

# BRAZIL: AMAZONIA ON THE RIO ROOSEVELT

JANUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 1, 2009

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*Amazonia is a vast, mystical region representing the greatest treasure trove of biodiversity on the planet. Since the time of Bates and Wallace, the region has captivated naturalists and continues to enthrall visitors today. Few other regions entice people back again and again as does Amazonia, in part because no two locations in this region are exactly alike.*

*In 1914, ex-president Theodore Roosevelt teamed with the famous Brazilian explorer Cândido Rondon on a historic expedition to map the course of one of the Amazon's unknown rivers, the Rio da Dúvida (River of Doubt). The expedition yielded discoveries of many new species of birds and animals, while pushing the collective endurance, courage, and will of its participants to the breaking point. Fast-forward to the present, where the Rio Roosevelt (renamed in honor of Theodore himself) is still an unspoiled Amazonian wilderness—as wild, rugged and beautiful a destination as when Roosevelt first laid eyes on it, but with one huge difference. A plush wilderness lodge (situated on one of the very beaches where Roosevelt's expedition camped) offers us the unique opportunity to visit and explore this exciting Amazonian destination in great style. The lodge offers private chalets with air-conditioning, hot water, and a refrigerator; 24-hour electricity; communication via radio/telephone; and a wonderful panoramic air-conditioned restaurant that serves typically good Brazilian food, including a fabulous variety of freshly caught and imaginatively prepared Amazonian fish dishes.*

*After leaving the bustling town of Porto Velho in our private plane, we fly over a vast, green sea of virgin forest below, eventually landing on a private airstrip in the middle of this Amazonian paradise. The lodge is ideally located on the edge of the spectacular Rio Roosevelt, within the Rio Aripuana and Rio Ji-Parana drainages, where several new species have been discovered, among them, the Rondonia Bushbird, several primates, a new peccary and even a Dwarf Manatee!*

*As one of few birding groups ever to visit the area, we are certain to make many exciting discoveries of our own. The complete lack of hunting in the area means that the fauna of larger birds, primates and other mammals is still intact, allowing us the rare opportunity to experience Amazonia at its best. During our two scouting trips and inaugural tour, we located two recently discovered and as yet unnamed antbirds, had almost daily encounters with groups of Dark-winged Trumpeters or Razor-billed Curassows, and observed 11 species of primates, some recently described to science. Our second tour also produced spectacular views of 5 Crimson Fruitcrows and the nearly mythical Pale-faced Antbird. And each of our four visits to the area has yielded the recently rediscovered Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher. Clearly, more opportunities for exciting new discoveries in this region await.*

*We will explore this Amazonian wilderness both on foot and by boat, and our efforts could yield the newly described Cryptic Forest-Falcon; Zigzag and Agami herons; Chestnut-fronted, Scarlet, and Red-and-green macaws; the newly described and poorly known Kawall's Parrot; the spectacular Crimson-bellied Parakeet; Gould's Toucanet; Red-necked Aracari; Green-and-rufous Kingfisher; Pavonine Quetzal; Blue-cheeked and Paradise jacamars; Black-girdled Barbet; Rufous-necked and Collared puffbirds; Snow-capped and Flame-crested manakins; Curve-billed Scythebill; Para Foliage-gleaner; Rufous-tailed Xenops; Hoffman's Woodcreeper; Pearly and Bamboo antshrikes; Pale-faced and White-breasted antbirds; Black-bellied and Chestnut-belted gnateaters; Black-necked Red-Cotinga; Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak; and Rose-breasted Chat. With luck we may even find the rarely seen Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo or a Jaguar.*

*Imagine yourself on an afternoon boat trip, drifting down the Rio Roosevelt at the end of a great day's birding, sipping a cold refreshing drink as a spectacular Amazonian sunset unfolds in front of you. Meanwhile, a chorus of toucans yelp and croak from the forest, serenading the last flight of macaws and parrots as they thread their way across the river to their evening roosts, while the sun quickly falls behind the horizon, capping yet another wonderful day in this magnificent Amazonian paradise. It simply doesn't get much better than this!*

*This tour can be taken by itself or in combination with Highlights of Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest (January 31-February 9, 2009).*

**January 22-23, Days 1-2: Travel to Brasilia; Optional Brasilia National Park Excursion.** All participants will need to depart the USA on the evening of January 22 and arrive in São Paulo on January 23 in time to connect with any of several flights to Brasilia. All participants arriving on January 23 will be met and provided a transfer to our hotel. Those arriving early enough are welcome to join the leaders for a wonderful Brazilian barbeque meal near the hotel.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting should consider arriving in São Paulo or Brasilia on January 22 and spending the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

NIGHT: Hotel Monumental Bittar, Brasilia (January 23)

**January 24, Day 3: Travel to Porto Velho; Private Charter to Rio Roosevelt Lodge.** This morning we will be transferred to the airport in time for the 10:58 a.m. departure of TAM Flight 3546 which is scheduled to arrive in Porto Velho at 11:40 a.m. (subject to change).

