

## Brazil

19-30 July 2013



**Group (from left): Jay, Gordon, Steve, George, Andy, and Reynier.**

One trip our group has discussed for a couple of years was a trip to Brazil to experience birding on the Amazon River. The avian diversity of this region is well-known, but we really wanted to experience both the birds and this incredible river system. After a lot of research and coordination of our busy schedules, we decided to book a late July trip through Amazon Adventures (<http://www.amazonadventures.com/>). We ultimately settled on a 9-day trip (plus 2 days for travel) that consisted of 3 days birding the Manaus region to be followed by a 6-day trip by boat on the river. The company booked us a local guide and made all the arrangements, making this one of our easiest trips ever from a logistic sense. Trip participants (left to right in above photo) were Jay Gilliam (Norwalk, IA), Gordon Brown (Cary, NC), Stephen J. Dinsmore (Ames, IA), George Brown (Big Stone Gap, VA), Andrew S. Fix (Cincinnati, OH), and Reynier Omena Junior (Manaus, Brazil; our guide).

### 19 July

This was our travel day. We all arrived in time in Miami, although our flight to Manaus departed about 30 minutes late. Arrival in Manaus was also late, 10:50 p.m., and it was midnight by the time we made it through customs and had met our guide, Reynier Omena Junior, and his partner and driver Antonio. After a brief greeting we loaded all our gear into a waiting bus and were

driven to the Tropical Manaus hotel on the western edge of Manaus, right along shore of the Rio Negro. It was after 1 a.m. when we were finally settled in our rooms.

## 20 July



**Channel-billed Toucan**



**Pied Bare-faced Tamarin**

Today we took it easy and birded the hotel grounds in the morning. We ate a buffet breakfast at Tropical Manaus from 7-8 a.m. and then hiked around the hotel and zoo. We finally had enough of the heat and humidity at 11:30 a.m. after seeing about 30 species including Variable



**White-headed Marsh-Tyrant**

Chachalaca, Double-toothed Kite, Golden-winged Parakeet, Black-necked Aracari, Channel-billed Toucan, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Black-billed and Pale-breasted thrushes, Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch, Yellow-browed Sparrow, and Red-rumped Cacique. This was a nice introduction to the common local birds. But the highlight was probably a group of 3 Pied Bare-faced Tamarins, a small primate that is found in only a couple of local areas! After eating at the lunch buffet

(expensive at >\$30 each) we relaxed a bit before Reynier met us at 1 p.m. After a delay of about an hour, we drove south across the Rio Negro and birded a small forest reserve along the Ariau River from the highway. On the way we stopped at a small wetland along the highway and saw Capped Heron, Plumbeous Kite, Southern Lapwing, Collared Plover, Wattled Jacana, Tui Parakeet, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, and Red-



**Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**

breasted Blackbird. The reserve itself was very slow in the mid-afternoon heat, but we managed to find King Vulture, Black-eared Fairy, Black-throated Mango, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Dusky-throated Antshrike, Bicolored Antbird, and Golden-headed Manakin. But the real treat was spectacular looks at an adult Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle that was perched in a tree within a hundred meters of our parked bus! We were back at the hotel by 6 p.m. and ate dinner at the restaurant. [clear, very hot and humid, temperature 73-93°F, wind calm]



**Decision time – trying to identify a new bird!**

## 21 July

We arose at 4:15 a.m., packed, and then met our driver at 5 a.m. for departure to the INPA Tower. The guide also brought along Marcelo Barreiros, a student working with raptors, and he was able to join us for most of the morning. The drive to the tower was uneventful, except for a couple of White Hawks along the road. We arrived at the tower at 7 a.m. and birded from the top levels until 10 a.m. Highlights included Red-and-green and Blue-and-yellow macaws, Golden-winged Parakeet, Dusky Parrot,



**Group birding at INPA Tower.**



**Slender-footed Tyrannulet**

Black-bellied Cuckoo, Pied Puffbird, Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper, Spot-backed Antwren, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Slender-footed Tyrannulet, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Spangled Cotinga, Slate-colored Grosbeak, and a distant pair of Black Spider Monkeys sunning on an exposed snag. After leaving the tower we dropped Marcelo off for a

ride back to Manaus before continuing to a biological reserve of the campina forest type. The heat was oppressive and bird activity was disappointing, although we did manage to see Swallow-wing, Bronzy Jacamar, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, and a small group of at least 8 Golden-handed Tamarins.

