

# East Berbice-Corentyne & Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo (Regions 6 and 9), GUYANA 1 Selected Birds of the Acarai-Corentyne Corridor

Cameron Rutt<sup>1</sup>, Asaph Wilson<sup>2</sup>, Kwang Suse<sup>3</sup>, and Douglas F. Stotz<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Field Museum of Natural History, <sup>2</sup>South Rupununi Conservation Society, <sup>3</sup>Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area

Photos by Cameron Rutt, unless shown otherwise. Acknowledgments: We thank the Indigenous communities of Masakeñari, Parabara, and Cashew Island (Kasuela), who were key collaborators in the research, as well as our partners, the Guyana Protected Areas Commission, for inviting us to survey the biodiversity of this area to inform future conservation decision-making, and the Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity at the University of Guyana.



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1 Rapid Inventory 32 campsites in the Acarai-Corentyne Corridor

The RI32 Bird team recorded 339 of the 445 bird species projected to occur in the corridor during hiking transects at the three field camps (15.5 days) and three days of river travel. This hyperdiverse community, within the Guianan area of endemism, represents over half of Guyana's overall bird diversity. Within this brief period, multiple large, rare eagles were detected, including both Harpy (*Harpia harpyja*) and Crested Eagles (*Morphnus guianensis*) on the same morning. The team also found apparently plentiful populations of important game birds, which indicate very low to nonexistent hunting pressure and opportunities for sustainable, low-impact hunting.

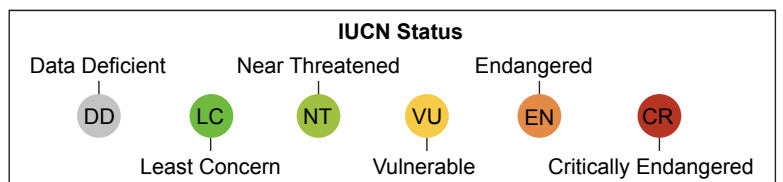
The Acarai-Corentyne Corridor is a 1.5 million-hectare expanse of wild forests, creeks, and mountains in southern Guyana. Bounded by two of Guyana's largest rivers—the Essequibo to the west and the New River to the east—the Corridor stretches 275 km from the highest peaks of the Acarai Mountains in the south to the lowland forests that form the headwaters of the Berbice River in the north. It is one of the least-explored areas of Guyana, notoriously difficult to access from the north due to the imposing waterfalls and treacherous rapids along the Essequibo, Corentyne, and New rivers. While ours was the first comprehensive biodiversity survey to study the area, Indigenous peoples have been exploring, describing, and using these forests for millennia and know them intimately.

This field guide is based on the Field Museum's November 2024 rapid inventory of the Acarai-Corentyne Corridor. Throughout the corridor robust populations of Guyana's largest vertebrates and most massive tree species flourish alongside ancient petroglyphs that signal a millennia-old tradition of stewardship by Indigenous peoples.

More comprehensive results from Rapid Inventory 32 are available at <https://www.rapidinventories.fieldmuseum.org/ri-32>.



2 Canopy of terra firme forest with a flock of Blue-and-yellow Macaws (*Ara ararauna*)



# East Berbice-Corentyne & Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo (Regions 6 and 9), GUYANA 2

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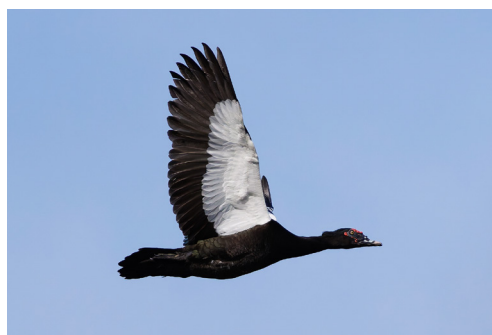
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3 *Cairina moschata*  
ANATIDAE  
Muscovy Duck

