



BRAZIL BIRDING

E X P E R T S

NORTHEAST BRAZIL – TRADITIONAL TOUR

19 DAYS



Welcome to the Traditional Northeast Brazil Tour. This great journey begins and ends on the Brazilian coasts, nurtured by delicious foods and fascinating birds. Beginning with Little Wood-Rail and Clapper (Mangrove) Rail in Icapuí and finishing with the Bahia and Band-tailed Antwrens, and good chances of seeing the extremely rare Banded Cotinga in Porto Seguro. The main difference of this tour is the Pernambuco Endemism Center, which is one of the most endangered environments in the world. It is in this location that we will look for some of the most endangered birds on the planet, such as Alagoas Antwren, Orange-bellied Antwren, White-collared Kite, Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner and many others. They are definitely not easy birds, but if you have time and the will, this is the trip for you!

NORTHEAST BRAZIL TRADITIONAL TOUR

(Ceará, Bahia, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Sergipe)

Guide: To be defined...

SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

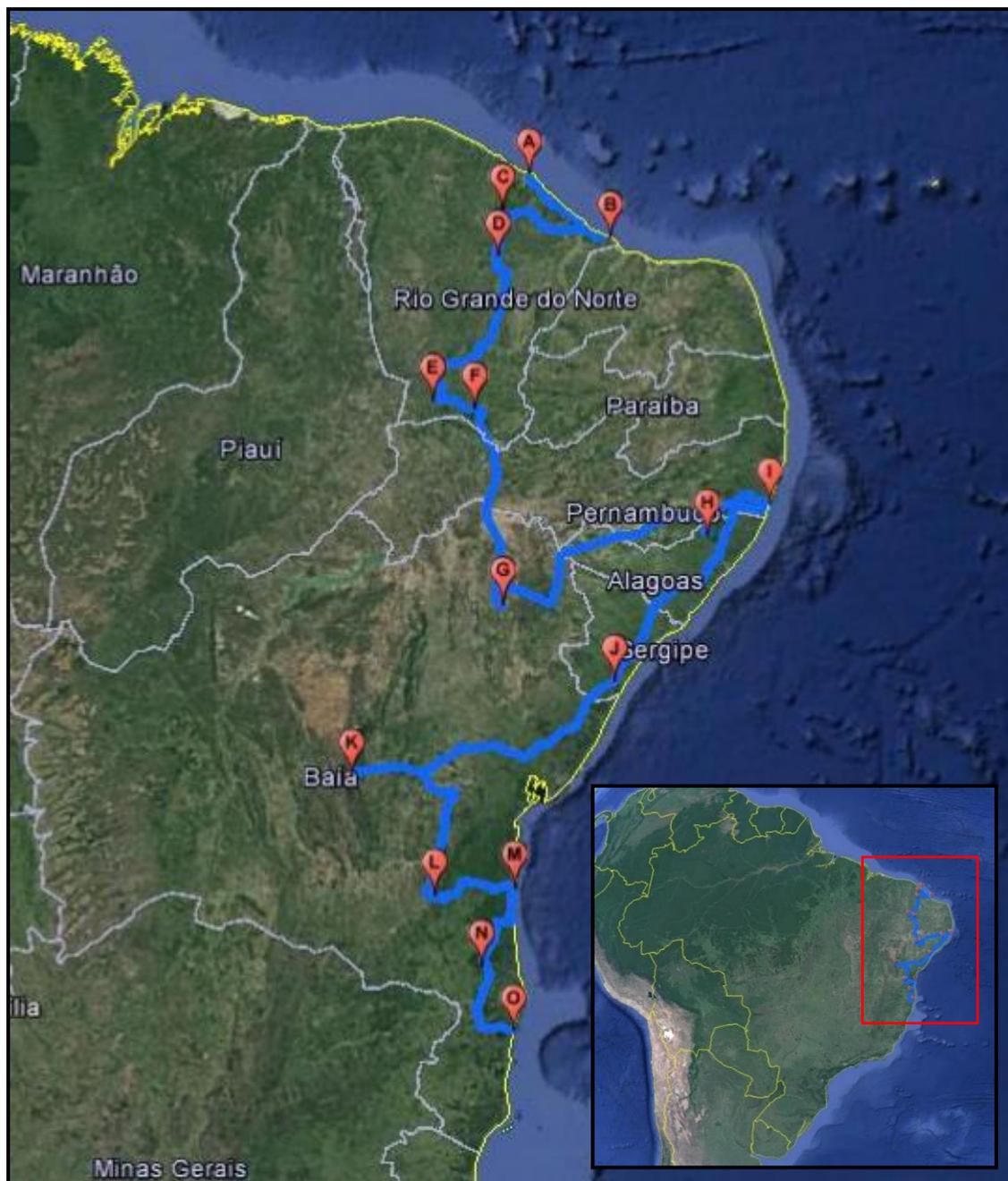
Day	Location (state)	Comments
1	Fortaleza – Icapuí (200Km)	Arrival and transfer.
2	Icapuí – Guaramiranga (225Km)	AM Birding in Icapuí. Transfer.
3	Guaramiranga – Quixadá (100Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding.
4	Quixadá – Potengi (360Km)	AM Birding. Transfer.
5	Potengi	Full Day Birding in Potengi.
6	Potengi – Crato – Canudos (470Km)	Transfer. AM Birding. Transfer
7	Canudos – União dos Palmares (530Km)	AM Birding. Transfer.
8	União dos Palmares	Full Day Birding in Murici (50Km)
9	União dos Palmares – Tamandaré (180Km)	AM Birding in Jaqueira. Transfer
10	Tamandaré – Estância (520Km)	AM Birding. Transfer
11	Estância – Lençóis (550Km)	AM Birding. Transfer
12	Chapada Diamantina (Lençóis)	Full Day Birding
13	Lençóis – Boa Nova (420Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding
14	Boa Nova	Full Day Birding (Boa Nova Region)
15	Boa Nova – Camacan (400Km)	Transfer.
16	Camacan	Full Day Birding
17	Camacan – Porto Seguro (210Km)	AM Birding. Transfer
18	Porto Seguro	Full Day Birding
19	Porto Seguro	Departure

