

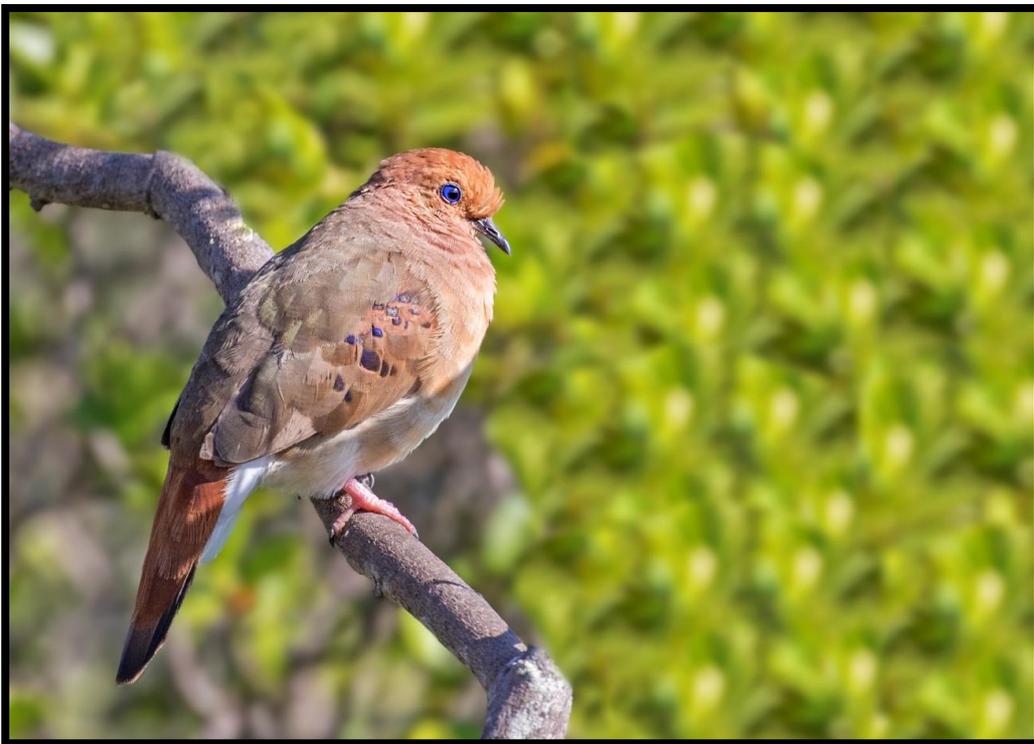


# BRAZIL BIRDING

E X P E R T S

## NORTHEAST BRAZIL – FULL TOUR

23 DAYS



*Welcome to the Northeast Brazil Supreme Tour. This is the BEST you will ever get out of this region; held as one of the best tours in the world! Surely one of the tours with the most endemics! Prepare yourself for extremely rare encounters with some of the most endangered species on the planet, such as Alagoa's Antwren, Blue-eyed Ground-Dove and many others; a color show put on by the many tanagers and macaws; not to mention the fascinating landscapes and superb food. In one single tour you could see the 2 existing Augastes (Hooded and Hyacinth Visorbearer), the 2 living Anodorhynchus (Hyacinth and Lear's Macaw) and the 2 Antilophia (Helmeted and Araripe Manakin). What an experience!*

## NORTHEAST BRAZIL FULL TOUR

(Ceará, Bahia, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Sergipe, Goiás, Minas Gerais)

Guide: To Be Defined...

### SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

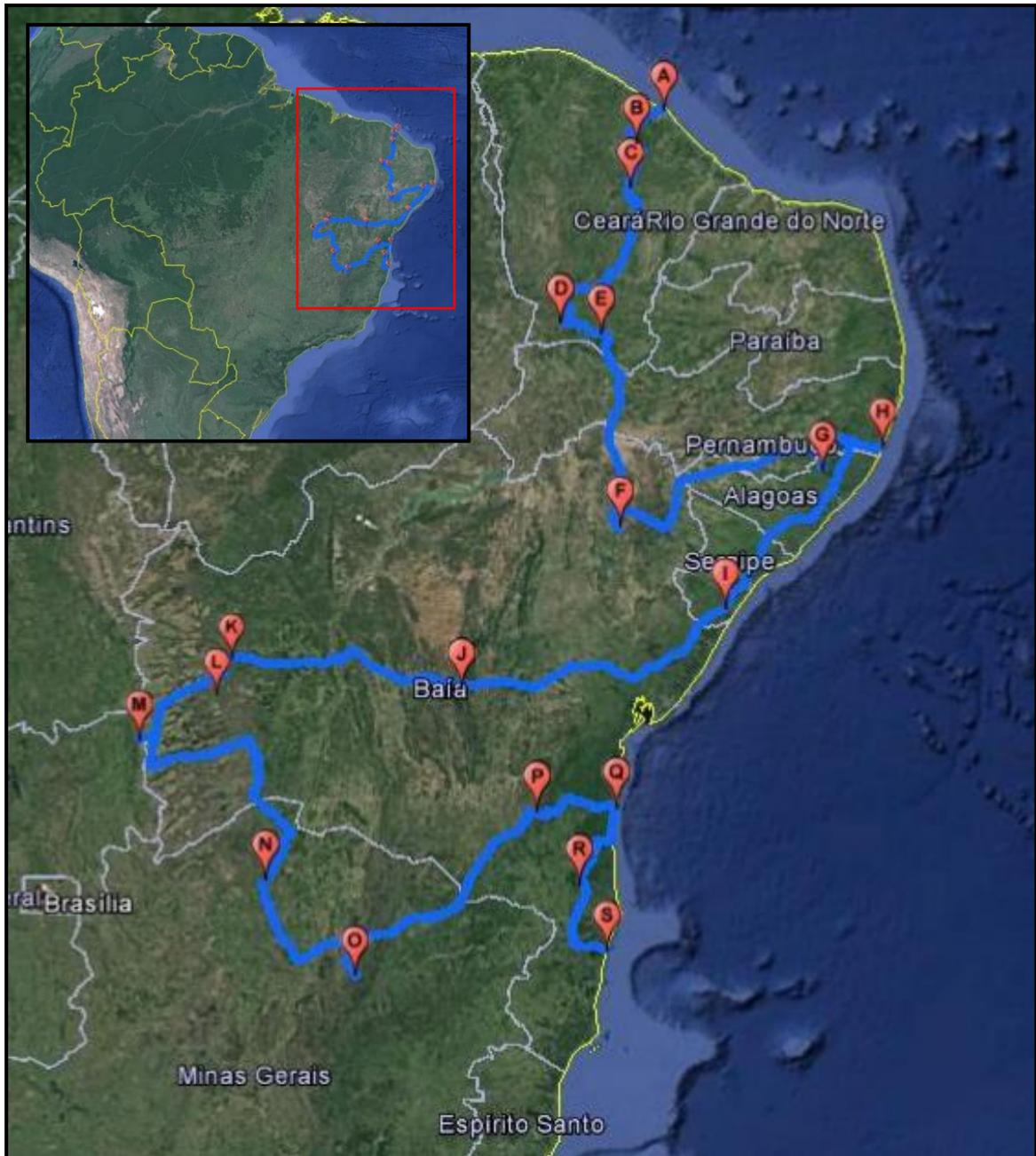
Day	Location (state)	Comments
1	Fortaleza – Guaramiranga (150Km)	Arrival and transfer. PM Birding.
2	Guaramiranga – Quixadá (100Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding.
3	Quixadá – Potengi (360Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
4	Potengi – Crato – Canudos (430Km)	Transfer. AM Birding. Transfer.
5	Canudos – União dos Palmares (500Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
6	Murici	Full Day Birding.
7	U. Palmares – Jaqueira - Tamandaré (200Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding.
8	Tamandaré – Estância (500Km)	Transfer and PM Birding.
9	Estância – Lençóis (540Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
10	Chapada Diamantina	Full Day Birding.
11	Lençóis – Barreiras (470Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
12	Barreiras – São Desidério – S Domingos (250Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
13	São Domingos – Januária (600Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
14	Januária – Botumirim (370Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
15	Botumirim	Full Day Birding.
16	Botumirim – Boa Nova (600Km)	Transfer and PM Birding.
17	Boa Nova	Full Day Birding.
18	Boa Nova – Itacaré (200Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
19	Itacaré – Camacan (200Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
20	Serra Bonita Reserve (Camacan)	Full Day Birding.
21	Camacan – Porto Seguro (220Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
22	Porto Seguro	Full Day Birding.
23	Departure	Departure

**Suggested period: From September to January**



## OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLETE ITINERARY

Fortaleza (A), Guaramiranga (B), Quixadá (C), Potengi (D), Crato (E), Canudos (F), União dos Palmares (G), Tamandaré (H), Estância (I), Lençóis (J), Barreiras (K), São Desidério (L), São Domingos (M), Januária (N), Botumirim (O), Boa Nova (P), Itacaré (Q), Camacan (R), Porto Seguro (S).



