



Ron Allicock
BIRDING TOURS
SURAMA VILLAGE - REGION 9, GUYANA

Specialized in, Bird Watching, Wildlife and Nature Expeditions

Phone: 617-3590 or 695-9059

Email: ronallicock@gmail.com

Web: www.rupicola.net

Guyana - An – Un-spoilt wilderness!

Tour Itinerary – 16 days – for Bengt-Eric Sjolinder

Dates: Thursday 8th – Wednesday 12th , 2018



Guyana really does offer something special, a small South American country nestled on the Atlantic Coast east of Venezuela and west of Suriname, it is one of the last unexplored wild places on earth yet offers incredible access into a great variety of pristine habitats. It is also a land of great contrasts as you leave behind the coastal city of Georgetown travelling into the interior, over vast un-spoilt forests and incredible isolated waterfalls. The lure of Guyana is its true wilderness and amazing wildlife with many sought after species easier to see here than any of the surrounding countries. We have worked hard to offer the most complete itinerary available which includes all the top sites visited by other companies but also includes the spectacular Kaieteur Falls, and highly sought after rarities such as the spectacular Sun Parakeet and Red Siskin. Ron Allcock Birding Tours only use the very best local guides and you can rest assured that your money will go to help Guianan owned lodges and local communities. If you want to see Cotingas, Parrots, Guianan Cock-of-the Rock, Harpy Eagle, the rarely seen Crested Doradito or Capuchinbird and an endless supply of mouth-watering species then, this could be your best trip ever! We guarantee, "IF IT'S NOT A LIFER ITS THE BEST VIEW EVER!" We now offer the No1 trip to this fabulous country. Check out our website www.rupicola.net

Targets:

- Sun Parakeet
- Red Siskin
- Guianan Cock-of-the Rock
- Crimson Fruitcrow
- White-winged Potoo
- Crested Doradito
- Bearded Tachuri
- Sharp-tailed Ibis
- Green Aracari
- Hoatzin
- Hoary-throated Spinetail
- Harpy Eagle
- Capuchinbird
- Blood-coloured Woodpecker
- Rufous Crab Hawk
- Guianan Red Cotinga
- Red-and-black Grosbeak
- Pompadour Cotinga
- White-naped Xenopsaris
- Spotted Puffbird
- Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo
- Rio Branco Antbird

Day 1– Thursday 8th February, 2018 - Arrive Georgetown, Guyana



Today is planned as an arrival day in Georgetown, Guyana. We will arrange to pick you up at the Airport with our driver and Guide (we arrive 4:40). The drive from the Airport to your hotel takes about 45 minutes. However, if you happen to arrive on the morning flight and are not tired you have an option to visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens an excellent place to start our birding. After settling in to our hotel we will then visit the nearby Botanical Gardens, an area of parkland with open grass, scattered trees, bushes and several ponds and wet areas. Here we will target several special birds starting with **Blood-coloured Woodpecker**, White-bellied Piculet, gorgeous Spotted Tody-Flycatchers, Rusty-margined Flycatchers everywhere, Southern Beardless and Yellow Tyrannulet, Lesser Kiskadee, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow Oriole, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, **Wing-barred Seedeater**, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Black-collared Hawk, plenty of Snail Kites and in the tree tops hopefully Red-shouldered Macaw, Orange-winged, Yellow-crowned and Mealy Amazons, and with luck the **Festive Amazon**, a species in serious decline due to the illegal pet trade in parrots. If the trees are flowering we will search for hummingbirds such as Black-throated Mango and Glittering and White-bellied Emeralds. What a fitting way to start our tour and without even leaving Georgetown. **Extra targets: Audubon's Shearwater, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, Lilactailed & Tepui Parrotlet, Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, Yellow-throated Flycatcher. American Black Swift? Botanical Gardens: Plain-bellied Emerald, Versicolored Emerald, Arrowhead Piculet.** Night Georgetown Status International Hotel – (no meals catered for on this day)