From here we drove north towards Presidente Figueiredo and then north a short distance to our hotel in Iracema Falls. We stopped to bird a road on the north edge of town for about three hours starting at 2:20 p.m. and saw a surprising number of birds including Savanna Hawk, large flocks of Red-bellied Macaws, Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Black Nunbird, Paradise Jacamar, Yellow-tufted and Crimson-crested woodpeckers, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Cinnamon Attila, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Black-tailed Tityra, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, White-banded and White-winged swallows, Wing-barred Seedeater, Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch, and Giant Cowbird. We then continued on to Iracema Falls, arriving at 5:45 p.m. As we were checking in a cooperative Golden-spangled Piculet was lounging in a tree near our rooms. We ate dinner at a restaurant in Presidente Figueiredo and had delicious grilled Tambaqui and chicken with rice, salad, beer, Coke, water, and fruit ice cream for dessert. We were back at the hotel by 9:30 p.m. and in bed soon thereafter. [partly cloudy, temperature 72-91°F, wind calm]



**Clockwise from top left: Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, White-banded Swallow,  
Point-tailed Palmcreeper, and Greater Yellow-headed Vulture.**



22 July



**Marail Guan**

and Purple Honeycreeper. In addition we heard a Red Howler Monkey and saw 2 groups of Golden-handed Tamarins. It was quite hot by 9:30 a.m. and after that time the birding slowed considerably. We then drove into Presidente Figueiredo for lunch (grilled fish, rice with beans, salad, and Coke), finishing around 2 p.m. After lunch in the mid-day heat we birded a city park (almost no birds) and it rained for about 15 minutes. After the rain we drove a road just south of Presidente Figueiredo and the bird activity was excellent. From 3 to 5:10 p.m. we birded a stretch less than 1 mile in length slowly and saw Great Tinamou (heard only),



**Bat Falcon**

We met at 5 a.m. for breakfast at the hotel (ham and cheese sandwiches, oranges, and orange juice or coffee) and then birded the hotel entrance road and grounds until noon. Some of the birds we saw included Marail Guan, kettles of Plumbeous Kites, Bat Falcon, Painted Parakeet, Dusky Parrot, a stunning male Crimson Topaz, White-necked Jacobin, Long-tailed and Reddish hermits, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Violaceous Trogon, Swallow-wing, Great Jacamar, Black-necked Aracari, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Sulphury Flycatcher, Guinean Red-Cotinga, White-crowned Manakin, Flame-crested, White-shouldered, and White-lined tanagers,



**Plumbeous Kite**

Squirrel Cuckoo, Black-eared Fairy, Green Aracari, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Plain Xenops, Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, Spangled Cotinga (several males), Screaming Piha, White-bearded, White-crowned, and Golden-headed manakins, White-thighed Swallow, Fulvous-crested, Paradise, and Opal-rumped tanagers, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Solitary Cacique, and Golden-sided Euphonia. We then returned to the hotel for about an hour where we saw the Moriche Oriole on the grounds. Dinner was at the same restaurant in Presidente Figueiredo and we had grilled or sautéed Tambaqui, grilled chicken, rice, salad, beer, Coke, water, and fruit ice cream for dessert. We finished dinner around 8:30 p.m. and the night-birded the road into the hotel. We heard a distant Common Potoo and had frustrating looks at a Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl that flew overhead many times

but never perched in view. We were back in our rooms by 10:30 p.m. [partly cloudy, temperature 72-92°F, wind calm]

## 23 July



**Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant**

We once again met at 5 a.m. for breakfast at the hotel (several types of fresh fruit, bread with butter and jelly, scrambled eggs, cereal with *hot* milk, coffee, and a couple kinds of fruit juice that were extremely bitter). At a little after 6 a.m. we departed Iracema Falls and drove to Waterfall of Orchids Municipal Natural Park, arriving at 6:15 a.m. We birded the trail almost to the waterfall and back, a distance of about 2.5 km. The forest was alive with birds, although *seeing* them was challenging because of the height of the trees. One of the highlights was finding a flock of ant-swarm adapted species that included Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Curve-billed Scythebill, Cinereous Antshrike, White-

backed Fire-eye, and Guianan Gnatcatcher. Other nice finds included Marail Guan, Orange-winged Parrot, Black-spotted Barbet, Guianan Toucanet, Waved and Red-necked woodpeckers, White-chinned Woodcreeper, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant, Gray-crowned Flycatcher, Sirystes, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Thrush-like Schiffornis, Coraya and Wing-banded wrens, Turquoise Tanager, and Golden-sided Euphonia. We returned to the vehicle at 11:15 a.m., just as it was getting really hot, and drove back into town for lunch (a mix of grilled fish and chicken, rice with beans, French fries, salad, and Coke with a fruit ice cream for dessert).

