

Trip Report — Brazil: Atlantic Forest Getaway 2025

October 23-November 2, 2025 with Marcelo Padua



This tour takes us to different altitudes, thus accessing different species of birds. Here our group is birding above the clouds at Pico Caledonia. Photo by guide Marcelo Padua.

The Atlantic Forest is my favorite place to bird in the world and many birders I know agree with that statement. The number of endemic species, the cosmetic beauty of the habitat, the fair climate and the sheer abundance of birds make it a wonderful place to look for birds and if you combine that with a tour where one can stay multiple nights in a single place, you immediately have a winner.

Our tour starts at the Rio de Janeiro International Airport, but we quickly made our way out of the city and up into the mountains known as Serra do Mar, reaching our lodge just after lunch. We started with some easy birding around the lodge, where we got acquainted with some common species such as Rufous Hornero, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Violet Capped Woodnymph and Rufous-fronted Thornbirds.



Swallow-tailed Manakin is the definition of Eye Candy, and we saw them on several occasions on our tour. Photo by guide Marcelo Padua.

From then on, we explored several different trails at different altitudes, finding different species at each of them. We started things off with the Cedae Trail, where we found a lot of great birds that included Black-cheeked Gnateater, Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner and Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Gray-hooded Atilla, Red-necked Tanager and Black-throated Grosbeak, just to name a few. We returned to the lodge in the afternoon for a quick break then headed out to the Theodoro Trail, where we connected with

Star-throated Antwren, White-throated Spadebill, Bertoni's Antbird and Swallow-tailed Manakin.

This was a great start, but there was a lot more to come, and on our next day we did a long loop towards the interior, enjoying great looks at Blue-winged Macaw, Toco Toucan, Blackish Rail, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Crested Black Tyrant, Firewood Gatherer, and even the highly localized Three-toed Jacamar. This was a long but rewarding day, with more than 100 species recorded in a single day.



The official name is Large-tailed Antshrike, but it might as well be called "Starry Night Antbird". Photo by guide Marcelo Padua.

Macae de Cima was our next destination, and we spent a full day birding along the dirt road that leads to this village, and we picked up an amazing number of incredible birds, with Green-crowned Plovercrest, Bare-throated Bellbird, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Pin-tailed Manakin and Ochre-faced Tody-flycatcher taking the top of the list.

We climbed even higher to find some species that are only found at higher elevations, and we came across some very rare birds at Pico Caledonia, where we had excellent views of Gray-winged Cotinga, Itatiaia Spinetail, Large-tailed Antshrike, Diademed Tanager, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet and Blue-billed Black-tyrant, before making our way down the mountain, making stops for Slaty Bristlefront, Black-and-Gold Cotinga and Red-legged Seriema before reaching our lodge and getting some rest to prepare us for a night birding walk around the lodge. This was the most productive outing for night birding we have ever had at Pousada Mariza, with Common Potoo, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Tropical Screech-owl, Rusty-barred Owl and Mottled Owl all recorded on a single night. What an amazing day.



Diademed Tanager is one of many species we found at the upper reaches of Pico Caledonia. Photo by guide Marcelo Padua.

From the highest point where we birded on the tour, we turned to sea level the following day and visited the amazing conservation and forest restoration project at REGUA, where we picked up some rare lowland species, including White-flanked Antwren and Unicolored Antwren, as well as some other more common species that included Brazilian Tanager, Black-crowned Night Heron, Greater Ani, Ferruginous Pygmy-owl and Chestnut-backed Antshrike.

Our next day was impacted by rain, something that is to be expected in the Atlantic Forest, but we made the best of it by visiting the feeders at Sitio Virtuoso and enjoying great looks at Black Jacobin, Brazilian Ruby, Scalethroated Hermit, Rufous-capped Motmot, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Brassy-breasted Tanagers and many more.



This tour is rich in species of Furnariids, and the White-eyed Foliage-gleaner is one of the nicest of them. Photo by guide Marcelo Padua.

We wrapped things up with a visit to Tres Picos State Park, and saw Streak-capped Antwren, Gray-hooded Flycatcher, Saw-billed Hermit, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, and several other birds that we had now become acquainted with.

This was a fabulous tour and it is a classic example of why birding in the Atlantic Forest is such an enjoyable experience. I loved every minute of it and I hope you enjoyed it too.



The grounds of our lodge proved to be a very fruitful site for night birding, and this Tropical Screech-Owl is one of several night birds we saw around the lodge. Photo by guide Marcelo Padua.

