



BRAZIL BIRDING

EXPERTS

CENTRAL BRAZIL TOCANTINS/PARÁ TOUR (15 DAYS)



Welcome to the Tocantins/Pará Tour! One of the biggest and most important ecotone of the country (cerrado/amazon). On this tour we go from Tocantins, where we see magnificent cerrado species such as the beautiful Blue Finch, the breath-taking Horned Sungem, the endemic Kaempfer's Woodpecker and the super rare Pfrimer's Parakeets to the exuberant Amazonian forest [Brazilian] where we search for some fabulous birds such as Guianan Red-Cotinga, Black-bellied Gnatcatcher, White-tailed Cotinga, Amazonian Antpitta and many many more. If we are lucky we might even see some super rarities such as Peruvian Recurvebill, Brigida's Woodcreeper and many more.

TOCANTINS/PARÁ TOUR

(Goiás, Tocantins, Pará)

SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

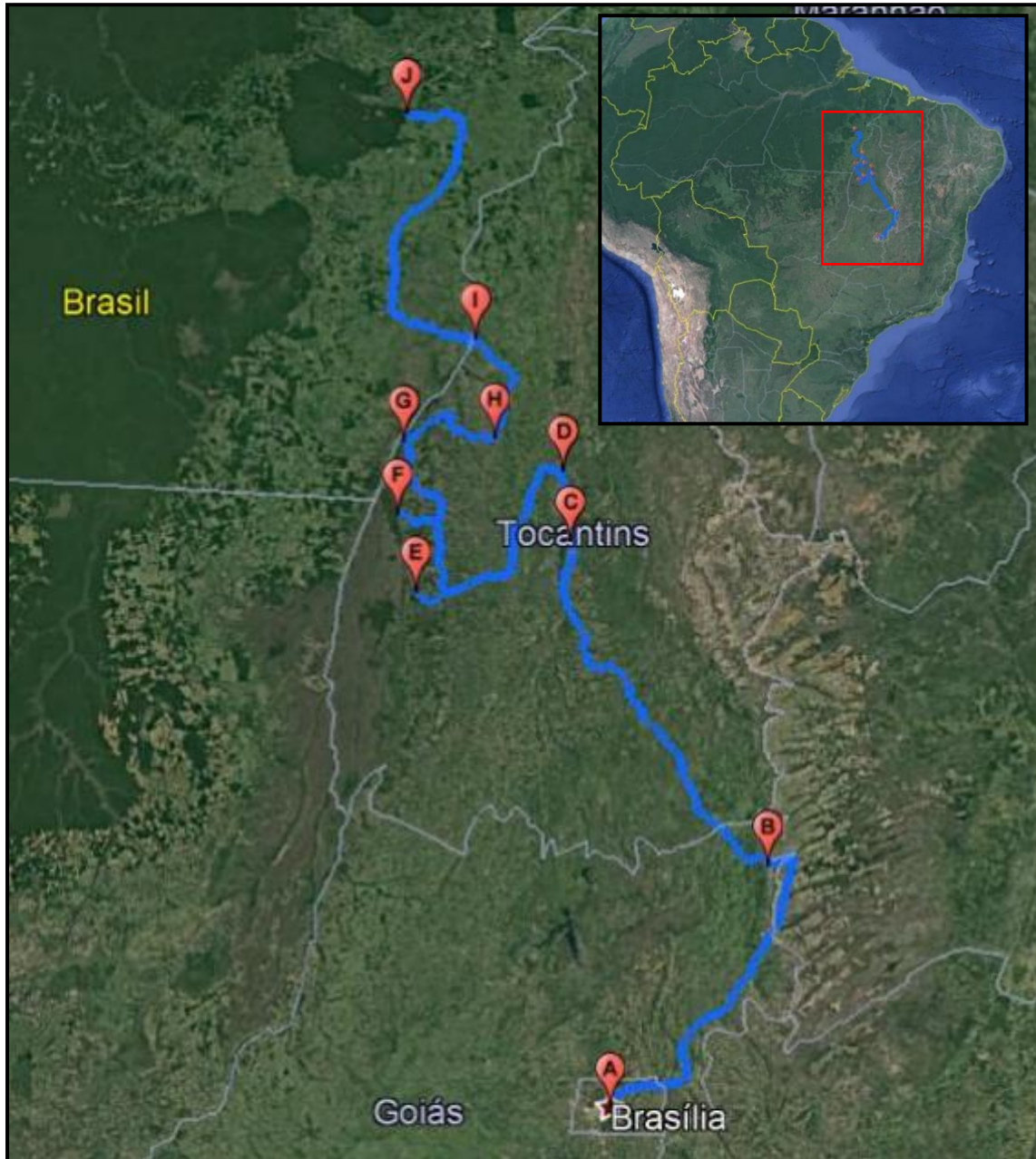
Day	Location (state)	Comments
1	Brasília	Arrival
2	Brasília – São Domingos (370Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
3	São Domingos – Taquaruçu (Palmas) (600Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
4	Taquaruçu	Full Day Birding.
5	Palmas – Lagoa da Confusão (240Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
6	Lagoa da Confusão – Pium (200Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
7	Pium (Canguçu Research Center)	Full Day Birding.
8	Pium – Caseara (200Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
9	Caseara – Miranorte (250Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
10	Miranorte – 2 Irmãos – C. Magalhães (200Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
11	Couto Magalhães – Carajás Nat. Forest (500Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
12	Carajás National Forest	Full Day Birding.
13	Carajás National Forest	Full Day Birding.
14	Carajás National Forest	Full Day Birding.
15	Carajás National Forest	Departure.