At this point in the trip, the plan was to return to Manaus and board our scheduled boat, the *Meu Doce*, for a 6-day river trip. The first part went smoothly and we were at the boat landing on the riverfront in downtown Manaus by 2:45 p.m. We unloaded all the luggage and we led to a much smaller boat than depicted in the photos we were sent, and one that was definitely more rustic! There were two cramped cabins with a bunk bed each, a third cabin that was little bigger than a closet, and an open upper deck. We soon learned that somewhere along the line there had been a serious miscommunication between our tour operator and the local officials. After a short discussion we refused the boat but sat on board until 6:45 p.m. when we were driven by taxi to Lord Manaus Hotel in the nearby downtown area. While waiting we enjoyed great



**Large-billed Tern**

looks at many fly-by Large-billed Terns and an out-of-range White-rumped Swallow, in addition to many of the more common city birds. After a long wait, we finally heard the news that the local tour operator had made arrangements for a nicer boat (very similar to the boat we thought we had reserved), but it would not be ready until the next morning. We arrived at the hotel at 7 p.m., checked in, and then met at the restaurant for dinner at 7:45 p.m. (I had fried fish with rice, mashed potatoes, and salad). After a relaxing meal with beer and wine we retired to our rooms by 10:30 p.m. What an exhausting and frustrating day! [mostly clear with clouds in the afternoon, temperature 72-91°F, winds light and variable]

## 24 July



**Our boat, the D. Sonia**

We spent the morning at the Lord Manaus Hotel waiting for news of our boat trip. Some of us ate breakfast at the hotel buffet and then met in the lobby for an 8 a.m. departure. At around 8:30 a.m. our leader arrived and we learned that the departure time had been delayed the previous night (no one told us) to 10 a.m.! We did depart at 10 a.m. by taxi to a marina on the western edge of Manaus and boarded our boat, the D. Sonia. The boat was captained by Dorival with a crew consisting of a first mate (Walter), small boat handler and deck hand (Branco), and a cook (Mrs. Sandra). The boat was very nice

with an open, partially shaded upper deck for birding and relaxing, a main level consisting of the dining room, galley, and a bedroom with a single bed and bathroom, and a lower deck with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. All of the rooms were air conditioned.

We departed at 11:15 a.m., made a half-hour stop for fuel, and then headed upstream towards the Anavilhanas Islands (the world's largest freshwater archipelago of river islands). Soon after departing we saw 2 Yellow-billed Terns and a flyover Cocoli Heron.

We ate lunch at 11:45 a.m. and it consisted of fried fish, rice and beans, spaghetti (no sauce), salad, mango juice, and fresh watermelon. After lunch we continued to motor upstream, slowly following the north bank of the river. At 4 p.m. we stopped the boat

and boarded the small skiff for some birding in the forest. The experience was a little harrowing because the boat was overloaded and the weight wasn't distributed properly, so we took water over the bow until we resealed people. Even then, the boat seemed overly prone to tipping and rolled frequently. The experience was quite unnerving overall. But the birding was good with



**Birding in the small skiff**



**Rio Negro at sunset**

Crestless Curassow, Festive Parrot, Greater Ani, Pied Puffbird, Plain-brown and Long-billed woodcreepers, Klages's Antwren, Castlenau's Antshrike, Crowned Slaty Flycatcher, and Moustached Wren. We returned to the boat at 5:30 p.m. and resumed our upstream travel. One of the crew took the smaller boat for a half-hour journey to a nearby village for food; upon his return we soon moored the boat for the night. The last hour of daylight produced few birds, but among them we

saw Muscovy and Osprey. Our guide discussed plans for the next several days since our trip had

been shortened by a day. Among other things, we discovered that all birding from now on would be by small boat, which was not great news given our experience a couple of hours earlier. But the good news is that this is by far the best time to bird this region since the flooded forest is more accessible by small boat, and our position is elevated to be nearer the canopy where birds are more visible. We also learned that we would visit all the spots as originally planned, cutting a day from a planned 3-day visit to Anavilhanas Islands. We rested for a short time before meeting for dinner at 7 p.m. – beef, rice, spaghetti, salad, and strawberry juice, plus an alcoholic beverage called Caipirinha (Brazil's national drink made from sugar cane hard liquor, sugar, and lime). At 8:30 p.m. we met on deck to listen for nocturnal birds and heard only Amazon Bamboo Rats. Then it was time for bed! [overcast with light rain, temperature 73-81°F, winds SE 10-15 mph]

