

ITINERARY
RIO NEGRO PARADISE: MANAUS, BRAZIL
September 10-25, 2023



The Fiery Topaz is a spectacular hummingbird of the lowland Amazonian forests. We've added a new site near Manacapuru where we should find this beauty. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

We include here information for those interested the 2023 Field Guides Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil tours:

- a general introduction to the tours
- a description of the birding areas to be visited
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

The Rio Negro is the crown jewel of Amazonia. Born in the ancient sands of the Guianan Shield, her dark waters course over foaming rapids and through vast island archipelagos to meet the Amazon at Manaus. Second only to the Amazon in volume of water, the Negro drains a huge portion of the northern Amazon Basin. For birds, it is a wonderful place to live. For birders, it is a wonderful place to bird! So get out your map of the Amazon and start planning to spend a couple of weeks birding some of the world's most amazing forests.

The city of Manaus, gateway to one of the greatest avifaunas on Earth, is a place every birder who's ever dreamed of birding the Amazon has got to visit. Our tour of the Rio Negro begins near Manaus with four days in a variety of climax Amazonian rainforest habitats. We'll do some serious nightbirding here as we go for White-winged, Long-tailed, and Rufous potoos on forest trails. By day we'll be dealing with mixed-species flocks in both the understory and canopy, and

searching for raiding swarms of army ants between visits to display areas of such world-class cotingas as Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, Capuchinbird, and possibly also Guianan Red-Cotinga. We will also have the privilege of birding from the INPA research tower north of Manaus at the beginning of the trip (and on another INPA tower close to town at end of the tour)!

Then it's down to the Negro herself where we'll board our private boat for several days in the singularly beautiful Anavilhanas Archipelago, now Anavilhanas National Park, and remote and unspoiled Jau National Park, eastern section of the second-largest conservation area in the world and home to numerous special birds, such as Tawny-tufted Toucanet, Pavonine Quetzal, Bar-bellied Woodcreeper, Chestnut-crested Antbird, and Reddish-winged Bare-eye. We'll also bird the lower Rio Solimões, that section of the Amazon west of the meeting of the waters with the Negro (an amazing spot to see!). Our boat is nigh-on luxurious, featuring private (two bunks), air-conditioned cabins with private bathrooms and great meals any time we want them. The open-air top deck is a great spot for an icy *caipirinha*, the national drink of Brazil. Life is grand out on these rivers; there's nothing to do but bird, eat, and sleep!

But can we really do the Manaus area justice in just a couple of weeks? The answer is "No." We are learning that it could take a lifetime to sleuth out her many avian secrets. And we won't even take time to cross the Amazon; that would entail simply too much (so we'll leave southern Amazonia for separate tours at Alta Floresta, the Rio Roosevelt, and our Great Rivers of the Amazon boat-based tours!). Join us and discover why we feel that the Rio Negro is paradise in the Amazon.



*The gorgeous Guianan Red-Cotinga is one of the Guianan Shield specialties we'll watch for in the forests near Manaus.
Photograph by guide Marcelo Barreiros.*

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can

help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails are mostly level, but some may be freshly cut through rainforest foliage—meaning there will be stumps, root masses, fallen trunks and other obstacles to pass. We'll be going up to a mile one-way on trails like this on many days of the tour. There may be small streams to wade through, or cross on log bridges. We'll have to climb steep banks to reach trails on terra firma terraces; there will be steps cut into the banks, but they will be steep. Some trails may be hilly and steep. One of our lodges has a stairway approximating 6 flights of stairs in an apartment building that we will be going up and down 2-3 times a day while we are there.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in; this can be tiring, especially in the heat and humidity. We will spend two mornings atop forest canopy observation towers that require climbing up steps to reach the platforms at about 140 feet. There are handrails all along the way, and its easy to stop to catch your breath now and then (and it often the case that one or more tour participants decide not to make the climb to the top of the towers, perhaps not going up even a short distance – all of which is fine. **Please note that the hotel we plan to use near Presidente Figueiredo has a fairly long, steep cement staircase without handrails between the cabins we will stay in and the dining area. Everyone will need to be able to make the ascent and descent of this staircase at least twice a day while we are there.** We'll take motorized canoes from the riverboat to explore some of the islands and side channels; you'll need to be able to get in and out of the canoe, and, during the first several days of the tour, in and out of the tour van, which may require reasonable leg strength. **Somewhat similarly, participants should be prepared for at least a small amount of fairly difficult walking in deep, goopy mud on river islands, on the last day of the tour.** Your guides will help steer the group into the best and safest areas for walking.
- **PACE:** We will start before dawn, ahead of the heat of the day. Some evenings we will have optional night-birding sessions after dinner. Many days we will have afternoon breaks before an afternoon birding session.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations are low on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** The climate in Amazonia is warm and humid, with mid-day temperatures in the low 90s F and a high relative humidity. Evenings are about 75 F. Rain is always a possibility.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides for the tour.