Suggested Period: From June to January.



OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLETE ITINERARY

Brasília (A), São Domingos (B), Taquaruçu (Palmas) (C) Porto Nacional e Miracema (D), Lagoa da Confusão (E), Canguçu Research Center (Pium) (F), Cantão State Park (Caseara) (G), Dois Irmãos (H), Couto Magalhães (I), Carajás National Forest (Parauapebas) (J).

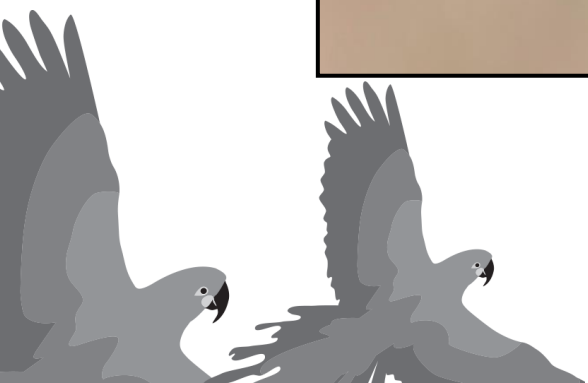


DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in **BRASILIA** where we spend the night.

Area description: is the capital of Brazil. The capital is located in the Center-West region of the country, along the geographic region known as Central Plateau (Planalto Central), with altitudes between 1,000 and 1,200 meters above sea level. The predominant vegetation in this region is the Cerrado. The climate of Brasilia is tropical with dry season, with average monthly temperatures higher than 18°C and rainfall around 1,540 mm (mm) annually, concentrated between October and April. Rainfall occurs in the form of rain and sometimes hail, and can still follow with storms and thunders. During the dry season, relative humidity levels are about 30%, well below the ideal 60% based on the World Health Organization.