## DETAILED ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Arrival in **Fortaleza** and transfer to **GUARAMIRANGA** (+/-2hrs [150Km]). The ideal is to leave Fortaleza around noon to maximize our chances in Guaramiranga.

**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.

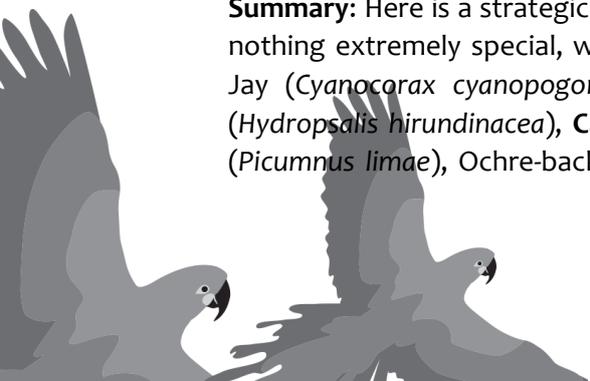
**Summary:** What makes this location particularly interesting are the species (subspecies) that are geographically isolated from the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest, which indicates a possible speciation process (many of these species are in split process and others await farther studies). As important species we highlight the Band-tailed Manakin (*Pipra fasciicauda*), a species that has populations in the Amazon and its single isolated population in the northeast lies in Guaramiranga. The **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 Gnateater** (*Conopophaga cearae*), Northern Lesser Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus atlanticus*), Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens cearensis*), Gould's Toucanet (*Selenidera gouldii baturitensis*), Spot-winged Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus capoeira plumbeicollis*), 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 others.



**Day 2:** AM Birding in Guaramiranga and transfer to **QUIXADÁ** (+/-4hrs [250Km]).

**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. The hotel we stay in this location is one of the most admired by clients. Very calm, relaxing and comfortable rooms.

**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** (*Hydropsalis hirundinacea*), **Caatinga Cacholote** (*Pseudoseisura cristata*), Ochraceous Piculet (*Picumnus limae*), Ochre-backed Woodpecker (*Celeus ochraceus*) (recent split from Blond-



crested) and, if we are lucky, we might even see the rare and endemic **White-browed Guan** (*Penelope jacucaca*).



**Day 3:** AM Birding in Quixadá and transfer to **POTENGI** (+/-5hrs [360Km]).

**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** (*Hyllopezus 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*), Pygmy Nightjar (*Hydropsalis hirundinacea*).



**Day 4:** 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 (*Compsothraupis loricata*), Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*), Blue-crowned Parakeets (*Thectocercus acuticaudatus*) and others Caatinga specialties.



**Day 5:** AM Birding in Canudos and transfer to **UNIÃO dos PALMARES** (+/-8hrs [500Km]).

**Day 6:** 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 7:** 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 8:** 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 9:** 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 10:** 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 11:** AM Birding in Chapada Diamantina and transfer to **Barreiras** (+/-7hrs [470Km]).

**Day 12:** AM Birding in **SÃO DESIDÉRIO** and transfer to **SÃO DOMINGOS** (+/-4hrs [250Km]).

The main targets in São Desidério will be the rare Mustached Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes falcirostris*), **Caatinga Black-Tyrant** (*Knipolegus franciscanus*) and **Wagler's Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes wagleri*) (still considered as subspecies of "Scaled" by IOC ). More chances with Caatinga / Dry forest Endemics.



**Area description:** In this municipality is located the Terra Ronca State Park with approximately 57 thousand hectares. The park has great touristic importance and for scientific research as well. It consists of numerous caves about 620 million years old, washed by clear warm waters.

**Summary:** The peak of this route are the beautiful and unforgettable **Pfrimer's parakeets** (*Pyrrhura pfrimeri*). Besides being endemic and extremely local, they are also classified as globally endangered. Its distribution is restricted to dry forests present on the slopes of the limestone cliffs. In this location, you can also see the Jandaya Parakeet (*Aratinga jandaya*), Caatinga Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus franciscanus*), Chapada Flycatcher (*Suiriri islerorum*), **Helmeted Manakin** (*Antilophia galeata*), Saffron-billed Sparrow (*Arremon flavirostris*) and various other species linked to this unique environment. For those who like contemplative tourism, Terra Ronca State Park is one of the largest speleological complexes of America.



