

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*. A few records along the open areas

Bat Falcon - *Falco ruficularis*. Many records in the edge habitat of the rivers, roads and savannas.

Peregrine Falcon - *Falco peregrinus* 2 along the coast of the *tundrius* subspecies which is a migrant from North America

GUANS AND CURRASOWS

Little Chachalaca - *Ortalis motmot*. Common vocally and many seen of this small cracid.

RR Marail Guan - *Penelope marail*. A few of this range restricted species. Similar to the following but smaller with less of a wattle. Declining due to hunting pressure. Bit of birding trivia for you - the genus is named after the wife of Ulysses, King of Ithaca, but why this name was bestowed on these birds is unknown.

Spix's Guan - *Penelope jacquacu*. A little commoner than the former and its trumpeting alarm calls were often heard.

Blue-throated Piping-Guan *Pipile cumanensis At Atta only.**

RR Black Currasow - *Crax alector*. A few seen along the roads ay Iwokroma but best seen in the yard at Atta where they come into the clearing for leftover rice! Small range in Northern South America.

QUAILS AND WOODQUAILS

Crested Bobwhite - *Colinus cristatus*. A couple of groups in the savannas running across the road.

Marbled Wood-Quail - *Odontophorus gujanensis*. At least 4 seen in June. Wood-Quails are some what difficult to see.

RAILS AND ALLIES

Grey-necked Wood-Rail- *Aramides cajanea*. Only one in a roadside ditch.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica*. 2 seen.

FINFOOTS

Sungrebe *Heliornis helias*. 2 seen on the lake near Karanambu airstrip.

SUNBITTERN

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*. One near Ginep landing.

LIMPKINS

Limkin *Aramus guarauna* Fairly common.

TRUMPETERS

Grey-winged Trumpeter - *Psophia crepitans* Superb views of this stunning species. Not at all wary, a sign that they are not hunted in the area. Very sociable and we saw at least 5 family groups. Trumpeters are shy and one of the first birds to disappear if there is too much human impact. They are related to Cranes and Rails and have a well developed social behaviour, patrolling their territory in family groups, keeping in contact with low purring and whooping calls which escalate into the full song of guttural humming notes if they sense danger. They sing at full moon also, and eat insects, fallen fruits, lizards and snakes. Many Amerindian groups keep Trumpeters as pets in their villages as they are good watchdogs, raising the alarm if an intruder or snake is in the vicinity.

THICK-KNEES

Double-striped Thick-knee - *Burhinus bistriatus* Seems to like airstrips in Guyana! Seen at Annai and Karanambu airstrips.

PLOVERS

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*.

Pied Plover *Haploxypterus cayanus*. Good looks especially at Iwokroma Field station where they lived on the lawn. Formerly called a lapwing the IOC has come down in favour of Plover.

Grey Plover – *Pluvialis squatarola*. 2 on the mudflats along the coast. Sometimes called Black-bellied Plover but others of the genus also have black-bellied in breeding plumage so the IOC decided on Grey Plover and also the standardization of spelling “grey” with an “e”.

JACANAS

Wattled Jacana - *Jacana jacana*. Many records in wetlands and along the roads.

SANDPIPERS

Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca*. None in June but quite a few in November.

Lesser Yellowlegs - *Tringa flavipes*. As for the former species.

Solitary Sandpiper - *Tringa solitaria*. A solitary bird near Rockview Lodge

Willet *Caroptrophorus semipalmatus*. Fairly common along the coast in November.

Spotted Sandpiper - *Actitis macularia*. Fairly common.

Hudsonian Whimbrel - *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*. Common on the coastal mudflats. Zink et al. (1995) proposed a return to earlier classifications (e.g., Ridgway 1919) that considered New World *hudsonicus* to be a separate species from Old World populations based on genetic distance. Although plumage pattern also differs

substantially, vocalizations are evidently very similar, in contrast to the many allotaxa in the *Scolopacidae* treated as separate species.

Sanderling - *Calidris alba*. A few at the end of the Abarri River track

Pectoral Sandpiper - *Calidris melanotos*. One along the Abarri river track

South American Snipe - *Gallinago paraguaiiae*. 2 seen displaying at dusk at Bina Hill during our “snipe hunt”.

GULLS AND TERNS

Laughing Gull – *Larus atricilla*. Common coastal Gull in these warm waters.

Least Tern - *Sterna antillarum*. 40+ on the mudflats on November 16th

Royal Tern - *Sterna maximus*. A single individual in the Caribbean coast.

Large-billed Tern - *Phaetusa simplex* Several on the Rumpuruni and Esquibo Rivers.

Yellow-billed Tern - *Sterna superciliaris*. 2 on the Esquibo river.

Black Skimmer - *Rhychops niger*. Big flocks of 100+ on the Rumpuruni River

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Scaled Pigeon -*Patagioenas speciosa*. Fairly common by voice and several seen perched. Note that recent research has shown that the genus *Columba* is paraphyletic, with New World taxa being more closely related to *Streptopelia* than to Old World *Columba* pigeons. This is consistent with differences between New World and Old World *Columba* in terms of morphology, serology and behaviour. The suggestion was made to place all New World forms in the genus *Patagioenas*, and the AOU recently adopted this change in its latest checklist supplement.

Pale-vented Pigeon - *Patagioenas cayennensis*. Common

Ruddy Pigeon - *Patagioenas subvinacea*. Says his name. Common vocally with a few seen.

Plumbeous Pigeon - *Patagioenas plumbea*. Same as for the previous species. Both are forest Pigeons.

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata* Common in open areas with the cinnamon tail tipped *stenura* subspecies.

Common Ground-Dove - *Columbina passerina*. Common

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove - *Columbina minuta*. A few on the savannas.

Ruddy Ground-Dove - *Columbina talpacoti*.

Blue Ground-Dove - *Claravis pretiosa*. A few mostly in white sand areas.

White-tipped Dove - *Leptoptila verreauxi*. Some in more scrubby areas

Grey-fronted Dove -*Leptoptila rufaxilla*. This replaces the former in thick humid forest.

Ruddy Quail-Dove - *Geotrygon montana* Two seen on forest tracks in June.

PARROTS

Red and Green Macaw - *Ara severus* - Pretty common noisy Parrot. A good population of Macaws means a healthy forest.

Blue and Yellow Macaw - *Ara ararauna*: Fairly common in the riverine forests of the Esquibo river.

Red-shouldered Macaw – *Ara nobilis*: Great looks of this common small Macaw.

White-eyed Parakeet - *Aratinga leucophthalmus*

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet - *Aratinga wagleri** Species in this genus, as well as *Leptosittaca* and those in *Pyrrhura*, often go by the name ‘conure’.

