

Trip Report: Brazil (Mata Atlântica)
(Guapi Assu Bird Lodge, Rio de Janeiro State)
May 31st – June 2nd 2013

This report summarises a weekend visit to the Guapi Assu Lodge located in the Guapiaçu valley of the Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlântica), Rio de Janeiro state. See www.guapiassubirdlodge.com and my April 2013 trip report for further background details on the lodge and the REGUA conservation project.

Local guide Adilei helped find a Giant Snipe on my first evening – it put on a great show for us just after dusk as it flew low around an open field and then crouched down in the grass where we were able to enjoy excellent spotlight views. The following day, Adilei guided me on the Elfin Forest (‘Red’) Trail that extends up through primary forest from the Waterfall (‘Green’) Trail that I had birded back in April. During this full day of birding, we hiked some 12km (round-trip) and gained over 800m. The trail topped out at exactly 1000m ASL where we enjoyed lunch with spectacular views from the ridgeline elfin forest. Highlights along the Elfin Forest Trail included seeing a Sharpbill (finally!, albeit high in the canopy) and securing good views of lifers such as White-bearded Antshrike (in bamboo just before the top of the trail) and White-bibbed Antbird (in the eponymous elfin forest at the very top of the trail).



White-bearded Antshrike [Elfin Forest (‘Red’) Trail]

I also spent some time birding on my own in more relaxed style around the lodge grounds, from the canopy tower and along the nearby wetlands trails. This provided time to enjoy and photograph some of the lovely birds visiting the lodge feeders (in particular Violaceous Euphonia and Maroon-bellied Parakeet) and occasional raiding parties of tiny White-tufted Marmoset’s. My overall trip total was 102 bird species, including 15 Brazilian endemics and 8 ‘lifers’.



Blond-crested Woodpecker (female) [Lodge garden]



Violaceous Euphonia [Lodge garden]



Spot-billed Toucanet (female) [Elfin Forest ('Red') Trail]



Oustalet's Tyrannulet; Rufous-breasted Leafhopper [both Elfin Forest ('Red') Trail]



Black-goggled Tanager [Elfin Forest ('Red') Trail]



Giant Snipe [Spotlight after dark in fields near to the lodge]



Blue Dacnis (male & female) [Lodge garden]



Maroon-bellied Parakeet [Lodge garden]



White-tufted Marmoset [Lodge garden]



'88' Butterflies [Lodge garden]

1. Bird Trip List¹

Confirmed personal sightings only for DJS – excludes birds heard only unless otherwise indicated. As field guide I used [‘A Field Guide to The Birds of Brazil’ by Ben van Perlo \(Oxford University Press, 2009\)](#) - which contained all of the species encountered. Some names have been updated since this guide was published, so birds in the trip list are identified as per ‘The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World’, Cornell, 2007 with updates through December 2010 (online version 6.5).

Locations where species seen in sequence of travel:

L = Lodge grounds, canopy tower and adjacent secondary forest at ~50m ASL (pm of May 31st and am of June 2nd)

F = Fields near to the lodge at ~30m ASL (dusk spotlighting excursion on May 31st)

R = Red (Elfin Forest) and Green (Waterfall) Trails through primary forest between ~200m and 1,000m ASL (June 1st)

