

BRAZIL: EMAS NATIONAL PARK

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 8, 2009

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Emas presents a vivid landscape of golden grasslands dotted with red termite mounds, and dissected by narrow green ribbons of gallery forest that follow the many clear, rushing streams. Here, sprightly Cock-tailed Tyrants hover above the grass like so many toy helicopters, while flocks of Yellow-faced Parrots and Blue-and-yellow Macaws noisily commute between roosting sites and feeding sites in the nearby cerrado. Majestic maned wolves, atop impossibly long legs, stalk tinamous in the grass, while Aplomado Falcons maintain watchful vigilance atop the termite mounds. Giant anteaters, improbable in every respect, roam the grasslands, which resound with the songs of Red-winged Tinamous, Sharp-tailed Tyrants, Grass Wrens, and Black-masked Finches. Ephemeral marshes may host a mixed-species flock of migrant seedeaters. The next bend in the road may reveal a group of huge Greater Rheas, or a herd of pampas deer. Following a typical blazing sunset, the grasslands again come alive, as bioluminescent beetle larvae light up the myriads of termite mounds like so many Christmas trees, and elegant White-winged Nightjars hawk insects from atop their perches on the same termitaria.

For its landscapes, ease of birding, and abundant mammal-viewing opportunities, Emas has been compared to the savannas of east Africa. In addition, it is an excellent place to see the many specialties of Brazil's campo-cerrado habitats, including such prizes as Lesser Nothura, Red-legged Seriema, Yellow-faced Parrot, Campo Miner, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant, Chapada Flycatcher, White-rumped Tanager, Coal-crested Finch and Yellow-billed Blue-Finch. We have timed our tour to coincide with the best period for migrant seedeaters, many of which have extremely limited distributions. A major attraction is the opportunity to see the recently rediscovered Cone-billed Tanager, a bird that was long known from only a single specimen. Other rare or locally distributed birds that we hope to produce (all found on our previous trips) include Giant Snipe, Planalto Foliage-gleaner, White-striped Warbler, and Great-billed Seed-Finch.

This tour can be taken by itself or in combination with Highlights of Brazil's Atlantic Forest (November 6-15, 2009), which offers a wealth of colorful endemic Atlantic rainforest birds and primates.

October 29-30, Days 1-2: Travel to Brasilia via São Paulo. There are direct overnight flights from Los Angeles, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Miami, and other cities which will arrive in São Paulo in the morning on October 30 in time to clear customs and connect with a morning or afternoon flight to Brasilia. All participants arriving in Brasilia on October 30 will be met by our ground agent and transferred to our hotel where a room will be reserved in your name.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting with the group should consider arriving in São Paulo or Brasilia on October 29 and spending the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with any additional lodging arrangements.

NIGHT: Hotel Monumental Bittar, Brasilia (October 30)

October 31, Day 3: Brasilia to Emas National Park. Most of this day will be spent driving to Emas, with opportunistic stops for birding en route. Most such stops will come in the late afternoon/evening, as we get closer to the park. Upon arrival in the quaint town of Chapadão do Ceu, we will head directly to our pleasant, family-run hotel. Open country surrounding the town harbors flocks of Buff-necked Ibis, Red-shouldered Macaws and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets, and pairs of magnificent Blue-and-yellow Macaws. Yellow armadillos (turned orange by the iron rich soil) are commonly seen foraging in the open fields, and as dusk falls, ghostly Barn Owls emerge from hiding to hunt along the road edges.

NIGHT: Hotel Vitor

November 1-5, Days 4-8: Emas National Park. We will have five full days to enjoy the riches of Parque Nacional das Emas (National Park of the Rheas), and our days will be exciting ones. Our exact schedule will vary from day-to-day, depending on the birding conditions on the ground. Most of our time will be spent in the *campo-cerrado* (grassland and brushland) habitats that account for most of the park. Birds are easy to see in these open habitats, among them, elegant Aplomado Falcons and endearing Burrowing Owls, both of which may be as common here as anyplace we've been. Groups of Greater Rheas (from which the park takes its name) stand out against the open landscape, and Red-legged Seriemas run the dirt roads in front of our vehicles like cartoon roadrunners. We'll pay particular attention to the road edges, for it is here that we are likely to spot tinamous, ranging in size from the large and relatively colorful Red-winged Tinamou, to the tiny and cryptic Lesser Nuthura and Dwarf Tinamou. Parrots can be a surprisingly conspicuous part of the *cerrado* avifauna, depending on the fruiting cycles of some of the *cerrado* trees. Flocks of rare Yellow-faced Parrots and more common Turquoise-fronted Parrots, along with numbers of spectacular Blue-and-yellow Macaws, are among the more commonly encountered members of the family in this habitat.

