



Guyana: Unspoiled Wilderness

October 17 – 29, 2021

With Carlos Sanchez, John Christian, and eight participants: Terry, Sally, Cynthia, Vincent, Jan, Susan, Doug, and Martha

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

Summary: What a fantastic trip! The adventurous destination and the group's cheerful attitude came together beautifully on this tour for a wonderful experience full of great sightings and laughs. Each section of this itinerary gave us a totally different perspective on what this small country has to offer – coastal rivers, weathered tepuis with scenic waterfalls, lush white sand forests, expansive Rupununi grasslands, or gallery forest along the Upper Takutu. There were many highlights: Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Crimson Topaz, Capuchinbird, Giant Anteater, Amazon River Dolphin, White-winged Potoo, and Long-tailed Potoo are certainly amazing creatures to behold. Or was it the more subtle but even more local species such as Rio Branco Antbird, Hoary-throated Spinetail, and Sun Parakeet? After all the votes were cast, the two Harpy Eagles seen from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway were solidly the favorite birds of the trip, although watching a flock of Gray-winged Trumpeters casually walk past the group without a care came in at a close second.

BIRDS (282 species recorded, of which 13 were heard only):

TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (1)

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (HO)—mournful whistles heard on a couple mornings at Surama EcoLodge

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (3)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—we saw a small family group, including two adults and several juveniles, at a very productive roadside pond on our morning trip to Moura

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—two sightings: one in farmland on our way to the Mahaica River and again in the roadside pond at Moura

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*—large numbers of these large ducks at Moura and the Upper Takutu River

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)

Variable Chachalaca *Ortalis motmot*—heard on a couple mornings at Surama EcoLodge, as well as good scope views of one individual in a *Cecropia* during our cassava processing demonstration in the village

Spix's Guan *Penelope jacquacu*—a few sightings of these large arboreal birds along the Rupununi Road. This is the most widespread and common guan in the Amazon Basin.

Black Curassow *Crax alector*—excellent views in a *Cecropia* along the Rupununi Road and a couple semi-tame individuals were regular on the grounds at Atta Lodge. Unique among *Crax* curassows in that the males are almost identical in appearance to the females.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus*—a couple sightings of these little quails along the road in the Rupununi Savannah. They are very closely related to the Northern Bobwhite of North America.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (10)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia*—common in Georgetown

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*—seen almost daily but never near primary or mature secondary rainforest – an arboreal pigeon of young secondary growth and open woodland.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*—small numbers would regularly perch on tall, open branches in the late afternoon around Surama EcoLodge – an attractive bird of more open woodland like the previous species.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* (HO)—heard clearly from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*—great views of this widespread American dove at Hope Beach on a sandy trail

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta*—small numbers observed regularly during our time in the Rupununi, including Moura and the Upper Takutu. This is the smallest species of American ground dove.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*—the most numerous ground dove by far in Guyana, seen daily in savannah, around buildings, or in roadside scrub.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa*—Terry saw a couple of these pretty doves in roadside scrub in Moura.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—our best views were at Rock View Lodge, where a pair regularly fed near cover in the early morning or late afternoon. Several flyby individuals on our way through Moura and the Upper Takutu, likely individuals commuting from forest patch to forest patch.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*—very numerous only in the savannah of the Rapununi.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (5)

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*—about a dozen or so individuals in the riparian gallery forest along the Upper Takutu, flocking right next to a Crane Hawk!

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*—common in a variety of open habitats, always away from forest.

Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo *Neomorphus rufipennis* (HO)—we heard the deep hooting notes of this near-mythical bird along the Borro Borro River Trail while we were following a mixed flock of woodcreepers.

Little Cuckoo *Coccyua minuta*—great views on our Mahaica River boat trip – even posed for photos! This Neotropical cuckoo prefers secondary growth and thickets along rivers and lakes throughout its range.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—one nesting on the grounds of Atta Lodge was a nice surprise!

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*—one roosting in open woodland near Surama Ecological.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*—one seen well with several more flushed on our night drive at Surama EcoLodge. The most numerous and widespread Neotropical nightjar.

POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (3)

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*—great views of two stake-out individuals roosting near Surama EcoLodge.

Long-tailed Potoo *Nyctibius aethereus*—spectacular views of this large and rare potoo right after we saw Black-banded Owl – wow!

White-winged Potoo *Nyctibius leucopterus*—a rare and poorly understood species, specializing in white sand forests in the Amazon Basin (the Atlantic Rainforest subspecies is possibly extinct). Great views of one along the Rupununi Road near Atta Lodge just as it got dark.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus*—the small *Chaetura* swifts flying overhead in the Iwokrama were presumably this species, where it seemed to be quite common.

