



BRAZIL BIRDING

E X P E R T S

SOUTHEAST BRAZIL – FULL TOUR

22 DAYS



Welcome to the Full Southeast Brazil Tour. We will cross the four states from Southeast looking for its spectacular birds from Atlantic Forest and Cerrado. This tour is for those that do not want to lose any endemics from Southeast Atlantic Forest, we will cover the main hotspots for birds in Southeast looking for the range-restricted species. Are you prepared for the show of beauty? So, come with us in this journey throughout lots of mixed flocks at Intervales, the hummingbirds swirling over the feeders in Ubatuba, the super range-restricted Black-hooded Antwren that lives around paradisiac beaches, the Brazilian Merganser swimming in the crystal rivers of Cerrado and to finish off with great memories we will look for recently rediscovered Blue-eyed Ground Dove in an incredible scenario as well.

SOUTHEAST BRAZIL FULL TOUR

(São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais)

SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

| Day | Location (state) | Comments |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | São Paulo - Cananéia (260km) | Arrival. Transfer. |
| 2 | Cananéia | Full Day Birding. |
| 3 | Cananéia – Intervalles (270Km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 4 | Intervalles State Park | Full Day Birding. |
| 5 | Intervalles State Park | Full Day Birding. |
| 6 | Intervalles – Ubatuba (500Km) | Transfer. Stop for SP Antwren. |
| 7 | Ubatuba | Full Day Birding. |
| 8 | Ubatuba – Campos do Jordão (160Km) | AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding. |
| 9 | Campos do Jordão – Paraty (200km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 10 | Paraty – Nova Friburgo (370km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 11 | Nova Friburgo – Arraial do Cabo (200Km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 12 | Arraial do Cabo – Caparaó National Park (400km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 13 | Caparaó Nat Park – Santuário do Caraça (360km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 14 | Santuário do Caraça – SR de Minas (460km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 15 | São Roque de Minas | Full Day Birding. |
| 16 | São Roque de Minas | Full Day Birding. |
| 17 | SR de Minas – Santana do Riacho (460km) | Transfer. |
| 18 | Santana do Riacho | Full Day Birding. |
| 19 | Santana do Riacho – Montes Claros (460km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 20 | Montes Claros – Botumirim (200km) | AM Birding. Transfer. |
| 21 | Botumirim | Full Day Birding. |
| 22 | Botumirim – Montes Claros (200km) | AM Birding. Transfer. Departure. |

