

BRAZIL'S ATLANTIC FORESTS - 2010.

8th – 25th October.

After a previous trip to several sites in the Atlantic Forest area and the Pantanal, we were keen to return to Brazil. The aim of this trip was to add mammals and birds that we had not encountered on the earlier trip. We had travelled with Regina Ribeiro on several occasions (brasisre@gold.com.br), and asked her to act as our guide. After some correspondence, we narrowed down the itinerary, and Regina liased with Brasil Aventuras to arrange the lodges and internal flights. (www.brasilaventuras.com.br) The timing of the trip was partly dictated by Regina's other commitments, and also our availability.

Flights:

We used TAP, the Portuguese national carrier to fly from London via Lisbon to Salvador, where we spent the night. The next day we flew from Salvador to Ilheus with TAM to start the tour. During the tour, we flew from Ilheus back to Salvador, and from there to Sao Paulo. At the conclusion of the trip we flew from Vitoria back to Sao Paulo, and then to Lisbon and London with TAP...

Weather:

Although we were aware that the timing of the trip was near the start of the rainy season, we had more wet weather than anticipated. This did cause a few problems with access, as our minibus was 2WD and had minimal abilities on wet slippery surfaces, meaning driving on tracks in the forests was severely curtailed. This obviously impacted on spotlighting ! As the option of 4WD vehicles for 4 people plus guide and driver was not available, it may make sense to visit at dry times of the year to maximise general accessibility.

Itinerary:

8th: Fly via Lisbon to Salvador. Meet Regina and overnight in Salvador.

9th: Fly Salvador to Ilheus. Afternoon at Una Ecoparque.

10th: Early morning at Una Ecoparque area hoping for Golden-headed Lion Tamarins etc. Then drive to Serra Bonita.

11th: Full day at Serra Bonita.

12th: Early morning at Serra Bonita, then transfer to Ilheus and fly via Salvador to Sao Paulo. Overnight at hotel nearby.

13th: Morning at Nazareth Paulista for Buffy-tufted Marmoset and Black-fronted Titi. Afternoon long drive to Intervales S.P. for 3 nights.

14th & 15th: Full days at Intervales.

16th: Early morning at Intervales, then long drive to Itatiaia N.P. arriving about 19.30.

17th: Full day in the lower park at Itatiaia.

18th: Full day Itatiaia, morning in the higher park, descending when the weather closed in...

19th: Leave Itatiaia after breakfast and drive to Rio de Janeiro. Afternoon in Rio Botanical Gardens and sunset at Corcovado. Overnight in Ipanema.

20th: Morning visit to the Golden Lion Tamarin project (several sites). Then long drive to Vitoria to overnight.

21st: Early departure to drive to Linhares reserve. Remainder of day in the reserve.

22nd: Full day at Linhares reserve.

23rd: Leave Linhares and drive to Santa Teresa. Afternoon in city park looking for Geoffroy's Marmoset and Northern Masked Titi.

24th: All day at Santa Maria de Jetiba for Northern Muriqui and Maned Sloth. Late afternoon and evening back in the city park.

25th: Morning visit to city park, then lunch before heading to Vitoria airport. Fly to Sao Paulo, then via Lisbon to London.

Birds:

As this trip was designed more with mammals in mind than birds, we did not set out to 'clean up' in this part of Brazil. Nevertheless, we recorded 320 species including some sought after gems. Highlights included Red-billed Curassow, Golden-capped and Plain Parakeets, Tawny-browed Owl, Ocellated Poorwill, Plovercrest, Frilled Coquette, Large-tailed and White-bearded Antshrikes, Short-tailed Ant-thrush, Itatiaia Spinetail, Hooded Berryeater, Bare-throated Bellbird, Black and Gold and Swallow-tailed Cotingas, Black-capped Piprites and 25 sp. of Tanagers !



Golden-headed Lion Tamarin

Mammals:

We found many of the mammals to be hard to find – certainly more so than on our previous visit to Brazil, but we still recorded 26 species. Undoubtedly doing less spotlighting than anticipated (especially in Intervales) didn't help !