White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus*—large numbers feeding over the spectacular gorge of Kaiteur Falls – diagnostic black and white underside pattern unique among Neotropical swifts.

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift *Tachornis squamata*—small numbers seen in more open habitats at Surama and the Rupununi savannah.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (12)

Crimson Topaz *Topaza pella*—a glittering male posed long enough for everyone to get a view on a blackwater stream near Atta Lodge. Together with the two jacobins, this large hummingbird represents the most ancient branch of the hummingbird family tree.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*—a male posed in the tree canopy by the road near Atta Lodge.

Pale-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes leucurus*—a surprise sighting of this uncommon to rare hummingbird by the road near the Harpy Eagle Trail.

Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus*—our best views were at Rock View Lodge, where one was regular on the small, wooded hill on the grounds.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber*—brief views of this small hermit on the Borro Borro Trail at Surama EcoLodge.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliostyris auritus*—one building a nest right by the Borro Borro Trail was a great sighting and nesting record. We saw another from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Tufted Coquette *Lophornis ornatus*—we observed a female from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway during our morning visit.

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*—the group observed and photographed a male of this species while birding Moura along the Rupununi Road.

White-chested Emerald *Amazilia brevirostris*—brief but solid views in a leafless tree attracting various other birds at Moura.

Plain-bellied Emerald *Amazilia leucogaster*—observed in the National Park in Georgetown and the Cara Lodge courtyard. This hummingbird is regionally endemic to the northeastern coast of South America.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*—we observed this hummingbird species daily except in mature rainforest habitats.

Rufous-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis sapphirina*—both male and female observed from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

HOATZIN: Opisthocomidae (1)

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin*—seen only on our boat trip along the Mahaica River. It is the national bird of Guyana and a true oddity – the only species in its order. Their diet is primarily young leaves and buds which it digests with the aid of microbes.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Ash-throated Crake *Mustelirallus albicollis* (HO)—heard calling in tall grass near Surama EcoLodge one late afternoon.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*—we saw a few colorful individuals in the Rupununi savannah, always near wetlands featuring Alligator Flag (*Thalia* sp.).

SUNGREBE: Heliornithidae (1)

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*—spotted by some on one of the streams that cross the Rupununi Road in the Iwokrama Forest.

LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*—common in wetland areas, even in urban areas around Georgetown. It feeds exclusively on freshwater snails and bivalves.

TRUMPETERS: Psophiidae (1)

Gray-winged Trumpeter *Psophia crepitans*—the experience of watching seven individuals cautiously foraging along the white sand forest floor was simply magical. Voted as the bird of the trip by several in the group!

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*—two flushed by a rugged dirt track on our way out of Manari Ranch to the Lethem Airport was a welcome last minute addition!

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)

Pied Lapwing *Vanellus cayanus*—we spotted a pair along a sandy bank on the Upper Takutu River.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*—seen in farmland and short grass areas daily, as well as a flock of a couple dozen individuals on a sandy riverbank on the Upper Takutu River.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*—one scurrying across a sandy bank on the Upper Takutu.

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*—common in all wetland areas, particularly those with floating vegetation.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (6)

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—small numbers visible on the mudflats on the Ogle Seawall.

Paraguayan Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae*—great views of this uncommon snipe at the roadside pond near Moura. Formerly lumped with Magellanic Snipe as South American Snipe. Split by eBird/Clements in August 2021.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—small numbers along the Upper Takutu and Mahaica River, as well as the Ogle Seawall mudflats.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*—the most regularly encountered shorebird on our travels in Guyana, occurring in a variety of ponds and puddles throughout.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—singles seen at Moura, Ogle Seawall, and in farmland on the way to the Mahaica River boat trip.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—one seen next to a Greater Yellowlegs on the way to our Mahaica River boat trip – an excellent study for ID features!

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (3)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*—a few at Hope Beach and Ogle Seawall – strictly coastal in Guyana.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*—one on a small river island on the Upper Takutu with a small gathering of Black Skimmer.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*—several individuals loafing on a small river island on the Upper Takutu.

STORKS: Ciconiidae (3)

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*—small numbers in the wet grasslands of the Rupununi.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*—small numbers but quite conspicuous on our drive through the Rupununi, always in wet areas. It is the tallest flying bird in the Americas.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—the smallest of the three South American stork species, observed in small numbers in the Rupununi and on our Upper Takutu boat trip.

FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*—very common along the coast in Georgetown.