Day 2 – Fri. 9th Feb. 2018 - Georgetown – Mahaica River – Narish boating trip



This morning, after a well-deserved cup of coffee, we will leave our hotel early and head eastward along the Atlantic coast to the Mahaica River. This is where you will have your only chance of seeing Guyana’s national bird, “the Hoatzin,” on this tour. This prehistoric bird is found in abundance on this river system along with many other species including the localized **Rufous Crab Hawk**, Black-collared Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Long-winged Harrier, Barred Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Striped Cuckoo, Little Cuckoo, **Green-tailed Jacamars**, Golden-spangled Piculet and a host of other interesting species. Depending on the tide we may be able to check the shoreline for birds such as Scarlet Ibis, Greater Yellowlegs, Least, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, Whimbrel, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Short-billed Dowitcher, Tri-coloured Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy and Great Egrets, Magnificent Frigatebird, Royal, Gull-billed and possibly Yellow-billed Terns plus the odd Brown Pelican. We will return to Georgetown for lunch and in the afternoon we will again visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens to try and connect with any species we may have missed yesterday. With luck, we may see again the rare and elusive Blood-coloured Woodpecker, a bird every birdwatcher wants on their list. This bird is restricted to the narrow coastal plains and is considered one of the Guianan Shield endemics. **Extra target: Hope Beach (var ligger det); Mangrove Rail (Clapper split).** Night in Georgetown Status International Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 3 – Sat. 10th Feb. 2018 - Kaieteur Falls – Iwokrama River Lodge



After breakfast at our hotel, we will take a chartered flight over endless unspoilt pristine forest to the Kaieteur Falls, one of the world's highest free-falling waterfalls. Kaieteur is a single massive, thundering cataract 100 meters wide, created as the Potaro River makes a sheer drop of 228 meters, nearly three times the height of Niagara Falls and twice the height of Victoria Falls. The spectacle is even more impressive for its remoteness and it is most likely that we'll be the only persons viewing it. Here, we will hope to find **White-chinned** and White-tipped Swifts swirling over the gorge, and perhaps we'll be lucky enough to see a spectacular **Orange-breasted Falcon** as it hunts for its favorite prey, the swifts. We will also look for the rare **Golden-Frog** (=Beebe's Rocket Frog) that lives in water held in the leaves of Bromeliad plants.

Extra targets: Tufted Coquette (2016, 2017) & Roraiman Antbird (2016).

After a 3-hour stop at the falls, our flight will continue to Fair-View Village where we will be transferred to Iwokrama River Lodge in the heart of Guyana's beautiful rainforest. We hope to arrive in time for a little birding on the nearby forest trails around the lodge and hopefully visit a nearby Capuchinbird lek. To see and hear these strange birds displaying is a truly unique experience. The impressive surrounding forest protects a unique ecosystem in the heart of the Guianan shield where Amazonian and Guianan flora and fauna form one of the highest species biodiversities in the world. Our very comfortable lodge has modern cabins each with balconies that overlook the beautiful Essequibo River. There will be plenty to look at with Pied Lapwings, Black-collared and White-winged Swallows over the river as well as a host of species in the surrounding forest edges. With luck we may come across **Spotted Antpitta**, Rufous-capped

Antthrush, Ringed and Waved Woodpeckers, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Black-necked and Green Aracaris, **Guianan Toucanet**, Black Caracara, Swallow-wing and possibly Red-rumped Agouti or ~~Wedge-capped~~ **Weeper Capuchin** Monkey. This will be followed by dinner and then an optional boat ride on the river to look for night-life such as Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Great Potoo, Boat-billed Heron, Black Caiman, **Amazonian (Garden) Tree Boa** and other nocturnal creatures. **Extra targets:** **Hook-billed Kite, Tepui Parrotlet, Caica Parrot, Black-throated Antshrike, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill, Yellow-throated Flycatcher. Yellow-billed Cuckoo? Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, Pale-bellied Mourner.**

Night at Iwokrama River Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 4 – Sun. 11th Feb. 2018 - Iwokrama River Lodge – Turtle Mountain Hike