About the Birding Areas

Terra firme forest—The north bank of the Amazon in the Manaus area (east of the Rio Negro) still holds vast areas of uncut primary *terra firme* (never flooded) forest. Near the city, much of this lies on a white sand soil, while further out the clay soils and forest are more typical of that reaching to southern Venezuela and the Guianas. Near Manaus and around the little town of Presidente Figueiredo (about 1.5 hours north), forest trails permit many productive hours of birding. Species regularly occurring here and in neighboring habitats include Red-and-green and Blue-and-yellow macaws, Caica Parrot, Crimson Topaz, Chapman's Swift, Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, Bronzy Jacamar, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Curve-billed Scythebill, Golden-collared Woodpecker, Spot-backed Antwren, Olive-green Tyrannulet, Glossy-backed Becard, Pompadour Cotinga, Guianan Red-Cotinga, the incredible Capuchinbird, Wing-banded Wren, Guianan



Gnatcatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, and a variety of tanagers including Blue-backed and Dotted (both among the rarely seen species). Army ant swarms may yield Rufous-throated Antbird and the spectacular White-plumed Antbird.

Another important *terra firme* habitat, characterized by a dense growth of trees (often bushy in aspect and around twenty feet tall), grasses, and terrestrial bromeliads on poorly drained sand, is called *campina*. The particular *campinas* we will visit are home to the Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant (the last recently rediscovered following a hiatus in records of 161 years or, in other words, since the little critter was first discovered!), and the rarely seen White-naped Seedeater.

Chavascal is a forest habitat flooded for most of the year and characterized by dense growth of thin-trunked trees of more-or-less uniform canopy height ranging from about fifteen to twenty-five feet. Many of the trees have narrow crowns and the canopy has few openings relative to taller forests. It borders only along blackwater rivers and is sort of a subdivision of *igapo*, or permanently flooded blackwater forest. Not surprisingly, *chavascal* differs from the *terra firme* and tall *varzea* (seasonally flooded forest on

whitewater river floodplains) forest not only in its community of plants, but also in its bird composition. We'll take full advantage of our boat to sample this important Amazonian habitat, mostly on the west side of the Negro, where specialties include Lafresnaye's Piculet, Cherrie's Antwren, Yellow-crowned Manakin, an undescribed species in the Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant complex, and Brown-headed Greenlet, among many other birds. We'll see lots of *chavascal* at Jau National Park.

Anavilhanas Archipelago—A short distance up the Rio Negro from Manaus lies the Anavilhanas Archipelago, the largest river-island archipelago in the world. The archipelago is uninhabited and accessible only by water; it is completely covered with undisturbed seasonally flooded forest and home to many birds of note, among them Crestless Curassow (fairly easy to hear, very hard to see), both species of Band-tailed Nighthawks, Festive Parrot, Streak-throated Hermit, Green-tailed Jacamar, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Long-billed and Zimmer's woodcreepers, Speckled Spinetail, Blackish-gray Antshrike, Klages' and Leaden antwrens, Ash-breasted Antbird, Black-chinned Antbird, Wire-tailed Manakin, and Varzea Schiffornis. Other rarities we'll have a shot for include Agami and Zigzag herons and there is a pair of Crested Eagles that shows up every now and then. In contrast to whitewater river islands, those of the Anavilhanas are relatively stable and change little in configuration from year to year.