Upon arrival in Porto Velho, we will transfer to our private Caravan plane for a one hour and twenty minute flight to the lodge. Leaving behind the bustling town of Porto Velho, the landscape abruptly changes as we fly over a dramatic green sea of pristine rainforest. This green carpet is interrupted only by silt-rich meandering Amazonian rivers and occasional sandy-soil savannas known in Brazil as *campinas*. Upon arrival you will have time to settle into your comfortable chalet. If time permits, we will enjoy a late afternoon exploration of the area by boat or foot to introduce you to its fantastic avifauna.

NIGHT: Rio Roosevelt Lodge

**January 25-30, Days 4-9: Rio Roosevelt Area.** There is no better way to experience an Amazonian wilderness than being based for several days in such a modern comfortable lodge on the banks of the lovely Rio Roosevelt. Hundreds of miles of pristine Amazonian rainforest and rivers and forest streams surround us and are just waiting to be explored.

The lodge is located in the most exciting Amazonian birding hotspot where many poorly-known Brazilian endemics are found. Only recently have field ornithologists realized just how important the Rio Roosevelt and other major tributaries of the Rio Madeira have been in shaping Amazonian bird distribution. Historically these rivers have acted as barriers to avian distribution, and thus, have influenced not only present-day distributions of birds, but also the radiation and evolution of myriads of new species, some of which are only now coming to light.

We will have the wilderness at our doorstep, with six wonderful days to explore, allowing us ample time to experience the flora and fauna surrounding us.

Our daily activities will begin with a hearty breakfast before our morning's exploration of one of the many well-kept forest trails. Here we will be able to experience the rich and complex understory mixed-species flocks and hear the delightful voices of many of the world's best avian singers, such as the Musician Wren and the Southern Nightingale-Wren. After lunch, you will have time off during the heat of the day to relax or swim in the cool river or independently explore the excellent trail system right at your doorstep. As the afternoon temperatures cool, we will venture forth once more, this time in motorized boats, to bird along the rivers or narrow *igarapés* (forested streams). As we go, we will scan the forested riverbanks for exquisite Agami Herons, while keeping an eye on the canopy for flocks of colorful frugivores, parrots, toucans, or large raptors. As dusk falls, the Ladder-tailed Nightjars line the banks while Short-tailed Nighthawks feed over the forest canopy and Sand-colored Nighthawks grace the river.

Exploration of these rich southern Amazonian rainforests should produce a large number of birds and mammal possibilities including Gray, Brazilian, Brown and Variegated tinamous; Razor-billed Curassow; Dark-winged Trumpeter; Sunbittern; Sungrebe; Hoatzin; Cryptic (newly described in 2002 by your guide) and Slaty-backed forest-falcons; White-browed Hawk; Ornate Hawk-Eagle; Agami and Zigzag heron (amazingly common here!); Starred Wood-Quail; Chestnut-fronted, Red-bellied, Scarlet, Blue-and-Yellow and Red-and-Green macaws; Yellow-crowned and Kawall's parrots; Crimson-bellied and Madeira parakeets; Gould's Toucanet; Red-necked Aracari; Channel-billed Toucan; Crimson Topaz; Needle-billed Hermit; Broad-billed Motmot; Green-and-rufous and Pygmy kingfishers; Ringed, Red-necked and Cream-colored woodpeckers; Collared, Blue-crowned and Black-tailed trogons; Pavonine Quetzal; Paradise, Blue-cheeked, Brown and Great jacamars; Black-girdled Barbet; Rufous-necked and Collared puffbirds; White-fronted Nunbird; Rusty-breasted Nunlet; Amazonian and Pale-rumped swifts; Long-billed, Elegant and Spot-throated woodcreepers; Curve-billed Scythebill; Striped Woodhaunter; Short-billed and Black-tailed Leaf-tosser; Cinnamon-rumped, Chestnut-winged and Para foliage-gleaners; Rufous-tailed Zenops; Ruddy Spinetail; Pearly, Bamboo, Glossy and Saturnine antshrikes; Ferruginous-backed Antbird; Chestnut-shouldered, Ornate and Stipple-throated antwrens; Sclater's Antwren; Amazonian Streaked-Antwren; Striated and Dot-backed antbirds; **two as-yet-undescribed species of antbirds**; Thrushlike and Spotted antpittas; Black-bellied and Chestnut-belted gnateaters; Rusty-belted Tapaculo; Golden-crowned, Cinnamon-crested and White-crested spadebills; Snow-capped, Blue-backed, Band-tailed and Red-headed manakin; Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher; Sneathly's Tody-Tyrant; Black-collared and White-banded swallows; Amazonian Royal Flycatcher; Crimson Fruitcrow; Spangled and Pompadour cotingas, Amazonian Umbrella-bird; Black-necked Red Cotinga; Pompadour and Purple-throated cotingas; Tooth-billed Wren; Buff-rumped Warbler; Para Gnatcatcher; Rose-breasted Chat; Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak; Paradise, Green-and-gold and Opal-rumped tanagers; Red-billed Pied Tanager; Short-billed Honeycreeper; Yellow-bellied Dacnis; White-winged Shrike Tanager; Red-capped Cardinal and many more.