Don't be surprised to be woken up at dawn by the calls of Spectacled Owl or Barred Forest-Falcon. Then after an early morning excursion on the Essequibo River, we will continue our journey to Turtle Mountain where we will explore the main trail, visiting Turtle Pond and climbing to an elevation of about 900 feet for a spectacular view of the forest canopy below. The trail to Turtle Mountain winds its way through beautiful primary

forest where **Red-and-black Grosbeak**, Golden-sided Euphonia, Red-and-green and Scarlet Macaws, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Cream-coloured Woodpecker, **Yellow-billed Jacamar**, **Dusky Purpletuft**, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, **Black-headed** and Black-chinned Antbirds, **Amazonian Antshrike**, Ferruginous Antbird, and possibly Brown-bearded **Saki Monkey** can all be found. From the lookout we have our best chance of seeing the spectacular **Orange-breasted Falcon**. The trail up the mountain is well designed with sturdy handrails to help you walk up at your own pace and the view from the top is indeed breath-taking – a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you to enjoy nature at its best. We may see a fly-by King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Short-tailed Hawk or Red-and-green Macaw, while mammals here include Guianan Red Howler Monkey and (**Black**) **Guiana Spider Monkey**. We have even encountered the mighty Harpy Eagle on a previous tour! After a picnic lunch and more excellent birding we will return by boat to River Lodge. Night Iwokrama River Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 5 – Mon. 12th Feb. 2018 - Iwokrama - Atta Rainforest Lodge



This morning we will take one of the forest trails in search of the very elusive and hard to see **Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo** as well as a variety of other forest species such as Dusky-throated Antshrike, **Chestnut-rumped** and Plain-brown Woodcreepers, Brown-bellied, Grey and White-flanked Antwrens, Cinereous Antshrike, Channel-billed Toucan, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, with luck we may even find an Amazonian Pygmy-Owl. We will return to River Lodge for lunch and afterwards depart and bird along the road towards Atta Lodge. This is a very productive road as you will see and

the birding simply spectacular. In the stunted White Sand forest known as *Mori Scrub* we will look for Black Manakin, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Cinnamon Attila, and nearby we will search for Ladder-tailed and Blackish Nightjars. **Extra target: Pale-bellied Mourner**. This is also a fantastic opportunity to spot the magnificent **Jaguar**, but obviously a lot of luck is also involved. From open areas we can check tree tops for the amazing Red-fan Parrot, Dusky Parrot, Red-and-green Macaws and possibly Blue-cheeked Amazon, Painted and Golden-winged Parakeets, while forest edges may reveal Lineated, Waved, Yellow-tufted, Golden-collared and Cream-coloured Woodpeckers, Green-tailed and Paradise Jacamar, Rufous-rumped Foliage-Gleaner, ~~(Thrush-like)~~ **Guianan Schiffornis, Grey-winged Trumpeters**, Black Curassow and with luck the stunning **Guianan Red Cotinga** or the even more stunning Crimson Topaz which comes out and fly catches in the early evening. As evening draws in we will arrive at Atta Lodge where an optional night walk into the forest will target the much sought after **White-winged Potoo**.

Night at Atta Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 6 – Tue. 13th Feb. 2018 - Atta Rainforest Lodge/Canopy Walkway



To spend the night at Atta Rainforest Lodge is to spend the night surrounded by pure nature with no sounds but the noise of the forest. At dawn, we will visit the canopy walkway to look for passing flocks of canopy-dwelling species. Time will be spent looking for Todd's Antwren, **Spot-tailed Antwren**, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrants, **Guianan Toucanet**, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Screaming Piha, Black-headed Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuff, Great Jacamar, Paradise Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, **Golden-sided Euphonia**, Purple and Green Honeycreeper, Black-faced Dacnis, Long-billed Gnatwren and Black Nunbird. **Extra targets: Racket-tailed Coquette, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet, Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet, Tepui Parrotlet, Caica Parrot, Guianan Woodcreeper, Black-throated Antshrike, (Guianan Tyrannulet, Olive-green Tyrannulet ?), Yellow-throated Flycatcher.** This entire morning will involve birding on the canopy walkway and the trails around the lodge. This wonderful area is famed for its variety of colourful cotingas and if we can locate a few fruiting trees we will be in for an avian spectacle with possibilities of **Pompadour**, Spangled, Purple-breasted and **Guianan Red Cotinga**, as well as White Bellbird and the outrageous **Crimson Fruitcrow**. Within the forest that surrounds the lodge we can look for Red-legged and Variegated Tinamous, **Grey-winged Trumpeter**, Cayenne Jay, Amazonian