## **25 July**

Today we birded the Anavilhanas Islands. The day began with breakfast at 5:30 a.m. (ham and cheese, bread, rolls, fried tapioca, cooked plantains, juice, and coffee). We then untied from our tree at 5:50 a.m. and slowly meandered through the islands, looking for a suitable place to bird. At 7:15 a.m. we loaded into the smaller boat (minus Jay) for a 1-hour ride in the forest. It was windy and we really couldn't find a good opening, but still managed to see a Ladder-tailed Nightjar. We returned to the boat, motored a short distance, and then moored in a narrow channel with forest on both sides from 8:45-10:30 a.m. The birding here was excellent, and a lot more comfortable than in the smaller boat! We saw Straight-billed, Zimmer's, and Striped woodcreepers, Forest Elaenia, Spangled Cotinga, Gray-chested Greenlet, Oriole



**Yellow-headed Caracara**

Blackbird, and Velvet-fronted Grackle, plus had great looks at a large Southern Tamandua (an arboreal anteater). After a snack of bananas and fresh cut watermelon we moved the boat again.



**Damage to the main cabin after our collision with several trees.**

It was now sunny and much warmer so we slowly cruised down river looking for birds. We didn't see much bird-wise and ate lunch (grilled and boiled chicken, a pasta dish, rice and beans, a slushy fruit drink, and coffee) while motoring slowly. Just as we were finishing lunch our Amazon adventure continued unexpectedly. We had discussed trying to maneuver the large boat into side channels because it was much more comfortable for everyone. Well, the captain decided to try the channel we had birded the previous afternoon, which was narrow, shrouded in large trees, and had a strong current. It was a big mistake! As he nosed the boat into the channel it was immediately caught by the crosswise current and pushed against some large trees. As he was reversing, the limbs (some up to 5" in diameter) shattered three windows and ripped off the galley door. The glass was shattered so hard it landed on the dining

table, but thankfully we had taken refuge on the other side of the boat. We spent about an hour cleaning up the boat and vacuuming glass while tied up to a large tree. The birding was quite good and we saw Blue-chinned Sapphire, Olivaceous Flatbill, and Turquoise Tanager. We then took the small boat into this side channel from 2:15-3:40 p.m. and saw Scaly-breasted and Ringed woodpeckers, Long-billed and Striped woodcreepers, and Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant.

Afterwards we continued to slowly motor downstream through the islands and managed to see Cooi Heron, Slender-billed Kite, Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns, Amazon Kingfisher, a high flock of Fork-tailed Flycatchers, and several Gray Dolphins. We eventually crossed the main channel of the Rio Negro and entered the tiny Aripuanã River at 5:35 p.m. We motored slowly south until it was too dark to see (about 6:45 p.m.) and saw Striated Heron,



**Birding from the bow of the boat.**

Green Ibis, a Hoatzin, Band-tailed Nighthawk, Rufous Nightjar, Common Potoo (heard), Long-billed, Straight-billed, and Striped woodcreepers, and Masked Tityra. An additional highlight was mammals that included more Gray Dolphins, a White-fronted Capuchin, a small group of Common Squirrel Monkeys, a distant Red Howler Monkey, and an unidentified sloth. By 7 p.m. we were tied up for the night and ate dinner (beef, rice and beans, spaghetti, salad, a sweet fruit jelly dessert with a white sauce, and frozen strawberry juice). After dinner we played a tape for nocturnal birds from 7-8 p.m. and heard Tropical Screech-, Ferruginous Pygmy-, and Black-

banded owls. [partly cloudy becoming overcast by mid-afternoon, temperature 72-85°F, wind calm]

## 26 July



**Yellow-bellied Dacnis**

This morning we began the day with breakfast a little after 5 a.m. (fried eggs, ham and cheese, bread and rolls, fried plantains, orange juice, and coffee). Afterwards, we birded from the boat until 7:45 a.m. The morning activity was excellent and we saw Capped Heron, Green Ibis, Horned Screamer (heard only), Black-collared and Slate-colored hawks, many Scarlet Macaws, Tui Parakeet, Orange-winged Parrot, Gray Elaenia, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Chestnut-crowned Becard, and Yellow-bellied Dacnis. At 7:45 a.m. we moved the big boat a short distance downstream (north) and saw Ivory-billed Aracari and Thrush-like Wren along the way. We anchored at the mouth of a large lagoon and took a ride in the small boat from 8:30-10:30 a.m. We saw many birds including Snail Kite, Spotted and Solitary sandpipers, Bar-breasted Piculet, Barred Antshrike, Cinereous Becard, Turquoise and Masked Crimson tanagers, Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, and Crested Oropendola. A large group of at least 15 Common Squirrel Monkeys was an added highlight. Back on the boat we had a snack of fresh bananas while the crew caught a couple of small catfish. We then lounged on the boat, breaking for lunch at 11:45 a.m. (grilled chicken, beef with green peppers, onions, and potatoes, rice, pasta, a potato salad with eggs, orange juice, and coffee).