RR Sun Parakeet - *Aratinga solstitialis*: Chris went to look for these on his extension scouting trip and they are there near Karanambu. Sun Parakeet *Aratinga solstitialis* is restricted to central **Guyana** and Roraima state, **Brazil**, and may previously have occurred in Surinam¹. Though it was fairly common until the 1970s in the Rupununi-Roraima savannas of western Guyana and adjacent Brazil, it has since been extirpated there, presumably by trappers, and it is now very scarce or absent across its former range. In Guyana evidence of nesting has been found in the Karasabai area where 50-80 individuals were seen in 2003, and c.25 km from this site there are recent records from Karanambo (c. 30 km from the Brazilian border at Bonfim), and on the West Bank of Demerara in 2006^{4,5}. Its population probably now numbers no more than a couple of thousand individuals. Due to high demand in the pet trade this once common species has declined dramatically during the last twenty years⁶. It has been heavily exported from Guyana during this time, leading its virtual extirpation from that country. Trappers from Guyana and French Guiana have since travelled over the border to Brazil to buy birds for export^{3,4}. An annual export quota of 600 birds was set by Guyana in the 1980s and it is thought that more than 2,200 were imported into the United States between 1981 and 1985⁶. Trade is ongoing, and due to the ease with which birds can be attracted to bait (e.g. corn) and the large distances they will travel it is easy to trap all the individuals in an area. **ENDANGERED**

Brown-throated Parakeet – *Aratinga pertinax*: Common parakeet of the savannas.

RR Painted Parakeet – *Pyrrhura picta picta*. Common with great views of perched birds. A recent paper by Leo Josephs has split the Painted Parakeet complex into many species and Restall 2006 notes the bird we saw in Guyana as range restricted species. The SACC says: The Colombian subspecies *subandina* was formerly (e.g., Cory 1918) considered a separate species from *Pyrrhura picta*, but Peters (1937) considered them conspecific. Arndt (2008) treated the forms *subandina*, *eisenmanni*, *caeruleiceps*, and

peruviana as a species, and described a new species, *Pyrrhura parvifrons*, from eastern Peru. **Proposal badly needed.** <summarize. Ribas et al. 2006> SACC proposal passed to separate *amazonum* (with *snethlageae* as a subspecies of *amazonum*) from *picta*. SACC proposal passed to separate *roseifrons* (including *peruviana* as a subspecies of *roseifrons*) from *picta*. SACC proposal passed to separate *lucianii* (including *peruviana* as a subspecies of *roseifrons*) from *picta*. SACC proposals to rank the subspecies *eisenmanni*, *caeruleiceps*, and *subandina* as separate species did not pass

Golden-winged Parakeet – *Brotogeris chrysopterus*: Common and conspicuous.

RR Lilac-tailed Parrotlet – *Touit batavica*: Commonly heard and several groups, some large, of flyovers but never great looks.

Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet – *Touit huetti*. 2 males.

Black-headed Parrot – *Pionites melanocephala*: Common and conspicuous with some great scope studies of perched birds.

RR Caica Parrot – *Pionospitta caica*: Seen on several dates – stays high and sometimes difficult to see but we got great looks. The name derives from the Carib Indian name for Parrot,

Blue-headed Parrot - *Pionus menstruus*: Common

Dusky Parrot – *Pionus fuscus*: Common

RR Blue-cheeked Amazon – *Amazonas dufresniana*. This is rare parrot but we saw 2 groups totaling 8 birds. Named after the French Conchologist L. Dufresne (1752-1832) **NEAR THREATENED**

Yellow-crowned Parrot - *Amazona ochrocephala* – Common.

Orange-winged Parrot – *Anazonas amazonica* – Common

Mealy Parrot - *Amazona farinosa* – Fairly Common.

Red-fan Parrot – *Deropterus accipitrinus*: A group of 3 at Surama and then a group of 20 near Iwokroma Field Station

CUCKOOS AND ANIS

Dark-billed Cuckoo - *Coccyzus melacoryphus*. Fairly common in a variety of habitats

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* - Many records of this widespread Cuckoo

Black-bellied Cuckoo – *Piaya melanogaster* – A couple of this forest species seen.

Little Cuckoo - *Piaya minuta* - One individual at the Ibarri River.

Striped Cuckoo - *Tapera naevia* – 3 seen in total and common vocally.

RR Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo – *Neomorphus rufipennis* – Great looks in response to playback on the Prince Charles Trail in response to playback – stunning!

Smooth-billed Ani - *Crotophaga ani*- Various records, especially along the road in disturbed areas

Greater Ani - *Crotophaga major* – A few of this water loving Ani seen.

OWLS

Tropical Screech-Owl – *Megascops choliba* – One seen and many more heard. The SACC says - Recent analyses of genetic and vocal differences (König et al. 1999, Wink et al. 2008) confirm a major division of the screech-owls into New World *Otus* (except *O. flammulatus*) and Old World groups, as noted by Amadon & Bull (1988). <incorp. Van der Weyden 1975> Consequently, the AOU (Banks et al. 2003) placed all New World *Otus* (except *O. flammulatus*) in the genus *Megascops*. SACC proposal passed to place South American *Otus* in *Megascops*.

RR Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl – *Megascops watsonii* – One seen well near Surama and heard at Iwokroma Field Station. The SACC says : Sibley & Monroe (1990) and König et al. (1999) treated *usta* as a separate species from *Megascops watsonii* based on vocal differences, but this was not followed by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001). SACC proposal to recognize *usta* as a separate species from *M. watsonii* was rejected because of inadequate geographic sampling and analysis. *Usta* was split by Restall 2002. Named after Gavin Watson US writer and ornithologist.

Spectacled Owl – *Pulsatrix perspicillata** -

Great Horned Owl – *Bubo virginianus* – 3 seen roosting near Ginep Landing. The southern populations central Peru south, *Bubo magellanicus* is a proposed split from *B. virginianus* (König et al.1999; Jaramillo 2003); SACC awaits analysis and proposal.

Amazonian Pygmy-Owl – *Glaucidium hardyi**

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl – *Glaucidium brasilianum**

NIGHTJARS AND NIGHTHAWKS

Short-tailed Nighthawk - *Lurocalis semitorquatus* – Fairly common over rivers such as the Ruperuni

Lesser Nighthawk – *Chordeiles acutipennis*: Common on the Ruperuni Savannas

Least Nighthawk – *Chordeiles pusillus*: Less common than the former but still easily seen in open areas.

Band-tailed Nighthawk – *Nyctoprogne leucopyga*: A group of 20+ at dusk on the Ruperuni River near Karanambu.

Nacunda Nighthawk – *Podager nacunda* – Only one at Bina Hill.

Common Pauraque – *Nyctidromus albicollis* – Common on night-drives along roads.

Blackish Nightjar – *Caprimulgus nigricens* – Fairly common on a night drive near Surama.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar – *Hydropsalis climacocerca* – One female near Iwokroma Field Station

POTOOS

Great Potoo – *Nyctibius grandis* – Several on day roosts – an impressive large nocturnal creature.

Long-tailed Potoo – *Nyctibius aethereus* – One seen on its roost on the Prince Charles Trail. *Aethereus* in Latin means “heavenly or on high” and refers to the Long-tailed Potoos supposed habit of rising in the air and hovering like a falcon.

Common Potoo – *Nyctibius griseus* – Commonly heard and a few seen on roosts.