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: https://ebird.org/tripreport/440703

You can download a combined PDF of this page and the eBird report at this link: https://fieldguides.com/triplists/tuc25TRIPLIST.pdf

-- Marcelo Padua

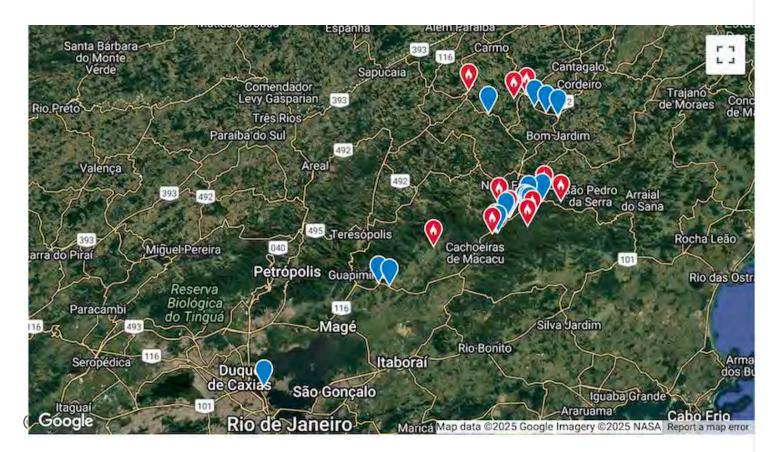




Field Guides Birding Tours -- Brazil: Atlantic Forest Getaway 2025 (with Marcelo Padua)



23 Oct - 2 Nov 2025 (11 days) Link-only



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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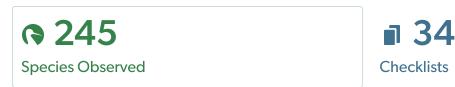
Marcelo Padua

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For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional...



Picazuro Pigeon Patagioenas picazuro

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11

Species Observed

Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius* ▶ ■ 1 **Brown Tinamou** Crypturellus obsoletus ▶ ■ 3 White-faced Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna viduata ▶ ■ 1 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna autumnalis ▶ ■ 1 Muscovy Duck Cairina moschata ▶ ■ 1 15 **Brazilian Teal** Amazonetta brasiliensis ▶ ■ 2 10 Dusky-legged Guan Penelope obscura ▶ ■ 5 4 Spot-winged Wood-Quail Odontophorus capueira ▶ ■ 3

6	Plumbeous Pigeon Patagioenas plumbea	▶ 🚺 5
2	Ruddy Ground Dove Columbina talpacoti	1 2
1	White-tipped Dove Leptotila verreauxi	1
1	Gray-fronted Dove Leptotila rufaxilla	1
2	Guira Cuckoo Guira guira	1
1	Greater Ani Crotophaga major	1
3	Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani	1
4	Common Squirrel-Cuckoo Piaya cayana	▶ 1 4
1	Short-tailed Nighthawk Lurocalis semitorquatus	1
3	Common Potoo Nyctibius griseus	1 2
1	Sooty Swift Cypseloides fumigatus	1
40	White-collared Swift Streptoprocne zonaris	▶ 1 2
9	Sick's Swift Chaetura meridionalis	1 3
5	Black Jacobin Florisuga fusca	1 3
3	Saw-billed Hermit Ramphodon naevius	1 2
1	Planalto Hermit Phaethornis pretrei	1
5	Scale-throated Hermit Phaethornis eurynome	▶ 1 4
6	Brazilian Ruby Heliodoxa rubricauda	1 2
3	Glittering-bellied Emerald Chlorostilbon lucidus	3
5	Green-crowned Plovercrest Stephanoxis Ialandi	1

12	Violet-capped Woodnymph Thalurania glaucopis	▶ 🚺 5
1	Sombre Hummingbird Eupetomena cirrochloris) 1
5	White-throated Hummingbird Leucochloris albicollis	▶ 1 4
1	Sapphire-spangled Emerald Chionomesa lactea) 1
1	Blackish Rail Pardirallus nigricans) 1
6	Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail Aramides saracura	1 4
1	Common Gallinule Gallinula galeata	1
1	Purple Gallinule Porphyrio martinica) 1
14	Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis	▶ 🗖 5
1	Wattled Jacana Jacana	1
3	Magnificent Frigatebird Fregata magnificens	1
1	Anhinga Anhinga anhinga	1
2	Neotropic Cormorant Nannopterum brasilianum	1 2
1	Rufescent Tiger-Heron Tigrisoma lineatum	1
1	Whistling Heron Syrigma sibilatrix	1
1	Snowy Egret Egretta thula	1
24	Western Cattle-Egret Ardea ibis	1 3
3	Great Egret Ardea alba	1
1	Cocoi Heron Ardea cocoi) 🚮 1
20	Black Vulture Coragyps atratus	▶ 1 8