Barred Woodcreeper, **Red-billed Woodcreeper**, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, **Painted Tody-Flycatcher**, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Guianan Warbling Antbird, White-crested Spadebill, Waved, Chestnut and Red-necked Woodpeckers as well as (**Black**) **Guyana Spider Monkey** and (White-faced) **Golden-faced Saki Monkey**. After lunch, we will spend the afternoon birding on the main road through the Iwokrama Forest. We can try again for Black Manakin and Rufous-crowned Elaenia as well as **Blue-backed Tanager**, Swallow-wing (=Puffbird), Black-chinned, Scale-backed and Grey Antbird, **Guianan Streaked Antwren**, **Amazonian** and Mouse-coloured Antshrike, Reddish Hermit, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Rose-breasted Chat, Black and Red-throated Caracaras, Guianan Trogon, Golden-winged **Parakeet** and Yellow-green Grosbeaks. **Extra targets: Bronzy Jacamar, White-throated Kingbird !**. While birding along the road, we will also keep our eyes open for the elusive Jaguar and Tapir which surprisingly are often seen at dawn and dusk. Late evening, on our way back to Atta Lodge, we will use a spotlight to do some night birding, mainly looking for owls and potoos, Beside a small wetland we could find **Cuvier's** Dwarf Caiman, **Uniform**, Ash-throated, and Russet-crowned Crakes as well as a Zigzag Heron all of which are difficult. This is a great place to look for potoos but it must be stressed these birds can be very hard to find. Nevertheless there are possibilities for White-winged Potoo, Great Potoo, Common Potoo and Long-tailed Potoo, plus Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Spectacled and Crested Owl. Night at Atta Rainforest Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 7 – Wed. 14th Feb. 2018 - Atta Lodge - Surama Eco Lodge



Today we will once again check the area around the lodge for any target species we may have missed before heading out for a 30-minute drive to the lek of the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock where we have a very good chance to see this beautiful bird. Other species may also be seen and previously we have had Long-tailed Potoo on a day roost. Moving on we will continue to Surama for lunch and a well-deserved cold beer or cold drink of your choice. After lunch and a short siesta we will take a walk through the grasslands to the nearby forest. The grassland along the way can hold Lesser Elaenia, Wedge-tailed Grass Finch, (~~Savannah Sparrow!~~) and amazingly a good population of **Ocellated Crakes!** These tiny birds may be vocal but seeing them presents one of the biggest challenges in birding. We are still working on our many strategies for securing a view of this near invisible species. The forest here holds a wealth of species and we will search for Rufous-capped Antthrush, **Spotted Antpitta**, Cinereous Tinamou, White-browed, **Rufous-throated and White-plumed Antbirds**, **Eastern Slaty Antshrike**,**???** **White-chinned** and Black-banded **Woodcreeper**, Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, **Spotted Puffbird**, **Grey-crowned Flatbill Flycatcher**, Capuchinbird, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Greyish Mourner, Cayenne Jay, **Blue-backed Tanager**, Garaya Coraya and Buff-breasted Wrens, Golden-spangled Piculet, Guianan Toucanet and **Fiery-tailed Aowlbill**. Down by the river we could find Grey-rumped, Short-tailed, Band-rumped and with luck **Chapman's Swifts**, White-banded Swallow plus Crane Hawk, Grey-headed

Kite, Green Ibis, Amazon Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Long-billed Starthroat and **Southern White-fringed Antwren**. **Extra targets: Hook-billed Kite, Striped Owl !, Green-tailed Goldentthroat, Collared Puffbird !, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet, Caica Parrot, Spot-throated Woodcreeper !, Guianan Woodcreeper, Spot-backed Antbird !, Yellow-crowned Elaenia !, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill,** We will then return towards dusk so as we can see **Least** and Lesser **Nighthawks** around the lodge. If we do not see **White-tailed Nightjar** tonight then we will have a good chance near the lodge and during the daytime tomorrow. **Extra targets: Spot-tailed Nightjar.** An optional short night walk might find us the resident Mottled Owl.
Night Surama Eco Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 8 – Thu. 15th Feb. 2018 - Surama Area – Harpy Eagle Nature Trail