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*—a single bird fishing on the Upper Takutu.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—small numbers on the Upper Takutu.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—two birds observed along the coast at Hope Beach.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (10)

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*—this was the most common heron on our trip, particularly once we got into the more open Rapununi. We did observe one while spotlighting at night in the rainforest – cool!

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—common in open wet areas but never near true rainforest.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—numerous along the coast with several dozen individuals seen on just a short visit.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—smaller numbers than the previous species, both near Georgetown and in the Rupununi.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*—seen only along the coast at Hope Beach and Ogle Seawall. Much lankier than the previous species with a longer, rapier-like bill.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—very common around Georgetown, even near the center of the city.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*—scattered sightings: National Park (Georgetown), Mahaica River, and Upper Takutu. Although Green Heron occurs only in North America, this species is widespread across most of the rest of the world.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*—sadly, we only got brief views of this elegant bird on the Upper Takutu.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—singles on the Mahaica River and Ogle Seawall, flying overhead.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—a handsome adult gave us good views on the Ogle Seawall where all the fishing boats were gathered.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber*—this striking ibis was delightfully common right along the coast near Georgetown.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*—several pairs observed during our time in the Rupununi, where it seemed to be reasonably common.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (5)

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*—two striking adults soaring overhead at Moura over a forest clad hill.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*—observed on our boat trip on the Mahaica River.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*—reasonably common in the interior, particularly over the Iwokrama Rainforest and near Surama.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—multiples recorded on both the Mahaica and Upper Takutu River boat trips. Individuals in Guyana are wintering migrants from North America.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (15)

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*—nice views of this smallest of Neotropical raptors on the grounds of Rock View Lodge and Moura. These diminutive hunters feed primarily on small lizards.

Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja*—incredible views of this giant, formidable eagle from Iwokrama Canopy Walkway. The prolonged and close views of this majestic bird became the highlight for many on the tour. **VOTED AS BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*—we had scope views during the interlude of our cassava processing demonstration in Surama. It had an unfortunate parrot in its talons, which looked a lot like a *Pionus* (perhaps Blue-headed Parrot).

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*—we saw this fish-eating specialist on the Mahaica River and while birding Moura. It is more closely related to kites than to *Buteo* hawks!

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*—very common on the coast, even fishing snails out of canals in Georgetown proper. It was so odd to see this as an urban bird.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*—we had great views from the Rupununi Road and the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, where an individual perched in close for almost the entire time we were there.

Tiny Hawk *Accipiter superciliosus*—great scope views along the Rupununi Road near Atta Lodge. This rare and feisty *Accipiter* preys mostly on hummingbirds.

Crane Hawk *Gernospiza caerulescens*—we saw this colorful hawk on our Upper Takutu boat trip, where we observed it clambering over fallen logs in search of prey. The long, reddish legs are “double-jointed” which allow it to reach into crevices to obtain nestling birds, bats, and other small animals.

Rufous Crab Hawk *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*—we observed this coastal species in mangroves southeast of Georgetown.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*—common hawk of open habitats in Guyana, even in Georgetown.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*—we saw both adults and juveniles on several occasions in Surama and along the Rupununi Road, always exploiting edge habitats near taller forest.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*—we saw this small hawk almost daily in Guyana in a variety of edge habitats.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*—we started seeing this striking raptor once we got into the Rupununi grasslands, where it seemed to be reasonably common.

Gray-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidis*—seen in Georgetown from Cara Lodge and near the town of Karasabai.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*—we saw this vulture mimic soaring at Moura and along the Upper Takutu River.

OWLS: Strigidae (4)

Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*—we spotlighted a resident bird just outside the Surama EcoLodge dining area.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*—great views by all on the grounds of Rock View Lodge.

Black-banded Owl *Ciccaba huhula*—we had a lovely experience with two individuals calling back and forth to each other near Atta Lodge one evening – great views in the spotlight.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*—one of these owls cruised in front of our vehicle in broad daylight as we traversed the Rupununi grasslands – a very rare sighting in Guyana!

TROGONS: Trogonidae (3)

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*—male heard and seen on the Borro Borro Trail near Surama EcoLodge. It was formerly lumped together with the White-tailed Trogon of Panama and the Choco region west of the Andes – this is the species found in the Amazon Basin east of the Andes.

Guianan Trogon *Trogon violaceus*—two sightings during our time at Atta Lodge. Formerly lumped together with Gartered and Amazonian Trogon as Violaceous Trogon.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*—scope views of a pretty female on Surama's Harpy Eagle Trail.