If we're lucky enough to encounter an antswarm, we should be rewarded with the magnificent endemic White-breasted Antbird and poorly-known Pale-faced Antbird; Black-spotted Bare-eye, Scale-backed and Spot-backed antbirds; and Hoffman's, Amazonian Barred, Strong-billed, Uniform and White-chinned woodcreepers; or a forest-falcon. Given the lack of hunting-pressure in the region, we have a greater chance for the immense Harpy Eagle (seen on all our visits) or the rarely seen Crested Eagle, and, with luck, possibly even a Jaguar or a rarely seen Short-eared Dog or a Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo.

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We will also visit some stunted, white-sand forest, locally called *campina*. Here in this unique habitat we should be rewarded with Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher (recently rediscovered); Plush-crested Jay; Bronzy Jacamar; Lineated Woodcreeper; Swallow-wing and Spotted puffbird; Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike; Pale-bellied Mourner; White-fringed Antwren; Black-throated Antbird; Slender-footed Tyrannulet; Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant; Flame-crested and Black manakin; Rusty-breasted Nunlet; Red-shouldered Tanager and many more.

Opportunities to see primates are, in our experience, the best of any Amazonian site. Possibilities include several newly described species such as the colorful Prince Bernhard's Titi Monkey (described in 2002) as well as an endearing species of tassel-eared marmoset. Species recorded on previous trips include Woolly Monkey, Red-faced Spider Monkey, White-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey, Brazilian Monk Saki, Feline Night Monkey, Brown and White-fronted capuchin, Madeira Squirrel Monkey and Red Howler. River trips give us the opportunity to see Giant River Otters, fish-eating bats and even a Brazilian Tapir.

A night excursion will treat us to a spectacular star-filled sky, and may reveal a secretive Zigzag Heron; Black-banded or Spectacled owl; Tawny-bellied Screech Owl; or even a Long-tailed Potoo. Drifting along in the boat, we may well hear the lonely calls of the Gray Potoo, known in Portuguese as "Mae da Lua" ("Mother of the Moon"), the odd calls of an Amazonian Bamboo-Rat, or the hooting of a Night Monkey troop.

For anyone interested in fishing (catch-and-release), this area is world-famous for its big catfish that put up a great fight.

NIGHTS: Rio Roosevelt Lodge

#### **January 31-February 1, Days 10-11: Departure for Home or Begin Highlights of Brazil's Atlantic Forest.**

After breakfast on January 31, we'll fly by private charter to Porto Velho in time to catch TAM Flight 3547 to Brasilia (scheduled to depart at 12:20 p.m. and arrive at 5:05 p.m.), connect with TAM Flight 3587 to São Paulo (scheduled to depart at 6:00 p.m. and arrive at 7:45 p.m.) and connect to overnight flights to the USA which will arrive on the morning of February 1. All flights and times are subject to change.

Participants combining this tour with Highlights of Brazil's Atlantic Forest (January 31-February 9, 2009) will be provided with lodging near São Paulo Guarulhos International Airport on the night of January 31 at no additional cost.