This morning we will drive the short distance to the main dirt road and we will take a 45-minute walk along the Harpy Eagle trail which will bring us to the Harpy's nesting site and once here the morning will be dedicated to observing Harpy Eagle activity and taking photos. If we are lucky, we may witness the male bringing in prey for the female. Following a satisfying sighting, we will continue birding our way back to the road. Birds can be elusive in this forest but we can search for the shy **Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo**, Great and Little Tinamou, **Rufous-throated Antbird**, Grey Antbird, Rufous-bellied **Antbird ?? (??= Antwren)**, Wing-banded Antbird, **Sealed-backed Antbird (= Common Scale-backed)**, Chestnut Woodpecker, Golden-headed Manakin, **Slate-** Slaty-

headed Tody-Flycatcher, Pink-throated Becard, Black-spotted Barbet, Paradise Jacamar, Black-necked Aracari, **Murial Marail Guan**, Green-backed Trogon, **Golden-bellied** (= White-lored) Euphonia, Todd's Antwren, Guira, Flame-crested, Opal-rumped and Spotted Tanagers. Returning for lunch we will again take a short rest in the heat of the day before walking to a nearby area that offers us the chance of roosting Great Potoo, plus Moriche Oriole (**ssp.** av Epaulet), Red-bellied Macaw, Brown-throated Parakeet, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Blue-chinned Sapphire, Black-throated Mango, Scaled Pigeon and even Sulphury Flycatcher.

Night at Surama Eco-Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 9 – Fri. 16th Feb. 2018 - Surama Area – Burro-Burro River Trail



This day we have set aside to revisit several areas in order to look for any key species we may have missed. There are several very tricky birds in the area and this added day will help us out enormously. Maybe we need to re-visit the Harpy Trail or go in search of Zigzag Heron, Slender-billed Kite or Ocellated Crake! We will walk the Burro-Burro River Trail, to look for these species and if time permits we will be on the river to look for the Giant River Otters, **Sungrebe**, Sun Bittern, Green and Rufous Kingfisher, Silvered Antbird, Agami Heron and Guianan-streaked Antwren.

Nights at Surama Eco-Lodge. (B,L,D)

Days 10 – Sat. 17th Feb. 2018 - Surama Eco Lodge - Caiman House



This morning we will hop aboard our 4x4 vehicle then leave Surama and check a few forest edge streams to see if we can locate the highly elusive Zigzag Heron. We also have chances for Grey-necked **Wood-Rail** and Ash-throated Crake. Our journey then takes us eastward across the Northern Rupununi Savanna. The road we follow skirts numerous gallery forests and wetland areas offering great views of a variety of water birds including Cocoi Heron, Maguari Stork, huge Jabiru, possibly **Pinnated Bittern**, Azure Gallinule, Double-striped Thick-knee, **Bicolored Wren**, **Grey** Seed eater, Grassland Yellow Finch, Yellowish Pipit, Crested Bobwhite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Yellow-hooded Blackbird and the agile Aplomado Falcon. Savanna Hawk, Great Black Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, Northern **Crested** Caracara and Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures should be present and we may even encounter a **Giant Anteater** if we are lucky. The open grasslands eventually take us through to a small area of forest and to Caiman House. In the afternoon we will take a leisurely boat trip on the river beside our lodge. Here we are likely to find kingfishers including both Green-and-Rufous and American Pygmy, the superb Agami Heron, Capped Heron, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Pied Lapwings, Boat-billed Herons, Large-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, Pale-legged Hornero, with luck Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Spot-breasted Woodpecker and with even more luck we may come across the **secretive Crestless Curassow**. In addition we may be lucky enough to see Black and **Spectaeled Common** Caiman, Giant River Otter, Capybara and many species of monkeys and even the occasional Arapaima or River Stingray. As a finale to our days we may see Band-tailed Nighthawk and possibly Nacunda Nighthawk and Common Potoo. Nights at Caiman House. (B,L,D)

Day 11 – Sun. 18th Feb. 2018 - Caiman House – Crested Doradito

Quest

This morning after an early breakfast we will go on a quest in search of several seldom seen birds namely the **Crested Doradito** and **Bearded Tachuri**, both of which like to keep low down in short grasses close to water. **The rare and localized Crested Doradito was only recently discovered here and we have a very good chance of finding it.** Other species on our morning hit list include **Sharp-tailed Ibis**, Yellowish Pipit, **Pinnated Bittern**, Brazilian Teal, **White-tailed Goldenthrout**, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bicoloured Wren, Double-striped Thick-knee, Burrowing Owl, Maguari Stork and **Savanna** (??Grey) Fox. This is another chance to see the remarkable **Giant Anteater**.