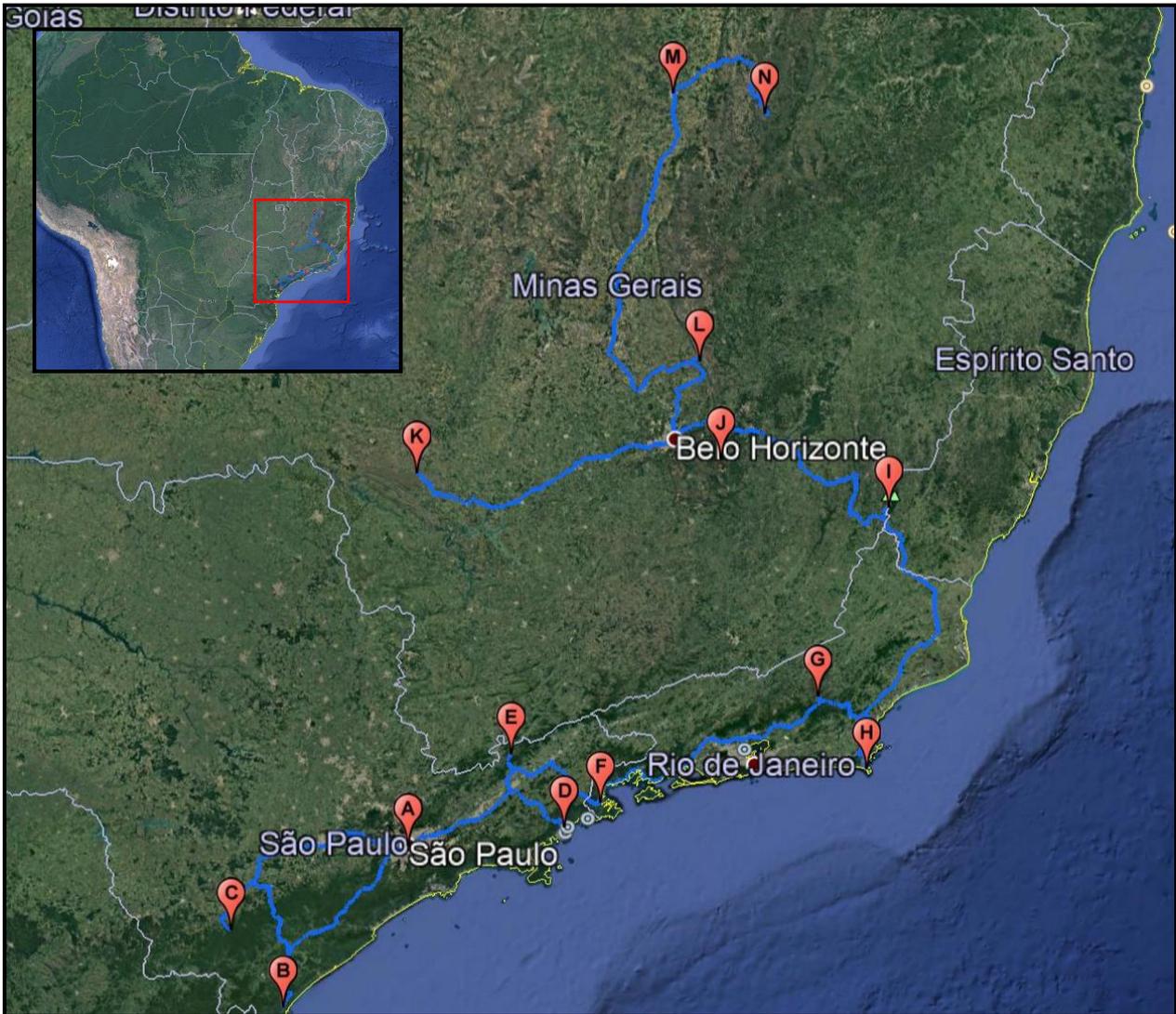
Suggested Period: from July to December.



OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLETE ITINERARY

São Paulo (A), Cananéia (B), Intervalos (C), Ubatuba (D), Campos do Jordão (E), Paraty (F), Nova Friburgo (G), Arraial do Cabo (H), Caparaó (I), Caraça (J), São Roque de Minas (K), Santana do Riacho (L), Montes Claros (M), Botumirim (N), Montes Claros (M).

Departure flight from Montes Claros.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in São Paulo and transfer to **CANANÉIA** (+/-4hrs [260Km]).

Area description: Approximately 270Km away from the capital, this region is known to be one of the oldest cities of Brazil. Despite being colonized long ago this region still has preserved Atlantic Forest and mangroves. But our main focus here is the “restinga” habitat, home of the vulnerable and endemic **Restinga Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes kronei*). This is an interesting place to visit during the tour since it is a great spot to look for the very range-restricted and endemic **Red-tailed Parrot** (*Amazona brasiliensis*).

Summary: Besides the **Red-tailed Parrot**, there are other species worth highlighting, like the Azure Jay (*Cyanocorax caeruleus*), Buff-bellied Puffbird (*Notharchus swainsoni*), and Unicolored Antwren (*Myrmotherula unicolor*). In case the group needs/is interested in Mangrove birds, we could try and look for Mangrove Rail (*Rallus longirostris*), Bicolored Conebill (*Conirostrum bicolor*) and others that occur here as well. If we are lucky, we might even see the Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*).



Day 2: Full Day Birding in **CANANÉIA**.

Day 3: AM Birding in Cananéia and transfer to **INTERVALES** (+/-5hrs [270Km]).

Area description: the most exciting place to bird in the southeast, comprising over 400 bird species! With over 41.704 hectares, the Intervales State Park is part of one of the biggest preserved forest fragments of Atlantic Forest in Brazil that, together with two other big reserves, sum up to 120.000 hectares. A great place to bird, with many roads and trails to explore inside the park. We will be sleeping and eating practically inside the forest as well, so in “resting hours” anyone can feel free to explore the surroundings. Besides the birds, this region (Vale do Ribeira) is very known for its cave formations.