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2	Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura	▶ 🚺 2
2	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture Cathartes burrovianus) 1
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus) 1
2	Savanna Hawk Buteogallus meridionalis	▶ 🗖 2
3	Roadside Hawk Rupornis magnirostris	▶ 🗖 2
2	White-tailed Hawk Geranoaetus albicaudatus	▶ 🗖 2
1	Mantled Hawk Pseudastur polionotus) 🗐 1
2	Tropical Screech-Owl Megascops choliba	1 2
1	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Glaucidium brasilianum) 1 1
2	Mottled Owl Strix virgata) 1 1
1	Rusty-barred Owl Strix hylophila) 1 1
3	Surucua Trogon Trogon surrucura	1 2
8	Rufous-capped Motmot Baryphthengus ruficapillus	▶ 1 6
1	Green Kingfisher Chloroceryle americana) 1
2	Crescent-chested Puffbird Malacoptila striata) 1
2	Three-toed Jacamar Jacamaralcyon tridactyla) 1 1
3	Saffron Toucanet Pteroglossus bailloni	1 2
4	Spot-billed Toucanet Selenidera maculirostris	1 2
3	Toco Toucan Ramphastos toco	▶ 🚮 3
9	Channel-billed Toucan Ramphastos vitellinus	▶ 🚺 5

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3	White-barred Piculet Picumnus cirratus	▶ 1 2
2	Yellow-eared Woodpecker Veniliornis maculifrons	1 2
2	Blond-crested Woodpecker Celeus flavescens	1 2
1	Yellow-throated Woodpecker Piculus flavigula) 🚮 1
4	White-browed Woodpecker Piculus aurulentus	▶ 🖪 3
3	Red-legged Seriema Cariama cristata	1
1	Barred Forest-Falcon Micrastur ruficollis) 📶 1
3	Crested Caracara Caracara plancus	1 2
1	Yellow-headed Caracara Daptrius chimachima) 📶 1
13	Plain Parakeet Brotogeris tirica	▶ 1 6
4	Scaly-headed Parrot Pionus maximiliani	▶ ■ 2
24	Maroon-bellied Parakeet Pyrrhura frontalis	▶ 1 5
2	Blue-winged Macaw Primolius maracana) 📶 1
32	White-eyed Parakeet Psittacara leucophthalmus	▶ 1 7
2	Spot-backed Antshrike Hypoedaleus guttatus	1 2
3	Large-tailed Antshrike Mackenziaena leachii	1 2
1	Rufous-capped Antshrike Thamnophilus ruficapillus) 1
2	Chestnut-backed Antshrike Thamnophilus palliatus) 1
1	Variable Antshrike Thamnophilus caerulescens	1
4	Star-throated Antwren Rhopias gularis	1 2

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2	Spot-breasted Antvireo Dysithamnus stictothorax	▶ 1 2
1	Plain Antvireo Dysithamnus mentalis	1
1	White-flanked Antwren Myrmotherula axillaris) 1
1	Unicolored Antwren Myrmotherula unicolor	1
2	Rufous-margined Antwren Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus	1
2	Ferruginous Antbird Drymophila ferruginea	1
2	Bertoni's Antbird Drymophila rubricollis	1
5	Rufous-tailed Antbird Drymophila genei	1
4	Ochre-rumped Antbird Drymophila ochropyga	1 3
3	Streak-capped Antwren Terenura maculata	1 2
1	Black-cheeked Gnateater Conopophaga melanops	1
2	Variegated Antpitta Grallaria varia	1 2
1	Slaty Bristlefront Merulaxis ater	1
1	Mouse-colored Tapaculo Scytalopus speluncae	1
1	Rufous-capped Antthrush Formicarius colma	1
2	Such's Antthrush Chamaeza meruloides	1 2
6	Olivaceous Woodcreeper Sittasomus griseicapillus	▶ 🚺 5
2	Plain-winged Woodcreeper Dendrocincla turdina	1 2
4	White-throated Woodcreeper Xiphocolaptes albicollis	1 3
3	Lesser Woodcreeper Xiphorhynchus fuscus	1 3