Rufous Potoo – *Nyctibius bracteatus** - Unfortunately only heard.

SWIFTS

White-collared Swift - *Streptoprocne zonaris* - Sightings of many individuals

Short-tailed Swift - *Chaetura brachyura* - Scattered records.

Band-rumped Swift – *Chaetura spinicauda* - A few individuals here and there.

Grey-rumped Swift – *Chaetura cinereiventris* – Fairly common.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift - *Panyptila cayennensis* - 4 seen near Iwokroma Field Station.

Neotropical Palm Swift – *Tachornis squamata* – Fairly common.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Long-tailed Hermit - *Phaethornis superciliosus* - Many records. SACC proposal passed to change English names from "Western Long-tailed Hermit" to "Long-billed Hermit" for *P. longirostris* and from "Eastern Long-tailed Hermit" to "Long-tailed Hermit" for *P. superciliosus*.

Streak-throated Hermit – *Phaethornis rufurumi* – One of this small uncommon Hermit on the Rupuruni savannas at forest edge.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber* – Common small forest Hermit seen on most days.

RR Little Hermit *Phaethornis longuemareus* – A few here and there.

Gray-breasted Sabrewing - *Campylopterus largipennis*: Two sightings of this large Hummer notably on June 6th.

White-necked Jacobin - *Florisuga mellivora* - 2 on the Burro-Burro trail at Surama

Black-throated Mango - *Anthracothorax nigricollis*: Uncommon.

Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird - *Chrysolampis mosquitus* - One only at Atta.

Blue-tailed Emerald - *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*. None in June but seen almost daily in November

Fork-tailed Woodnymph - *Thalurania furcata* - daily records.

Rufous-chinned Sapphire – *Hylocharis sapphirina* – Half a dozen seen on the road to Surama at a patch of flowering bushes.

White-chinned Sapphire – *Hylocharis cyanus* - 3 in total in November

White-tailed Goldenthrout – *Polytmus guainumbi* – A few on the open savannas near Ginep landing. *Guainumbi* is an Amerindian name for Hummingbird in Brazil.

White-chested Emerald- *Amazilia chionopectus* – Fairly common along forest edge on the Rupuruni savanna.

Glittering-throated Emerald - *Amazilia fimbriata* - Common

Green-bellied Hummingbird – *Amazilia viridgaster* - One only near Georgetown

Crimson Topaz - *Topaza pella* – 3 seen at Atta on June 7th

Black-eared Fairy - *Heliothryx aurita* – A few of this canopy Hummer and seen well bathing in pools on the Burro Burro trail.

Long-billed Starthroat - *Heliomaster longirostris*. Two seen.

TROGONS

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon - *Trogon viridis* – The common Guianan trogon. Trogon chinourus (Western White-tailed Trogon) is a proposed split from *T. viridis* Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered the subspecies *chionurus* of the Chocó region to be a separate species from *Trogon viridis*; followed by Hilty (2003); SACC proposal to recognize this split did not pass because of insufficient published data. Genetic data (DaCosta & Klicka 2008) suggest that *chionurus* is more closely related to *T. bairdii* than either are to Amazonian *T. viridis*. SACC proposal pending to recognize *chionurus* as a species

Amazonian Violaceous Trogon - *Trogon violaceus* – Common. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered *caligatus* of Middle America and northwestern South America to be a separate species from *Trogon violaceus*, Gartered Trogon, and this was followed by Hilty (2003); SACC proposal to recognize this split did not pass because of insufficient published data. Genetic data (DaCosta & Klicka 2008) indicate that *caligatus* is basal to a group that includes Amazonian *T. violaceus*, *T. curucui*, and *T. sarrucura* (and that Amazonian *violaceus* may be paraphyletic with respect to the latter two species). SACC proposal pending to recognize *caligatus* as a species, which the IOC already accepts.

Black-throated Trogon – *Trogon* – *Trogon rufus* – A few of this understory Trogon seen and heard

Black-tailed Trogon – *Trogon melanurus*: A few in forest edge areas. *Trogon mesurus* (Ecuadorian Trogon) is a proposed split from *T. melanurus* (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001); SACC rejects (insufficient publ. data)

MOTMOTS

Blue-crowned Motmots – *Momotus momota* – 2 seen other heard.

KINGFISHERS

Ringed Kingfisher - *Megaceryle torquata* - Common. *Megaceryle torquata* and *M. alcyon* have been placed in the genus *Ceryle* in many classifications (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, AOU 1983, 1998), but most classifications have followed Fry (1980) in restricting *Ceryle* to Old World *C. rudis* (e.g., Sibley & Monroe 1990, Fry & Fry 1992, Woodall 2001). Recent genetic data (Moyle 2006) indicate that Old World *Ceryle rudis* is the sister to *Chloroceryle*, and so *Megaceryle* must be recognized if *Chloroceryle* is maintained as a genus.

Amazon Kingfisher – *Chloroceryle amazonaa*: Not as common as the former but conspicuous.

Green Kingfisher – *Chloroceryle americana*

Green and Rufous Kingfisher – *Chloroceryle inda*. Just two seen.

American Pygmy Kingfisher – *Chloroceryle aenea*. One along the coast

JACAMARS

Yellow-billed Jacamar - *Galbula albirostris**

Green-tailed Jacamar – *Galbula galbula*- Common – Jacamars are butterfly specialists and can often be seen in sunny clearings waiting for their prey. They snip off the wings with their scissor like bill before eating.

Paradise Jacamar - *Galbula dea* - Scattered records. Always perched in exposed branches of high trees

Great Jacamar - *Jacamerops aureus* – 3 seen others heard – common in Guyana.

PUFFBIRDS

RR Guianan Puffbird – *Notharchus macrorhynchos* – one seen from the canopy walkway at Atta. The taxon *swainsoni* of the Atlantic forest region was formerly (e.g., Cory 1919, Pinto 1937) considered a separate species from *Notharchus macrorhynchos*, but Peters (1948) treated them as conspecific; this was followed by most subsequent classifications. Rasmussen & Collar (2002) elevated *swainsoni* to species rank (Barbellied Puffbird), and Alvarenga et al. (2002) provided rationale in support of that treatment. SACC proposal passed to elevate *swainsoni* to species rank. The *hyperrhynchus* subspecies group was also formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1914, Cory 1919, Pinto 1937) considered a separate species, but it was also treated as conspecific with *N. macrorhynchus* by Peters (1948). Rasmussen & Collar (2002) also suggested that the *hyperrhynchus* group might also warrant species rank. SACC proposal passed to elevate *hyperrhynchus* to species rank; SACC proposals passed to apply English name

"Guianan Puffbird" to narrowly distributed *macrorhynchos* and to retain "White-necked" for widely distributed *hyperrhynchus*. Found in the Guianas and Brazil north of the Amazon.

RR Black Nunbird - *Monasa atra* – Common but range restricted.

Swallow-winged Puffbird - *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*; Note the accepted english name by the IOC. Common.

BARBETS AND TOUCANS

RR Black-spotted Barbet - *Capito niger* – A Guianan Shield endemic. Several great looks at this snazy species.