Summary: in this location our main targets will be the rare and incredible Helmeted Woodpecker (*Celeus galeatus*), **Russet-winged Spadebill** (*Platyrinchus leucoryphus*), Long-tufted Screech-Owl (*Megascops sanctaecatrinae*), Violet-crowned Plovercrest (*Stephanoxis loddigesii*), the threatened Blue-bellied Parrot (*Tricharia malachitacea*), **Bay-ringed Tyrannulet**

(*Phylloscartes sylviolus*). Besides these species, there are many other specialties to try and start off the trip in the best way possible: White-bearded Antshrike (*Biatas nigropectus*), Black-fronted Piping-Guan (*Aburria jacutinga*), the cryptic Spotted Bamboowren (*Psilorhamphus guttatus*), Slaty Bristlefront (*Merulaxis ater*), Atlantic Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus swainsoni*), **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow** (*Pyroderus scutatus*), Bertoni's Antbird (*Drymophila rubricollis*), Rusty-breasted Nunlet (*Nonnula rubecula*) and many, many others.



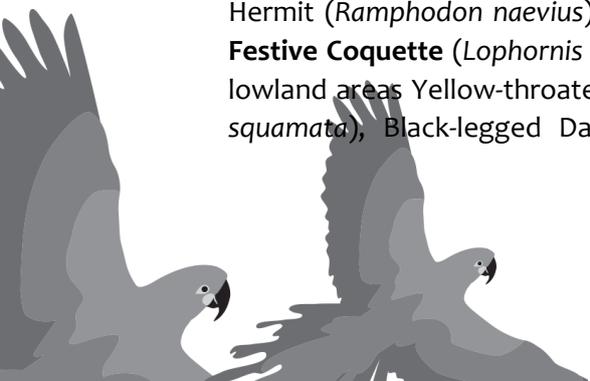
Day 4: Full Day Birding in Intervales.

Day 5: Full Day Birding in Intervales.

Day 6: Transfer to **UBATUBA** with a stop in Salesópolis on the way to try for the **Sao Paulo Antwren** (+/-7hr [500Km]).

Area description: Ubatuba is a municipality of São Paulo almost totally covered by Atlantic Forest, with many kinds of environments, going from the sea to the mountains. The variety of environments contribute to the rich biodiversity in the area, where it is possible to find more than 450 bird species. The majority of the forest is protected by the Serra do Mar State Park, which comprises almost the entire São Paulo State Coast with 332,000 hectares. The easy access to the areas and the rich avifauna makes Ubatuba one of the main destinations for birdwatching in Brazilian Atlantic Forest.

Summary: among the most special birds in Ubatuba that we cannot lose are **Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser** (*Sclerurus macconnelli*), Buff-throated Purple-tuft (*Iodopleura pipra*), Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus furcatus*), the amazing and colorful Black-backed Tanager (*Tangara peruviana*), Lemon-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus thoracicus*) and the threatened and Atlantic Forest endemic Brown-backed Parrotlet (*Touit melanonotus*). However, with so many species there we will also have the chance to record many hummingbirds as Saw-billed Hermit (*Ramphodon naevius*), Reddish Hermit (*Phaethornis ruber*), the small and gracious **Festive Coquette** (*Lophornis chalybeus*) and we will try many other birds as the typical from lowland areas Yellow-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus flavigula*), **Scaled Antbird** (*Drymophila squamata*), Black-legged Dacnis (*Dacnis nigripes*), Black-capped Becard (*Pachyrhamphus*



marginatus), Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia lichtensteini*) and other Atlantic Forest specialties.



Day 7: Full Day Birding in Ubatuba.

Day 8: AM Birding in Ubatuba. Transfer to **CAMPOS DO JORDÃO** (+/-3hr [160Km]). PM Birding.

Area description: situated in the Serra da Mantiqueira mountain range, Campos do Jordão is the highest Brazilian city with an altitude of 1628m. Because of its cold climate it is known as the “Brazilian Switzerland”. Our targets here will be the high altitude Atlantic Forest birds. We will have to keep an eye out for the range-restricted **Vinaceous-breasted Parrot** (*Amazona vinacea*), our main target in this location.