Suggested period: From September to January



OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLETE ITINERARY

Fortaleza (A), Icapuí (B), Guaramiranga (C) Quixadá (D), Potengi (E), Crato (F), Canudos (G), União dos Palmares (H), Tamandaré (I), Estância (J), Lençóis (K), Boa Nova (L), Itacaré (M), Camacan (N), Porto Seguro (O).



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in **Fortaleza** and transfer to Icapuí (+/-3hrs [200Km]). The ideal is to leave Fortaleza around noon to maximize our chances in Icapuí.

Area description: City further east of Ceará, almost bordering the state of Rio Grande do Norte. Known for its fishing activities, especially lobster, which is one of the main sources of income for the local community. This reality has been changing due to overfishing of large vessels/companies that are depleting local natural resources. City with a very comfortable weather, especially in the evening, favored by pleasant winds.

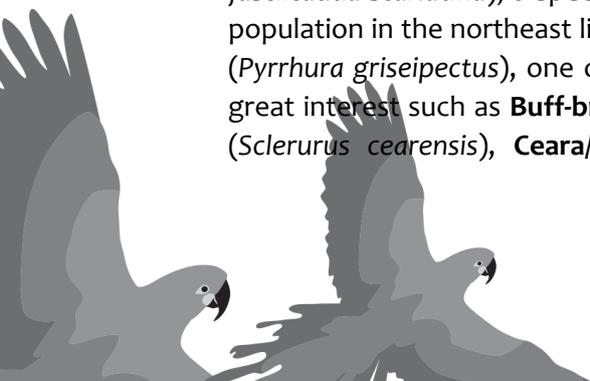
Summary: Our main target here is the **Little Wood-Rail** (*Aramides mangle*). Being located in an area where there is the presence of mangroves, you can also find species associated with this environment such as the Bicolored Conebill (*Conirostrum bicolor*) and the **Clapper Rail** (*Rallus longirostris*). For those who have not seen the **Tropical Mockingbird** (*Mimus gilvus*), we have plenty of those as well.