Solimões/Amazonas River islands—River islands in the whitewater Rio Solimões are highly dynamic landforms. At the upstream end of the islands, material is constantly being eroded, the flow of the river eating away at the substrate under what is often tall and mature forest that has stood on larger islands for decades. The downstream end of the islands, by contrast, has a marked progression of successional plant stages, from last year's silty tip with its emerging grass and shrubbery to progressively older, mixed stands of cane grass, Cecropias, morning-glory tangles, and other fast-growing vegetation farther back. This early successional plant community harbors a specialized avifauna. Birds unlikely to be found elsewhere on our trip include Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Short-tailed Parrot, Green-throated Mango, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Scaled, Parker's, White-bellied, and Red-and-white spinetails, Castelnau's Antshrike, Black-and-white Antbird (diminutive and beautiful), River Tyrannulet, Riverside Tyrant, Orange-headed Tanager, and Oriole Blackbird to mention just a few—the islands are very birdy!



We'll try to reach the INPA tower near Manaus early one morning for the best canopy birding.
 Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.

Itinerary for Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil

Days 1-2, Sun-Mon, 10-11 Sep. Arrival in Manaus. As of the writing of this itinerary, most flight options to Manaus route through Miami or Panama City to arrive late-night on September 10 (or early morning on September 11). For those who will need to leave home a day or more early, we will be happy to help with any overnight arrangements.

We hope to offer an optional first birding walk on the grounds of the recently reopened Tropical Hotel on the afternoon of **Day 2** (Sep 11), which can be quite productive—we will keep an eye open for sloths (both Two- and Three-toed are in the area) and the Brazilian Bare-faced Tamarin, a tiny black-and-white primate with a very limited world range in the Manaus area. We'll have dinner at our hotel Monday evening, and go over general plans for the tour. Night in Manaus.

Day 3, Tue, 12 Sep. Terra Firme forest birding. Manaus, at the confluence of the Amazon and Negro rivers, is the capital of the huge state of Amazonas and has a growing population that already exceeds two million. The city has spread inland dramatically in the past twenty years. Nonetheless, extensive forest remains near town, and we'll get an action-packed introduction to *terra firme* birding at the Adolfo Ducke Forest Reserve early this morning. After lunch and some rest, we'll either return to Ducke, or perhaps bird a partially forested area north of the city where we may see a fine variety of birds around fruiting trees. Night in Manaus.

Day 4, Wed, 13 Sep. Manaus to Presidente Figueiredo. We'll get away from Manaus super-early this morning for the nearly two-hour drive to the famed INPA (National Amazonian Research Institute) tower. This is a very sturdy, iron tower 42 meters tall and wide enough for all of us to move around. Arrival early at the tower gives us the best chance for good canopy birding action, with dozens of species possible! We'll be up there for about three hours, so you may wish to bring a small stool for sitting. Late morning, we'll continue to the little town of Presidente Figueiredo, another 60 or so kilometers north of Manaus; we'll be there in time for lunch.

This afternoon is special. After a fabulous lunch spread and a little time off, we'll head straight to a lek of Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. Words cannot describe this bird—it has to be seen to be believed, so that's exactly what we'll do! If we're real lucky, we'll come away with good views of the little-known Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant as well—from the exquisite to the obscure, all fascinating birds! Night in Presidente Figueiredo.

Days 5-6, Thu-Fri, 14-15 Sep. Presidente Figueiredo: waterfalls and *campinas*. We'll have two more days to bird a variety of habitats and trails in the beautiful Presidente Figueiredo region. This area is quite different from Manaus, being on a vast scarp of sandstone and limestone, replete with exceptionally clean "blackwater" (see below) streams. One

