

Cherry-throated Tanager
A Tropical Birding Break to Locate a Critically Endangered Species
Nov 8 -Nov 16, 2023

Itinerary

Day 1 (Nov 8) Arrival in Vitória, the capital of the state of Espírito Santo.

If everybody arrives in Vitória early, we will bird local mangroves to try for **Mangrove Rail**, or to visit a nearby site to look for day-roosting **Pygmy Nightjars**.

Night in Vitória.

Day 2 (Nov 9) Duas Bocas Reserve. Drive to Linhares.

In the morning, we bird in the Duas Bocas Biological Reserve. This part of the Atlantic rainforest is home to **Russet-winged Spadebill, Salvadori's Antwren, Buff-throated Purpleuft, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Golden-tailed Parrotlet, and Striped Manakin**, along with more common Atlantic Forest endemics such as **Spot-backed Antshrike, Streak-capped Antwren, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner and Green-headed Tanager**. After lunch, we will head north to Aracruz stopping along the way at Augusti Ruschi Marine Biology Station, where hummingbird feeders attract **Minute Hermit** and number of other species. From Aracruz, we will drive to a private reserve administered by the Brazilian mining conglomerate Vale.

Night at Vale Linhares Reserve.

Days 3 & 4 (Nov 10, 11) Linhares

Linhares Reserve is part of the largest block of lowland *tabuleiro* forest in the state of Espírito Santo. Linhares is chock full of lowland Atlantic Forest endemics, foremost amongst these is the endangered **Red-billed Curassow**. Driving slowly along the park roads early in the mornings and in late afternoon is the best way to see this species; such drives occasionally turn up **Solitary Tinamou, Brazilian Tapir**, or even **Jaguar**! Other rare, restricted range species at Linhares include **Red-browed Parrot, White-eared Parakeet, Blue-throated Parakeet, Least Pygmy-Owl, Black-headed Berryeater, Plumbeous Antvireo, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Plumbeous Antvireo, and Band-tailed Antwren**. Linhares also has **Harpy Eagle, Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo, and Cryptic Forest-Falcon**. Night birding could produce **Tawny-browed Owl, Black-capped Screech-Owl, Ocellated Poorwill**, and with some luck perhaps also the Atlantic form of **White-winged Potoo**.

Nights at Vale Linhares Reserve.

Day 5 (Nov 12) Linhares to Santa Teresa.

We drive from Linhares up into the Espírito Santo uplands to the small town of Santa Teresa. En route we can stop at a scenic park where the endemic **Serra Antwren** and **Velvety Black-Tyrant** occur. **King Vulture** is often seen flying over the cliffs here, and there is even an outside chance for **Orange-breasted Falcon**. Sites around Santa Teresa hold **East Brazilian Chachalaca, Wied's Tyrant-Manakin** and **Rufous-brown Solitaire**, while the hummingbird feeders at our hotel on the outskirts of town are amongst the best in all of Brazil.

Night at Pousada Vita Verde in Santa Teresa.

Day 6 (Nov 13) Santa Teresa area.

This morning we can have a leisurely breakfast and spend time enjoying the activity at the hummingbird feeders at the hotel, where more than 15 species of hummer have been recorded — the star of the show here is the fabulous **Frilled Coquette**, while the supporting cast includes **Brazilian Ruby, Violet-capped Woodnymph** and **Sombre Hummingbird**. We depart in mid-morning, driving for a couple of hours before we stop for lunch at a private reserve below an imposing rock dome. It's worth checking the feeders at the restaurant for **East Brazilian Chachalaca** amongst the more common thrushes and tanagers. **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** nests in this area annually, so we'll want to scan the rocky slopes for perched birds and watch the sky for soaring birds. If we haven't already seen **Serra Antwren**, we can pick it up here. In the late afternoon we arrive at our hotel near the Pedra Azul State Park. We can try here for **Giant Snipe** in the early evening.

Night at Pousada Vale da Mata at Pedra Azul.

Days 7 & 8 (Nov 14, 15) Mata dos Caetés.

We have two full days to look for the enigmatic and Critically Endangered **Cherry-throated Tanager**. The tanager hangs on to existence by a thread, with only two known locations for the species and a global population of fewer than 20 individuals. We will visit a recently created reserve administered by the Instituto Marcos Daniel, a local conservation organization. Researchers from the institute monitor the resident population of the tanagers, and we will accompany them in the field to search for the tanagers. In 2020 and 2021, the research team even discovered the first known nests of the species! The montane forests here are rich in endemics and specialties, and our long list of targets in the area include **White-necked Hawk, Saffron Toucanet, Spot-billed Toucanet, Tufted Antshrike, Spot-breasted Antwreio, Ochre-rumped Antbird, Ferruginous Antbird, White-bibbed Antbird, Rio de Janeiro Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Spotted Bamboowren, White-breasted Tapaculo, Such's Antthrush, Black-billed Scythebill, Pale-browed Treehunter, Hooded Berryeater, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Shrike-like Cotinga, Sharpbill, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Half-collared Sparrow, Brown Tanager, Brassy-breasted Tanager and Gilt-edged Tanager.**

Night at Pousada Vale da Mata at Pedra Azul.

Day 9 (Nov 16) Return to Vitória.

End of tour.