**Capped Heron**



**Tui Parakeet**

After lunch, we took a short break and rested until 2 p.m. Then, we loaded into the small boat again for a trip along the river to search for Horned Screamer. The water was too high to get to our destination, so we instead found another opening with current and followed it east a short distance. The birding was slow in the mid-day heat although we managed to see Short-tailed Hawk, Sunbittern, an agitated Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Cream-colored and Ringed woodpeckers, and Crested Oropendola. Other highlights were several groups of Common Squirrel Monkeys and a lone Red Howler Monkey, the latter the first we had actually seen. We returned to the big boat and were shortly underway upstream. We motored

slowly upriver to a point about 12 km from the Rio Negro and at 5:35 p.m. moored to a small island. The birding was decent and we saw Squirrel Cuckoo, Chestnut-eared Aracari, and Russet-backed Oropendola. After we moored the boat we relaxed for a short time before dinner at 7 p.m. (roast beef with potatoes and carrots, rice and beans, spaghetti, a vegetable salad, soda, and water). Afterwards, everyone was tired and went to bed. [partly to mostly cloudy, temperature 74-84°F, wind calm]

## 27 July



A typical small boat ride through the várzea.

Today was our final day on the Ariau River. We awoke early and before breakfast heard Tropical Screech- and Ferruginous Pygmy- owls and Common and Great potoos from the boat. Breakfast was fried eggs, ham and cheese, bread, fried plantains, and juice. Right after breakfast we were treated to excellent looks at Sungrebe and Orange-backed Troupial from the boat deck. At 6:40 a.m. we left on a planned trip to a close island where we hoped to bird on foot. Unfortunately, the landowner refused us permission so we returned to the boat at 6:50 a.m. At 7:15 a.m. we moved the boat farther upstream, eventually stopping at a bridge across the river that was too low for our boat to pass underneath. Along this stretch of river we saw Green Ibis, Sungrebe, Gray-fronted Dove, White-eyed Parakeet, Scarlet Macaw, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Glittering-throated Emerald, Bright-rumped Attila, and Gray-headed Tanager. We also saw more kingfishers than some of us could recall, by my count at least 15 Ringed, 8 Amazon, and 2 Green. Common Squirrel Monkeys were, well, common. By 9:15 a.m. we had turned downriver and docked at 11:30 a.m. by the Amazon Jungle Lodge. As we were mooring the boat we finally had good looks at 2 Amazon River Dolphins that fed right by the boat. We then took a 2-hour ride in the small boat along the edge of a nearby lagoon where we saw Cocoi Heron, Short-



Spotted Tody-Flycatcher

tailed Hawk, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Wren, Masked Yellowthroat, and Guira Tanager plus Gray Dolphins and more Common Squirrel Monkeys. While relaxing on the big boat we had great looks at Squirrel Cuckoo and Hooded Tanager. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. was outstanding and consisted of grilled Tambaqui, white and brown rice, a vegetable sauce called vinaigrette (a mix of green peppers, onions, tomatoes, cilantro, vinegar, and oil), and coffee. We finished at 1 p.m. and relaxed on the boat in the mid-day heat while the captain used the small boat to run errands.



**Lunch of grilled Tambaqui and an Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch.**

The boat was underway again at 3 p.m. By 4 p.m. we had left the Aripuanã River, just after great looks at a group of 5 Amazon River Dolphins, two of which breached out of the water. The boat passed over the deeper main channel of the river and our depth finder showed depths that exceeded 100 meters! We enjoyed a Skol beer and boating under the massive bridge over the Rio Negro on the way to Manaus to refuel, departing just before 6 p.m. At 6:10 p.m. we crossed the meeting of the waters, a region where the darker waters of the Rio Negro first mix with the chalky water of the Rio Solimões, forming the true Amazon River. We continued south and east on a narrow channel to the west end of Marchantaria Island. We circled the entire island but were unable to find a safe mooring place in the dark and so continued north along the main channel and moored on the west bank of the Rio Solimões near a small village (Varzea) at 7:30 p.m. We ate dinner (beef in a tasty brown sauce, rice, pasta, salad, pineapple juice, and Skol beer) as we were crossing the main river channel. We saw no notable birds after leaving the Aripuanã River. [mostly cloudy with partial clearing at midday, temperature 73-85°F, very humid and muggy, winds E 5 mph]