Summary: In this region, we will have the opportunity to see some Cerrado (several types of Cerrado) species, such as **Horned Sungem** (*Heliactin bilophus*), White-eared Puffbird (*Nystalus chacuru*), large-billed Antwren (*Herpsilochmus longirostris*), Yellow-faced Parrot (*Alipiopsitta xanthops*), Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrant (*Culicivora caudacuta*), **Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*) among many others. We can also search for wet forest and gallery forest species, such as Rufous-capped Motmot (*Baryphthengus ruficapillus*), Helmeted manakin (*Antilophia galeata*) etc. In addition to the aforementioned species, it is important to highlight some of the rarer species that occur here: Brasilia tapaculo (*Scytalopus novacapitalis*), Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner (*Clibanornis rectirostris*), **Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner** (*Syndactyla dimidiata*), Ocellated Crake (*Micropygia shomburgkii*), White-striped Warbler (*Myiothlypis leucophrys*) and Minas Gerais Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes roquettei*). Depending on the group's disposition, there are possibilities of finding some nocturnal species in the region, such as Striped Owl (*Asio clamator*), Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*), the enigmatic Buff-fronted Owl (*Aegolius harrisii*) and also the weird Sickle-winged Nightjar (*Hydropsalis anomala*). More than 20 nocturnal species occur in the capital.



Day 2: AM Birding in Brasília and transfer to **SÃO DOMINGOS** (+/-5½hrs [450Km]).

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 **Pfimer's parakeet** (*Pyrrhura pfimeri*). 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 route, 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 3: AM Birding in São Domingos and transfer to **TAQUARUÇU (Fazenda Ecológica)** (+/-7½hrs [550Km]).

Area description: Palmas is the capital of Tocantins, it is an impressive place to go birdwatching due to its surroundings with many interesting areas for birding. Among these areas we will visit Taquaruçu, only 30 km from the capital, Taquaruçu district is a complex with more than 70 waterfalls and is home of a rich avifauna in its beautiful gallery forests and altitude savannahs.

Summary: The surrounding of Palmas is home to a rich diversity of birds due to the great complexity of existing vegetation mosaics in the region, thus giving subsidy to a huge biodiversity. In this route, we can see some endemic species of the Cerrado such as White-banded Tanager (*Neothraupis fasciata*), **Coal-crested Finch** (*Charitospiza eucosma*), **Collared Crescentchest** (*Melanopareia torquata*), Chapada Flycatcher (*Suiriri affinis*) and other endemics. You can also see species with Amazonian distribution such as Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*), Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*), Lettered



Araçari (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*), Pale-bellied Mourner (*Rhytipterna immunda*), Fiery-capped Manakin (*Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*), Spotted Puffbird (*Bucco tamatia*), Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*), and White-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus leucolaemus*) among others. In addition, the route also allows us to see Yellow-faced Parrot (*Alipiopsitta xanthops*), Southern Antpipit (*Corythopis delalandi*), Blue Finch (*Porphyrospiza caerulescens*), Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*), Ochre-backed Woodpecker (*Celeus ochraceus*), **Tawny-throated Leaftosser** (*Sclerurus macconnelli*), Checkered Woodpecker (*Veniliornis mixtus*), Ocellated Crake (*Micropygia schomburgkii*) among other jewels.