**TOUR LEADER:** Andrew Whittaker (a second leader will be added if group size warrants)

**Andrew Whittaker** has been based in Amazonian Brazil for the last 21 years. Andy's passion for birding and natural history started at the early age of seven in the UK. For the past 26 years Andy has worked with birds, traveling around the world studying bird migration in Canada, Israel, Borneo, and the UK. Working in the Brazilian rainforest for the Smithsonian Institution has made Andy an authority on Amazonian birds and the region's natural history, and he has authored many technical publications on the region. He was a consultant for the prestigious *Life of Birds* series by David Attenborough, and is a research associate of the Museum Goeldi, in Belém. At present Andy is working with Kevin Zimmer on a comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil. Andy has extensive tour leading experience, having led tours throughout South and Central American countries, the UK, and the Antarctic. He immensely enjoys sharing his fascination and knowledge of Neotropical birds, animals, and their conservation with others. Andy's special interest is bird vocalizations; his knowledge of Neotropical voices has enabled him to make several important ornithological discoveries and add 18 species to the Brazilian list. Andy is a member of the Brazilian Ornithological Committee, and lives in Manaus with his wife Nadime, their son Steven, and daughters, Luana and Suzana.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 14 participants.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$6195** per person in double occupancy from Brasilia (ends in Porto Velho). This includes all food from dinner on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 10, lodging for nine nights during the tour, air charter and ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the

tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Brasilia and return from Porto Velho, the commercial flight from Brasilia to Porto Velho (see "AIR INFORMATION" below), airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$80**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you. This fee covers the single accommodations only the hotel in Brasilia (Day 2).

Single accommodations at the Rio Roosevelt Lodge (Days 3-9) are limited and singles will be asked to share. However, your preference will be noted and accommodated if possible at an additional cost to be determined.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation Penalties and Refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less \$300 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$300.
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available.

**FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** Application forms for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We **strongly recommend** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**AIR INFORMATION:** Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

Note that there are specific internal Brazilian flights associated with this tour whose cost is not covered by the tour fee. Due to the complicated nature and limited availability of these flights, you are strongly encouraged to confirm reservations with Victor Emanuel Travel as early as possible.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current U.S. passport and **VISA** are required to enter Brazil. Your visa must be obtained in the U.S. prior to departure and is issued by Brazilian consulates. For further information, you may wish to contact the Brazil consulate nearest you or Pinnacle Travel Document Systems ([www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com) on the web or 888-838-4867 by phone), a company which handles visa procurement. Currently, tourist visas to Brazil are valid for multiple entries up to five years from the initial entry. However, the first visit must be made within 90 days of obtaining the visa, or else the visa is invalidated.

**EQUIPMENT:** You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good repair, along with a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leaders will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** Application forms for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We **strongly recommend** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available, as are other coverages such as terrorism protection; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**CLOTHING:** Weather will be generally warm to hot. Light field clothing, including several pair of pants and shorts and comfortable shirts, will be appropriate. Dark-colored or neutral clothing is essential, as white or bright colors may frighten secretive birds. One set of warm clothes should be included as very occasionally the odd cold front (which could bring the temperature down into the low 50s') makes it down from the Andes into western Amazonia. A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are also recommended for protection. Be sure to have one pair of good hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes and a second pair to change into. A swimming suit is also suggested, and raingear is recommended. Dress will be casual throughout.

**CURRENCY:** Brazilian Real. Master Card and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, but all are useful, particularly in major centers.

**HEALTH PRECAUTIONS:** Yellow fever vaccination is highly recommended, as well as polio and tetanus. Malaria has been confirmed in Brazil, including the chloroquine-resistant strain. There have been some recent changes in recommendations for malaria prophylaxis. Mefloquine (Lariam) is now the drug of choice in all areas where chloroquine-resistant malaria is present. A single dose should be taken one week before the start of the tour, continued during the tour, and for four weeks after its conclusion. Mefloquine is available by prescription only and may not be suitable for those using cardio-vascular medication; consult your physician. Cholera has been reported in Brazil, but no country requires cholera vaccination for direct travel from the USA and no vaccinations are required to return to the USA. Please consult your physician for any recommended preventative treatment. You can check with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta at 877-FYI-TRIP or [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) for further health

information. We suggest that participants consult their physician as well as the CDC for current recommendations before beginning a prophylaxis regimen.