We will then return to Caiman House Lodge for Lunch. In the evening we will bird in one of the nearby Oxbow Lake, for **Agami** Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Capped Heron, **Lesser Razor-billed =Crestless Curassow**, **Green-throated Mango**, and **Ruby-Topaz = Ruby-topaz Hummingbird**, there is also a good chance of seeing the Giant River Otters here as well.

Overnight at Caiman House (BLD)

Day 12 – Mon. 19th Feb. 2018 - Caiman House – Karasabai

This morning after some final birding where we have the chance to see many species including Blue-backed Manakin, Pale-tipped Inezia, White-bellied Antbird, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, **Finch's Euphonia**, Ochre-lore Flatbill there are also other species on our morning hit list include Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, **Pinnated Bittern**, Brazilian Teal, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bicoloured Wren, Double-striped Thick-knee, Burrowing Owl, Maguari Stork and **Savanna(??)** Fox. This is also our **best chance** to see the remarkable **Giant Anteater** in habitat that is perfect for it. Moving on we head for Karasabai Village, a distant border village perched between the northern Rupununi Savannas and Pakaraima Mountains along the Brazilian border. Here is where we are delighted to have a rare opportunity to see the highly endangered **Sun Parakeet**. In the early 1990's, this species was on the brink of extinction due to extreme pressures from the pet trade until local villages took aggressive action to rehabilitate the population. A mere 7 individuals who remained at the time have struggled to regain their previous numbers, but signs are hopeful and current population counts suggest at least 300 birds are thriving in the area today. Karasabai is well off the standard tourist track, offering a government guest house with adequate but sparse accommodations for our group. Nonetheless, local hospitality reigns and when not on the trail looking for the sun parakeet we'll have a great opportunity to meet and interact with an Amerindian community that sees very few tourists and is eager to share their stories and learn

about a world outside their own and maybe offer to show them birds through a scope. We will see plenty of other species during the day but our main focus will be on finding and seeing this gorgeous parakeet. **Extra target: Versicolored Emerald.**

Night Karasabai Government Guest House (B,L,D)

Day 13 – Tue. 20th Feb. 2018 - Karasabai - Lethem Manari Ranch



We have the morning to look for the beautiful **Sun Parakeet** once again before heading out towards the rodeo town of Lethem. Small patches of forest again give way to open grassland savanna and the main road sees infrequent traffic and therefore serves as an excellent vantage point for birdwatching. We will keep a look out for species such as Orange-backed Troupial, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Pied Water Tyrant, Red-breasted Blackbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Buff-necked Ibis, Southern Lapwing, Pearl Kite, Zone-tailed Hawk and also focus our attention on seedeaters, which may including Yellow-bellied Seedeater, **Lesson's Seedeater**, Large-billed Seed Finch, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch, Grey Seedeater and **Plumbeous Seedeater**.

This stretch of Rupununi Savannah is also some of the best landscape to catch a glimpse of the **Giant Anteater** and Savannah (??) Fox. We have more opportunities for Azure Gallinule and previously we have even found **Giant Snipe** in the area although we would have to be lucky to find this again. Later in the day we will arrive at our delightful accommodation just outside of the cowboy town of Lethem. Here we have a little time to relax and enjoy the local hospitality as we have an early start tomorrow. Night Manari Ranch. (B,L,D)