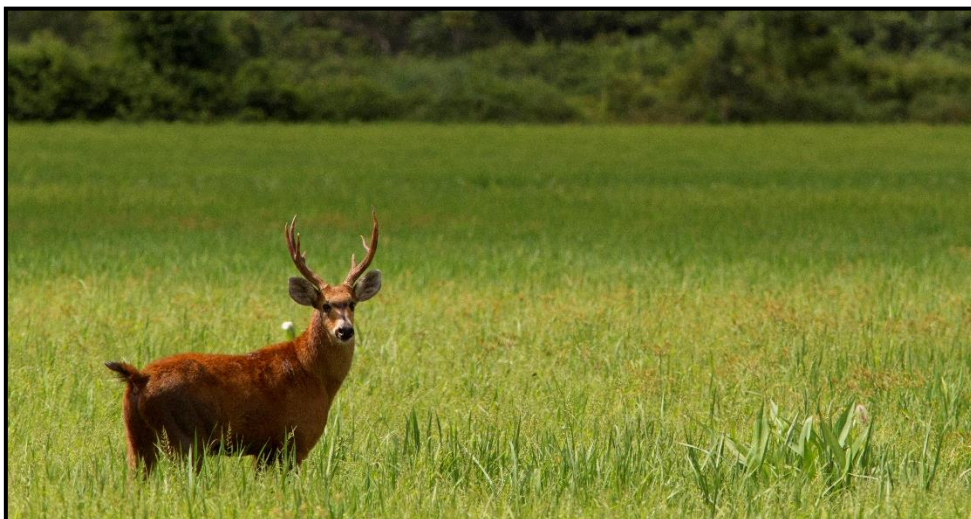
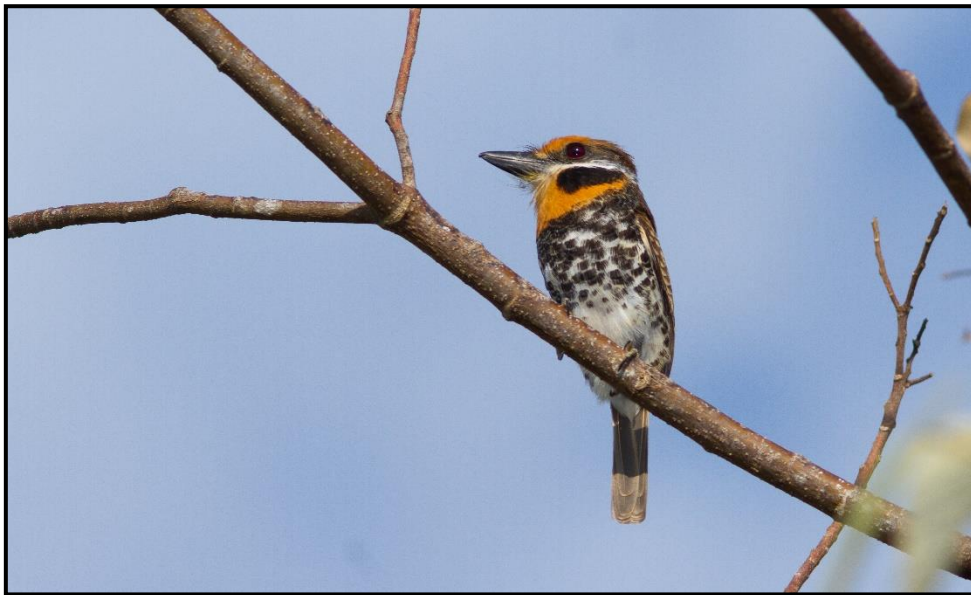
Day 4: Full Day Birding around Fazenda Ecológica.



Day 5: Leave the hotel early in the morning to bird in 2 other locations (Porto Nacional e Miracema) before transferring to **LAGOA DA CONFUSÃO**, where we sleep (+/-4hrs [250Km]).