Green Aracari – *Pteroglossus viridis* – Common. “*Arasari*” is a Brazilian Amerindian name for a small toucan.

Black-necked Aracari – *Pteroglossus aracari* – Common. In Greek *Pteroglossus* means “feathertongued” a refernece to the slim feather-like tongues of toucans and aracaris.

RR Guianan Toucanet – *Selenidera culik* – Fairly common in forested areas. Restricted to the Guianas and Brazil, north of the Amazon. “*culik*” is the Cayenne creole name for Guianan Toucanet.

Channel –billed Toucan - *Ramphastos vitellinus* - Common

White-throated Toucan - *Ramphastos tucanus* - Common.



Guianan Toucanet – Chris Collins

PICULETS AND WOODPECKERS

RR Golden-spangled Piculet -*Picumnus exilis*. Around half a dozen of this forest species seen. Another Guianan shield specialist

RR White-bellied Piculet - *Picumnus spilogaster*: Great looks at a pair on the Abarri River trail.

Lineated Woodpecker – *Dryocopus lineatus* - Several records, mainly the forested areas and contiguous edge habitat

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker -*Melanerpes cruentatus* - Uncommon.

RR Blood-colored Woodpecker –*Venilornis sanguineus*. Two along the Abarri river trail and on ein the Botanical gardens – a much looked for range restricted species found ony on the Guianas and small part of adjacent coastal Brazil.

RR Golden-collared Woodpecker – *Venilornis cassini*. Another Guianan Shield endemic.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula*: 3 or 4 of this pretty woodepcker seen particularly in the Atta area.

Chestnut Woodpecker - *Celeus elegans*: Two seen both at Surama.

RR Waved Woodpecker -*Celeus undatus* – 4 seen at Atta.

Cream-colored Woodpecker – *Celeus flavus*: The cream of woodpeckers – two seen at Surama

Ringed Woodpecker - *Celeus torquatus*: Can be hard to see but we sw this well at Atta.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker - *Campephilus melanoleucos*: Seen and heard thruout.

Red-necked Woodpecker - *Campephilus rubricollis*: Seen and heard thruout.

OVENBIRDS

Caribbean Hornero –*Furnarius longirostris*. Two along the coast on the Abarri River. *Furnarius longirostris* is a proposed split from *F. leucopus* (Pale-legged Hornero) (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001; Hilty 2003); The SACC says “Although vocal and behavioral differences have been reported, no real analysis has been published to support these splits. SACC proposal to elevate *cinnamomeus* to species rank did not pass because of insufficient published data.

Pale-breasted Spinetail - *Synallaxis albescens*: One in response to playback near Ginep landing.

RR Hoary –throated Spinetail - *Poecilurus kollari* – A little known species found by hris on his exploration in the Rio Branco area.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail -*Certhiaxis cinnamomea* – Common in wet areas even in Georgetown city.

Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-Gleaner - *Philydor pyrrhodes**

Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner - *Automolus ochrolaemus*: One at Iwokroma Field Station.

Chestnut-crowned Foligae-Gleaner – *Automolus rufipiletaus*: One near Surama

Plain Xenops - *Xenops minutus* – 3 seen in total.

WOODCREEPERS

Plain-brown Woodcreeper -*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*. A few seen of the nominate race of this army ant follower (not obligate)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper-*Glyphorynchus spirurus*–A common forest woodcreeper.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper - *Sittasomus griseicapillus griseus* – Note the subspecies we saw. *Sittasomus griseicapillus* almost certainly consists of multiple species with at least five subspecies groups possibly deserving separate species status. The SACC says *Sittasomus griseicapillus* almost certainly consists of multiple species (Hardy et al. 1991, Ridgely & Tudor 1994, Parker et al. 1995, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Hilty 2003), with at least five subspecies groups possibly deserving separate species status (Marantz et al. 2003).

RR Red – billed Woodcreeper – *Hylexetastes perrotii perottii* – wow quite a Woodcreeper with one at Atta and two near Iwokroma. The SACC says The two species of *Hylexetastes* form a superspecies (Sibley & Monroe 1990); Marantz et al. (2003) suggest that vocal similarities and intermediate plumage of subspecies *insignis* suggests that they could be considered conspecific, as suspected by Zimmer (1934c). The subspecies *uniformis* was treated as a species separate from *H. perrotii* by Ridgely & Tudor (1994). Silva (1995) found no evidence for hybridization among various *Hylexetastes* taxa in areas where potentially parapatric and thus ranked all four taxa, including newly described *brigidai* (Silva et al. 1995), as species. Marantz et al. (2003), however, noted that voices of *perrotii*, *uniformis*, and *brigidai* are all quite similar. Named after Jean Perrot – French taxidermist.

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper – *Dendrocolaptes certhia* - Several heard and one seen. *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* (Northern Barred Woodcreeper) was formerly (e.g., Peters 1951, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered conspecific with *D. certhia*, but Willis (1992) and Marantz (1997) provided evidence that they should be treated as separate species; they constitute a superspecies.

Black-banded Woodcreeper - *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* - Common

Straight-billed Woodcreeper - *Xiphorhynchus picus* – A few seen in lightly wooded areas.

Striped Woodcreeper - *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus**

RR Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper - *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus* – Fairly common

Buff-throated Woodcreeper - *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* – Fairly common.

Lineated Woodcreeper - *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus* – fairly common in the forest canopy. Hitches along the underside of large tree limbs.

ANTBIRDS

Fasciated Antshrike - *Cymbilaimus lineatus* – Common canopy Antshrike heard more than seen.

RR Black-throated Antshrike – *Frederickena viridis* – Wow – what a bird – tricky to see but eventually surrendered to playback. The genus is named for Frederick Vavasour McConnell – an English traveller and collector.

Black-crested Antshrike - *Sakesphorus canadensis* – Sakesphorus is Greek and means “shield bearing” referring to the black breast patch of this species. *Canadensis* referring to Canada is erroneously used here and should have been “*cayanensis*”

Mouse-colored Antshrike - *Thamnophilus murinus* – Common voice of the forest and also several seen.

Northern Slaty Antshrike - *Thamnophilus punctatus punctatus* - Called "Guianan Slaty-Antshrike" in Isler et al. (1997), but see Isler et al. (2001). *Thamnophilus atrinucha*, *T. stictocephalus*, *T. sticturus*, *T. pelzelni*, and *T. ambiguus* were formerly (e.g., Cory & Hellmayr 1924, Pinto 1937, Peters 1951, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered conspecific with *T. punctatus*, with the broad species known as "Slaty Antshrike," but see Willis (1982) and Isler et al. (1997) for recognition as species, based mainly on vocal differences. Genetic data (Brumfield & Edwards 2007) indicate that *atinucha* and *punctatus* belong to separate groups within *Thamnophilus*. Ridgely & Greenfield further recognized *leucogaster* of the Marañón Valley as a separate species; this taxon was tentatively retained as a subspecies of *T. punctatus* by Isler et al. (1997), with further evidence confirming subspecies status presented by Isler et al. (2001). Genetic data (Lacerda et al. 2007) indicate that ranking *pelzelni* and *ambiguus* as species is consistent with levels of divergence within this group.