Summary: the main targets in this location are **Rufous-tailed Antthrush** (*Chamaeza ruficauda*), always a difficult bird to see, the creeping Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus speluncae*), the endangered **Vinaceous-breasted Parrot**, the weird-looking Long-trained Nightjar (*Hydropsalis forcipata*) and the endemic **Black-capped Piprites** (*Piprites pileata*). Among other great targets to search for are the Swallow-tailed Cotinga (*Phibalura flavirostris*), the endemic **Serra do Mar Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes difficilis*), Thick-billed Saltator (*Saltator maxillosus*), Diademed Tanager (*Stephanophorus diadematus*) and Araucaria Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura setaria*). Besides the main targets, there are a few water birds we might encounter such as the Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis sylvicola*), Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus*), Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) and others. Other interesting birds that occur here are the Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), Rusty-barred Owl (*Strix hylophila*), Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*), Brazilian Ruby (*Heliodoxa rubricauda*), White-spotted Woodpecker (*Veniliornis spilogaster*), Rufous-backed Antvireo (*Dysithamnus xanthopterus*), Brassy-breasted Tanager (*Tangara desmaresti*), Hooded Siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*), Scalloped Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes falcinellus*) and many more.





Day 9: AM Birding in Campos Do Jordão. Transfer to **PARATY** (+/-4hr [200Km]).

Area description: Paraty is a charming and historic town, being one of the main destinations for tourists in Rio de Janeiro State. It is known for its paradisiac beaches and islands. The mountains and sea create an incredible landscape. But, beyond the beautiful beaches it is almost a mandatory stop for birdwatchers that are crossing Rio de Janeiro. The town's lowland Atlantic Forest is home of the very range restricted and endangered **Black-hooded Antwren** (*Formicivora erythronotos*), that is known from few localities in this region.

Summary: without a doubt, the main target here is the rare and endangered **Black-hooded Antwren** (*Formicivora erythronotos*). Another very nice bird we could also encounter in case we have missed in other locations is the endemic Yellow-eared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis maculifrons*). Second chances for a variety of rare and endemic birds like the Pileated Parrot (*Pionopsitta pileata*), Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus macconellii*), Sao Paulo Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes paulista*), Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus furcatus*), Gray-hooded Attila (*Attila rufus*), White-necked Hawk (*Amadonastur lacernulatus*), Mantled Hawk (*Pseudastur albicollis*) and others.



Day 10: AM Birding in Paraty. Transfer to **NOVA FRIBURGO** (+/-6hr [370Km]).

Area description: NOVA FRIBURGO is located in the mountains region from Rio de Janeiro State, one of the main destinations for tourists with a variety good hotels and restaurants in the heart of Atlantic Forest. The main location for us here will be the Pico da Caledônia in Serra dos Órgãos with 2255 meters high, one of the highest mountains in Rio de Janeiro.

Summary: We will start the day birding in the Elfin Forest looking for the rare and range-restrict **Grey-winged Cotinga** (*Lipaugus conditus*). Other species that we will record in the highlands are Large-tailed Antshrike (*Mackenziaena leachii*), the colorful Diademed Tanager (*Stephanophorus diadematus*) and second chances for the Itatiaia Spinetail (*Asthenes moreirae*).



Day 11: AM Birding in Nova Friburgo. Transfer to **ARRAIAL DO CABO** (+/-3hr [200Km]).

Area description: It is a Restinga area that is a unique vegetation of Atlantic Forest near the sea, with shrubs, small trees, ferns, bromeliads, and cacti growing in a sand soil. Besides the amazing beaches and landscapes in this region there is a very special and restricted range bird species, the endangered **Restinga Antwren** (*Formicivora littoralis*) that will be our focus here. This area is near the Cabo Frio town and there are some lagoons and salt pans where we can find a variety of birds.

Summary: in this morning we will also have the possibility to see other birds in Restinga and lagoons as the beautiful duck **White-cheeked Pintail** (*Anas bahamensis*), Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), the colorful **Roseate Spoonbill** (*Platalea ajaja*), Grey-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*), Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*), Sooretama Slaty Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ambiguus*), Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*), Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) and the interesting Hangnest Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus nidipendulus*).





Day 12: AM Birding in Arraial Do Cabo. Transfer to **CAPARAÓ NATIONAL PARK** (+/-7hr [400Km]).