Many of the most sought-after birds of the park are among the smaller occupants of the grasslands. Dapper Cock-tailed Tyrants hover just above the tops of the waving grass, looking like tiny helicopters, and never failing to amuse with their courtship antics. The diminutive Sharp-tailed Tyrant is every bit as impish and confident, and, in flight, suggests a large, flying locust. Male Bearded Tachuris perform short, looping display flights or vocalize from atop bouncing grass stems, terminating their songs with a distinctive mechanical buzz generated by their flapping wings. Handsome Black-masked Finches draw attention with their contrasting colors, whereas drably plumaged Grass Wrens can hardly be overlooked for their perpetual and varied songs. Some of the grassland birds require real effort to find. Ocellated Crakes are fairly common, but skulky, whereas the Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant is rare, but usually responsive once found.

Night drives through the park will afford the opportunity to witness a spectacular, but ephemeral phenomenon of nature. Emas is home to multiple species of mound-building termites, and the densities are incredible. In fact, Emas is estimated to encompass more than 2.5 million termite mounds within its boundaries. Some of these mounds exceed two meters in height and act as homes or shelters for many species of vertebrates and invertebrates, in addition to being the abodes of their builders. The mounds are also temporary homes to the larvae of a species of bioluminescent beetle. After a prolonged dry season, the onset of rains in fall stimulates the emergence of these beetle larvae, along with staggering numbers of winged ants, which are the primary prey of the larvae. The beetle larvae, which scatter themselves across the surface of the termite mounds, give off an intense, greenish light, which attracts the winged ants, and which also has the effect of lighting up each termite mound like a miniature Christmas tree. When this phenomenon is at its peak, the nocturnal landscape at Emas is transformed into a surreal scene of illuminated green cones as far as the eye can see. As mentioned, this phenomenon is very ephemeral, and entirely dependent on the timing and amount of rainfall, so its timing cannot be predicted with advance certainty. However, our visit coincides with an excellent time for witnessing this amazing spectacle of the southern grasslands, so we are cautiously optimistic.

Night drives are not just about the bioluminescent termitaria. In addition to being a prime time to see nocturnal mammals, this will be our chance to see the rare and beautiful White-winged Nightjar, males of which are absolutely spectacular when seen in flight. These nightjars like to perch atop the many termite mounds, from which they make their aerial sallies after flying insects. Mammal possibilities, day or night, are exceptional, and any

such discussion must begin with the maned wolf. This stunning creature has the pelage of a red fox on the body of a wolf, but with a black mane, and set atop impossibly long, stilt-like, black legs. Everything about the giant anteater is improbable, except our chances of seeing one, which are excellent! Pampas deer, crab-eating fox, the delicate hoary fox, and a variety of armadillo species are also likely. We have even found Brazilian tapir and white-lipped peccary in the *cerrado* during this season—probably drawn by some of the same fruiting plants that attract the parrots and macaws. There is always a chance of some small or big cat on these drives.

In moving about the grasslands, we will pay particular attention to marshy swales, which at this time of year attract nomadic flocks of migrant seedeaters. These flocks tend to be dominated by one or two more common and widespread species (mostly Plumbeous, Double-collared, and Capped seedeaters), but usually harbor smaller numbers of some of the rarer migrant species that breed farther south. Some of these, such as Marsh, Chestnut, Rufous-rumped, Dark-throated, and Black-bellied seedeaters are among the most range-restricted and attractive members of the genus. Some of the larger, less ephemeral marshes in the area are home to the rarely seen Giant Snipe, and we will make a point of trying to see these birds and their impressive displays. In some marshes, Lesser Grass-Finch and Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch can be seen nearly side-by-side. Spectacular Streamer-tailed Tyrants occupy many of the larger marshes, and their raucous, wing-flapping duets have to be seen to be appreciated. Even the very rare Great-billed Seedeater has been found here on our last two visits.

The brushier *cerrado* is home to an entirely different cast of avian characters, from exquisite Collared Crescent-chests, Campo Miner, Yellow-billed Blue-Finches and Coal-crested Finches, to animated Campo Flycatchers, noisy mobs of Curl-crested Jays and Guira Cuckoos, and duetting pairs of Black-throated Saltators and White-rumped Tanagers. Hummingbird possibilities include the stunning Horned Sungem and White-vented Violet-ear. Ribbons of gallery forest and poorly drained, palm-dominated *brejo* follow the stream meanders that dissect the lower parts of the park. We'll devote a fair amount of time to birding these habitats as well, because they are home to a number of special birds. Among the many possibilities are the rare Crowned Eagle, Green Ibis, Uniform Crake, Blue-crowned Trogon, Toco Toucan, White Woodpecker, White-wedged Piculet, Red-billed Scythebill, Helmeted Manakin, Planalto Woodcreeper, Planalto (Russet-mantled) Foliage-gleaner, Golden-rumped Euphonia and White-striped Warbler.