LC



4 *Penelope marail*  
CRACIDAE  
Marail Guan

LC



5 *Chaetura spinicaudus*  
APODIDAE  
Band-rumped Swift

LC



6 *Psophia crepitans*  
PSOPHIIDAE  
Gray-winged Trumpeter

LC



7 *Calidris fuscicollis*  
SCOLOPACIDAE  
White-rumped Sandpiper

VU



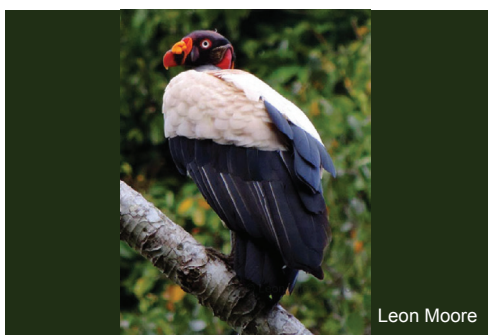
8 *Tigrisoma lineatum*  
ARDEIDAE  
Rufescent Tiger-Heron

LC



9 *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*  
THRESKIORNITHIDAE  
Green Ibis

LC



10 *Sarcorampus papa*  
CATHARTIDAE  
King Vulture

LC



11 *Cathartes melambrotus*  
CATHARTIDAE  
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture

LC

# East Berbice-Corentyne & Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo (Regions 6 and 9), GUYANA 3

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12 *Morphnus guianensis*  
ACCIPITRIDAE  
Crested Eagle

NT



13 *Harpia harpyja*  
ACCIPITRIDAE  
Harpy Eagle

VU



14 *Buteogallus urubitinga*  
ACCIPITRIDAE  
Great Black Hawk

LC



15 *Trogon viridis*  
TROGONIDAE  
Green-backed Trogon

LC



16 *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*  
BUCCONIDAE  
Swallow-winged Puffbird

LC



17 *Galbula albirostris*  
GALBULIDAE  
Yellow-billed Jacamar

LC



18 *Selenidera piperivora*  
RAMPHASTIDAE  
Guianan Toucanet

LC



19 *Ramphastos tucanus*  
RAMPHASTIDAE  
White-throated Toucan

LC



20 *Dryocopus lineatus*  
PICIDAE  
Lined Woodpecker

LC

# East Berbice-Corentyne & Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo (Regions 6 and 9), GUYANA 4

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21 *Piculus flavigula*  
PICIDAE  
Yellow-throated Woodpecker

LC



22 *Ibycter americanus*  
FALCONIDAE  
Red-throated Caracara

LC



23 *Daptrius ater*  
FALCONIDAE  
Black Caracara

LC



24 *Brotogeris chrysoptera*  
PSITTACIDAE  
Golden-winged Parakeet

LC



25 *Pionus menstruus*  
PSITTACIDAE  
Blue-headed Parrot

LC



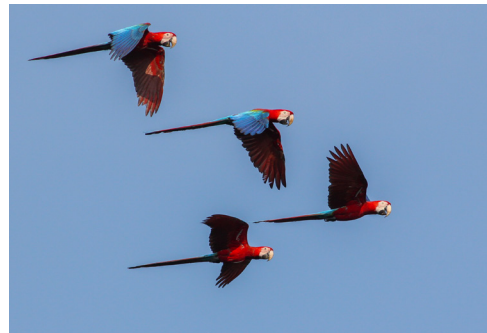
26 *Ara ararauna*  
PSITTACIDAE  
Blue-and-yellow Macaw

LC



27 *Ara macao*  
PSITTACIDAE  
Scarlet Macaw

LC



28 *Ara chloropterus*  
PSITTACIDAE  
Red-and-green Macaw

LC



29 *Psittacara leucophthalmus*  
PSITTACIDAE  
White-eyed Parakeet

LC

# East Berbice-Corentyne & Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo (Regions 6 and 9), GUYANA 5

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30 *Myrmoderus ferrugineus*  
THAMNOPHILIDAE  
Ferruginous-backed Antbird

LC



31 *Pithys albifrons*  
THAMNOPHILIDAE  
White-plumed Antbird

LC



32 *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*  
FURNARIIDAE  
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper

LC



33 *Cotinga cayana*  
COTINGIDAE  
Spangled Cotinga

LC



34 *Pygochelidon melanoleuca*  
HIRUNDINIDAE  
Black-collared Swallow

LC



35 *Cyphorhinus arada*  
TROGLODYTIDAE  
Musician Wren

LC



36 *Cacicus cela*  
ICTERIDAE  
Yellow-rumped Cacique

LC



37 *Paroaria gularis*  
THRAUPIDAE  
Red-capped Cardinal

LC