important habitat is white-sand *campina* woodland where we'll search for the incredible Crimson Topaz, White-fringed Antwren, the rarely seen Pale-bellied Mourner, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Black Manakin, and Red-shouldered Tanager; White-naped Seedeater is a very rare possibility as well. We usually see two or three species of macaws in the Presidente Figueiredo region, so keep an eye (and ear!) to the skies. We will also access forest interiors on several well-worn trails that lead to some of the dozens of beautiful waterfalls, watching for mixed-species flocks in the understory and canopy, and also for army ant swarms. These days will see us on the trail all morning and again late in the afternoon, with some time to rest after lunch. Our hotel features new, air-conditioned cabins set above a beautiful, blackwater stream that is excellent for a cooling dip on hot afternoons. Many of the birding trails are level and well-traveled, but some are hilly and narrow, and we will also bird along wider roadways in good habitat. We'll be on foot most of the time we're here, sifting through flocks, digging out leaf-tossers and gnatcatchers, staking out ant swarms, and, we hope, enjoying views of the bizarre Capuchinbird. Just a few of the specialties here include Marail Guan, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Guianan Puffbird, Curve-billed Scythebill, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Rufous-bellied Antwren and Brown-bellied stipplethroats, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill, White-fronted and White-throated manakins, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, and with great luck, the rarely seen Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant. Both Musician and Wing-banded wrens could perform for us as well.

One goal of our nightbirding efforts will be finding White-winged, Rufous, and Long-tailed potoos. OK, make that three goals. Nights at Presidente Figueiredo.

Day 7, Sat, 16 Sep. Morning in Presidente Figueiredo and transfer across the Rio Negro to Manacapuru. After a final early morning around Presidente Figueiredo and an early lunch, we'll head toward Manaus with an important stop at another *campina* in search of Yellow-crowned Manakin, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, and Northern Slaty-Antshrike. After lunch, we'll cross the Rio Negro bridge and start birding on the right bank of the Negro. The first stop will be at the little town of Manacapuru (indeginous word for "Little Princess of the Solimões river"). Our hotel is in a very nice forest area, and we should have a little time to do some birding on the trails later in the afternoon to look for White-chested Puffbird, Blue-crowned Manakin, Yellow-browed Antbird, and maybe even Black-necked Red-Cotinga. Then, if the weather looks good after dinner, we'll make our first attempt for the rarely seen Nocturnal Curassow, which Bret recently documented to occur in this area. Night near Manacapuru.



*Nocturnal Curassow is an exciting prospect, and we have a good chance to find them!
Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.*

Day 8, Sun, 17 Sep. Manacapuru to Novo Airão. Early in the morning will be the perfect time to look for another fantastic bird, Fiery Topaz, near to our cabins. The birds usually do some feeding on tiny insects over the flowing blackwater stream for a few minutes before they start visiting flowers in the forest and we'll be there waiting for them, of

course!! After that, we'll walk on the trails for the whole morning, looking for understory flocks with birds like Rio Negro Stipplethroat, Spot-throated and Ocellated woodcreepers, and also army ant swarms for both White-plumed and White-cheeked antbirds, and White-chinned, Plain-brown, and the rarely seen Bar-bellied woodcreepers. Lunch will be at the hotel, after which we'll drive about an hour to the town of Novo Airão where we will spend the night in a nice family hotel outside of the town. In the afternoon there's more adventure on the side roads near to the city and, maybe, more night birding for Rufous and White-winged potoos, some owls, and another shot at Nocturnal Curassow. Night in Novo Airão

Day 9, Mon, 18 Sep. Novo Airão and onto *Dorinha*! This morning will provide us an excellent opportunity to work terra firme forest, looking for birds like Tawny-tufted Toucanet, Pavonine Quetzal, Musician Wren (the *transfluvialis* race), Black-necked Red-Cotinga (in case we didn't find it earlier), and Wing-banded Wren, and to search for understory and canopy mixed-species flocks along some wide, fairly level roadways through forest near town. Later on, we'll visit a floating platform where several Amazon River Dolphins have become accustomed to feedings by local people during specific hours. This initiative has proven to be valuable in educating the public about the importance of protecting the dolphins, and today the dolphins are doing quite well, especially in the Anavilhanas region. Also on the docket will be a call at the front door of a family of Spix's Night-Monkeys, where they have lived for several years now – it's a wonderful sight!