Area description: The Caparaó National Park encompasses amazing landscapes in the mountains of Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais States, with fascinating mountains, waterfalls, flora and fauna that lives in 62,000 hectares of protected areas. The diversity of environments from mountain Atlantic Forest to high altitude grasslands in an elevation from 1,000 meters to almost 3,000 meters contributes to the high biodiversity in this area. There are more than 350 species at this area, and the special bird here are the endemic of high altitude grasslands, as Itatiaia Spinetail, an endemic Brazilian bird restricted to few mountaintops in southeast Atlantic Forest. It ranges from 2,000 and 2,850 meters at Caparaó National Park foraging in bamboo stands.

Summary: Among the birds that we will focus are: **Green-crowned Plovercrest** (*Stephanoxis lalandi*), Buff-breasted Warbling-finch (*Microspingus lateralis*), Mouse-colored Tapaculo (*Scytalopus speluncae*), Rufous-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila genei*), **Itatiaia Spinetail** (*Asthenes moreirae*), Long-tailed Reed-finch (*Donacospiza albifrons*), Gilt-edged Tanager (*Tangara cyanoventris*), Brassy-breasted Tanager (*Tangara desmaresti*) and Blue-billed Black-tyrant (*Knipolegus cyanirostris*).



Day 13: AM Birding in Caparaó. Transfer to **SANTUÁRIO DO CARAÇA** (+/-6hr [300Km]).

Area description: The complex “Santuário do Caraça” comprises about 11.000 hectares and it is a property of catholic church. It is a private reserve where the vegetation is characterized by transition between Atlantic Forest and Cerrado, protecting a variety of environments such as gallery forest and “campos rupestres”. Due to this, we can find a rich biodiversity there including many mammals as Maned Wolf and Giant Anteater, some species of monkeys and more than 300 bird species.

Summary: Our main target here is the **Serra Antwren** (*Formicivora serrana*) and we will have chance to see many other such as **Hyacinth Visorbearer** (*Augastes scutatus*), Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Campylopterus largipennis*), Yellow-eared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis maculifrons*), Rock Tapaculo (*Scytalopus petrophilus*), Southern Bristle-Tyrant (*Phylloscartes eximius*), Cinnamon Tanager (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*), Gilt-edged Tanager (*Tangara cyanoventris*), Pale-throated Pampa-Finch (*Embernagra longicauda*) and Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*).



Day 14: AM Birding in Caraça. Transfer to **SÃO ROQUE DE MINAS** (+/-8hr [460Km]).

Area description: The Serra da Canastra region, in southwest of Minas Gerais, has some of the most breathtaking and undiscovered landscapes in Brazil. For a long time, it was isolated by precarious dirt roads and only a few years ago it entered the travel itineraries as a privileged place for practicing extreme sports, environmental experience and ecological tourism. The touristic area of Serra da Canastra has more than 200 thousand hectares and covers 6 municipalities: São Roque de Minas, Vargem Bonita, Sacramento, Delfinópolis, São João Batista do Glória and Capitólio. The biggest attraction is the Serra da Canastra National Park, created in 1972 to protect the sources of the São Francisco River and has the main entrance 8 km from São Roque de Minas. Inside the National Park are some of the most beautiful landscapes in Brazil, such as the Casca D'Anta waterfall, with almost 200 meters, the first great fall of the "old Chico" (One of the nicknames of the São Francisco river). The region is the cradle of many rivers that help form the São Francisco and Paraná basins. The landscape alternates between rocky fields (campo rupestre) full of delicate flowers, typical cerrado and gallery forests with lush Atlantic vegetation. It is in this environment that endangered animals, such as the Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), Maned Wolf



(*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), Giant Armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*) and the **Brazilian Merganser** (*Mergus octosetaceus*) are protected.

Summary: In addition to having great chances of seeing the rare **Brazilian Merganser** (*Mergus octosetaceus*), there are several other species that live in this habitat of high altitude cerrado, such as the **Campo Miner** (*Geositta poeciloptera*), **Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*), **Cock-tailed Tyrant** (*Alectrurus tricolor*), **Streamer-tailed Tyrant** (*Gubernetes yetapa*), Black-masked Finch (*Coryphaspiza melanotis*), among others. We have great chances of finding the Brasilia tapaculo (*Scytalopus novacapitalis*) in the streams that are in the high part of the mountain range. There are also some areas of gallery forest, where we can find the beautiful Helmeted Manakin (*Antilophia galeata*).