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)

Amazonian Motmot *Momotus momota*—heard and then seen near the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek in the Iwokrama Forest south of Atta Lodge.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (3)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—seen on the Mahaica River and daily in the Rupununi region – the largest kingfisher in the Americas.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*—seen on the Mahaica River, Moura, and Upper Takutu River.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—we saw this small kingfisher in the mangroves at Hope Beach and near the Black-eared Fairy nest on the Borro Borro River. More inconspicuous than the previous two species.

PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (2)

Black Nunbird *Monasa atra*—common in the Iwokrama Forest between Surama and Atta Lodge, where we saw them daily. This puffbird is endemic to the Guianan Shield ecoregion.

Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*—seen daily in forested habitats between Surama and Atta Lodge. We also got to see one feeding young in a burrow by the road.

JACAMARS: Galbulidae (4)

Green-tailed Jacamar *Galbula galbula*—we saw this iridescent species on the Mahaica River and along the roadside near Atta Lodge. This jacamar is endemic to the Guianan Shield and more or less replaces the much more widespread Rufous-tailed Jacamar.

Bronzy Jacamar *Galbula leucogastra*—seen in white sand forest near Atta Lodge – an uncommon and local jacamar of the Amazon Basin.

Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea*—perhaps the most conspicuous of the jacamars in the Amazon Basin. We saw this one quite well along the Rupununi Road near Atta Lodge.

Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus*—after quite a bit of searching, the group finally got good views of this special jacamar at the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek in the Iwokrama Forest. It is by far the largest and (arguably) the most spectacular of all the barbets.

NEW WORLD BARBETS: Capitonidae (1)

Black-spotted Barbet *Capito niger*—we observed this colorful frugivore along the Borro Borro Trail and from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (6)

Green Aracari *Pteroglossus viridis*—we saw this small aracari on all three days at Atta Lodge. This species is a Guianan Shield endemic.

Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus aracari*—seen on three days during our time in the rainforest, once at Surama EcoLodge and twice in the environs of Atta Lodge.

Guianan Toucanet *Selenidera piperivora*—a pair came in close to the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, or perhaps too close, as they called in the dense tree right above our heads. This colorful toucanet is endemic to the Guianan Shield.

Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*—distant views of a bird in flight from the airstrip near Rock View Lodge. This is the largest species of toucan.

White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus*—seen or heard daily in the rainforest portion of the trip. It is one of the ‘yelping’ toucans.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*—easily distinguished from the previous species in this part of its range due to the yellowish upper breast and throat. This is one of the ‘croaking’ toucans.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (8)

White-bellied Piculet *Picumnus spilogaster*—seen well in a bare tree on our Mahaica River boat trip. Restricted to coastal forest, open parkland, and scrub in the Guianas.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*—we saw these colorful Amazonian woodpeckers on bare snags as we were trying to watch the cassava processing demonstration.

Golden-collared Woodpecker *Dryobates cassini*—we saw one of these small, green woodpeckers along the Rupununi Road on day six. A few people saw it again on the Upper Takutu boat trip in gallery forest.

Blood-colored Woodpecker *Dryobates sanguineus*—we saw this lovely Guianan Shield endemic on the Mahaica River and the National Park (Georgetown).

Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis*—great views on the Rupununi Road, where one flew in and landed (conveniently) on a bare tree.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—seen in the National Park (Georgetown) and near Surama EcoLodge in the more open woodland areas. This is the South American equivalent of the Pileated Woodpecker.

Waved Woodpecker *Celeus undatus*—scope views from the Atta Lodge clearing. This *Celeus* woodpecker is almost endemic to the Guianan Shield ecoregion.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula*—heard and then seen (near the top of a tree!) on the Harpy Eagle Trail near Surama. This species has a harsh, unwoodpecker-like call.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (7)

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus*—these noisy birds seemed to be regulars around Atta Lodge. This caracara feeds primarily on the larvae of social insects.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—abundant in the Rupununi grasslands.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*—very common along the coast near Georgetown and the Mahaica River, but a bit less so in the Rupununi grasslands.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*—one perched near us right after we started eating our packed breakfast near the Mahaica River. This widespread Neotropical raptor feeds primarily on snakes.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—there was a regular one at Manari Ranch. We even got to see where it slept at night!

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*—lovely views of this streamlined predator in the Rupununi grasslands.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*—our best views were of a pair along Rupununi Road, between Surama and the Harpy Eagle Trail.

PARROTS: Psittacidae (16)

Golden-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris chrysoptera*—scope views of two perched birds near Atta Lodge.