**Birding from the boat's upper deck, a common late afternoon activity.**

## **28 July**

Some pre-dawn listening from the boat produced a Tropical Screech-Owl, but nothing else. We began the day with breakfast at 5:45 a.m. (fried eggs, bread, fried plantains, juice, and coffee). At 6:30 a.m. we boated a short distance and walked along the west shore of the Rio Solimões in a grassy area at the edge of a large wetland. The walk produced many birds including Brazilian Teal, Buff-necked Ibis, Short-tailed Parrot, Little Woodpecker, Wing-banded and Lesser horneros, Dark-breasted Spinetail, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Cinereous and Chestnut-crowned becards, Hooded Tanager, and Wing-barred Seedeater. The number of waterbirds was impressive and we enjoyed seeing several North American migrant shorebirds plus hundreds of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and wading birds. We returned to the big boat at 8:35 a.m., paused for a short snack (melon and water), and then slowly cruised downstream along the north bank to its confluence with the Rio Negro. This was a very birdy area and we saw a juvenile King Vulture, Collared Plover, White-winged Parakeet, and Yellow-hooded Blackbird. We then crossed the



**Brazilian Teal (left) and Yellow-hooded Blackbird (right).**

main channel, moored the boat at 10:30 a.m., and birded by foot near Cariero until noon where we saw Limpkin, 3 Horned Screamers, Green-throated Mango, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Red-and-white, Dark-breasted, and Yellow-chinned spintails, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, Bicolored Conebill, and Russet-backed Oropendola. Back on board, we enjoyed a lunch of fried chicken, rice and beans, pasta, a vegetable salad, and juice. After lunch we relaxed in the mid-day heat and took a slow boat ride upstream to Marchantaria I. where we arrived at 3 p.m. at the east end. Along this stretch of river we saw lots of birds including 14 Capped Herons, Green Ibis, 2 Horned Screamers, many Snail Kites, Limpkin, a large flock of Black Skimmers, and Oriole Blackbird. We found a place to moor the boat on the north side of the eastern end of the island and a short walk on the shore from 3:15-4:20 p.m. produced Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Gray-breasted Crake, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Swainson's Flycatcher, Bicolored Conebill, Yellow-hooded and Oriole blackbirds, and Blue-black Grassquit. Back on the boat we enjoyed fresh pineapple and melon plus Skol beer before slowly boating east (downstream) along the north side of the island and then back west (upstream) to a place for the night, where we arrived at 6:15 p.m. After a short rest we at dinner at 7 p.m. (fried and boiled chicken, rice, pasta, vinaigrette, pine apple juice, and a delicious fruit cocktail for dessert). [mostly cloudy with mid-day clearing, very humid, temperature 73-86°F, winds calm, intermittent rain in the morning]



**Clockwise from top left: Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Oriole Blackbird.**



29 July



**Floating islands of emergent vegetation were a common sight and many were inhabited by territorial Yellow-hooded Blackbirds. We wondered how long they would remain with these islands?**

returned at 9 a.m. and saw Sungrebe, Purple Gallinule, Short-tailed Parrot, Hoffman's Woodcreeper, White-bellied Spinetail, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Pearly-breasted Conebill, and Lined Seedeater, plus a cooperative Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth. We returned to the big boat and after a short break motored slowly east around the end of Marchantaria Island, then southwesterly along its south bank, and then finally crossed the channel at a small unnamed village and moored for lunch. The drive was slow bird-wise because of the oppressive heat although we managed to see Masked Yellowthroat and more Amazon River Dolphins. As lunch was being prepared we heard and then saw a Striped Cuckoo and saw a small



**Meeting of the waters**

This was our last day in Brazil. We got an early start at 5 a.m. by listening for nocturnal birds from the boat and heard no nocturnal birds. Birds seen from the boat before and after breakfast included Short-tailed Parrot, hundreds of White-eyed Parakeets, Black-throated Mango, Little and Spot-breasted woodpeckers, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Brownish Elaenia, Bicolored Conebill, and Oriole Blackbird. We ate breakfast at 6 a.m. (fried eggs, a sweet corn bread, crackers, juice, and coffee) and then took the small boat into the Cecropia forest. We left at 6:50 a.m. and



**Nacunda Nighthawk**

flock of Black

Skimmers fly upriver. We ate lunch at 12:30 p.m. and it consisted of boiled Tambaqui with potatoes, rice, and pineapple and "Jenny Papa" juice. We relaxed a bit after lunch and the boat was underway again at 2:10 p.m. We passed downstream along the east bank to the meeting of the waters, where we arrived at 3 p.m. Along the

way we saw many birds including Brazilian Teal, 2 Horned Screamers, Pectoral Sandpiper, another Striped Cuckoo, an odd sight of dozens of Nacunda and Sand-colored nighthawks perched and flying over some mudflats, and Crested Oropendola. We paused for about 15 minutes to photograph the meeting of the waters before continuing west up the Rio Negro, arriving at our marina on the western edge of Manaus at 5:35 p.m. We loaded our gear into a waiting taxi (the same driver as earlier), said our good-byes to Reynier and the crew, and arrived at the airport around 6:30 p.m. We flew overnight to Miami, and then dispersed home on separate flights. [mostly cloudy with mid-day clearing, very humid, temperature 70-88°F, winds calm]



