

## BRAZIL: NORTHERN MINAS GERAIS AND RIO ARAGUAIA

JULY 4-20, 2006

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*This tour focuses on two unique regions of central Brazil that are little-known to birders, but which harbor a number of special birds with very limited distributions. The first half of the tour concentrates on the dry (deciduous) forests of northern Minas Gerais. The deciduous forests of South America have received little attention from biologists or birders compared to the more glamorous rainforests of the Amazon basin, but they have a higher degree of endemism, and are considered to be more at risk. The northern portion of the state of Minas Gerais still contains large expanses of dry forest, and here we'll seek out some of the most localized and rarest of Brazil's birds.*

*Amid a landscape dominated by swollen-trunked bombax trees and bizarre rock formations that include cavernous grottos and towering spires, we will search for such specialties as White-bellied Nothura, White-browed Guan, Caatinga Antwren, Golden-capped and Caatinga parakeets, the newly described Bahia Nighthawk, Spot-backed Puffbird, Moustached and Wagler's woodcreepers, Great Xenops, Henna-capped Foliage-gleaner, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, Black-bellied Antwren, White-browed Antpitta, Reiser's Tyrannulet, Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, Caatinga Black-Tyrant, White-naped Jay, Long-billed Wren, Forbes's Blackbird, Ultramarine Grosbeak, and the beautiful and recently described São Francisco Sparrow. Tall Caatinga habitats near Januaria hold Caatinga Cacholote, Campo Troupial, Red-cowled Cardinal, Caatinga Wagtail-tyrant, and White-bellied Nothura. Our time in this region will not be restricted to rarities; indeed, these dry forests are incredibly "birdy," and in this season the lack of foliage should make birds easy to see.*

*After several days of productive birding in Minas Gerais, a change of venue will find us in the state of Tocantins, along the mighty Rio Araguaia. This river, one of the largest in the region, is also one of the least birded. We will be based just north of massive Bananal Island, in an ecotone between the southern fringes of Amazonian humid forest and the savanna/cerrado regions of central Brazil. Here, much of our birding will be in seasonally flooded gallery forests and on river islands. The white-sand beaches of these islands are liberally spotted with rare Orinoco Geese, Black Skimmers, Large-billed Terns, Collared Plovers, and Pied Lapwings, as well as a variety of larger wading birds. The four most special birds of this region are the Bananal Antbird (known only from a limited area surrounding Bananal Island), the Araguaia Spinetail (*Synallaxis simoni*, a recent split from Plain-crowned Spinetail), an as yet undescribed new Spinetail, and the dashing Crimson-fronted Cardinal; all of which we expect to find. Other birds of particular interest include White-crested Guan, Zigzag Heron, Sunbittern, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Red-shouldered Macaw, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Least and Band-tailed nighthawks, Toco Toucan, White-wedged Piculet, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Glossy Antshrike, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, Ash-throated Casiornis, Riverside Tyrant, Scarlet-throated Tanager, recently described Chapada Flycatcher, Yellow-faced Parrot, and many others. Our chances for mammals include Giant River Otter and Pink River Dolphin. A morn-*

***ing at Brasilia National Park may yield other localized specialties—the Planalto Foliage-gleaner, White-striped Warbler, and the stunning Helmeted Manakin, or even the Bare-faced Curassow.***

**July 4-5, Days 1-2: Travel to Belo Horizonte 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 July 5 which, depending on actual flight times, will enable a connection with a flight to one of Belo Horizonte's two airports: Pampulha (PLU) or Confins (CNF). Participants arriving at either airport on July 5 will be met and provided with a transfer to our hotel.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting should consider arriving in São Paulo or Belo Horizonte on July 4 and spending the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

NIGHT (July 5): Hotel Sol, Belo Horizonte

**July 6, Day 3: Flight to Montes Claros; Drive to Januaria.** This morning, we will be transferred to Belo Horizonte Pampulha Airport in time for the 8:30 a.m. departure of TAM/Total Linhas Aereas Flight 5580 which is scheduled to arrive in Montes Claros at 9:30 a.m. (subject to change). Upon arrival, we will drive approximately two hours to the town of Januaria, our base for the next few days.