Caica Parrot *Pyrilia caica*—close flyby of one screeching individual on the Rupununi Road, giving us a brief appreciation for its colorful plumage. This parrot is endemic to the Guianan Shield ecoregion.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*—a couple sightings of this widespread parrot at Surama and Atta Lodge.

Blue-cheeked Parrot *Amazona dufresniana* (HO)—unfortunately, we only heard the loud, barking calls of this Guianan Shield endemic.

Yellow-crowned Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala*—the most common *Amazona* parrot, even occurring around Georgetown and roosting on the grounds of two of our lodges.

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*—seen daily during our time at Atta Lodge. The scientific name *farinosa* means flour, referring to the white dusting of the plumage when seen well.

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*—seen at Atta Lodge and the National Park in Georgetown.

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus*—seen on both of our boat trips: Mahaica River and Upper Takutu. These little birds are among the smallest of all the parrots in the Americas.

Red-fan Parrot *Derophtus accipitrinus*—great views of this unique and colorful parrot along the Borro Borro Trail. The scientific name *accipitrinus* refers to the hawk-like shape of this bird when seen in flight.

Painted Parakeet *Pyrrhura picta*—a flock about twenty of these cute parrots were bathing in a large tree cavity that had apparently collected water from last night's storm.

Brown-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula pertinax*—the most common and adaptable parrot species in Guyana, recorded daily away from mature rainforest habitats.

Sun Parakeet *Aratinga solstitialis*—we counted about twenty-four individuals near the town of Karasabai, where conservation efforts seem to be succeeding for this Endangered species.

Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilatus*—we saw several dozen of these mini-macaws fly overhead while we waited for our boat on the Upper Takutu. It is closely associated with the *Mauritia* palm tree, which it uses both for nesting and food.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*—seen regularly overhead in rainforest.

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus*—delightfully common macaw in the rainforest, including several opportunities to observe perched birds.

Red-shouldered Macaw *Diopsittaca nobilis*—seen on the Mahaica River and near Manari Ranch. This is the smallest of the macaws found in Guyana, barely larger than a Brown-throated Parakeet.

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (16)

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis*—common along the Mahaica River and gallery forest in the Rupununi, such as along the Upper Takutu and Camudi Bash.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*—we saw both male and female on the Upper Takutu in brushy gallery forest while searching for Hoary-throated Spinetail.

Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus*—seen at Surama EcoLodge on the Borro Borro Trail. This antshrike is a classic species of Amazon Basin subcanopy feeding flocks, often traveling with a mixed company of antwrens, greenlets, woodcreepers, and others.

Northern Slaty-Antshrike *Thamnophilus punctatus*—seen on the forest edge at the start of the Borro Borro Trail. This antshrike prefers more open habitats.

Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius*—seen at Surama and Atta Lodge. Much like the Mouse-colored Antshrike, this is a classic species of mixed subcanopy flocks in the Amazon Basin.

Rufous-bellied Antwren *Isleria guttata*—nice views of this Guianan Shield endemic on the Harpy Eagle Trail near Surama.

Guianan Streaked-Antwren *Myrmotherula surinamensis*—seen along the Rupununi Road on two occasions. This Guianan Shield endemic prefers forest edge habitats, such as along roadsides or along rivers (rarely joins feeding flocks).

Todd's Antwren *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*—great views of this canopy antwren from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway – a poorly known Guianan Shield endemic!

White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora grisea*—we finally connected with this species visually in the gallery forest of the Upper Takutu.

Guianan Warbling-Antbird *Hypocnemis cantator*—we saw this Guianan Shield endemic on the Borro Borro Trail.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina*—brief glimpses of a calling pair along the roadside near Atta Lodge.

Gray Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* (HO)—we often heard the scratchy, double note calls in the midcanopy on all the rainforest trails – a classic Amazonian antbird.

Rio Branco Antbird *Cercomacra carbonaria*—one of these rare antbirds made a stealthy approach to investigate us on the Upper Takutu trip. Formerly considered a Brazilian endemic until a population was found on the Guyanese side of the Upper Takutu.

Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia*—we saw this water-edge species on the Mahaica River.

White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes* (HO)—heard calling from low, dry forest in the Rupununi.

Ferruginous-backed Antbird *Myrmoderus ferrugineus*—we saw this beautifully patterned antbird calling from the forest floor on the Harpy Eagle Trail.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (10)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*—seen in a small mixed flock of woodcreepers observed steadily moving through the forest, likely in response to an army ant swarm marching deep in the forest (we could hear the antbirds calling distantly in the underbrush, too!).

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*—seen on both the Borro Borro and Harpy Eagle Trails at Surama. This is the smallest species of woodcreeper.

Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia*—brief views on the Borro Borro Trail with a mixed flock of woodcreepers (antcreepers?). Tends to follow ants more than some of its other congeners.

Red-billed Woodcreeper *Hylexetastes perrotii*—we saw this rare woodcreeper several times while shadowing the mixed woodcreeper flock on the Borro Borro Trail.

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*—two seen on the Harpy Eagle Trail – a Guianan Shield endemic.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*—we saw this large woodcreeper on both the Borro Borro and Harpy Eagle Trails – a common and widespread woodcreeper of Amazonia.

Guianan Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*—we saw this small woodcreeper along the road to Atta Lodge. This Guianan Shield endemic tends to stick more to the forest canopy than other species of woodcreeper.

Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus*—seen in scrubby forest in the Rupununi and on the Upper Takutu. Not a forest bird.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*—we saw this widespread wetland species at Hope Beach, Moura, and the National Park in Georgetown.

Hoary-throated Spinetail *Synallaxis kollari*—incredible views in the gallery forest along the Upper Takutu! Found only in a small area of gallery forests along the tributaries of the Rio Branco. The main threat to this Endangered species is the rapid conversion of gallery forest into rice plantations.

MANAKINS: Pipridae (3)

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin *Tyranneutes virescens*—some saw this inconspicuous bird from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Black Manakin *Xenopipo atronitens*—both male and females seen on two dates in the white sand forest near Atta Lodge. This manakin specializes in areas of extremely weathered, sandy soils within the Amazon Basin.

Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala*—a few miles seen displaying overhead along the Borro Borro Trail as we listened for the ground-cuckoo.

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (7)

Guianan Red-Cotinga *Phoenicircus carnifex*—brief views in the Iwokrama Forest of this small, colorful bird of the subcanopy.

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock *Rupicola rupicola*—these football-sized birds literally glowed in the understory near Kaieteur Falls. We also saw at least a couple more males and a female at the Iwokrama Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*—great views of this modestly attired cotinga from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway and from the Atta Lodge clearing. This is the only social species of cotinga, and the only one that breeds cooperatively.

Capuchinbird *Perissocephalus tricolor*—we saw and heard a spectacular male along the Borro Borro Trail. This large cotinga is endemic to the Guianan Shield.

Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana*—distant views in the canopy of the Harpy Eagle Trail and Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans*—common and conspicuous by voice in the rainforest, although usually not easy to see well.

Pompadour Cotinga *Xipholena punicea*—a few males seen flying over the Rupununi Road. Despite its beautiful burgundy coloration, it is mostly silent and engages in simple ritual chasing that may function as a 'display.'

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (4)

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*—nice views of this black and white bird on a bare tree along the Rupununi Road.

Olivaceous Schiffornis *Schiffornis olivacea*—we heard and then saw this inconspicuous bird in the white sand forest near Atta Lodge. Formerly lumped together with several other species as Thrush-like Schiffornis.

White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha*—after quite a bit of searching, a male of this species flew into a tree right next to the group as we were ready to leave! Seen in open woodland near Surama.

Pink-throated Becard *Pachyramphus minor*—a pair of these Amazonian becards on the Rupununi Road on the way to Atta Lodge.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (28)

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*—Cynthia photographed one of these birds at the visitor center at Kaieteur Falls.

Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus galeatus*—we saw this diminutive tyke on the Borro Borro Trail.

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum*—seen along the coast at Hope Beach and the National Park in Georgetown.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*—common along the coast, where we saw it on the Mahaica River and the National Park (Georgetown). We also saw one in the gallery forest of the Upper Takutu River.

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher *Tolmomyias flaviventris*—several in the gallery forest of the Upper Takutu. The subspecies here has orange (ochre) lores, and it is sometimes split as a separate species.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*—two seen at Kaieteur Falls.

White-lored Tyrannulet *Ornithion inerme*—observed from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*—seen and heard along the Mahaica River—the South American counterpart of the Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet that ranges up into Southeast Arizona and Southern Texas.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina*—resident at the National Park (Georgetown).

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii*—we saw this inconspicuous flycatcher at Moura and the Upper Takutu.

Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cristata*—seen and heard in the open woodland near Surama.

Rufous-crowned Elaenia *Elaenia ruficeps*—we saw this special elaenia on the tepui of Kaieteur Falls. This bird has a patchy distribution in the Guianan Shield due to its very specific habitat requirements.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*—we saw this widespread flycatcher at Rock View Lodge and the National Park (Georgetown).

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis*—seen in the open woodland near Surama.

