

Jewels of Brazil's Atlantic Forest

Species List | September 19 – 30, 2025

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by host guide James P. Smith with local guide Marco Silva. Our awesome participants included Dick & Liz, George & Laura, Leah, Christine, Richard, Cynthia and Marcie.

A truly spectacular avian odyssey beginning in the vibrant, bustling city of Rio de Janeiro then crossing the coastal plain heading inland to the foothills and mid-elevation zones of the Tropical Semi-deciduous Forests. We reached the highest point of the tour in Itaitatia National Park deep inside the Alto Parana Atlantic Forest, and then just a few days later found ourselves back at sea level in the South Atlantic Coastal Mangroves around historic Paraty, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We explored the south facing slopes of the Serra do Mar mountain range and cruised through Saco do Mamanguá, the world's only tropical fjord.

For the most part we had favorable weather, although a cold front stalled for a few days over the Serra do Mar bringing cool, challenging conditions between our stays at REGUA and Itaitatia National Park. Later we enjoyed truly immaculate days throughout the remainder of the tour with cool, crisp mornings and pleasantly warm, sunny afternoons.

The tour logged over 250 bird species (seen and/or heard) with a handful of leader-only observations noted accordingly in the comments within each e-bird checklist. We also found 6 species of mammal and 5 reptiles/amphibians. Aside from the fantastic birding and wonderful cuisine, this trip was especially memorable for its fabulous group camaraderie, warm-hearted atmosphere and the many, many laughs we had along the way!

Highlights were far too many to mention here although an evening with Giant Snipe and Tawny-browed Owl would take some beating, as would the sight of feeders full of Green-headed and Red-necked Tanagers! The species report link below details some 250 species, some of them accompanied by photos and audio. If you're new to e-bird click on the "Show All Details" on the right side of the e-bird list you will see the details of each sighting;

[Jewels of Brazil's Atlantic Forest | September 19th – 30th, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Other fauna noted on the tour included;

MAMMALS: (6)

Black Capuchin *Sapajus nigritus* — most easily seen at the Rio de Janeiro botanical gardens on the first full day.

Brazilian squirrel *Sciurus aestuans* — fairly common at several spots in Itaitatia National Park, particularly around the feeders at the Hotel do Ype.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae* — we finally caught up with a couple of these on the slopes of a sheltered island cove as we cruised back from Saco do Mamanguá.

Capibara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* — only found in the wetlands at REGUA where they were plentiful and offered very good views.

Common Marmoset *Callithrix jacchus* — an exotic species in SE Brazil, noted on the first afternoon of the tour on the coastal walk at Pista Claudio Coutinho, and subsequently on several more days in the first half of the trip.

Brown-throated three-toed sloth *Bradypus variegatus* — Marco skillfully picked up and rescued one trying to cross the road at Parc National da Tijuca, one of the highlights of the tour!

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (5)

Tropical House Gecko (I) *Hemidactylus mabouia* — an exotic, noted inside some of the rooms at Itamambuca Eco Resort.

Amazon Lava Lizard *Tropidurus torquatus* — several nice specimens found around Rio early in the tour, particularly along the coast and at the botanical gardens.

Brown-snouted Caiman *Caiman latirostris* — nice views of singles in the wetlands at REGUA.

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae* — memorable sightings of this beast included one lumbering across the grass at the Rio de Janeiro botanical gardens, and another chugging down bananas and fruits intended for monkeys at the feeding station during the return trip from Saco do Mamanguá!

Gracious go to all our participants on this wonderful tour,

James P. Smith
Northfield, MA.