

The following is a summary of our recent visit to Alagoas, which is a state in the north east of Brazil. By far the most entertaining days were our boat trips to two Lagoons, both of which were only a short drive from Maceió city centre, the capital of Alagoas. These were '*Lagoa Mundaú*' and '*Lagoa Manguaba*'. The highlights were always the magnificent Egrets of which there were three species present. The most common was the giant, Great Egret.



Great Egret (*Garça-branca-grande*) *Ardea alba*





There were also regular sightings of **Snowy Egrets** (*Garça-branca-pequena*) *Egretta thula*

The smaller **Cattle Egret** also often put in an appearance (*Garça-vaqueira*) *Bubulcus ibis*.



We felt very lucky to find five species of Heron. The most common of these was the **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Savacu Nycticorax*), which could be seen perched on trees/posts throughout the lagoons.



Next was the smaller **Striated Heron** (*Socozinho*) *Butorides striata*, which was often present, alongside the edges of the lagoons, especially during low tides.



The most elusive was the shy **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Savacu-de-coroa*) *Nyctanassa violacea*, which we recorded only once at '*Lagoa Manguaba*'

The most impressive however included the **Rufescent Tiger-Heron**, which we were lucky to find at '*Lagoa Manguaba*'.



Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Socó-boi*) *Tigrisoma lineatum*



We also experienced amazing views of the colourful Little Blue Heron at both Lagoons.



Little Blue Heron (Garça-azul) *Egretta caerulea*

Other large birds included the ever-present new world vultures, of which we recorded three species throughout *Alagoas*. The most common was the **Black Vulture (Urubu-de-cabeça-preta) *Coragyps atratus***. The largest and most daring was the **Turkey Vulture (Urubu-de-cabeça-vermelha) *Cathartes aura*** and the smallest and less common involved the **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (Urubu-de-cabeça-amarela) *Cathartes burrovianus***.

We recorded one Hawk; a **Roadside Hawk (Gavião-carijó), *Rupornis magnirostris*** and three species of Falcons. We regularly experienced great views of Southern Caracara's, which are common throughout *Alagoas*.



Southern Caracara (Caracara) *Caracara plancus*

We also recorded the **Yellow-headed Caracara** (*Carrapateiro*) *Milvago chimachima* and close to Maceió city centre we caught up with an **American Kestrel** (*Quiriquiri*) *Falco sparverius* close to the beach.

Other shy birds involved a member of the Aramididae family, a **Limpkin** (*Carao*) *Aramus guarauna* which we discovered hiding at '*Lagoa Mundaú*', and a member of the Rallidae family a **Gray-necked Wood-Rail** at '*Lagoa Manguaba*'



Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Saracura-três-potes*) *Aramides cajanea*



On the coast close to *Lagoa Mundaú* we caught up with half a dozen **Black-bellied Plovers** (*Batuirucu-de-axila-preta*) *Pluvialis squatarola*.

There was also a single **Whimbrel** (*Macarico-galego*) *Numenius phaeopus*.



Not far from the Wood Rail, there were several **Southern Lapwing** (Quero-quero) *Vanellus chilensis*, which is a bird we often see on our visits to Brazil.



Other Plovers recorded during our visits included **Semipalmated Plover** (Batuíra-de-bando) *Charadrius semipalmatus*.

There were also **Collared Plover** (Batuíra-de-coleíra) *Charadrius collaris*. Both are common on the beaches of *Maceió* and close to *Lagoa Mundaú*.

Other waders present included a **Solitary Sandpiper** (Macarico-solitario) *Tringa solitaria* at 'Lagoa Manguaba'. **Ruddy Turnstone** (Vira-pedras) *Arenaria interpres*, **Sanderling** (Macarico-branco), *Calidris alba* and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (Macarico-rasteirinho) *Arenaria interpres* were also present along the coast of *Alagoas*.

One of the most entertaining birds we found was a lively **Wattled Jacana** (Jaçanã) *Jacana jacana* at the *Murici Atlantic Rainforest*.

During a leisurely walk along the beach at *Ponde Verde, Maceió* we were very lucky to experience close views of a **Sandwich Tern** (Trinta-reis-real-de-bando) *Thalasseus* which is a bird we had not recorded on previous visits to Brazil.

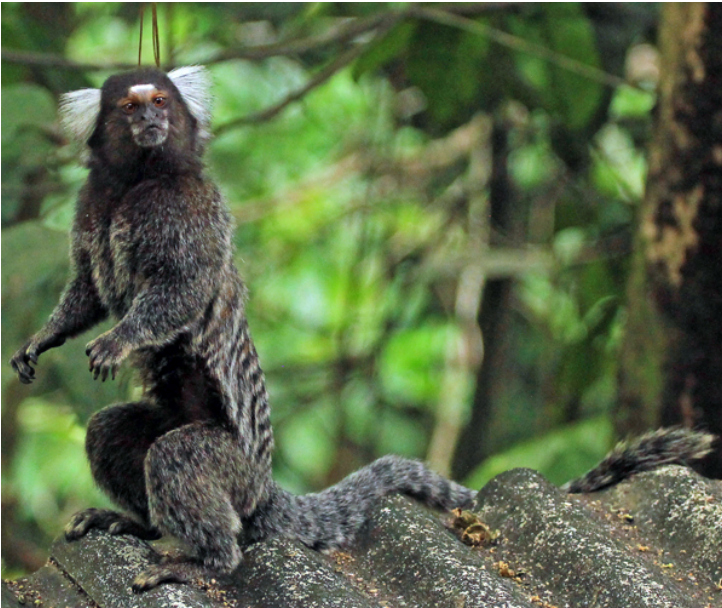
We noticed the population of **Rock Pigeon** (Pombo-doméstico) *Columba livia*, has increased lots over the last five years. The local Doves in *Alagoas*, are always great to see. We recorded three species this time round. These included the **Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** (Rolinha-de-asa-canela) *Columbina minuta*, and **Scaled Dove** (Fogo-apagou) *Columbina squammata*.