Pale-tipped Tyrannulet *Inezia caudata*—several seen in the gallery forest on the Upper Takutu. This little flycatcher, as with the rest of its genus, is very warbler-like in behavior and body posture.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—we saw this colorful flycatcher on three days in the Rupununi, always in very open habitats.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucephala*—seen on two days in the Rupununi grasslands, always near wetter areas.

Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica*—we saw these striking flycatchers at Moura and Hope Beach.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus (HO)*—a common part of the soundscape in the Iwokrama Forest.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—seen at Hope Beach and in drier forest near Surama.

Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor*—seen well in the Rupununi grasslands. More strictly tied to water than the following species.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—very common in Guyana!

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*—seen at the National Park (Georgetown) and Manari Ranch. In addition to the oversized bill, this species lacks the rufous in the wings present in Great Kiskadee and Rusty-margined Flycatcher.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*—very common in Guyana.

Dusky-chested Flycatcher *Myiozetetes luteiventris*—one seen along the Rupununi Road.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—very common in Guyana!

Gray Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis*—a few individuals seen along the coast at Hope Beach and the National Park (Georgetown). It is a winter resident in Guyana, with the bulk of the population nesting in the Caribbean Islands and South Florida.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*—one of the most common passerines in the Rupununi – spectacular!

VIREOS: Vireonidae (4)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*—seen in the open woodland around Surama EcoLodge outside of the rainforest. An avid and widespread songster of the Neotropics.

Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis*—seen in woodlands at Hope Beach and the Upper Takutu.

Lemon-chested Greenlet *Hylophilus thoracicus (HO)*—heard singing in the rainforest canopy at Surama.

Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*—great views of this resident vireo in the garden at Rock View Lodge – a recent split from the migratory Red-eyed Vireo.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (1)

Cayenne Jay *Cyanocorax cayanus*—several birds moved rather distantly along the forest edge near Surama EcoLodge one morning. This handsome Guianan Shield endemic is the only corvid found in the Guianas.

DONACOBIUS: Donacobiidae (1)

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*—seen in emergent vegetation on the Mahaica River. Genetic studies show that it is more closely related to the warblers of the Old World, particularly the grasshopper-warblers.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*—seen only once at Surama, in the open woodland area.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—common in disturbed and more open habitats away from rainforest.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*—locally very common on the Mahaica and Upper Takutu River. This Tree Swallow relative is tied to flowing rivers and large streams in the Amazon Basin.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—a few migrants observed in the Rupununi grasslands.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus (HO)*—heard on the Borro Borro Trail but the Capuchinbird (understandably) got our attention.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*—seen in scrubby forest at Moura and the gallery forest on the Upper Takutu River. Not a rainforest species.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—seen in the National Park (Georgetown) and in the shrubs just before boarding our motorized canoe on the Upper Takutu.

Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus*—great views of these sharp and gregarious big wrens at Manari Ranch.

Coraya Wren *Pheugoedius coraya* (HO)—heard in the bushes by the roadside near Atta Lodge, but these shy birds would not show themselves.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis*—great views by the Borro Borro Trail near Surama – it's not often that the entire group gets such amazing views of these smaller Neotropical wrens!

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (1)

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*—numerous in a variety of both natural and man-made open habitats.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*—seen daily except in the Iwokrama Rainforest. Rock View Lodge seemed to be especially thick with this species!

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (2)

Plumbeous Euphonia *Euphonia plumbea*—we saw a pair of these rare and distinctive euphonias at Kaieteur Falls.

Finsch's Euphonia *Euphonia finschi*—the most common euphonia in Guyana, seen in small flocks of half a dozen or so near Surama and Moura – always away from true rainforest.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (1)

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*—seen briefly near the airstrip at Rock View Lodge.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (12)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—heard and then seen from the airstrip near Rock View Lodge.

Red-breasted Meadowlark *Leistes militaris*—seen at the domestic airport in Georgetown while waiting for our plane, then again on the day we traversed the Rupununi grasslands.

Green Oropendola *Psarocolius viridis*—seen along the Rupununi Road near Atta Lodge. This large oropendola is endemic to the Amazon Basin.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*—seen by some near Surama.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*—seen at Surama and Rock View Lodge, always right around the lodge buildings making a wide variety of gurgling notes.

Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis*—seen along the Borro Borro River Trail in the early morning just before the area of dense rainforest.

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus*—we saw a few individuals around Rock View Lodge and Moura. A stunningly colorful and large oriole of eastern South America.

Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis*—the most common oriole in Guyana, recorded in a wide variety of habitats away from true rainforest.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*—sightings along the coast at the Mahaica River and National Park (Georgetown).