NIGHT: Viva Maria, Januaria

**July 7-9, Days 4-6: Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park.** Dawn will find us amid the towering spires, bizarre grottos, and other rock formations that characterize the little-known Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park. Known more for its caves and ancient petroglyphs, this park (which encompasses 568 km<sup>2</sup>) is also a wonderful birding spot. The impressive geological features of the park provide an otherworldly counterpart to the large expanse of deciduous forest that is home to many of Brazil's most localized bird species. One of our primary target birds is the impressive Moustached Woodcreeper, a large woodcreeper with an outsized bill and a distinctive song that is often one of the first voices heard among the predawn chorus. As light penetrates the canyon floor, the calls of elusive White-browed Guans and raucous White-naped Jays mix with the screeching of flocks of Caatinga and Golden-capped parakeets, whose lively blend of greens, yellows, and oranges brings splashes of color to the nearly leafless forest. The varied and surprisingly musical songs and calls of Chopi Blackbirds echo down from above, while the explosive songs of Long-billed Wrens issue up from below.

As we work our way through the taller forest, we're constantly sorting through mixed-species flocks of insectivores, in search of a couple of rare and localized flycatchers: Reiser's Tyrannulet and the Caatinga Black-Tyrant. These flocks may host a number of other special birds, among them, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Spot-backed Puffbird, Spotted Piculet, Little Woodpecker, Gray-headed Spinetail, Streaked Xenops, Red-billed Scythebill, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Scaled Woodcreeper, Planalto Slaty-Antshrike, Black-capped Antwren, Black-bellied Antwren, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Tropical Pewee, Sirystes, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Tropical Parula, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Purple-throated Euphonia, Epaulet Oriole, and others. At ground-level, we will sort through the numerous Pale-legged Horneros, Gray Pileated-Finches and Ultramarine Grosbeaks for the beautiful and only recently described São Francisco Sparrow. A rustling in the dry leaf litter could signal the scratching of the sparrow, the movements of a Flavescent Warbler, or even an elusive Tataupa Tinamou.

Farther on, the taller dry forest yields abruptly to a more xeric vegetation typical of the interior of northeastern Brazil—*caatinga*. This is home to still more localized birds, including such prizes as Great Xenops, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, and White-browed Antpitta. There will be more than enough birds to keep us busy during our time here, and viewing conditions during the dry season (when most of the trees are leafless) should be ideal for locating birds amid the low, dense vegetation.

In tall *caatinga* habitat outside town, we will look for Caatinga Cacholote, Campo Troupial, Red-cowled Cardinal, Caatinga Wagtail-tyrant, and White-bellied Nothura. Damper areas could hold the Giant Wood-rail.

NIGHTS: Viva Maria, Januaria

**July 10, Day 7: Cavernas do Peruaçu; Drive to Pirapora.** We will have a final morning to enjoy the wonderful birding around Cavernas do Peruaçu. Such time may be needed to search for the elusive Reiser's Tyrannulet, or may simply provide an additional morning to enjoy repeat views of the many special birds of the region. Afterwards, we will begin the drive south to Pirapora, making opportunistic stops for birds as time allows.

NIGHT: Hotel Canoeiras, Pirapora

**July 11, Day 8: Pirapora Area.** We continue our exploration of the dry forests of Minas Gerais in the Pirapora area. Many of the birds will by now be familiar to us from our time farther north, but there will be several specialties that we will be encountering for the first time. Of prime interest is the engaging Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, a sprightly and colorful little flycatcher that was virtually unknown until recent years. Described in 1926, it went unseen until 1977, and then disappeared again until a small population was located near Pirapora in 1993. It remains a critically endangered species with a tiny range. Our most recent tour to the region in 2004 was successful in locating several of these flycatchers, and we're confident of being able to relocate them for our tour. The dry forest here is also home to the seldom-seen Henna-capped Foliage-gleaner (also known as Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner), a large, ground-dwelling furnariid that is restricted in range to interior southern Brazil and northern Paraguay. In our searches for these two special birds, we will encounter a number of other species, among them Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl; Caatinga Parakeet; Blue-winged Parrotlet; Guira Cuckoo; Swallow-tailed Hummingbird; Rusty-breasted Nunlet; Spotted Piculet; Green-barred Woodpecker; Pale-legged Hornero; Sooty-fronted, Ochre-cheeked, and Chotoy spinetails; Rufous-fronted Thornbird; Olivaceous Woodcreeper; Narrow-billed Woodcreeper; Great Antshrike; Barred Antshrike; Planalto Slaty-Antshrike; Black-capped Antwren; Planalto Tyrannulet; Fuscous Flycatcher; Buff-breasted Wren; Gray-eyed Greenlet; White-bellied Warbler; Hooded Tanager; Red-cowled Cardinal; Green-winged Saltator; Campo Oriole (also known as Orange-backed Troupial); and many more.