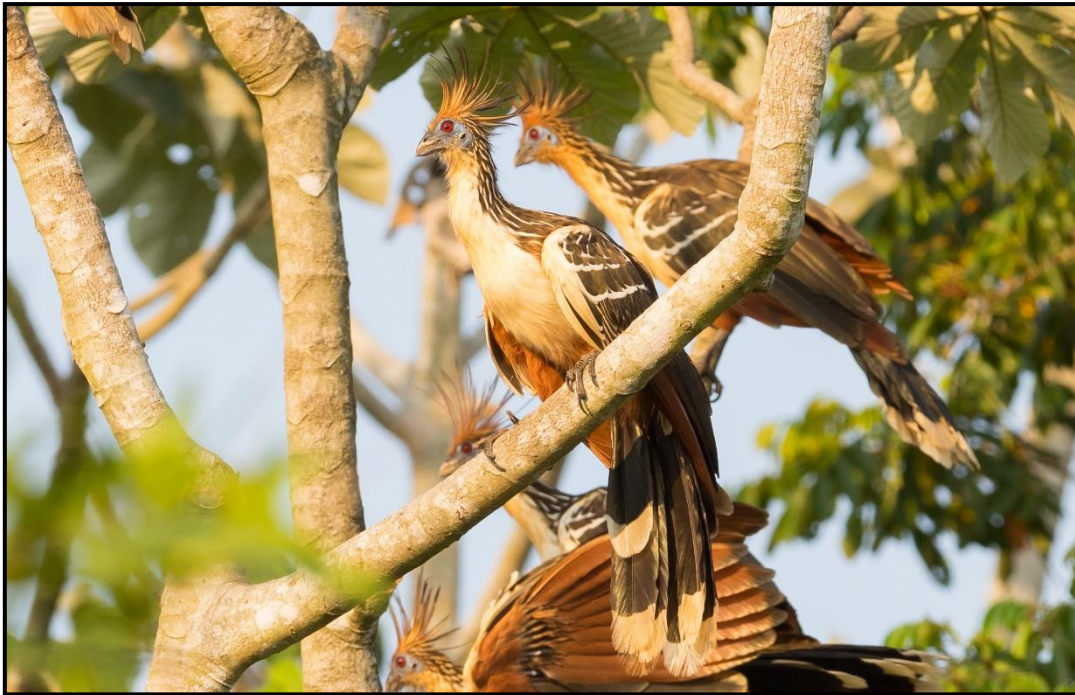
Area description: Lagoa da Confusão presents a singularity in the environment, which are natural fragments of floodplain forests, called "Ipucas", arising within subformations of the countryside (campo sujo e/ou campo limpo) regionally called "varjões". Featuring floristic, structural and physiognomic peculiarities of other vegetation types from its surroundings, it serves as a refuge and food supply for animals. It is sometimes compared or even called a "mini pantanal" because of the animal concentration in this location. To top it off, there are many rice farms around, so abundance of birds is guaranteed.

Summary: it is a great location to look for many interesting species such as Large-billed Antwren (*Herpsilochmus longirostris*), Spot-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus laemostictus*), Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus latirostris*) Orinoco Goose (*Neochen jubata*), Band-tailed Nighthawk (*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*), Chestnut-bellied Guan (*Penelope ochrogaster*) Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*), Spotted Puffbird (*Bucco tamatia*) and many more. In one day we could easily spot more than 100 bird species! Not to count on the mammals we could encounter such as the **Marsh Deer**.



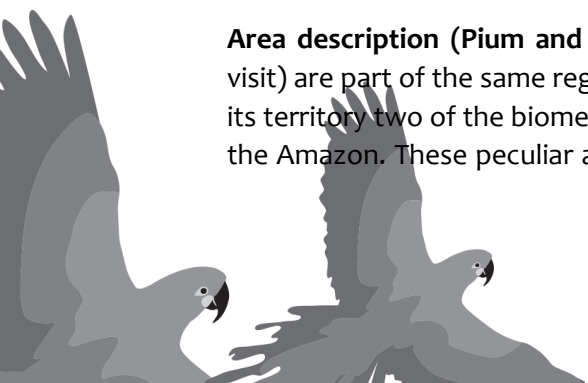
Day 6: AM Birding in Lagoa da Confusão and transfer to **PIUM (Canguçu Research Center)** (+/-2hrs [150Km]).

Day 7: Full Day Birding around the Canguçu Research Center.



Day 8: AM Birding around Canguçu Research center and transfer to **CASEARA (Cantão State Park)** (+/-2hrs [150Km]).