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*—a flock flew overhead in the late afternoon near Surama. These large cowbirds primarily parasitize oropendolas and caciques.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris*—a strictly coastal species in Guyana. We saw them in the farmland before the Mahaica River and the Ogle Seawall.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus*—scope views of a handsome male while birding the wetlands around Moura.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (2)

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—the only wintering warbler we encountered in the interior of Guyana, where it seemed to be rather common in lightly wooded areas such as Rock View Lodge and the Upper Takutu River.

Flavescent Warbler *Myiothlypis flaveola*—a classic species of the Brazilian cerrado, primarily occurring in gallery forest along water courses. Guyana features an isolated inland population, and we saw a couple of these handsome birds on our Upper Takutu boat trip.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (3)

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*—scope views of both a male and female not far from Karasabai. Sometimes split as a separate species from the one found in Mexico and the southwestern USA.

Rose-breasted Chat *Granatellus pelzelni*—brief but stunning views of this forest sprite in roadside vegetation near Atta Lodge. Genetic studies show that it is part of the cardinal family, despite looking and behaving more like a New World Warbler.

Amazonian Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia rothschildii* (HO)—heard singing by the roadside in the Iwokrama Forest.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (18)

Red-capped Cardinal *Paroaria gularis*—seen on the Mahaica and Upper Takutu River. This tanager primarily occurs in scrubby vegetation next to rivers and large streams.

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*—seen in dry woodland near Surama and gallery forest in the Upper Takutu.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*—a male flew by while we were waiting for our boat on the Mahaica River.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*—very common around Surama.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*—one of the most common passerines in Guyana.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*—common and widespread in a variety of habitats.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Stilpnia cayana*—a few birds seen at Rock View Lodge and Camudi Bash. This tanager inhabits secondary growth and drier habitats.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*—seen from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*—seen together with Epaulet Oriole near Surama and again from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*—glimpses of a male from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*—one in roadside grass as we were driving to the Mahaica River.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta*—Terry spotted a dapper male as we traversed the Rupununi grasslands.

Gray Seedeater *Sporophila intermedia*—male and female seen in tall grass in Moura.

Wing-barred Seedeater *Sporophila americana*—one at the National Park in Georgetown.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*—quite common in light woodland and secondary growth throughout.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*—one seen in a bare tree at Moura.

Olivaceous Saltator *Saltator olivascens*—regular in light woodland and secondary growth. Not a rainforest bird.

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* (HO)—heard singing melodically from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

MAMMALS (9 species recorded):

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*—two seen amazingly well along the Rupununi Road, including one that crossed the road in front of us! By far the largest of the three anteater species.

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporina*—a few were regular on the grounds at Atta Lodge in the early morning and late afternoon.

Guianan Red Howler-Monkey *Alouatta macconnelli*—one individual on the Mahaica River.

Weeper (Wedge-capped) Capuchin *Cebus olivaceus*—one at Rock View Lodge.

White-faced Saki *Pithecia pithecia*—after reviewing photos, the Saki that we observed in the Iwokrama Forest was this species.

Tayra *Eira barbara*—we saw this large, tropical weasel crossing the road near Moura.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous*—racing across the Rupununi grasslands after it spotted our vehicle!

Boto Dolphin *Inia geoffrensis*—at least four individuals kept teasing us with brief glimpses as they came up for air.

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*—Sally got to feed one of these gentle giants at the National Park in Georgetown.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (11 species recorded):

Yellow-headed Sideneck Turtle *Podocnemis unifilis*—sunning itself on a log on the Upper Takutu River.

Brown-eared Anole *Anolis fuscoauratus*—seen and photographed on the Borro Borro River Trail.

Bronze Anole *Anolis aeneus* (I)—seen around the courtyard of Cara Lodge. It is an introduced species from the Lesser Antilles.

Peters' Lava Lizard *Tropidurus hispidus*

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva*—conspicuous around the grounds of Atta Lodge.

Striped Forest Whiptail *Kentropyx calcarata*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Gold Tegu *Tupinambis teguixin*—seen on the banks of the Upper Takutu River. A large lizard reminiscent of the *Varanus* monitor lizards of the Old World.

Indigo Snake *Drymarchon corais*—

Common Green Racer *Chlorosoma viridissimum*—this was the brilliant green snake seen from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, a widespread but uncommon snake of the Amazon Basin.

Golden Rocket Frog *Anomaloglossus beebei*—

OTHER NOTABLE ANIMALS:

Largescale Four-eyed Fish *Anableps anableps*—several of these curious looking fish at Hope Beach along the coast.