Day 2: AM Birding in Icapuí and transfer to **GUARAMIRANGA** (+/-3½hrs [225Km]).

Area description: A moist mountain range located 150km south of Fortaleza. Guaramiranga is a city of the Maciço de Baturite. Surely one of the most intriguing areas of the state, along with the Araripe plateau. Like other wet forests, has a mild climate during the day and a little colder at night.

Summary: What makes this location particularly interesting are the species (subspecies) that are geographically isolated from the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest, which indicates a possible speciation process (many of these species are in split process and others await farther studies). As important species we highlight the Band-tailed Manakin (*Pipra fasciicauda scarlatina*), a species that has populations in the Amazon and its single isolated population in the northeast lies in Guaramiranga. The one and only **Grey-breasted Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*), one of the world's most endangered parrots and other species of great interest such as **Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus mirandae*), **Ceara Leaf-tosser** (*Sclerurus cearensis*), **Ceara/Rufous Gnatcatcher** (*Conopophaga cearae*), **Northern Lesser**



Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus atlanticus*), Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caeruleus cearensis*), Gould's Toucanet (*Selenidera gouldii baturitensis*), Red-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanocephala cearensis*), Guianan Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius acer*), **Ochraceous Piculet** (*Picumnus limae*), Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona*), Gray-headed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca semicinerea*) and, if we are lucky, we might even see the rare and endemic **White-browed Guan** (*Penelope jacucaca*).



Day 3: AM Birding in Guaramiranga and transfer to **QUIXADÁ** (+/-1½hrs [100Km]).

Area description: municipality in the state of Ceará located two hours from Guaramiranga and three hours from the capital. One of its most striking features are rock formations, the monoliths, in various formats that "break" the apparent monotony of the countryside landscape.

Summary: Here is a strategic stop to break down the long drive to Crato. Although there is nothing extremely special, we are able to see a few caatinga specialties like **white-naped Jay** (*Cyanocorax cyanopogon*), Cactus Parakeet (*Eupsittula cactorum*), **Pygmy Nightjar** (*Hydrosalis hirundinacea*), **Caatinga Cacholote** (*Pseudoseisura cristata*), Ochraceous Piculet (*Picumnus limae*), Ochre-backed Woodpecker (*Celeus ochraceus*) (recent split from Blond-crested) and, we have yet another chance of spotting the endemic **White-browed Guan** (*Penelope jacucaca*).



Day 4: AM Birding in Quixadá and transfer to Potengi (+/-6hrs [360Km]).



Day 5: Full Day Birding in **POTENGI**.

Area description: Situated in the south of Ceará, one hour from Crato, Potengi is known as "the city that never sleeps", because of the large number of blacksmiths. As metallurgy produces a lot of heat, blacksmiths begin to work always after midnight, in the manufacture of metal parts (sickles, knives, etc.). The bangs cause a noise that silences only at daybreak. Most of what is produced is sold in the local market and exported to other cities of Ceará, Piauí and Maranhão.

Summary: unique place, where much of the dry forest birds are found. Here, the main targets are **White-browed Antpitta** (*Hylopezus ochroleucos*), Spotted Piculet (*Picumnus pygmaeus*), Golden-green Woodpecker (*Piculus chrysochloros*), **Great Xenops** (*Megaxenops parnaguae*), **Red-shouldered Spinetail** (*Synallaxis hellmayri*), Broad-tipped Hermit (*Anopetia gounellei*), Stripe-backed Antbird (*Myrmorchilus strigilatus*), Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura napensis bahiae*), Greater Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura budytoides gracilis*), White-naped Xenopsaris (*Xenopsaris albinucha*). If we still haven't seen the **Pygmy Nightjar** (*Hydrosalis hirundinacea*), here we have another chance.