Day 15: Full Day Birding in São Roque de Minas.

Day 16: Full Day Birding in São Roque de Minas.

Day 17: Transfer to **SANTANA DO RIACHO** (+/-8hr [460Km]).

Area description: The Cipó National Park includes 83,000 acres of designated parklands being acquired to preserve the highly endemic plant and animal life of this serra system. A remarkable place with fantastic and very local birds. A place you could not miss on a visit to the state of Minas Gerais.

Summary: In this location, there are two species worth highlighting since this is the ONLY place in the WORLD where they occur, the **Cipo Canastero** (*Asthenes luizae*) and the **Cipo Cinclodes** (*Cinclodes espinhacensis*). Besides these two species there are other specialties also worth highlighting, such as the **Rock Tapaculo** (*Scytalopus petrophilus*), Horned Sungem (*Heliactin bilophus*), **Hyacinth Visorbearer** (*Augastes scutatus*), Gray-backed Tachuri (*Polystictus superciliaris*), **Sharp-tailed Tyrant** (*Gubernetes yetapa*), Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis citrina*), and **Cinereous Warbling-Finch** (*Poospiza cinerea*).





Day 18: Full Day Birding in Santana do Riacho.

Day 19: AM Birding in Santana do Riacho and transfer to **MONTES CLAROS** (+/-7hr [460Km]).

Area description: The Lapa Grande State Park is managed by the Instituto Estadual de Floresta-IEF. It is an Integral Conservation Unit created on 10/01/2006, with 7.860ha that from the decree 46692/2014 was expanded to 15,320ha, which aims to protect and conserve the complex of caves and the main sources of water supply for the community of Montes Claros which corresponds to about 35% of the water consumed by the municipality. The Park presents in its vegetation the Cerrado Biome and Phyto-physiognomies of the Atlantic Forest, riparian forest and dry forest.

Summary: this is a stop to look for some very interesting dry-forest birds such as **Wagler's Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes wagleri*), **Reiser's Tyrannulet** (*Phyllomyias reiseri*), **Minas Gerais Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes roquettei*) and, if we are lucky, we might see the imponent **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus ornatus*). There is also a different form of Sabrewing which is thought to be a Dry Forest subspecies of Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Campylopterus largipennis calcirupicola*).



Day 20: AM Birding in Montes Claros and transfer to **BOTUMIRIM** (+/-4hr [200Km]).

Area description: The municipality of Botumirim is located in Alto do Jequitinhonha in the continuation of the Serra do Espinhaço, specifically in Serra do Cantagalo. Neighboring the Parque Nacional das Sempre-Vivas, the municipality is bathed by several streams and has the Itacambiruçu River as the main source of water supply and also nourishes the recent Irapé Hydroelectric Power Plant, which was inaugurated in 2006.

The village, initially called "Serrinha", was discovered by foreign travelers (Bandeirantes) in search of diamonds in the region during the sixteenth century. And in 1839 the village of Serra de Santo Antônio do Itacambiruçu de Grão Mogol, which would later be called Grão Mogol, became a world pole of diamond exploration. This economic activity in the region promoted the growth of several nearby villages such as Cristália, Itacambira and Botumirim. As a result, the village began to grow and had the status of a district of Grão Mogol from the year 1943 until 1963, when it gained its emancipation and acquired the name of Botumirim, which in the indigenous language means "Serra Pequena".

Summary: It is obvious that our main target here will be the ultra-rare and recently rediscovered (2015) **Blue-eyed Ground-Dove** (*Clumbina cyanopsis*). However, since we will be in the Espinhaço Mountain Range, there will be a few species associated with this rocky environment that we will also target like the **Hyacinth Visorbearer** (*Augastes scutatus*), Cinereous Warbling-Finch (*Microspingus cinereus*), and the **Cipo Canastero** (*Asthenes luizae*). There are a few other interesting species that we might see such as White-wedged Piculet (*Picumnus albosquamatus*), **Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner** (*Syndactyla dimidiata*), Frilled Coquette (*Lophornis magnificus*), Helmeted Manakin (*Antilophia galeata*) and others.



Day 21: Full Day Birding in **BOTUMIRIM**.

Day 22: AM Birding in Botumirim and transfer to **MONTES CLAROS** (+/-4hr [200Km]).
DEPARTURE.