**Wading birds were common, including Buff-necked Ibis (left) and Cocoi Heron (right)**



**Rainbow over the Rio Solimões**

Overall, this was an excellent trip. The logistics were generally very good, accommodations and meals were great, and our guide knew his birds well. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of the trip was that our guide, Reynier, spoke little English and none of our group spoke Portuguese. We had been warned about this beforehand, but nonetheless it was frustrating. Discussing birds (and other wildlife) meant lots of pointing to pictures in books and we eventually communicated most of the time. The loss of one day on the river due to the boat mix-up was also frustrating. Overall, we were pleased with our arrangements through Amazon Adventures, and they eventually negotiated a partial refund for the lost day.

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**BIRD LIST (333 species)**

Great Tinamou	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	Gray-breasted Crake
Horned Screamer	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	Purple Gallinule
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	King Vulture	Sungrebe
Muscovy Duck	Osprey	Limpkin
Brazilian Teal	Hook-billed Kite	Southern Lapwing
Variable Chachalaca	Snail Kite	Collared Plover
Marail Guan	Slender-billed Kite	Black-necked Stilt
Crestless Curassow	Double-toothed Kite	Wattled Jacana
Neotropic Cormorant	Plumbeous Kite	Spotted Sandpiper
Anhinga	Black-collared Hawk	Solitary Sandpiper
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	Crane Hawk	Greater Yellowlegs
Cocoi Heron	Slate-colored Hawk	Lesser Yellowlegs
Great Egret	White Hawk	Pectoral Sandpiper
Snowy Egret	Savanna Hawk	Yellow-billed Tern
Cattle Egret	Roadside Hawk	Large-billed Tern
Striated Heron	Gray Hawk	Black Skimmer
Capped Heron	Short-tailed Hawk	Rock Pigeon
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle	Pale-vented Pigeon
Green Ibis	Black Caracara	Scaled Pigeon
Buff-necked Ibis	Crested Caracara	Plumbeous Pigeon
Black Vulture	Yellow-headed Caracara	Ruddy Pigeon
Turkey Vulture	Bat Falcon	Common Ground-Dove
	Sunbittern	Ruddy Ground-Dove
		White-tipped Dove
		Gray-fronted Dove

Painted Parakeet	Tropical Screech-Owl	Black-eared Fairy
White-eyed Parakeet	Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl	Black-throated Mango
Red-and-green Macaw	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	Green-throated Mango
Scarlet Macaw	Black-banded Owl	Blue-chinned Sapphire
Blue-and-yellow Macaw	Short-tailed Nighthawk	Fork-tailed Woodnymph
Red-bellied Macaw	Nacunda Nighthawk	Glittering-throated Emerald
Canary-winged Parakeet	Sand-colored Nighthawk	Rufous-throated Sapphire
Golden-winged Parakeet	Band-tailed Nighthawk	Black-tailed Trogon
Tui Parakeet	Common Pauraque	White-tailed Trogon
Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet	Rufous Nightjar	Blue-crowned Trogon
Short-tailed Parrot	Blackish Nightjar	Violaceous Trogon
Blue-headed Parrot	Ladder-tailed Nightjar	Ringed Kingfisher
Dusky Parrot	Great Potoo	Amazon Kingfisher
Festive Parrot	Common Potoo	Green Kingfisher
Orange-winged Parrot	Chapman's Swift	Pied Puffbird
Mealy Parrot	Short-tailed Swift	Black Nunbird
Yellow-crowned Parrot	Band-rumped Swift	Black-fronted Nunbird
Red-fan Parrot	Gray-rumped Swift	Swallow-wing
Hoatzin	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Bronzy Jacamar
Squirrel Cuckoo	Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	Paradise Jacamar
Black-bellied Cuckoo	Crimson Topaz	Great Jacamar
Striped Cuckoo	White-necked Jacobin	Black-spotted Barbet
Pavonine Cuckoo	Long-tailed Hermit	Green Aracari
Greater Ani	Reddish Hermit	Black-necked Aracari