Amazonian Antshrike – *Thamnophilus amazonicus* – Fairly common especially near Iwokroma Field Station

Dusky-throated Antshrike - *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* – A few with understory flocks at Turtle Mountain.

Cinereous Antshrike - *Thamnomanes caesius* – Understory flock leader. Find this guy and you find a flock as we did several times.

Pygmy Antwren - *Myrmotherula brachyura* – common canopy antwren.

RR Rufous-bellied Antwren - *Myrmotherula guttata* – Seen at Surama and at Turtle Mountain.

RR Brown-bellied Antwren - *Myrmotherula gutturalis* – A dead leaf cluster specialist as many of this genus with spotted throats are.

White-flanked Antwren - *Myrmotherula axillaris* – Common mid-story Antwren. Willis (1984b), Ridgely & Tudor (1994), Hilty (2003), and Zimmer & Isler (2003) noted that vocal differences among several subspecies of *Myrmotherula axillaris* suggest that more than one species is involved.

Long-winged Antwren - *Myrmotherula longipennis**

Grey Antwren - *Myrmotherula menetriesii* – One male of the *pallida* subspecies with no black throat at Turtle Mountain.

RR Spot-tailed Antwren - *Herpsilochmus sticturus* – Along with the next, common in canopy mixed flocks and easily seen from the Atta canopy walkway. Unusual to have two similar looking Herpsilochmus in one place

RR Todd's Antwren - *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*

Southern White-fringed Antwren - *Formicivora grisea* - *Formicivora intermedia* (Northern White-fringed Antwren) is a proposed split from *F. grisea* (Hilty 2003); SACC needs proposal. Ridgely & Tudor (1994) and Zimmer & Isler (2003) suggested that *Formicivora grisea* may consist of more than one species. Hilty (2003) described major vocal differences between *intermedia* and *grisea* in Venezuela and treated them as separate species

Ash-winged Antwren – *Terenura spodioptila* – Common vocally but difficult to see but one was eventually seen.

Grey Antbird - *Cercomacra cinerascens* – Canopy species commonly heard but usually have to spend some effort to see it. A vine tangle specialist.

Dusky Antbird - *Cercomacra tyrannina* – Pretty common in the understory.

RR Rio Branco Antbird - *Cercomacra carbonaria* – Found by Chris on his exploration along the Rio Branco near Letham

White-browed Antbird - *Myrmoborus leucophrys* – Uncommon by voice and one seen.

RR Guianan Warbling Antbird - *Hypocnemis cantator* – Seen at several locations and quite common. Formerly part of the warbling Antbird species group. Ridgely & Tudor (1994) and Zimmer & Isler (2003) noted that the yellow-bellied (*flavescens*) subspecies group is almost certainly a separate species from *Hypocnemis cantator* (as treated by Cory & Hellmayr [1924] and Pinto [1937]). Following Zimmer (1932a), they have been

treated as conspecific. Vocal differences and documentation of syntopy and parapatry among taxa formerly ranked as subspecies (Isler et al. 2007) indicate that *H. cantator* actually consists of at least six species, including *H. cantator*. [SACC proposal passed to revise species limits](#).

Black-chinned Antbird – *Hypocnemoides melanopogon* – Always near water and common near the Burro – Burro river at Surama.

White-bellied Antbird - *Myrmeciza longipes* – common by voice and a couple seen of this skulking inderstory Antbird.

RR Ferruginous-backed antbird - *Myrmeciza ferruginea* - One of the most beautiful Thamnophilidae of the Guianas. Stunner!

Spot-backed Antbird – *Hylophylax naevia* – One at Surama.

Scale- backed Antbird - - *Hylophylax poecilinota* – Snazzy Antbird often associated with Armu ants as it was at Turtle Mountain

White-plumed antbird - *Pithys albifrons* – This is an obligate Army Ant follower i.e never seen away from antswarms, another cracker and seen well! The origin of “Pithys” is unknown.

RR Rufous-throated Antbird - *Gymnopithys rufigula* – another obligate Army Ant follower and a very pretty one and pleasantly common.

Rufous-capped Anthrush – *Formicarius colma* – One seen others heard.

Black-faced Anthrush - *Formicarius analis* – Only one on Turtle Mountain.

GROUND ANTBIRDS

Spotted Antpitta – *Hylopezus macularis* – Some heard and one seen at dusk near Iwokroma. Came very close flying in silently.

Thrush-like Antpitta - - *Myrmothera campanisoma**

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

White-lored Tyrannulet – *Ornithion inerme* – One only

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet - *Camptostoma obsoletum* – common on the bushy savannas.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet - *Phaeomyias murina* – Common on the svannas. The IOC adopts the spelling “color”

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet - *Tyrannulus elatus* – Common and calls “free beer!”

Forest Elaenia - *Myiopagis gaimardii* - This non-descript bird is usually best told by its voice. We heard it several times and saw it well on occasion. Named for Paul Gaimard – French surgeon, explorer and naturalist 1793-1858. Many medical men of

the days of the great sailing ships and the Napoleonic wars were “natural philosophers” e.g Charles Darwin.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia - *Elaenia flavogaster* – Common on the savannas.

Plain-crested Elaenia - *Elaenia cristata* – Less common than the previous species on the savannas.

RR Rufous-crowned Elaenia - *Elaenia ruficeps* - A white sand forest specialist seen in the Mori scrub in the pouring rain.

Pale tipped Inezia *Inezia caudata* At Ginep landing fairly common Formally called Pale-tipped Tyrannulet

McConnells Flycatcher - *Mionectes macconnelli* – One only at Atta

Bearded Tachuri – *Polystictus pectoralis* – At least 4 seen in the reeds at Karanambu.
NEAR THREATENED

RR Olive-green Tyrannulet - *Phylloscartes virescens* – A little known and obscure tyrannulet which we were very happy to see in the clearing at Atta in a mixed canopy flock, thanks to Ron Allicock.

Slender-footed Tyrannulet – *Zimmerius gracilipes* – Uncommon in the canopy.

Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant - *Myiornis ecaudatus**

Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant – *Lophotriccus vitiensis**

Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant - *Lophotriccus galeatus* - Common

Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant - *Lophotriccus pilaris* - a few seen at forest edge on the savannas.

Slate – headed Tody-Flycatcher - *Poecilatriccus sylvia* – Great looks near Ginep landing.