Day 14 – Wed. 21st Feb. 2018 – Sandcreek Village, Red Siskin Quest

For those not departing today you will have to leave the lodge very early in our 4x4's. Roughly 90km southeast of Lethem the drive will take us about 3 hours depending of

what we see along the way. The road is actually a traffic-less sand track meandering across the hilly savannahs with ample opportunities for spontaneous birdwatching stops. We can scan numerous wetland areas for Maguari Stork, Brazilian Teal, Savanna Hawk, White-tailed Hawk and Double-striped Thick-knee, plus **Bearded Tachuri**. Along the way we pass the Amerindian communities of St. Ignatius and Shulinab where the traditional homes and lifestyles of Amerindian Guyana are on display and remind us just how far we've come. We will meet one of our local guides who has been studying the rare and localised **Red Siskin** a bird only discovered in Guyana in 2000. The Red Siskin is a much sought after species by birders and our efforts will be concentrated on seeing this special bird, although many other species will be seen on our quest. In the surrounding areas we could find Little Chachalaca, Black-collared Hawk, **Amazonian Scrub Flycatcher**, Plain-crested Elaenia, Pale-tipped Inezia, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Brown-crested Flycatcher, **White-naped Xenopsaris**, Burnished Buff Tanager, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Glittering-throated Emerald, Black-crested Antshrike, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Hooded Tanager, Vermilion Flycatcher and Flavescent Warbler. Making our way back across the savanna we will arrive back in our lodge by mid to late afternoon. Note that the cost of vehicles, the distance covered and all the land owner fees make this trip very expensive and now unable to be included in the main tour.

Night at Manari Ranch (B,L,D)

Day 15 – Thu. 22nd Feb. 2018 - Iring River Area - Rio Branco Antbird & Hoary-throated Spinetail, Quest.



Another early morning start we have us leave our delightful base where we have access to the dry scrub and savanna alongside the Takatu and Ireng Rivers. Once again our 4x4's will come into play as we have to get to an area where two highly restricted and poorly known species occur, namely the **Hoary-throated Spinetail**, and **Rio Branco Antbird**. These two birds will be our main focus and once we have succeeded in finding them we will spend the remainder of the morning searching areas of wetlands as well as the dry savannah for a variety of species such as **Pinnated Bittern**, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Cocoli and Capped Herons, Striated Heron, Wood Stork, Limpkin, Double-striped Thick-knee, South American Snipe, Wattled Jacana, **Marail Guan**, Crested Bobwhite, Southern Lapwing, Pearl Kite, White-tailed Kite, Savanna Hawk, Aplomado Falcons, **Brown-throated Parakeet**, Red-bellied Macaw, **Guianan Toucanet**, Striped Cuckoo, Pale-legged Hornero, Fork-tailed Palm Swift, Blue-tailed and Glittering-throated Emeralds, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Golden-spangled Piculet, White-bared Piculet, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Black-crested and Barred Antshrikes, White-flanked Antwren, Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet, Yellow-olive and Ochre-ored Flatbills, Vermilion, Short-crested and Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Yellowish Pipit and Orange-backed Troupial. With two exceptionally rare birds under our belts we will return to our lodge at Manari for early lunch.

We will leave Manari Lodge for check in at Lethem Airport to join our afternoon flight back to Georgetown.

Night at Status International Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 16 – Fri. 23rd Feb. 2018 - Georgetown depart for home

Today you will leave your hotel in time for your departing flight 10:20. B

Leaders: (Guyana's best Bird Guide/s)

Tour Price for (5 persons USD\$4,985.00

Tour Price for (3 persons USD\$5,285.00

Tour Includes:

- One International Airport Transfer arrivals and departures by (Car or mini vans)
- Ogle Airport transfers (this is local charter and schedule flight airport)
- Double or twin accommodation, bed & breakfast (B&B)
- Single room/cabin supplement, bed & Breakfast (B&B)
- Meals as listed on the itinerary breakfast, lunch, dinner (B,L,D)
All meals except day one (1) Arrival day.
- Bottled water, soda drinks, diet coke etc.
- Light snacks, cookies, crackers, nuts, sandwich
- All road and river transfers
- Internal flights in Guyana (charter and schedule flights)
- Activities as described on our itinerary
- Luggage transfer by road going in and extra seat on plane coming out.
- 14%VAT – on all payments for tours
-
- Tour Leader (Ron Allicock or any of our other tour leaders)

Not Included:

- Items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic drinks
- Meals on day one (1)
- Departure tax which is (USD\$30.00)
- International flights
- Tourist Visa
- Emergency evacuation insurance
- Tipping

Excess weight on the internal scheduled flight. (There is a 20LBS limit per passenger on internal flights. Excess weight is charged at USD\$1.00 per pound. On past trips we have been able to leave any personal items and luggage not needed on the tour at Cara Lodge in Georgetown. We will also transfer luggage not needed on our flights, by overland carrier the night before our departure from Georgetown).