We will also check nearby marshes for the rare Forbe's Blackbird, and surrounding open country is often good for finding White-bellied Nothura. As the sun sets, we will position ourselves along a nearby river, where we should be able to see the recently described Bahia Nighthawk foraging low over the water at dusk.

NIGHT: Hotel Canoeiras, Pirapora

**July 12, Day 9: Pirapora to Montes Claros; Travel to Brasilia; Afternoon Birding at Brasilia National Park.** This morning we will be transferred back to Montes Claros in time to for the 6:45 a.m. departure of TAM/Total Linhas Aereas Flight 5580, scheduled to arrive Belo Horizonte Pampulha at 7:45 a.m., which will be the first flight of a 3-flight connection (also via São Paulo) scheduled to arrive in Brasilia at 1:00 p.m. (subject to change). Depending on our actual arrival time, we plan to spend much of the afternoon birding the *cerrado* brushlands and lush gallery forests of Brasilia National Park, which is situated on the outskirts of the city. This visit will add a number of species not seen previously on the trip, hopefully including the Planalto (Russet-mantled) Foliage-gleaner, the striking White-striped Warbler, Bare-faced Curassow, Toco Toucan, Helmeted Manakin, Saffron-billed Sparrow, and Streamcreeper.

NIGHT: Hotel Monumental Bittar, Brasilia

**July 13, Day 10: Flight to Palmas; Afternoon Drive to Caseara.** This morning we will fly from Brasilia to Palmas on TAM Flight 3588, which is scheduled to depart at 10:47 a.m. and arrive at 12:01 p.m. (subject to change), and then drive to the small town of Caseara, with birding en route. The savanna-like landscape should be watched for stately Red-legged Seriemas, Greater Rhea, Red-winged Tinamou, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, bizarre Buff-necked Ibis, and elegant Aplomado Falcons, among many other possibilities. Birding activities will be dictated by the constraints of driving time and the flight schedule, but we will likely have time for some late-afternoon birding near Caseara. Here in *cerrado*, we will look for the newly described Chapada Flycatcher,

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White-banded and White-rumped tanagers, Horned Sungems, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Campo Suiriri, and Yellow-faced Parrot. Caseara will be our base for exploring the Rio Araguaia, one of the great rivers that dissect this part of Brazil.

NIGHT: Hotel Entre Rios, Caseara

**July 14-17, Days 11-14: Rio Araguaia and the Caseara Region.** The Rio Araguaia, one of the largest rivers in the region, is also one of the least birded. We will be based just north of massive Bananal Island, in an ecotone between the southern fringes of Amazonian humid forest and the savanna/*cerrado* regions of central Brazil. Here, much of our birding will be in seasonally flooded gallery forests and on river islands. The river islands, with their white-sand beaches, are some of the most picturesque that we've seen anywhere, and they are home to a specialized and poorly understood avifauna.

Foremost among our target birds are three highly localized regional specialties: the Bananal Antbird, the Araguaia Spinetail (soon-to-be-split from Plain-crowned Spinetail), and the Crimson-fronted Cardinal. The first two species are fairly common in appropriate habitat; the latter is decidedly less so, but our scouting trip produced numerous locations for all three of these sought-after species. We will also make a special effort to find the new, as yet undescribed, spinetail species. The white-sand beaches of the islands are resting places for Orinoco Geese, a widespread but low-density species that is more common here than most places in its range. The beaches are also dotted with Black Skimmers, Large-billed Terns, Pied Lapwings, Collared Plovers, and various other waders. Some river islands support a stunted woodland formation bordered by low thickets of successional vegetation. This habitat is home to a number of birds, including Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Golden-collared Macaw, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, White-wedged Piculet, Band-tailed Hornero, Araguaia Spinetail, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Greater Thornbird, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Barred Antshrike, Large Elaenia, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Fuscous Flycatcher, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, River Tyrannulet, Xenopsaris, Riverside Tyrant (the endemic subspecies *xinguensis*), Black-backed Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, Ash-throated Casiornis, Yellowish Pipit, Orange-headed Tanager, Solitary Black Cacique, Rusty-collared Seedeater, Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch, and the flashy Crimson-fronted Cardinal.

Gallery forests lining the river will offer a number of different possibilities, including White-crested Guan, Undulated Tinamou, Zigzag and Agami herons, Horned Screamer, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Sunbittern, Scaled and Pale-vented pigeons, Yellow-chevroned Parakeet, Orange-winged Parrot, Rufous-tailed and Brown jacamars, Toco Toucan, Spotted Puffbird, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Pale-legged Hornero, Rusty-backed Spinetail, Glossy Antshrike (a Brazilian endemic), Bananal Antbird, Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, White-fringed Antwren, Amazonian Inezia, Amazonian Black-Tyrant, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Band-tailed Manakin, Buff-breasted Wren, Masked Gnatcatcher, and many others.