Area description (Pium and Caseara): Pium and Caseara (the next localities that we will visit) are part of the same region in Tocantins State, the western region. Tocantins shares in its territory two of the biomes with the greatest biodiversity on the planet, the Cerrado and the Amazon. These peculiar and contrasting biomes makes Tocantins a land of inestimable



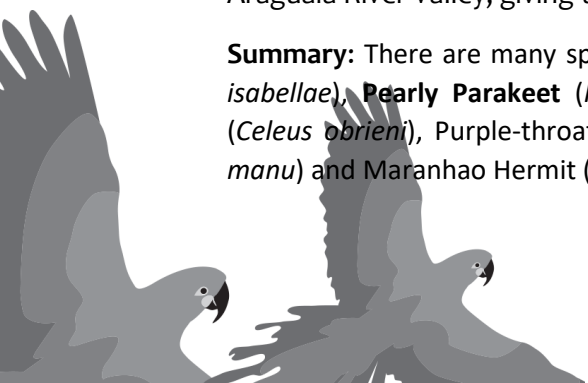
potential. The region is still marked by its socio-cultural aspect with the Indigenous Park of Araguaia, which brings together various indigenous peoples such as the Carajás, Javaés, Tapirapés, Tuxás e Avá-canoeiros. The Canguçu Research Center is located 250 km from the capital, and is in a strategic region between the Cerrado and Amazon biomes, still possessing characteristics of the Pantanal due to the flood regime of the great plain of the Araguaia. This great ecotonal gradient of western Tocantins and the mosaic of environments create unique ecosystems with high biological diversity, endemic species and avifauna composition of the three biomes mentioned above. Located on the banks of Bananal Island, the largest river island in the world, the Canguçu Research Center is a Private Natural Heritage Reserve, which belongs to a protected area complex that includes the State Park of Cantão with over 830 lakes, the Araguaia National park, whose importance is internationally recognized and the area of Environmental Protection Bananal/Cantão. Together they form the ecological corridor Araguaia-bananal, one of the richest systems on biodiversity in the world.

Summary (Pium and Caseara): In the vicinity of this singular ecotone and vast floodplain, you can see endemic species of Bananal Island and the Araguaia River basin. One yet not described to science, a kind of Yellow-chinned Spinetail "Bananal Spinetail" (*Certhiaxis. Sp.*), endemic to the Bananal Island. It is also possible to observe restricted species such as Araguaia Spinetail (*Synallaxis simoni*), and Araguaia Cardinal (*Paroaria baeri*). Other species with very conspicuous features and that are in this route are the majestic Orinoco Goose (*Neochen jubata*) and the pre-historic **Hoatzin** (*Opisthocomus hoazin*). Doing justice to this rich transition Amazon/Cerrado, you can also find: Chestnut-bellied Guan (*Penelope ochrogaster*), Kaempfer's Woodpecker (*Celeus obrieni*), Zimmer's Tody-tyrant (*Hemitriccus minimus*), Amazonian Tyrannulet (*Inezia subflava*), Amazonian Streaked Antwren (*Myrmotherula multostriata*), Spotted Tody-flycatcher (*Todirostrum maculatum*), Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*), Rothchild's Blue Grosbeak (*Cyanoloxia rothschildii*), Maranhao Hermit (*Phaethornis maranhaoensis*), Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*), Dwarf Tyrant-manakin (*Tyranneutes stolzmanni*), Band-tailed Manakin (*Pipra fasciicauda*), Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*), Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*), Amazonian Antshrike (*Thamnophilus amazonicus*), Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*), Blackish Nightjar (*Nyctipolus nigrescens*), Band-tailed Nighthawk (*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*), Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*), Black-banded Owl (*Strix huhula*), Austral Screech-Owl (*Megascops usta*), among numerous other surprises that may come along the way, as the Harpy Eagle (*Harpy harpyja*) and many others that you will check on the spot. Among the species mentioned above, it is worth highlighting **Kaempfer's Woodpecker**, a species that was thought to be extinct for 80 years until it was rediscovered in 2006 in Tocantins.