Common Tody-Flycatcher - *Todirostrum cinereum*

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher – *Todirostrum maculatum* – A few in savanna scrub and river edge

Painted Tody-Flycatcher - *Todirostrum pictum**

Yellow-Olive Flatbill - *Tolmomyias sulphureus* - Various sightings of individuals of race *exortivus*. This is another species under study and may involve more than one species. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) used the English group name "Flatbill" for the species of *Tolmomyias*, returning to a name used by Cory & Hellmayr (1925). The IOC calls this genus “Flatbill” which I find outrageous as we already have a genus of

Flycatchers called Flatbills (*Rhynchocyclus*). Birds of Peru returns to the non-committal "Flycatcher" for this genus as does Restall 2007

Zimmer's Flatbill - *Tolmomyias assimilis** Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), followed by Hilty (2003), considered populations of Central America and trans-Andean South America to represent a separate species, *T. flavotectus*, from *Tolmomyias assimilis*; they restricted the name "Yellow-margined Flycatcher/Flatbill" to the latter and called the Amazonian species "Zimmer's Flatbill." The latter is also likely to consist of more than one species (see Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Fitzpatrick (2004) concluded that further research was needed before any changes are made to current species limits.

Ochre-lored Flatbill - *Tolmomyias viridiceps* – many seen and heard. The SACC says "*Tolmomyias flaviventris* almost certainly involves more than one species; see Bates et al. (1992) and Ridgely & Tudor (1994). The subspecies *viridiceps* is almost certainly a distinct species, and was so considered by Ridgely et al. (2001) and Hilty (2003). However, Zimmer (1939a) considered them conspecific because the subspecies he considered the subspecies *subsimilis* and *dissors* to represent taxa that were intermediate between the two, and this treatment was followed by Fitzpatrick (2004) in the absence of published data supporting a split." We saw the *collingswoodi* subspecies.

White-crested Spadebill - *Platyrinchus platyhynchos* – two seen in the Atta area.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher – *Terentotriccus erythrurus* – Fairly common small common Flycatcher at Iwokroma

Whiskered Flycatcher - *Myiobius barbatus* – 2 seen at Atta. *Myiobius sulphureipygius* (*sulphur-rumped Flycatcher*) is split from *M. barbatus* (AOU 1998; Ridgely & Tudor 1994; Hilty 2003; Fitzpatrick 2004). The SACC says Cory & Hellmayr (1927), Wetmore (1972), and the AOU (1983, 1998) treated the *sulphureipygius* group as a separate species from *Myiobius barbatus*, but see Zimmer (1939b) and Ridgely & Tudor (1994) for rationale for continued treatment as conspecific; however, Ridgely and Greenfield (2001) returned to AOU classification, followed by Hilty (2003) and Fitzpatrick (2004), with the name "Whiskered Flycatcher" applied to the Amazonian *barbatus* group, as in Cory & Hellmayr (1927). SACC proposal to treat *sulphureipygius* as separate species did not pass

Vermillion Flycatcher - *Pyrocephalus rubinus* – Only two near Ginep landing.

Long-tailed Tyrant - *Colonia colonus* - A few individuals perched on scaped atop dead branches of flooded areas

Pied Water-Tyrant - *Fluvicola pica* – A few sightings of scattered individuals, usually close to water

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant - *Arundinicola leucocephala* - usually seen with the above species

Cinnamon Attila – *Attila cinnamomeus* - 2 seen well in response to playback on the edge of the savanna near Bina Hill.

Bright-rumped Attila – *Attila spadiceus** - The SACC says - Leger and Mountjoy (2003) found major vocal differences between South American and Middle American populations of *Attila spadiceus*, strongly suggesting that at least two species are involved, but did not adequately sample populations from west of Andes in South America; these are vocally similar to the Middle American *flammulatus* group (P. Coopmans, pers. comm.).

Greyish Mourner - *Rhytipterna simplex* - Common vocally with a couple seen in heavily forested areas.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher – *Myiarchus tuberculifer**

Short-crested Flycatcher - *Myiarchus ferox* - Seen commonly.

Brown-crested Flycatcher - *Myiarchus tyrannulus* – Fairly common

Great Kiskadee - *Pitangus sulphuratus* - Many during this trip. Usually in open or edge habitat

Lesser Kiskadee - *Philohydor lector* - Quite a few, usually close to water

Boat-billed Flycatcher - *Megarynchus pitangua* - Several pairs. Usually in moist to dry forest

Social Flycatcher - *Myiozetetes similis* - several records on the trip.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher - *Myiozetetes cayanensis* - Common

Yellow-throated Flycatcher - *Conopias parva* - A Pair at near Surama

Streaked Flycatcher - *Myiodynastes maculates* - Several sights of individuals of resident *solitarius* race

Piratic Flycatcher - *Legatus leucophaeus* – Aggressive and take over Cacique nests hence the name.

Variagated flycatcher - *Empidonomus varius* – Several small flocks of the migrant *rufinus* race at Surama

Tropical kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus* - Common and widespread.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher - *Tyrannus savana* - Sightings of scattered individuals.

TITYRAS

In this classification, the genera *Tityra* through *Phibalura* were formerly placed tentatively in the Cotingidae, following Prum et al. (2000). They had formerly been scattered among the Tyrannidae, Cotingidae, and Pipridae. Prum and Lanyon (1989) and Sibley & Ahlquist (1990) found that *Tityra*, *Schiffornis*, and *Pachyramphus* formed a distinct group, separate from the rest of the Tyrannidae; Sibley & Ahlquist (1990) proposed that they were most closely related to core Tyrannidae than to other tyrannoid

families such as the Cotingidae or Pipridae. More recent genetic data (Johansson et al. 2002, Chesser 2004, Barber & Rice 2007) confirm that the genera *Tityra* through at least *Pachyramphus* form a monophyletic group, but Chesser (2004) found that this group is more closely related to the Pipridae than to the Cotingidae or Tyrannidae. [SACC proposal passed to remove from Cotingidae](#) (and place as Incertae Sedis or as separate family, Tityridae). Barber & Rice (2007) not only confirmed the monophyly of the group but also proposed elevation to family rank. [SACC proposal passed to recognize Tityridae](#). Within this group, Barber & Rice (2007) found genetic evidence for two major groups: (a) *Laniisoma*, *Laniocera*, and *Schiffornis*, and (b) *Iodopleura*, *Tityra*, *Xenopsaris*, and *Pachyramphus*.

Thrush-like Schiffornis - *Schiffornis turdina** - The SACC says: *Schiffornis turdina* almost certainly consists of more than one species (Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Stiles & Skutch 1989, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Ridgely (1907) treated the subspecies *amazona* (with *stenorhyncha*), *veraepacis*, *wallacii*, *furva*, *rosenbergi*, and *olivacea* each as separate species from *S. turdina* <check genders>. Nyári (2007) presented evidence that at least five species should be recognized

Cinereous Mourner- *Laniocera hypopyrra*: One seen at Surama

RR Dusky Purpletuft – *Iodopleura fusca* – Common in the Atta area on dead trees with a total of 12 being seen. A range restricted species and only known from a few spottily distributed locations.

White-winged Becard - *Pachyramphus polychopterus* – Commonly heard and one called in at Ginep landing.

Black-capped Becard - *Pachyramphus marginatus* - 2 seen at Surama

Pink-throated Becard - *Pachyramphus minor* – a couple of pairs in canopy flocks – right in the clearing at Atta.

Cinereous Becard - *Pachyramphus rufus* – 2 along the Aburri River.