Insurance: The purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Ron Allcock Birding Tours cannot accept liability for airline cancellations or delays or penalties incurred by the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for this tour.

Travel Planning: You are responsible for arranging your flights to and from Georgetown. Plan to arrive in Georgetown in good time for a good rest before our early morning departure on day two.

Information required for tour confirmation

Please be advised that all tour participants must provide us with the following information upon confirming you booking.

1. Your Name in full as is on your passport
2. Passport numbers
3. Date of expiry
4. Date of Birth
5. Nationality
6. Rooming preference
7. Dietary preference
8. Health Status – Medication, allergies etc.
9. Body weight
10. Any other special request

It is necessary that all tour participants booked to travel on tour with us in Guyana provide the basic information to minimize any last minute hassle. Failure to provide us with this information or the incorrect information can cause delays to flights and inconvenience to other passengers and in some cases either passengers and/or luggage being taken off the flights. To ensure a tour that is enjoyable and hassle free, it is imperative that passengers provide us with the correct information. We appreciate some people are sensitive about providing their body weights, but all customers and their baggage are weighed at check-in. This is a procedure by the airline to ensure that the weight of the load is within the payload limit for the aircraft, and neither they nor Ron Allcock Birding Tours will compromise on safety. All passengers are subject to removal of themselves or luggage from the flight if they are over the weight they provided and/or over the baggage allowance. Passengers are advised to provide a body weight with clothing similar to that which they would expect to travel in on the flight. Ron Allcock Birding Tours cannot be held responsible for any passenger denied boarding or luggage not transported if they are over the weight provided. Weights supplied are provided to the airline in advance to ensure the flight is within the allowable payload.

Packing for travel:

- **Internal Flights:** On our flights tour participants are allowed 20lbs luggage, including a small carry on day pack with personal stuff in it

for example, items of personal use Passport, Money, medication, camera, binoculars, and telescope.

- **Main Luggage:** The main luggage must be a compact medium size suitcase or travel bag with mainly your clothing, books, and other items that you may bring with you for your travel, this luggage will be sent by road on a minivan the evening before we depart Georgetown and will be delivered to our lodge before we arrive by plane.
- **Immigration:** Please treat immigration checks as international standards e.g. no liquid, bug spray, cream etc. etc.
- **Body Weight:** Your body weight includes your camera, binoculars, and scope. You stand on the scale with that.
- **Water:** There is a problem with plastic bottles at the lodges, so we encourage you to please walk with your water bottle to be refilled at the lodges with clean filtered water. We try as much as possible to avoid taking too much plastic bottles with us. However, bottle water is provided on extended day trips along with some, diet coke, soda drinks and juice. Water will always be available for you on the tour.
- **Weather:** 100% humidity, a small umbrella and a poncho is recommended, and for your equipment, please bring protective gears for them. You will never be cold in Guyana, no need to bring cold clothing.
- **Clothing & footwear:** Light material clothing that can dry quickly, long sleeve, shirt and trousers for trail walks and tour activities. No brightly colored clothing, you must bring clothing that blends with the forest. Ankle height hiking boots and sneakers, with socks.
- **Electricity:** All our lodges are equipped with solar power, with the standard USA outlets, however, when not using please switch off your lights or unplug your equipment from the electrical outlet to save the batteries.
- **Trail Walks:** For extended period of tour activities, we recommend that you bring a 3 legged stool for you to sit on, because our tour excursions include standing for long hours, to avoid that you can bring your own stool.
- **Bird Checklist:** Please print and bring your own bird checklist if you are keen on doing the list at the end of the day before or after dinner, we will provide you with an electronic copy.