Day 6: Transfer to Crato region (80Km) for the Critically endangered **Araripe Manakin** and then drive 350Km to reach **CANUDOS**, home of the **Lear's Macaws**.



Area description: situated in the northern portion of the state of Bahia, near the borders with Pernambuco, Sergipe and Alagoas, Canudos is famous for its history: Antonio Conselheiro and the Canudos War.

Summary: one of the most exciting moments of the trip, the encounter with the Lear's Macaw! This amazing species only occur in this region, the "Raso da Catarina". We leave the hotel very early in the morning for the **Lear's (Indigo) Macaw** (*Anodorhynchus leari*) roosting site (always a thrill!). However, the macaws are not the only target here. We will also look for Scarlet-throated Tanagers (*Compsotheraupis loricata*), Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*), Blue-crowned Parakeets (*Thectocercus acuticaudatus*) and others Caatinga specialties.



Day 7: AM Birding in Canudos and transfer to **UNIÃO dos PALMARES** (+/-8hrs [500Km]).

Day 8: Full Day Birding in **MURICI**.

Area description: We will be birding in the Murici Ecological Station. Let's cross our fingers for NO rain! If it rains, the roads to the reserve could be dangerous (muddy and slippery). Here we use a 4x4 car to reach the reserve. With an area of 6.116 hectares, the station is located in the Borborema Plateau, situated in the northwest region of the State of Alagoas, about 15 km from the town of Murici and about 50 km from Maceio. The difficulty to reach this location is compensated by the possibility of viewing some of the rarest birds in Brazil! However, the birding here is not an easy task. The birds are in fact very rare, with very low population densities. Because of its relatively low size and because it is the only reserve around, the border effect is easily noticed.

Summary: In the 1980's, four new species for science were described from here: Alagoas Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor novaesi*) (Probably extinct), **Alagoas Antwren** (*Myrmotherula snowi*), Alagoas Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes ceciliae*) and Orange-bellied Antwren (*Terenura sicki*). The last two are easier to find in Jaqueira, so we will have two chances. Other targets here are Seven-colored Tanager (*Tangara fastuosa*), **Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus lammi*), Black-headed Berryeater (*Carpornis melanocephala*), [Pernambuco] Plain-winged Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla turdina taunayi*), **Scalloped Antbird** (*Myrmoderus ruficaudus*), a soon to be described local race of Golden-spangled Piculet (*Picumnus exilis pernambucensis*), NE race of Black-cheeked Gnateater (*Conopophaga melanops nigrifrons*) and others. Here is the only place with recent records of Todd's Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes medius*); ultra-rare in the Northeast Atlantic Forest.



OBS: The Cryptic Treehunter (*Cichlocolaptes mazarbarnetti*) is a species that was described after many years of its last record. A species that could also be already extinct.



Day 9: Transfer to **JAQUEIRA** (+/-1½hrs [80Km]) for AM Birding. Transfer to Tamandaré (+/-1½hrs [100Km]) for PM Birding.

Area description: The Serra do Urubu, located in Pernambuco, can be considered one of the most important regions for the conservation of birds in the neotropical region, sheltering 10 globally endangered species of birds. Because it is a region with a history of planting sugarcane, the situation of vegetation, and consequently of fauna, is critical. With luck, we'll see some of the rarest birds on the planet!

Summary: here we have a second chance to see the “Alagoas” rarities. This is one of the best fragments of Atlantic Forest remaining in the state of Pernambuco. It's part of the “Serra do Urubu” mountain range. The endemics that occur there include Alagoas Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor novaesi*) (Probably extinct), **Alagoas Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes ceciliae*) and **Orange-bellied Antwren** (*Terenura sicki*) (the last two are easier to find here than in Murici). Other specialties here are Seven-colored Tanager (*Tangara fastuosa*), Long-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania watertonii*), **Willis's Antbird** (*Cercomacra laeta sabinoi*) and a yet undescribed species of Pygmy-tyrant (*Myiornis sp. novum*).