Black-tailed tityra - *Tityra cayana* – 2 at Atta

Black-crowned Tityra – *Tityra inquisitor* – Fairly common especially on dead trees along the road at Iwokroma. *Inquisitor* is Latin for “investigator or searcher”, presumably from the habit of Tityras to peer into and investigate holes in dead trees.

COTINGAS

RR Guianan Cock-of-the Rock – *Rupicola rupicola* – 2 seen along the Prince Charles trail in June and again in November and a few at Kaitur Falls in November. *Rupicola* is Latin for “Rock Dweller”

RR Guianan Red Cotinga – *Phoenicircus carnifex*: Only heard in June but fantastic views closet to the Lodge at Atta of 3 birds on November 21st and one in the clearing at fruiting tree the next day. A most wanted bird.

Purple-breasted Cotinga – *Cotinga cotinga* – 2 seen near Atta along the main road. A Cotinga heavily restricted to white sand forests.

Spangled Cotinga - *Cotinga cayana* - Seen various times.

Screaming Piha - *Lipaugus vociferans* - Common and vocal and several seen – amazing song!

Popmapdour Cotinga – *Xipholema punicea* – Another special bird of Iwokroma with a male and female being seen at Atta. Punicea is Latin for “Purple/red”

RR Crimson Fruitcrow – *Haematoderus militaris* – What can you say – most spectacular Crow I’ve ever seen. 2 males seen on consecutive days in the lodge clearing at Atta.

Bare-necked Fritcrow – *Gymnoderus foetidus* – Uncommon only a couple seen.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow - *Querula purpurata* – Common and conspicuous

RR Capuchinbird - *Perissocephalus tricolor* - Many encounters with this enigmatic Cotinga. Called “cowbird” in Guayan, due its cow-like mooing at the lek. Perhaps seen best at Karanawa. *Perissocephalus* in Greek means “extrodinary or marvellous” referring the head and bare face of this species.

MANAKINS

Black Manakin – *Xenopipo atronitens* – A female seen in the Mori scrub, a bird tied to scrub on sandy soils

RR White-throated Manakin – *Corapipo gutturalis* – A female seen by some and heard by all.

Blue-backed Manakin – *Chiroxiphia pareola* – Common in dense forets with many exploded leks.

Golden-headed Manakin - *Pipra erythrocephala*- Common but pretty.

White-crowned Manakin - *Dixiphia pipra* – Another species that likes nutrient poor soil. Several seen.

RR Tiny Tyrant Manakin - *Tyranneutes virescens* – Lives up to its name. tiny indeed but we had stunning looks.

VIREOS AND GREENLETS

Rufous-browed Peppershrike - *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Red-eyed Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus* - We saw two subspecies – the red eyed migrants and the non red-eyed resident chivi race. The SACC says Some classifications (e.g., Pinto 1944) have considered the South American *chivi* group as a separate species ("Chivi Vireo") from *V. olivaceus*, or as conspecific with *V. flavoviridis* (Hamilton 1962), but see Hellmayr (1935), Zimmer (1941d), Eisenmann 1962a, Johnson & Zink (1985), and Ridgely & Tudor

(1989). Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) suggested, however, that more than one species may be involved within the South American *chivi* group.

Lemon-chested Greenlet – *Hylophilus thoracicus* – Commonly heard but only one seen.

Ashy-headed Greenlet -*Hylophilus pecdtoralis* – Fairly common in more open country.

Buff-cheeked Greenlet - *Hylophilus muscicapinus* – Again heard commonly but only one seen.

Tawny-crowned Greenlet - *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* – One at Surama.

JAYS

RR Cayenne Jay - *Cyanocorax cayanus* - Various sightings thruout the tour

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

Grey-breasted Martin - *Progne chalybea*.

White-winged Swallow - *Tachycineta albiventer* - Several records, always near water.

Black-collared Swallow – *Atticora melanoleuca* - 2 individuals at the Iwokroma Field Station. Always on rocks in fast flowing rivers.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow - *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Bank Swallow – *Riparia riparia* - A few seen in November. Note the IOC has made the decision it is Bank Swallow and not Sand Martin and I agree it makes sense

Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica*. The New World populations of *Hirundo rustica* were formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1904) treated as a separate species, *H. erythrogastra*, from Old World populations.

WRENS

Black-capped Donacobius - *Donacobius atricapillus* – A few on the marshy savannas.

Coraya Wren - *Thryothorus coraya* – Commonly heard a few seen.

Buff-breasted Wren –*Thryothorus leucotis* - Commonly heard a few seen.

Sothern House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon* - Many authors (e.g., Hellmayr 1934, Pinto 1944, Phelps & Phelps 1950a) formerly treated Neotropical mainland populations as a separate species *T. musculus*; see also Brumfield and Capparella (1996); this treatment was followed by Brewer (2001) and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005).

GNATWRENS, GNATCATCHERS

Long-billed Gantwren - *Ramphocaenus melanurus**

Tropical Gnatcatcher - *Polioptila plumbea* - Several on the svannas in bushy country.

RR Guianan Gnatcatcher – *Poloptila guianensis* – 10+ along the Aburri river trail – quite a surprise for me.

THRUSHES

Pale-breasted thrush - *Turdus leucomelas* – The common garden thrush.

Cocoa Thrush - *Turdus fumigatus**

Spectacled Thrush – *Turdus nudigenis* - Called "Bare-eyed Robin" in AOU (1998) and Dickinson (2003). Called "Naked-eyed Thrush" by Ridgway (1907), "Yellow-eyed Thrush" by Clement (2000), and "Spectacled Thrush" by Collar (2005). To call it "Bare-eyed Thrush," as in AOU (1983), Ridgely & Tudor (1989), and Hilty (2003), confuses it with African *T. tephronotus*, which has the same English name. SACC proposal passed to change to "Thrush." SACC proposal passed to change "Bare-eyed" to another name. SACC proposal passed to change name to "Spectacled Thrush."

MOCKINGBIRDS

Tropical Mockingbird – *Mimus gilvus*

PIPITS

Yellowish Pipit – *Anthus lutescens* – A few on the karanambo savannas.

WOOD WARBLERS

Yellow Warbler - *Dendroica aestiva* - Fairly common in November.

RR Flavescent Warbler – *Phaeocephalus flaveola* – Tricky to see and we managed views at Ginep landing of one bird – others heard.

BANANAQUITS

Bannanquit - *Coereba flaveola*.

TANAGERS

Bicolored Conebill - *Conirostrum bicolour*. One seen and photographed along the Aburri River

Guira Tanager - *Hemithraupis guira* - Pronounced *Guirá* - We had 2 pairs, notably on the Burro Burro River.

Yellow-backed Tanager - *Hemithraupis flavicollis* – A pair in a canopy flock at Atta.

Hooded Tanager – *Nemosia pileata* – One only

Grey-headed Tanager- *Eucometis penicillata* – One seen Kranambu.

Fulvous Shrike-Tanager - *Lanio fulvus* – A few with canopy flocks where it is the flock leader.