Day 9: AM Birding in Caseara and transfer to Miranorte, where we sleep the night to go early birding in **DOIS IRMÃOS** (+/-3hrs [230Km]).

Area description: Dois Irmãos do Tocantins is a municipality located in the eastern portion of the Tocantins State. It is a small city with less than 10 thousand habitants, which had its origins in the exploration of diamond rocks by miners. The municipality is located at Araguaia River Valley, giving the opportunity to record a variety of bird species.

Summary: There are many special birds to see here as White-browed Purpletuft (*Iodopleura isabellae*), **Pearly Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura lepida*), second chances for Kaempfer's Woodpecker (*Celeus obrieni*), Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*), Manu Antbird (*Cercomacra manu*) and Maranhao Hermit (*Phaethornis maranhaoensis*).





Day 10: Early transfer to **Dois Irmãos** (+/-1½hrs [80Km]) for AM Birding. Transfer to Couto Magalhães (+/-2½hrs [160Km]).

Day 11: AM Birding in **COUTO MAGALHÃES** and transfer to Parauapebas (Carajás National Forest) (+/-8hrs [500Km]).

Area description: Located in the northwestern portion of Tocantins, not far from the capital (300Km) and only two-hour drive from Dois Irmãos.

Summary: In this location plenty of species are worth highlighting due to rareness, endemism or vulnerability such as Olive Oropendola (*Psarocolius bifasciatus*), **Plain-crowned Spinetail** (*Synallaxis gujanensis*), **Blue-necked Tanager** (*Tangara cyanicollis*), Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*), **Xingu Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocolaptes retentus*), Band-tailed Antbird (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*), Amazonian Streaked Antwren



(*Myrmotherula multostriata*), **Dusky-tailed Flatbill** (*Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*), **Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus rufipileatus*), Rose-breasted Chat (*Granatellus pelzelni*), **Bananal Antbird** (*Cercomacra ferdinandi*), Glossy Antshrike (*Sakesphorus luctuosus*) and many others.



Day 12: Full Day Birding in **CARAJÁS NATIONAL FOREST**.

Area description: The Carajás National Forest is where there is the biggest mining project in Brazil, where tons of Iron, Gold, Manganese, Granite and Copper are explored daily. With an area of 400,000 hectares, it also has the conservation of biodiversity as its goals, being home for many magnificent and restricted bird species.

Summary: To write the main targets would be a never-ending list but here are a few so you can get an idea: White-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus leucolaemus*), **Brigida's Woodcreeper**



(*Hylexetastes brigidai*), Marbled Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus gujanensis*), Red-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cufuji*), Xingu Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes retentus*), Sharpbill (local race: *Oxyruncus cristatus tocantinsi*), White-tailed (*Xipholena lamellipennis*), Spangled (*Cotinga cayana*), Purple-breasted Cotinga (*Cotinga cotinga*), **Harpy Eagle** (*Harpia harpyja*), White Bellbird (*Procnias albus*), **Guianan Red-Cotinga** (*Phoenicircus carnifex*), White-browed Purpletuft (*Iodopleura isabellae*), Ruddy Spinetail (different form of Belem area: *Synallaxis rutilans rutilans*), Chestnut-throated Spinetail (*Synallaxis cherriei*), Peruvian Recurvebill (*Simoxenops ucayalae*), Carajas Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes carajaensis*), Snethlage's Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus multostriatus*). **Amazonian Antpitta** (*Hylopezus berlepschi*), Black-bellied (*Conopophaga melanogaster*) and Chestnut-belted Gnatcatcher (*Conopophaga aurita*), Manu (*Cercomacra manu*), Wing-banded (*Myrmornis torquata*) and Banded Antbird (*Dichrozona cincta*), Rose-breasted Chat (different form of Belem area: *Granatellus pelzelni pelzelni*).

Day 13: Full Day Birding in Carajás National Forest.

Day 14: Full Day Birding in Carajás National Forest.



Day 15: AM Birding. DEPARTURE.