Day 10: AM Birding in **TAMANDARÉ** if needed and transfer to Estância (+/-8hrs [500Km]).

In Tamandaré, we search for one specific target; the **Forbes's Blackbird** (*Curaeus forbesi*). If we still need the **White-collared Kite** (*Leptodon forbesi*), we also have chances of seeing it here.



Day 11: AM Birding in **ESTÂNCIA** if needed and transfer to Lençóis (+/-8hrs [540Km]).

Area description: municipality in the state of Sergipe. The city, named by Dom Pedro II as the garden of Sergipe with the tiled houses and the June festivals also has a beautiful architectural heritage, despite constant losses caused by destruction and mutilation of historical buildings.

Summary: The highlight here is the **Fringe-backed Fire-eye** (*Pyriglena atra*). We will go birding in a forest fragment near the coast. Other specialties are Plain-bellied Emerald (*Amazilia leucogaster*), Sooretama-Slaty Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ambiguus*), the recently split Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus lammi*), Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus striaticollis*) and, with fortune, the White-winged Cotinga (*Xipholena atropurpurea*).



Day 12: Full Day Birding in Chapada Diamantina.

Area description: One of the most impressive places in Brazil, the landscapes are astonishing. The Chapada Diamantina is part of a long series of highlands linked to the



Espinhaço mountain range, which extend from north of Minas Gerais through Bahia. There is a high diversity of habitats such as the Caatinga, Cerrado, Campo Rupestre (arid mountain shrubs), Moist Forest, Gallery Forests and, along with that, of course, a high diversity of birds (over 350 species).

Summary: Some endemics from the region are the **Hooded Visorbearer** (*Augastes lumachella*) and the recently described **Sincorá Antwren** (*Formicivora grantsaui*) (published just in 2007!). There are a few cerrado species such as the Collared Crescentchest (*Melanopareia torquata*), Black-throated Saltator (*Saltatricula atricollis*), **Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*), Blue Finch (*Porphyrospiza caerulescens*), Horned Sungem (*Heliactin bilophus*) and others, “campo rupestre” birds such as Grey-backed Tachuri (*Polystictus superciliaris*), **Buff-throated Pampa-finch** (*Embernagra longicauda*), and Caatinga birds in case we have missed any along the trip. We will also search for the rare and endemic **Diamantina Tapaculo** (*Scytalopus diamantinensis*).

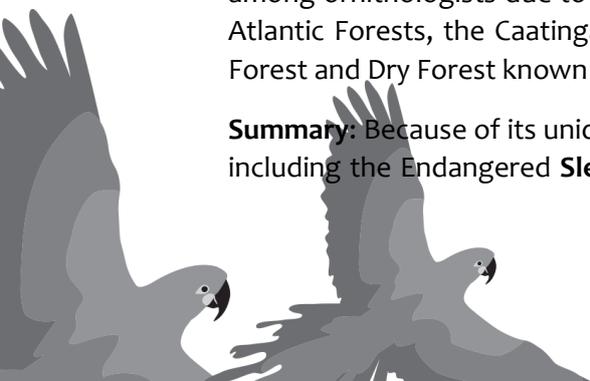


Day 13: AM Birding in Chapada Diamantina and transfer to Boa Nova (+/-7hrs [420Km]).

Day 14: Full Day Birding in **BOA NOVA**.

Area description: Boa Nova is located in the Southwestern part of Bahia and is famous among ornithologists due to its diverse bird community, with typical elements of montane Atlantic Forests, the Caatinga biome, and a unique transitional area between the Atlantic Forest and Dry Forest known as the “mata-de-cipó”.