Fulvous-crested Tanager- *Tachyphonus surinamus* – Only one at Atta.

White-shouldered Tanager – *Tachyphonus luctuosus*.

Red Tanager – *Piranga flava* - *Piranga* spp are grosbeaks (Cardinalidae), or "tanager-grosbeaks", but not tanagers (Thraupidae)(Burns et al. 2003, Klicka et al. 2007). Meyer de Schauensee (1966) and Ridgely & Tudor (1989) proposed that this species probably consists of two or three separate species; two occur in South America: nominate *flava* of southern and eastern South America, and the *lutea* group of the Andes region (and also Panama and Costa Rica) – Tooth-billed Tanager.. See Zimmer (1929) concerning earlier claims of sympatry between *flava* and *lutea*. <Burns (1998) > Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) treated the three groups as separate species. Haverschmidt and Mees (1994) treated the subspecies *haemalea* of the tepuis as a separate species from *P. flava* based on habitat differences.

Summer Tanager – *Piranga rubra* – Two migrants near Ginep landing in November.

Silver-beaked Tanager -*Ramphocelus carbo*- Many records in edge of disturbed habitat and secondary growth.

Blue-grey Tanager – *Thraupis episcopus* - Daily sightings. Virtually seen every day!

Palm Tanager - *Thraupis palmarum* – Nests in the roof at Field Station.

Plumbeous Euphonia – *Euphonia plumbea* – A pair seen at Atta. Often associated with poor soils as well.

RR Finch's Euphonia – *Euphonia finschi* – Fairly common in forest edge situations. Named for Frederick Hermann Otto Finsch (1839-1917) – German diplomat, ornithologist, collector and author.

Violaceous Euphonia - *Euphonia violacea* - A few near Ginep landing

White-lored Euphonia - *Euphonia chrysopasta*.

RR Golden-sided Euphonia – *Euphonia cauennensis**

Turquoise Tanager – *Tangara mexicana* – The common lowland Tanager.

Bay-headed Tanager - *Tangara gyrola* – Only one (the gorgeous race *gyrola*)

Burnished-buff Tanager – *Tangara cayana* – Fairly common at Savanna forest edge

Blue Dacnis - *Dacnis cayana* – Fairly common in mixed canopy flocks.

Black-faced Dacnis - *Dacnis lineata* – One male at Atta.

Green Honeycreeper - *Chlorophanes spiza* – several sightings of the flock species

Purple Honeycreeper - *Cyanerpes caeruleus* – The commonest Honeycreeper.

Red-legged Honeycreeper -*Cyanerpes cyaneus*.

EMBERIZINE FINCHES

Blue-black Grassquit - *Volatinia jacarina*

Grey Seedeater - *Sporophila intermedia* – 5 near Ginep Landing.

Plumbeous Seedeater – *Sporophila plumbea* – Common on the savannas.

Wing-barred Seedeater – *Sporophila americana* – Fairly common in the Georgetown. Botanical gardens.

Lined Seedeater – *Sporophila lineola* – Quite a few at Iwokroma Field Station in June – an Austral migrant.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater – *Sporophila nigricollis* – 2 singing and seen near Ginep Landing.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater - *Sporophila minuta* – A few in November.

Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch – *Oryzoborus angolensis**

Grassland Yellow-Finch – *Sicalis luteola* – only seen on the Karanambu savannas.

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch – *Emberizoides herbicola* – Only seen around Karanambu.

Red-capped Cardinal – *Paroaria gularis* – Common at Iwokroma.

Pectoral Sparrow – *Arremon taciturnis**

Grassland Sparrow – *Ammodramus humeralis* – Common on the savannas often on fence lines.

GROSBEAKS AND SALTATORS

Red and Black Grosbeak – *Periporphyrus erythromelas**

Greyish Saltator -*Saltator coerulescens*.

Buff-throated saltator - *Saltator maximus*

Yellow- green Grosbeak - *Caryothraustes canadensis* – A family group of 4 seen near Atta

Blue-black Grosbeak – *Cyanacompsa cyanooides* – Several heard and one seen.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS

Eastern Meadowlark – *Sturnella magna* – A few near Bina Hill

Red-brested Blackbird - *Sturnella militaris* – Common on the savannas

Carib Grackle – *Qiscalus lugubris* – Common around Georgetown

Shiny Cowbird - *Molothrus bonariensis*.

Giant Cowbird - *Molothrus oryzivora*.

Moriche Oriole - *Icterus chryscephalus* – A few here and there, especially near palm groves.

Yellow Oriole - *Icterus nigrogularis* – Fairly common along the coast.

Orange-backed Troupial – *Icterus croconotus* – Seen near Ginep landing. The SACC says *Icterus icterus*, *I. jamaicaii*, and *I. croconotus* were formerly treated as a single species by many authors (e.g., Hellmayr 1937, Blake 1968, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Ridgely & Tudor 1989, Dickinson 2003), although others have treated them as three species (Hilty 2003, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001) or as two species (*croconotus* as a subspecies of *I. jamaicaii*; e.g., Hilty & Brown 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Omland et al. 1999). See Ridgely & Tudor (1989) and Jaramillo & Burke (1999) for details. [SACC proposal passed to split into three species](#). The range map in Restall is erroneous.

Yellow-rumped Cacique - *Cacicus cela*.

Red-rumped Cacique – *Cacicus haemorrhous* - 8 seen at Surama on the Harpy Eagle trail

Crested Oropendola - *Psarocolius decumanus* - Common

Green Oropendola - *Psarocolius viridis* – More common to heavy forest than the former.

CARDUELINE FINCHES

Hooded Siskin - *Carduelis magellanica* – 3 near Ginep Landing were an unusual record for Iwokroma/Rupouruni.



Atta Canopy Walkway – Chris Collins

MAMMALS

Giant Anteater - *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* – 2 seen on the Karanambu savannas – quite a critter!

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth - *Bradypus variegates*

Tufted Capuchin Monkey - *Cebus apella apella* – We saw the nominate race sometimes splits as Guianan brown Capuchin.

White-faced (Guianan) Saki – *Pithecia pithecia* – Several groups especially in the Iwokroma area.

Red-faced Spider Monkey - *Ateles paniscus* - Found from Brazil to Guyana and French Guiana.

Guianan Red Howler Monkey - *Alouatta macconnelli* - Native to Guyana, Trinidad, French Guiana and Brazil.

Common Squirrel Monkey - *Saimiri sciureus*

Crab-eating Fox – *Cerdocyon thous* – 2 on the road to Georgetown.

Neotropical Otter - *Lutra longicaudis* – On the Rupuruni River

Giant Otter - *Pteronura brasiliensis* – On the Rupuruni River including Diana McTurks semi tame ones.

Red-rumped Agouti – *Dasyprocta leporina*

REPTILES

Black Caiman - *Melanosuchus niger* – Quite a treat to catch such a monster with Ashley Holland and his research team.

White Caiman - *Caiman crocodilus*.

Side neck Turtle - *Podocnemis unifilis*

Yellow-footed Tortoise - *Geochelone denticulata*