White-eared Opossum - *Didelphis albiventris* - 3 individuals were seen; two around Itatiaia on the 16th after dark on the road in, and on the 18th before dawn as we drove to the high park. One surprised us by trotting down the street adjacent to the city park in Santa Teresa, rapidly disappearing into the park when it saw us !

Big-eared Opossum - *Didelphis aurita* - We recorded animals on both nights in the city park at Santa Teresa (23rd & 24th). They (it ?) visited the bird table after dark to take the fruit.

Bridled Four-eyed Opossum – *Philander frenata* - One watched for 10 minutes as it fed in a palm after dark just outside Una Ecoparque on the 9th was a pleasant surprise !

Maned Three-toed Sloth – *Bradypus torquatus* - A very large individual was well watched at Santa Maria de Jetiba. This seems a reliable site, with the Muriqui researchers often knowing where they are.

Black-tufted Capuchin - *Cebus nigritus* - A total of 9 individuals seen on 3 days. A

group of 4 were watched raiding a Woodpecker nest and eating the eggs at Itatiaia on 17th.

Buffy-tufted Marmoset – *Callithrix aurita* – A group of at least 4 eventually gave good views on 13th at Nazareth Paulista, and 1 was in the lower part of Itatiaia N.P on 17th.

Geoffroy's Marmoset – *Callithrix geoffroyi* – Recorded on 21st and 25th with at least 6 seen in total.

White-tufted Marmoset – *Callithrix jacchus* - Seen in the Botanical Gardens in Rio on 19th, and several groups with the Golden Lion Tamarins on 20th. At least 26 animals in total.

Wied's Black-tufted Marmoset – *Callithrix kuhlii* – A family group visited the bird tables (eventually !) at Serra Bonita on 11th .

Golden Lion Tamarin – *Leontopithecus rosalia* - We enjoyed watching three different family groups totalling 21 animals in the company of researchers from the GLT project on 20th.



Big-eared Opossum. (K. Baker)

Golden-headed Lion Tamarin – *Leontopithecus chrysomelas* - At least 10 seen over 2 days around Una Ecoparque in two family groups.

Black-fronted Titi – *Callicebus nigrifrons* – 4 seen in the small area of forest at Nazareth Paulista on 13th.

Northern Masked Titi – *Callicebus personatus* – Finally located on our last day in the City park at Santa Teresa. 5+ seen.

Northern Muriqui – *Brachyteles hypoxanthus* – 10+ seen on 24th at Santa Maria de Jetiba including several small babies.

Brown Howler Monkey – *Alouatta guariba* – 6 seen and heard on 24th at Santa Maria de Jetiba.

Common Long-tongued Bat – *Glossophaga soricina* - Seen on the 9th and 23rd. On the 23rd they were visiting the hummingbird feeders in Santa Teresa park.

Seba's Short-tailed Bat – *Carollia perspicillata* - 4 were roosting in a culvert under the main road near Linhares reserve, seen thanks to a tip from the bat researcher there.

Black Myotis – *Myotis nigricans* - 2 seen roosting in the roof of a building at Linhares on 23rd.

White-lined Sac-winged Bat – *Saccopteryx bilineatus* – 2 in the apex of a roof at Linhares on 21st shown to us by bat researchers.

Greater Dog-like Bat – *Pteropteryx kappleri* – 5 photographed roosting at Una Ecoparque on 10th were subsequently identified by the bat researchers.

Crab-eating Fox – *Cerdocyon thous* – One at dawn on the 23rd gave prolonged views.

South American Coati – *Nasua nasua* - 5 in total over three days all at Linhares.

Red Brocket Deer – *Mazama americana* – One at dawn on the 22nd was our only sighting.

Guianan Squirrel – *Sciurus aestuans* - 7 seen on 5 days.

Paca – *Cuniculus paca* – A surprise while waiting for the Opossum in the city park on 24th was a foraging Paca which gave good views...

Red-rumped Agouti – *Dasyprocta leporina* - A total of 4 shy individuals seen over two days at Linhares reserve.