A special quest will be our search for the Cone-billed Tanager. This enigmatic species was long known solely from a single male specimen collected in nearby Mato Grosso in 1938. It was rediscovered in Emas in 2003-04 by Bráulio Carlos and Dante Buzzetti, who were also the first workers to describe the female plumage, and to photograph and tape record the species. Our previous two trips to the park produced two territorial pairs and an additional sub-adult male of this nearly mythical bird, so we are hopeful that we can relocate them for our tour. The mere chance of seeing this unique species, long postulated to be extinct, is worth devoting a considerable effort to the attempt.

All in all, our days at Emas will be varied, exciting, full, and always rewarding—an all-around natural history experience filled with special birds and mammals, and a fascinating glimpse into one of South America's most endangered ecosystems, the *campo-cerrado* grasslands.

NIGHTS: Hotel Vitor

November 6, Day 9: Chapadão do Ceu to Brasilia. With the possible exception of some early morning birding (possibly dictated by any target species that we may have missed to this point), today will be devoted largely to the drive back to Brasilia, where the tour will conclude with a farewell dinner and bird list session.

NIGHT: Hotel Monumental Bittar, Brasilia

November 7-8, Days 10-11: Departure for Home or Begin Highlights of Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest. A group transfer will be provided to the Brasilia airport in time for the 9:15 a.m. departure of TAM Flight 3589 to São Paulo, which is scheduled to arrive at 10:50 a.m. (subject to change).

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For those not continuing on Brazil's Atlantic Forest, this will allow ample time to connect to overnight flights to the U.S.A. (arriving the morning of November 8, allowing time for homeward connections). Upon request, VENT will arrange a day room for you at a hotel near the São Paulo International Airport for November 7.

LEADER: Andrew Whittaker

Andrew Whittaker's passion for birding and natural history started at the early age of seven in the UK. Since 1982 Andy has worked with birds, traveling around the world studying bird migration in Canada, Israel, Borneo, and the UK. He has been based in Amazonian Brazil for the last 22 years. 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 VENT 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 8 participants.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for this tour is **\$2595** per person in double occupancy. The price includes all food from breakfast on Day 3 to breakfast on Day 10, all lodging during the tour, 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, airport departure taxes, extra beverages, 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 **\$150**. 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.

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.***

If you cancel:

120 days or more before departure date
Fewer than 120 days before departure date

Your refund will be:

Your deposit minus \$300.
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 & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE: A brochure and application form 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 as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider.** 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.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. **Contact Travel Insured International prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

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 as well as your internal Brazilian flights. Please call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

CLOTHING: Weather will be generally warm and relatively dry, although nighttime and early morning temperatures have the potential to be somewhat cool. Light field clothing (drab colors such as olive or khaki preferred) will be appropriate, including several pair of pants and comfortable shirts (long sleeves preferred for insect protection); but you should also pack a sweater or light jacket. A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are also recommended for protection. Be sure to have a pair of good hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes and a second pair to change into. A rainjacket, poncho, and/or a pocket umbrella are strongly recommended, since our tour coincides with the onset of the rainy season. Dress will be casual throughout.

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 on the web or 888-838-4867 by phone), a company which handles visa procurement. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their local Brazilian consulate/embassy for instructions.

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, but is highly unlikely on this tour. We suggest that participants consult their physician as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for current recommendations before beginning a prophylaxis regimen.

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

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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.

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 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line 877-FYI-TRIP (394-8747) or you can check their website at 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 (click on travel health).

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

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one suitcase and one carry-on bag, if possible, as some of the vehicles have very limited luggage space. 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:

Departure Tax: Brazilian airport departure taxes (both domestic and international) are currently built into the price of your airline tickets and no longer have to be paid separately. Be aware however, that conditions could change without notice.

Country Telephone Code: 55

Currency: Real

Electric Current: 110 Volts in Rio, Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Belém, and Manaus; and 220 elsewhere. This varies throughout the country.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEBSITES TO KNOW:

Health: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 404/332-4559 or www.cdc.gov/travel

Weather: 900-WEATHER (a toll call) or www.weather.com

Travel Advisories: 202/647-5225

SUGGESTED READING: Our website at www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that 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, and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com, or www.buteobooks.com, which specializes in ornithology books.

Birds

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

- Erize, Francisco and Maurice Rumboll. 2006. *Birds of South America: Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers* (Princeton Illustrated Checklists). Princeton University Press. 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) 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).

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

- 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)
- Marantz, Curtis M., and Kevin J. Zimmer. *Bird Voices of Alta Floresta and Southeastern Amazonian Brazil*. The Macaulay Library, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html). This recently

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published (2006) six-CD set contains the voices of 446 species of Amazonian birds. It represents the single most comprehensive collection of commercially available bird voices for an Amazonian region.

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.*

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its Agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on March 27, 2009 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.