Chestnut-eared Aracari	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	Castelnau's Antshrike
Ivory-billed Aracari	Red-and-white Spinetail	Northern Slaty-Antshrike
Guianan Toucanet	Point-tailed Palmcreeper	Dusky-throated Antshrike
Channel-billed Toucan	Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner	Cinereous Antshrike
White-throated Toucan	Plain Xenops	Klages' Antwren
Bar-breasted Piculet	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	Spot-backed Antwren
Golden-spangled Piculet	White-chinned Woodcreeper	Dot-winged Antwren
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	Long-tailed Woodcreeper	Dusky Antbird
Little Woodpecker	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	White-backed Fire-eye
Red-stained Woodpecker	Long-billed Woodcreeper	Black-headed Antbird
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	Ferruginous-backed Antbird
Spot-breasted Woodpecker	Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper	Bicolored Antbird
Waved Woodpecker	Hoffmann's Woodcreeper	Rufous-capped Antthrush
Scaly-breasted Woodpecker	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	Variegated Antpitta
Cream-colored Woodpecker	Zimmer's Woodcreeper	White-lored Tyrannulet
Ringed Woodpecker	Striped Woodcreeper	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet
Red-necked Woodpecker	Curve-billed Scythebill	Mouse-colored Tyrannulet
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	Fasciated Antshrike	Forest Elaenia
Wing-banded Hornero	Black-crested Antshrike	Gray Elaenia
Pale-legged Hornero	Barred Antshrike	Yellow-bellied Elaenia
Lesser Hornero	Mouse-colored Antshrike	Brownish Elaenia
Dark-breasted Spinetail		Ochre-bellied Flycatcher
White-bellied Spinetail		MacConnell's Flycatcher
		Slender-footed Tyrannulet

Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant	Social Flycatcher	Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo
Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant	Yellow-throated Flycatcher	Rufous-browed Peppershrike
Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant	Piratic Flycatcher	White-thighed Swallow
White-eyed Tody-Tyrant	Variiegated Flycatcher	White-banded Swallow
Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Spotted Tody-Flycatcher	Sulphury Flycatcher	Purple Martin
Painted Tody-Flycatcher	White-throated Kingbird	Gray-breasted Martin
Olivaceous Flatbill	Tropical Kingbird	Brown-chested Martin
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	White-winged Swallow
Zimmer's Flatbill	Guianan Red-Cotinga	White-rumped Swallow
Gray-crowned Flycatcher	Spangled Cotinga	Thrush-like Wren
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	Screaming Piha	Moustached Wren
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	Bare-necked Fruitcrow	Coraya Wren
Cinnamon Attila	Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin	Buff-breasted Wren
Bright-rumped Attila	White-bearded Manakin	House Wren
Sirystes	White-crowned Manakin	Wing-banded Wren
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Golden-headed Manakin	Long-billed Gnatwren
Swainson's Flycatcher	Black-tailed Tityra	Tropical Gnatcatcher
Short-crested Flycatcher	Masked Tityra	Guianan Gnatcatcher
Lesser Kiskadee	Thrush-like Schiffornis	Para Gnatcatcher
Great Kiskadee	Cinereous Becard	Pale-breasted Thrush
Boat-billed Flycatcher	Chestnut-crowned Becard	Black-billed Thrush
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	Red-eyed Vireo	Masked Yellowthroat
	Gray-chested Greenlet	Bananaquit

Hooded Tanager	Blue-black Grassquit	Golden-sided Euphonia
Bicolored Conebill	Wing-barred Seedeater	House Sparrow
Pearly-breasted Conebill	Lined Seedeater	
Guira Tanager	Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	<b>MAMMALS (11 species)</b>
Gray-headed Tanager	Chestnut-bellied Seedeater	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
Fulvous Shrike-Tanager	Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch	Southern Tamandua
Flame-crested Tanager	Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch	Pied Bare-faced Tamarin
Fulvous-crested Tanager	Red-capped Cardinal	Golden-handed Tamarin
White-shouldered Tanager	Yellow-browed Sparrow	White-fronted Capuchin
White-lined Tanager	Yellow-green Grosbeak	Common Squirrel Monkey
Masked Crimson Tanager	Red-breasted Blackbird	Red Howler Monkey
Silver-beaked Tanager	Oriole Blackbird	Black Spider Monkey
Blue-gray Tanager	Velvet-fronted Grackle	Gray Dolphin (Tucuxi)
Palm Tanager	Yellow-hooded Blackbird	Amazon River Dolphin
Turquoise Tanager	Shiny Cowbird	Amazon Bamboo Rat
Paradise Tanager	Giant Cowbird	
Opal-rumped Tanager	Moriche Oriole	
Black-faced Dacnis	Orange-backed Troupial	
Yellow-bellied Dacnis	Solitary Cacique	
Blue Dacnis	Red-rumped Cacique	
Green Honeycreeper	Yellow-rumped Cacique	
Purple Honeycreeper	Russet-backed Oropendola	
Grayish Saltator	Crested Oropendola	
Buff-throated Saltator	White-lored Euphonia	
Slate-colored Grosbeak		