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1	Black-billed Scythebill Campylorhamphus falcularius	•	1
2	Scaled Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes squamatus	•	1 2
5	Streaked Xenops Xenops rutilans	•	1 4
1	Wing-banded Hornero Furnarius figulus	•	a 1
4	Rufous Hornero Furnarius rufus	•	1 3
3	Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper Lochmias nematura	•	1 3
3	White-collared Foliage-gleaner Anabazenops fuscus	•	1 2
1	Pale-browed Treehunter Cichlocolaptes leucophrus	•	a 1
2	Black-capped Foliage-gleaner Philydor atricapillus	•	1 1
2	White-browed Foliage-gleaner Anabacerthia amaurotis	•	1 2
1	Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner Anabacerthia lichtensteini	•	a 1
4	Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner Syndactyla rufosuperciliata	•	1 4
5	Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner Dendroma rufa	•	1 5
4	Rufous-fronted Thornbird Phacellodomus rufifrons	•	1 2
4	Orange-eyed Thornbird Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus	•	1 3
2	Firewood-gatherer Anumbius annumbi	•	a 1
2	Itatiaia Spinetail Asthenes moreirae	•	1 1
2	Pallid Spinetail Cranioleuca pallida	•	1 2
3	Yellow-chinned Spinetail Certhiaxis cinnamomeus	•	1 2
1	Gray-bellied Spinetail Synallaxis cinerascens	•	1 1

2	Rutous-capped Spinetail Synallaxis ruficapilla	▶ 🚺 2
2	Spix's Spinetail Synallaxis spixi	1
11	Swallow-tailed Manakin Chiroxiphia caudata	▶ 🚺 5
4	Pin-tailed Manakin Ilicura militaris	▶ 🖪 3
1	White-bearded Manakin Manacus manacus	1
1	Hooded Berryeater Carpornis cucullata	1
1	Swallow-tailed Cotinga Phibalura flavirostris	1
1	Black-and-gold Cotinga Lipaugus ater	1
1	Gray-winged Cotinga Lipaugus conditus	1
10	Bare-throated Bellbird Procnias nudicollis	▶ 1 7
1	Greenish Schiffornis Schiffornis virescens	1
1	Green-backed Becard Pachyramphus viridis	1
3	Chestnut-crowned Becard Pachyramphus castaneus	1 2
1	Crested Becard Pachyramphus validus	→ 同 1
1	Black-tailed Flycatcher Myiobius atricaudus	1
4	White-throated Spadebill Platyrinchus mystaceus	1 4
1	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher Mionectes oleagineus	1
2	Gray-hooded Flycatcher Mionectes rufiventris	1 2
2	Sepia-capped Flycatcher Leptopogon amaurocephalus	1 2
2	Serra do Mar Bristle-Tyrant Pogonotriccus difficilis	1

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1	Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet Phylloscartes ventralis	•		11
2	Southern Antpipit Corythopis delalandi	Þ		12
4	Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant Hemitriccus diops	Þ		13
3	Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps	•		13
5	Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher Todirostrum poliocephalum	•		14
4	Yellow-olive Flatbill Tolmomyias sulphurescens	Þ		14
1	Cliff Flycatcher Hirundinea ferruginea	Þ		1 1
1	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet Camptostoma obsoletum	•		1 1
2	Yellow Tyrannulet Capsiempis flaveola	•		1 1
1	Small-headed Elaenia Elaenia sordida	•		1 1
3	Yellow-bellied Elaenia Elaenia flavogaster	Þ		12
5	Planalto Tyrannulet Phyllomyias fasciatus	Þ		13
2	Gray-capped Tyrannulet Phyllomyias griseocapilla	Þ		12
2	Rough-legged Tyrannulet Acrochordopus burmeisteri	Þ		12
4	Bran-colored Flycatcher Myiophobus fasciatus	Þ		13
4	Euler's Flycatcher Lathrotriccus euleri	Þ		12
1	Southern Tropical Pewee Contopus cinereus	Þ		1 1
2	Crested Black-Tyrant Knipolegus lophotes	Þ	i	1 1
2	Velvety Black-Tyrant Knipolegus nigerrimus	•		1 1
5	Blue-billed Black-Tyrant Knipolegus cyanirostris	•		1 1

3	White-headed Marsh Tyrant Arundinicola leucocephala	1 2
4	Masked Water-Tyrant Fluvicola nengeta	▶ 🚺 2
3	Streamer-tailed Tyrant Gubernetes yetapa	▶ 🚺 2
2	Long-tailed Tyrant Colonia colonus	▶ 🚺 2
5	Gray-hooded Attila Attila rufus	▶ 🚮 3
2	Sibilant Sirystes Sirystes sibilator	1
5	Short-crested Flycatcher Myiarchus ferox	1 2
1	Cattle Tyrant Machetornis rixosa	1
7	Great Kiskadee Pitangus sulphuratus	1 4
6	Boat-billed Flycatcher Megarynchus pitangua	3
4	Social Flycatcher Myiozetetes similis	▶ 🚺 3
6	Streaked Flycatcher Myiodynastes maculatus	▶ 🚺 5
1	Piratic Flycatcher Legatus leucophaius	1
7	Tropical Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus	▶ 🗊 4
2	Fork-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus savana	1
10	Rufous-browed Peppershrike Cyclarhis gujanensis	▶ 🚮 6
2	Rufous-crowned Greenlet Hylophilus poicilotis	▶ 🗖 2
3	Chivi Vireo Vireo chivi	1 2
1	Curl-crested Jay Cyanocorax cristatellus	1
3	Black-capped Donacobius Donacobius atricapilla	▶ 1 1