We'll have returned to our hotel by late morning, ready to board *Dorinha*; she will have arrived from Manaus this morning. We'll probably have lunch as we head up the west bank of the beautiful Rio Negro. One of the greatest rivers on Earth, the Negro, as the name implies, is "blackwater," which refers to the clear, dark appearance of the water. Blackwater carries virtually no silt, since its drainage is almost entirely through sand, which adds no suspended particles and filters the tea-colored tannins from vegetation decaying on the ground. The Negro is great for swimming, and there are very few biting insects (although there can be pesky deer flies in the forest, and sometimes simuliid blackflies around sandy beaches). Depending on water levels and our progress upriver, we may offer our first post-dinner nightlighting excursion from the canoes. Tonight will be one of those long, rejuvenating nights of sleep! Night aboard *Dorinha*.



The Festive Parrot is found along the river systems of the Amazon; we should see them as we navigate the Anavilhanas Archipelago. Photograph by participant David Smith.

Day 10, Tue, 19 Sep. Anavilhanas NP and transfer to Jaú NP. We'll have dropped anchor sometime in the night, just off one of the myriad islands in the middle Anavilhanas Archipelago. This puts us in position for this morning's dawn chorus of antbirds and other species we'll seek, foremost among them Blackish-gray and Black-crested antshrikes, Klages' and Leaden antwrens, Ash-breasted and Black-chinned antbirds, Zimmer's Woodcreeper, Speckled and Rusty-backed spinetails, and Wire-tailed Manakin. We also expect Festive Parrot, Green-tailed Jacamar, Cream-colored and perhaps Ringed woodpeckers, Streak-throated Hermit, and Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant. Crestless Curassow is a rare

possibility (much more likely heard than seen, but we'll certainly try to be lucky). All five species of kingfishers are around the Anavilhanas and over the next few days, at Jaú National Park. After repositioning during our midday siesta, we'll bird in a different part of the archipelago. There are usually lots of both species of river dolphins (Tucuxi [Gray] and Amazon [Pink]) in this area. Band-tailed Nighthawks, of two different species, will be around us dawn and dusk. Night aboard *Dorinha*.



*In Jaú National Park, we'll have a chance to find Wing-banded Wren and other small forest-dwellers.
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

Days 11-13, Wed-Fri, 20-22 Sep. Jaú NP and transfer to Manaus. Birding the “whitewater” river islands and the Meeting of the Waters. Depending on water levels in the Negro, we may or may not have reached Jaú by dawn on Wednesday, but we will most likely find ourselves enjoying breakfast on the top deck as the sun rises over the entrance to Jaú National Park. This is a remote and seldom-visited park forming the eastern portion of the second-largest conservation unit in the world (the first is also in Brazil). We will have ample time to bird both *chavascal* woodland, the habitat for Cherrie's Antwren, an undescribed species related to Pelzeln's/Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Yellow-crowned Manakin, Brown-headed Greenlet, and Plumbeous Euphonia among others — and also tall *terra firme* forest in search of several Rio Negro specialties, including Pavonine Quetzal, Brown-banded Puffbird, Pearly Antshrike, Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant, and the seldom-seen Chestnut-crested Antbird and Reddish-winged Bare-eye. There are lots of other species to seek and, with great luck we may encounter Tawny-tufted Toucanet as well as the strange, stub-tailed Golden-backed (Black) Uakari, a rarely seen primate endemic to the middle-upper Negro basin. We will also do some important nightbirding during our couple of nights in Jaú, going especially for Rufous and White-winged potoos, and we'll have yet another chance to find a Nocturnal Curassow.

On the morning of Day 13, we will work on finding any especially important birds that may have escaped us so far, which certainly could include an army ant swarm. Then, we will depart Jaú to descend the Negro to pass Manaus late at night or early the next morning, hoping to have enough water in the Negro and the Amazon rivers to allow us to make the shortcut through the piece of land separating the two (saving a few hours of motoring all the way around it). Nights aboard *Dorinha*.

Day 14, Sat, 23 Sep. Birding the “whitewater” river islands and the Meeting of the Waters. This morning we will be making our first contact with the “whitewater” avifauna, and species new to our list will be popping up on all sides! The Rio Soilmões (Brazilian name for the Amazon River before its confluence with the Negro) is “whitewater,” meaning that it is laden with fine silt, and you will immediately notice that the vegetation is quite different from that on the islands of the Anavilhanas (and whitewater means more bugs, so you may need to close those windows!).