W = Wetlands area, including lakes and adjacent secondary forest (am of June 2nd)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) [W]
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) [W]
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) * [W]
Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*) [W]
Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) [W]
Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) * [W]
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) [L]
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) [L]
Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) [L]
Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) [L]
Rusty-margined Guan (*Penelope superciliosus*) [W]
Rufous-sided Crake (*Laterallus melanophaius*) **heard only** [W]
Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) [W]
Common Gallinule (Moorhen) (*Gallinula chloropus*) [W]
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) [W]
Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) [F]
Giant Snipe (*Gallinago undulata*) * [F]
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) [R]
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) [R]
Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) [R]
Maroon-bellied Parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis*) * [L]
Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) [W]
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) [R]
Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) [F]
Saw-billed Hermit (*Ramphodon naevius*) **E** [R]
Violet-capped Woodnymph (*Thalurania glaucopis*) [L]
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupetomena macroura*) [L]
Rufous-capped Motmot (*Baryphthengus ruficapillus*) **heard only** [R]
Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) **heard only** [R]
Saffron Toucanet (*Pteroglossus bailloni*) [R]
Spot-billed Toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*) * [R]
Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*) [R]
White-barred Piculet (*Picumnus cirratus*) * [L; R; W]
Yellow-eared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis maculifrons*) **E** **heard only** [R]
Blond-crested Woodpecker (*Ceelus flavescens*) * [L; R]
White-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes albicollis*) [R]
Black-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus falcularius*) [R]
Wing-banded Hornero (*Furnarius figulus*) **E** [W]
Pallid Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pallida*) **E** [R]
Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*) [W]
Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner (*Philydor rufum*) [R]

¹ First sighting ever for DJS; **E** = Brazil endemic species; * = photo available

Black-capped Foliage-Gleaner (*Philydor atricapillus*) [R]
White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner (*Automolus leucophthalmus*) [R]
White-bearded Antshrike (*Biatas nigropectus*) * [R]
Chestnut-backed Antshrike (*Thamnophilus palliatus*) * [W]
Spot-breasted Antwren (*Dysithamnus stictothorax*) [R]
Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) [R]
Star-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula gularis*) E [R]
White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris luctuosa*) *heard only* [R]
Ferruginous Antbird (*Drymophila ferruginea*) E [R]
Scaled Antbird (*Drymophila squamata*) E *heard only* [R]
White-shouldered Fire-Eye (*Pyriglena leucoptera*) *heard only* [R]
White-bibbed Antbird (*Myrmeciza loricata*) E [R]
Black-cheeked Gnateater (*Conopophaga melanops*) E * [R]
Slaty Bristlefront (*Merulaxis ater*) E *heard only* [R]
Pin-tailed Manakin (*Ilicura militaris*) E [R]
White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*) * [W]
Swallow-tailed (Blue) Manakin (*Chiroxiphia caudata*) * [R]
Southern Antpipit (*Corythopis delalandi*) * [R]
Sharpbill (*Oxyruncus cristatus*) * [R]
Gray-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseicapilla*) E [R]
Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) [R; W]
Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) [W]
Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) [R]
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) [R]
Oustalet's Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes oustaleti*) E * [R]
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus orbitatus*) E *heard only* [R]
Eared Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis auricularis*) [R]
Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecillotriccus plumbeiceps*) *heard only* [R]
Whiskered Flycatcher (*Myiobius barbatus mastacalis*) [R]
Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) *heard only* [R]
White-throated Spadebill (*Platyrinchus mystaceus*) [R]
Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*) [W]
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*) [W]
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) [W; L]
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) [L]
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) [L; W]
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) *heard only* [R]
Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) [R]
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) [R]
Lemon-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus thoracicus*) [W]
White-thighed Swallow (*Atticora tibialis*) [R]
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) [R; L]
Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*) [W]
Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*) [L]
Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*) [L]
Black-goggled Tanager (*Trichothraupis melanops*) * [R]
Yellow-backed Tanager (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*) * [L]
Brazilian Tanager (*Ramphocelus bresilius*) [L]
Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*) * [L]
Azure-shouldered Tanager (*Thraupis cyanoptera*) E [R]
Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) [L]
Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus*) * [L]
Ruby-crowned Tanager (*Tachyphonus coronatus*) [R]
Burnished-Buff Tanager (*Tangara cayana*) [L]
Brassy-breasted Tanager (*Tangara desmaresti*) [R]
Red-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanocephala*) [R]
White-bellied (Turquoise) Tanager (*Tangara brasiliensis*) [R]
Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) * [L; R]
Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*) * [L]

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia pectoralis*) [R]
Chestnut-vented Conebill (*Conirostrum speciosum*) [W]

Total 102 confirmed species for trip, of which 8 were 'lifers' for me...



View from the lookout at 1000m ASL at the end of Elfin Forest (Red) Trail