Summary: Because of its unique vegetation, the region is home to over 400 bird species(!), including the Endangered **Slender Antbird** (*Rhopornis ardesiacus*) and the near-threatened



Narrow-billed Antwren (*Formicivora iheringi*), both confined to the “mata-de-cipó” vegetation. In less than 10 minutes of driving we leave the Dry forest to an exuberant Atlantic Forest. We bird there for species such as the **Striated Softtail** (*Thripophaga macroura*), Pin-tailed Manakin (*Ilicura militaris*), **Bahia Spinetail** (*Synallaxis whitneyi*), **Rio de Janeiro Antbird** (*Cercomacra brasiliana*), Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus furcatus*), White-collared Foliage-gleaner (*Anabazenops fusca*), Scaled Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes squamatus*), Pallid Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pallida*), Ferruginous Antbird *Drymophila ferruginea*, Ochre-rumped Antbird (*Drymophila ochropyga*), Gray-hooded Attila (*Attila rufus*), Cinnamon-vented Piha (*Lipaugus lanioides*), Gilt-edged Tanager (*Tangara cyanoventris*) and many others. Here, we also have good chances of seeing the threatened **Wied’s Tyrant-Manakin** (*Neopelma aurifrons*).



Day 15: AM transfer to **SERRA BONITA RESERVE (CAMACAN)** (+/-4hrs [250Km]).

Day 16: Full Day Birding in **CAMACAN (Serra Bonita Reserve)**.

Area description: The Serra Bonita Reserve is a pioneering, innovative private conservation enterprise, protecting sub montane forest in Southern Bahia. It aims to protect the Brazilian Atlantic Forest through a consortium of several rural property owners, whose properties contain RPPNs (private reserves). Altogether, currently they protect 2,500 ha, the second largest privately protected area of the Central Biodiversity Corridor of the Atlantic Forest.



The RPPNs contained in each property are managed by Instituto Uiraçu, through agreements with the owners. In addition to managing these private reserves and its own, purchased through donations, the Institute aims to extend the protection to the entire Serra Bonita, one of the last remnants of sub montane forest in the region, which covers an area of about 7,500 hectares in the municipalities of Camacan and Pau Brasil, Bahia.

Summary: Some of the main targets are the unique **Pink-legged Graveteiro** (*Acrobatornis fonsecai*), **Bahia Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes beckeri*) and many more rarities such as **Plumbeus Antwreio** (*Dysithamnus plumbeus*), **Salvatori's Antwren** (*Myrmotherula minor*); the rare Atlantic race (to be split) of **Rufous-brown Solitaire** (*Cichlopsis leucogenys*), Atlantic Forest Birds such as the beautiful Blue Manakin (*Chiroxiphia caudata*), Eastern-striped Manakin (*Machaeropterus regulus*), Spot-backed Antwren (*Dysithamnus stictothorax*), Spot-billed Toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*), Sombre Hummingbird (*Aphanthocroa cirrochloris*), etc. They have feeders for hummers and Tanagers (Red-necked, Green-headed, Golden-chevroned and Azure-shouldered Tanagers are some frequent visitors).



Day 17: AM Birding in Camacan and transfer to Porto Seguro (+/-3hrs [210Km]).

Day 18: Full Day Birding in **PORTO SEGURO**.

Area description: municipality located in the south of Bahia, Brazil. Shares with the neighboring municipalities of Santa Cruz Cabrália and Prado, the primacy of being the point of arrival of the Portuguese in Brazil in 1500. The village that gave birth to the city of Porto Seguro was founded in 1534. It has an estimated population of 141 006 inhabitants in 2013 and is considered almost entirely as historical heritage, not being allowed the construction of tall buildings (over two floors). When not on vacation periods, it is a very nice place.

Summary: One of the famous beaches in the southern coast of Bahia, but this is not our aim; we are birding in the lowland Atlantic forest near the town, here is one of the best places for the rare Banded (*Cotinga maculata*) and White-winged (*Xipholena atropurpurea*) Cotingas. The **Hooked-billed Hermit** (*Glaucis dohrnii*) and the Red-browed Parrot (*Amazona rhodocorytha*) are also around. Sooretama Slaty-Antwren (*Thamnophilus ambiguus*), Bahia



Antwren (*Herpsilochmus pileatus*), Band-tailed Antwren (*Myrmotherula urosticta*) will be other birds we will look for.



Day 19: Departure.