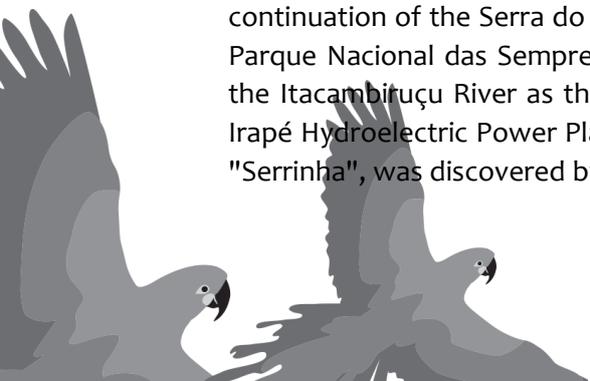
**Day 13:** AM Birding in São Domingos and transfer to **JANUÁRIA (Cavernas do Peruáçu National Park)**. (+/-9½hrs [600Km]).

**Area description:** Januária is a Brazilian municipality of the state of Minas Gerais located in the Middle São Francisco region. Located in the left margin of the São Francisco River, it has a population of 68,065 inhabitants (Estimate of 1st July / 2014), being the 3rd in population of the North of Minas and the 54th largest of the state. Januária, considered a university city, has a campus of IFNMG, Unimontes, Unopar, Unip, FUNAM and Ceiva. Its economy focuses on agriculture, livestock and general services. Januária is one of the main cities in the North of Minas, being a polo-city in the micro-region of the upper São Francisco.

**Summary:** Our main target here is the endemic and range-restricted **Bahian Nighthawk** (*Nyctiprogne vielliardi*). Since we will be waiting for the sun to go down by the river to see the nighthawk, other interesting species will surely be seen.

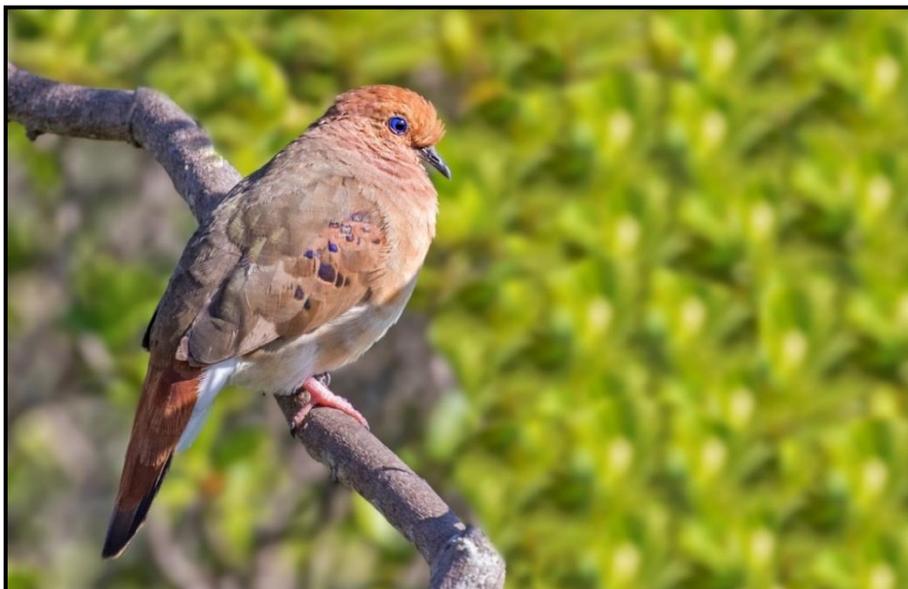
**Day 14:** AM Birding and transfer to **BOTUMIRIM** (+/-5hrs [370Km]).

**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 15:** Full Day Birding in Botumirim.

**Day 16:** AM Birding in Botumirim if needed and transfer to **BOA NOVA** (+/-9½hrs [600Km]).

**Day 17:** Full Day Birding in Boa Nova region.

**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.



**Day 18:** AM Birding in Boa Nova to try specifically for the **Boa Nova Tapaculo** (*Scytalopus gonzagai*) and transfer to Itacaré (+/-2½hrs [200Km]) to try specifically for the **Bahia Tapaculo** the next morning in Maraú.

Our main target in Maraú will be another very rare bird: The Critically Endangered **Bahia Tapaculo** (*Scytalopus psychopompus*). A very nice spot to get a head start on our lowland Atlantic Forest targets.

**Day 19:** AM Birding in Maraú and transfer to **CAMACAN (Serra Bonita Reserve)** (+/-2½hrs [200Km]).

**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 Antshrike (*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 20:** Full Day Birding in Camacan (Serra Bonita Reserve).



**Day 21:** AM Birding in Camacan if needed and transfer to **PORTO SEGURO** (+/-3hrs [220Km]).

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



**Day 22:** Full Day Birding in Porto Seguro.

**Day 23:** Early morning departure.