There is a large suite of "island endemics" to be sought on the Solimões and its major whitewater tributaries, such as Varzea Piculet (difficult this far west), Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Green-throated Mango, Castelnau's Antshrike, Black-and-white Antbird, Lesser Hornero, Dark-breasted, Pale-breasted, White-bellied, Yellow-chinned, Red-and-white, and Parker's spinetails (not all strictly endemic but whew, that's a prickly lot of spinetails to absorb!), Brownish Elaenia, Riverside Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, and Pearly-breasted and Bicolored conebills. Short-tailed Parrots and Tui Parakeets will be everywhere, with good numbers of White-winged Parakeets and Chestnut-fronted Macaws around as well. Some years there are hundreds or thousands of Purple Martins in the skies here, having recently arrived on migration from North America. There is likely to be some muddy walking at our various landing points along the Solimões, so rubber boots are a good (ahem, excellent) idea. Don't worry about tracking mud on the boat—the crew will happily clean our boots every time we come aboard. This afternoon we'll pass by the "Meeting of the Waters," where the Negro flows into the Amazonas—with Manaus off in the background. The different temperatures and densities of the two rivers cause them to run in parallel for many miles before gradually mixing far downriver. We'll make a late-afternoon arrival into Manaus, docking at a small port that provides easy access to the MUSA tower we will visit tomorrow morning. Night aboard *Dorinha*.

Day 15, Sun, 24 Sep. MUSA tower and afternoon or evening flights to Miami. We'll be away early to visit the INPA (MUSA = Museum of the Amazon) tower for a last, exciting morning of birding.

After birding at the tower and some trail birding in that area, we'll get back to the boat for lunch and time to pack up. We'll have this afternoon to visit the beautiful Manaus Opera House and perhaps do some shopping downtown. We'll probably have our last *caipirinhas* and dinner, and then get to the airport for late flights home.

Day 16, Mon, 25 Sep. Arrival in the States with connections home. *Que tenham uma ótima viagem!*

About Your Guides

Bret Whitney must be *at least* half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team but did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his stumbling onto multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the ABA's Ludlow Griscom award, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Bret guides most of our Brazil tours and, with Brazilian colleagues, he is supposed to be producing a series of regional field guides to the birds of Brazil. When not on tour, "the Kite" attempts to stay in shape with irregular bike rides, by leaning over pool tables, and by hefting kegs of Live Oak Pilsner and dumping 35-lb sacks of spicy crawfish, corn and potatoes onto old doors covered with newspapers so his family and friends can pig out at his crawfish boils.

*"Bret Whitney is a superb guide who knows the birds at a level I have not experienced in any other tour. His scientific expertise was a huge plus for serious birders." P.P.,
Brazil's Rio Roosevelt.*

Marcelo Barreiros is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldsmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

*Marcelo Barreiros is a natural trip leader. Aside from his mastery of the birds and environment, he projects a warm and humble confidence as well as a great sense of humor and even playfulness, which I appreciated enormously. W. M.;
Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for Marcelo and Bret; just click on a photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7675 from Manaus

DEPOSIT: \$775 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: March 14, 2023

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$425 (singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed but will very likely be available)

LIMIT: 10

Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required, we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

ACCOMMODATIONS: In Manaus, we will stay in a nice modern hotel. Our hotel in Presidente Figueiredo is basic but very comfortable. The main dining area is a short walk from our cabins, so participants should be able to manage a few flights of wide, sturdy stairs at each mealtime. Our riverboat (eight nights) is high-on luxurious, featuring private (two bunks), air-conditioned cabins with private bathrooms and great meals any time we want them.

DOCUMENTS: A passport valid for 6 months is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow Fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$7675 for one person in double occupancy from Manaus. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 15, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through dinner on Day 15, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Manaus, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$425; singles aboard the riverboat cannot be guaranteed. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$775** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by March 14, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as

published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

NCP 7/2020

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