If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (877) FYI-TRIP. You can check the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html) (click on travel health).

**INSECT PROTECTION:** The use of a repellent containing DEET is recommended. We suggest bringing two squeeze bottles of Cutter's or OFF.

**BAGGAGE:** Please limit baggage to one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on bag if possible. As a precaution, we recommend packing a change of clothes, your binoculars, toiletries, travel documents, and walking shoes in your carry-on.

**ITEMS TO BRING:** Pack a flashlight or headlamp, water bottle or small canteen, alarm clock, and day pack. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Country Telephone Code:** 55

**Electric Current:** 110 Volts in Rio, São Paulo, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Belém, Manaus, and 220 Volts elsewhere.

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEBSITES TO KNOW:**

**Health-Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC)** 877-FYI-TRIP or [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

**Weather** 900-WEATHER or [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
**Travel Advisories** 202/647-5225

**SUGGESTED READING:** Our website at [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com) offers an affiliated online store which carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

***Historical***

Millard, Candice. 2005. *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*. Doubleday. New York. (This is a gripping narrative of the famous Roosevelt-Rondon exploration of the River of Doubt, part of which took place on the same ground that we will cover on our tour.)

## ***Brazil: Amazonia on the Rio Roosevelt, Page 8***

### ***Birds***

De la Pena, Martin R. and Maurice Romboli. *Birds of Southern South America* (Collins Illustrated Checklist). HarperCollins, 1999.

Erize, Francisco and Maurice Rumboll. *Birds of South America: Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers* (Princeton Illustrated Checklists). Princeton University Press, 2006. This paperback field guide covers the non-passerine birds of South America, and thus, is a nice complement to the two Ridgely & Tudor guides to the passerine birds.

Hilty, Steven L. *Birds of Tropical America*. Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. Subtitle: "A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity." (Paperback April 1996.)

Hilty, Steven L. and Rodolphe Meyer. *Guide to the Birds of Venezuela*. November 2002) Princeton University Press, 2002. A guide to the birds of De Schauensee, to be published in November 2002.

Meyer de Schauensee, R. and W.H. Phelps, Jr. *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978. By far the most useful guide to South America's avifauna prior to Steve Hilty's guide. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Meyer de Schauensee, R. *A Guide to the Birds of South America*. Livingston Publishing Company, 1970. (Reprinted 1982, paperback.) No pictures, but basic written descriptions of nearly all species. ABE Books ([www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)) has a large section on Meyer de Schauensee's many works.) (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Narosky, T. and D. Yzurieta. *Birds of Argentina and Uruguay*. Zagier & Urruty, 1993. Although it is not a great field guide, it does illustrate many more of the birds of SE Brazil than does *Birds of Colombia*. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Pena, Martin and Martin Rodolfo de la Pena. *Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica*. London: HarperCollins, 1999. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America, Volume I: The Oscine Passerines: Jays, Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes and Allies, Vireos, Wood-warblers, Tanagers, Icterids and Finches*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1989. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America Volume II: The Suboscine Passerines: Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers, Antbirds, Gnateaters, and Tapaculos, Tyrant Flycatchers, Manakins and Cotingas*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1994. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Souza, Deodata. *All the Birds of Brasil: A Guide to Identification*. Dall, 2002. Available from Buteo Books (1-800-722-2460 or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com)).

### ***Butterflies***

D'Abrera, Bernard. *Butterflies of South America*. Australia: Hill House, 1984. Good pocket guide, covers many genera, nice pictures.

### ***Mammals***

Emmons, Louise H. *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. Good pictures and excellent text. (An audio field guide CD also available from this author: see below.)

### ***General Nature***

Caufield, C. *In the Rainforest*. Chicago: Random House, 1985.

Forsyth, Adrian, Ken Miyata et al. *Tropical Nature*. Scribner, 1987. (paperback)

Kricher, John. *A Neotropical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.

Stap, Don. *Parrot without a Name: The Search for the Last Unknown Birds on Earth*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. An account of field expeditions with Ted Parker and John O'Neill, among others.

**Recording**

English, Peter H. and Theodore A. Parker, III. *Birds of Eastern Ecuador* Cornell: Laboratory of Ornithology, 1992. ([http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab\\_cds.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html))

Emmons, Louise H., Bret M. Whitney and David L. Ross. *Sounds of Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. ([http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab\\_cds.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html))

**TIPPING:** As noted in our itineraries, tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

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