Throughout, we will be especially alert for the Scarlet-throated Tanager, an endemic large tanager whose taxonomic affinities remain uncertain (in many ways it seems more like an oriole or blackbird). Late afternoon parrot flights near Caseara are often impressive, and typically include good numbers of Red-shouldered Macaws. At dusk, Least and Band-tailed nighthawks, along with smaller numbers of Little Nightjars, become active along the roads leading out of town.

This area will have plenty of birds to occupy our three full days here, and, given the scant amount of attention that has been paid to the birds of this region (particularly the river-island avifaunas), we expect to make more surprising discoveries. Mammal possibilities include Giant River Otter, Pink River Dolphin (common), Jaguar, and Brazilian Tapir.

NIGHTS: Hotel Entre Rios, Caseara

**July 18, Day 15: Caseara to Palmas; Flight to Brasilia.** Depending on our actual departure time, we should have time for more birding around Caseara before returning to Palmas for the 5:50 p.m. TAM Flight 3493 to Brasilia (subject to change).

NIGHT: Hotel Monumental Bittar, Brasilia

**July 19-20, Days 16-17: Departure for Home.** We'll be transferred to the Brasilia airport in time for the 9:26 a.m. departure of Varig Flight 2329 to São Paulo, which is scheduled to arrive at 11:10 a.m. (subject to change), allowing ample time to connect to overnight flights to the United States (arriving the morning of July 20, 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 July 19.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

**TOUR LEADER:** Andrew Whittaker

**Andrew Whittaker** grew up in England where he started birding at the early age of seven, thanks to his father. Andy's great passion for tropical rainforests began in Borneo, which led him to move to the Amazonian rainforests of Brazil where he has spent the last 19 years. Working in the rainforest for the World Wildlife Federation and Smithsonian Institution has made Andy an authority on Amazonian birds and the region's natural history. He was a consultant for the prestigious *Life of Birds* series by David Attenborough, and has authored many technical publications on Neotropical birds. Andy speaks fluent Portuguese and is an experienced tour leader and excellent tour organizer, having led tours throughout South and Central America and the Antarctic for the past 17 years. His enthusiasm for showing and sharing with others his fascination for Neotropical birds and animals is contagious. Andy's special interest is Neotropical bird vocalizations; his great knowledge of their voices has enabled him to make several important ornithological discoveries and add 16 species to the Brazilian list. Andy lives in Manaus with his wife Nadime, their son Steven, and daughters, Luana and Suzana.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$3895** per person in double occupancy from Belo Horizonte (tour ends in Brasilia). The price includes all food from breakfast on Day 3 to breakfast on Day 16, all lodging during the tour, ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leader. It does not include airfare from your home to Belo Horizonte and return from Brasilia, internal commercial flights during the tour (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 **\$385**. 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, complete the VENT registration form and return it with a deposit of **\$500** per person (check or money order in U.S. dollars). If registering by phone, the deposit must be received within 10 days or the space will be released. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before departure date, the deposit less \$75 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 to protect yourself.***

If you cancel:

120 days or more before departure date

Fewer than 120 days before departure date

Your refund will be:

Your deposit minus \$75.

No refund available.

**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.**

**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.

Note that there are specific internal commercial flights associated with this tour, which are not covered by the tour fee. We suggest that you ask Victor Emanuel Travel to confirm your air reservations as early as possible to get the lowest available fares. VENT reserves the right to alter the itinerary based on air schedule changes and flight availability.

**CLOTHING:** Weather will be generally warm and humid. 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 rain jacket, poncho, and/or a pocket umbrella are strongly recommended. Dress will be casual throughout.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current U.S. passport and **VISA** are required to enter Brazil. A visa must be obtained in the United States prior to departure and is issued by Brazilian consulates. Information on obtaining a Brazilian visa will be enclosed in your registration packet.

**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 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 United States, and no vaccinations are required to return to the United States. Please consult your physician for any recommended preventative treatment. Leishmaniasis is known from this region (as it is from nearly all tropical regions), but there is no vaccine available for this protozoan-caused illness. Proper dress and use of insect repellent should ensure prevention.

**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 suitcase or duffel 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](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

**Weather:** 900-WEATHER (a toll call) 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 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](http://www.amazon.com), and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com), which specializes in ornithology books.

***Birds***

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

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*. 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*

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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'Abbrera, 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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