2	White-rumped Swallow Tachycineta leucorrhoa	1
1	Gray-breasted Martin Progne chalybea	1
4	Southern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx ruficollis	▶ 🚮 3
15	Blue-and-white Swallow Pygochelidon cyanoleuca	▶ 🚮 3
1	Tawny-headed Swallow Alopochelidon fucata	1
10	Southern House Wren Troglodytes musculus	▶ 1 9
2	Chalk-browed Mockingbird Mimus saturninus	▶ 🚺 2
3	Creamy-bellied Thrush Turdus amaurochalinus	▶ 🚮 3
4	Yellow-legged Thrush Turdus flavipes	▶ 🚮 3
5	Pale-breasted Thrush Turdus leucomelas	1 4
8	Rufous-bellied Thrush Turdus rufiventris	▶ 🗖 6
2	Common Waxbill Estrilda astrild *	1
1	Blue-naped Chlorophonia Chlorophonia cyanea	1
1	Purple-throated Euphonia Euphonia chlorotica	1
1	Violaceous Euphonia Euphonia violacea	1
5	Chestnut-bellied Euphonia Euphonia pectoralis	▶ 1 4
1	Hooded Siskin Spinus magellanicus	1
1	Grassland Sparrow Ammodramus humeralis	• 1
1	Half-collared Sparrow Arremon semitorquatus) 🚮 1
19	Rufous-collared Sparrow Zonotrichia capensis	▶ 🚺 5

1	Crested Oropendola Psarocolius decumanus	1
20	Red-rumped Cacique Cacicus haemorrhous	1 4
3	Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis	1 3
2	Chopi Blackbird Gnorimopsar chopi	1 2
1	Chestnut-capped Blackbird Chrysomus ruficapillus	1
1	Yellow-rumped Marshbird Pseudoleistes guirahuro	1
2	Southern Yellowthroat Geothlypis velata	1 2
1	Tropical Parula Setophaga pitiayumi	1
9	Golden-crowned Warbler Basileuterus culicivorus	▶ 1 7
4	White-browed Warbler Myiothlypis leucoblephara	1 3
3	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager Habia rubica	1
1	Ultramarine Grosbeak Cyanoloxia brissonii	1
9	Magpie Tanager Cissopis leverianus	▶ 1 4
7	Black-goggled Tanager Trichothraupis melanops	1 3
7	Ruby-crowned Tanager Tachyphonus coronatus	▶ 🚺 5
2	Brazilian Tanager Ramphocelus bresilius	1
3	Diademed Tanager Stephanophorus diadematus	1
10	Sayaca Tanager Thraupis sayaca	▶ 🚺 5
3	Azure-shouldered Tanager Thraupis cyanoptera	1 2
14	Golden-chevroned Tanager Thraupis ornata	▶ 1 7

2	Palm Tanager Thraupis palmarum) 📶 1
3	Burnished-buff Tanager Stilpnia cayana	▶ 🗖 2
32	Green-headed Tanager Tangara seledon	1 4
9	Red-necked Tanager Tangara cyanocephala	▶ 🗖 2
22	Brassy-breasted Tanager Tangara desmaresti	1 4
7	Gilt-edged Tanager Tangara cyanoventris	▶ 🗖 2
4	Swallow Tanager Tersina viridis	▶ 🗖 4
1	Blue Dacnis Dacnis cayana	1
2	Rufous-headed Tanager Hemithraupis ruficapilla	1
5	Bay-chested Warbling Finch Castanozoster thoracicus	1
40	Saffron Finch Sicalis flaveola	▶ 🗖 6
1	Double-collared Seedeater Sporophila caerulescens) 🗐 1
1	Buffy-fronted Seedeater Sporophila frontalis) 1
5	Bananaquit Coereba flaveola	▶ 🚺 5
2	Green-winged Saltator Saltator similis	▶ 🚺 2
1	Black-throated Grosbeak Saltator fuliginosus) 1