The most common is the
Ruddy Ground Dove
(*Rolinha-roxa*)
Columbina talpacoti.

Not far from Maceió we found a group of **Red-shouldered Macaw** (*Maracana-pequena*) *Diopsittaca nobilis* and at the Muricic Atlantic Rainforest a flock of **Blue-winged Parrotlet** (**Tuim**) *Forpus xanthopterygius*. Also at the rainforest we recorded two members of the **Cuculide** family; a **Squirrel Cuckoo** (*Piaya caynana*) and lots of **Smooth-billed Ani** (*Anu-preto*) *Crotophaga ani*

Close to our apartment we witnessed a flyby of a wandering **Barn Owl** (Coruja-da-igreja) *Tyto alba*. We also discovered a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** (*Cabure*) *Glaucidium brasilianum* at the Aldebaran private estate.



Marmoset Monkey's at the Aldebaran private estate.

We recorded one species of Swift; this was the Fork-tailed Palm Swift (*Andorinhao-do-buriti*) *Tachornis Squamata* which we caught up with at the airport at Rio De Janeiro.

One of the most exciting families of birds we experienced was the Trochilidae; the Hummingbirds of which we identified six species. Our favourite was the tiny **Amethyst Woodstar** (*Estrelinha-ametista*) *Calliphlox amethystine* during a visit to the Murici Atlantic Rainforest. Here we also recorded **Black Jacobin** (*Beija-flor-preto*) *Florisuga fusca* and **Rufous-breasted Hermit** (*Balanca-rabo-de-bico-torto*) *Glaucis hirsutus*.

In Maceio we regularly observed **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird** (*Beija-flor-tesoura*) *Eupetomena macroura* and **Plain-bellied Emerald** (*Beija-flor-de-barriga-branca*) *Amazilia leucogaster* and on one occasion a **Glittering-bellied Emerald** (*Besourinho-de-bico-vemelho*) *Chlorostilbon lucidus*



Plain-bellied Emerald (*Beija-flor-de-barriga-branca*) *Amazilia leucogaster*



You can easily obtain great views of **Ringed Kingfisher** (*Martim-pescador-grande*) *Megaceryle torquata* along the coast and at Lagoon's.



At the 'Murici Atlantic Rainforest we were very happy to find a 'Pica-pau', **Lineated Woodpecker** (*Pica-pau-de-banda-branca*) *Dryocopus lineatus*. It had set up home inside a dead palm tree.

We also recorded three species of **the Furnariidae** family. These included **Wing-banded Hornero** (*Casaca-de-couro-da-lama*) *Furnarius figulus*, **Rufous Hornero** (*Joao-de-barro*) *Furnarius rufus*, and **Yellow-chinned Spinetail** (*Curutie*) *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*.

One member of the **Pipridae** family; a **Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin** (*Fruxu-do-cerradao*) *Neopelma pallescens* and one member of the **Rhynchocyclidae** family; a **Common Tody-Flycatcher** (*Ferreirinho-relógio*) *Todirostrum cinereum*.

Eight members of the Tyrannidae family were common throughout **Alagoas** and were also a pleasure to watch. These included: **Yellow-bellied Elaenia** (*Guaracava-de-barriga-amarela*) *Elaenia flavogaster*, the legendary **Bem-te-vi**, the **Great Kiskadee** (*Bem-te-vi*) *Machetornis rixosa*, **Cattle Tyrant** (*Suiriri-cavaleiro*), *Machetornis rixosa*, **Boat-billed Flycatcher** (*Neinei*) *Megarynchus pitangua*, **Social Flycatcher** (*Bentevizinho-de-penacho-vermelho*) *Myiozetetes similis*, **Tropical Kingbird** (*Suiriri*) *Tyrannus melancholicus*, **Tropical Pewee** (*Papa-moscas-cinzento*) *Contopus cinereus* and the friendly **Masked Water-Tyrant** (*Lavadeira-mas-carada*) *Fluvicola nengeta*.



Masked Water-Tyrant (*Lavadeira-mas-carada*) *Fluvicola nengeta*.

We also recorded an ninth at the 'Murici Atlantic Rainforest ; a **White-headed Marsh Tyrant** (*Freirinha*) *Arundinicola leucocephala*, and a tenth a **Variegated Flycatcher** (*Peitica*) *Empidonomus varius* during a trip to the **Aldebaran** private estate.



Variegated Flycatcher
(*Peitica*)
Empidonomus varius
trip to private village.

We identified five species of Hirundinidae. These were **Southern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Andorinha-serradora*) *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, **Brown-chested Martin** (*Andorinha-do-campo*) *Progne tapera*, **Gray-breasted Martin** (*Andorinha-domestica-grande*) *Progne chalybea*, **Barn Swallow** (*Andorinha-de-bando*) *Hirundo rustica* and **White-winged Swallow** (*Andorinha-do-rio*) *Tachycineta albiventer*.



White-winged Swallow (*Andorinha-do-rio*) *Tachycineta albiventer*

At the Aldebaran private estate we caught up with a **Rufous-bellied Thrush** (*Sabiá-laranjeira*) *Turdus rufiventris*, which appeared just as interested in us.



We often came across a member of the Coerebidae family, the **Bananaquit** (*Cambacica*) *Coereba flaveola*

Finally we recorded three members of the Thraupidae family, these were the **White-lined Tanager** (*Pipira-preta*) *Tachyphonus rufus* at the '*Murici Atlantic Rainforest*' and **Sayaca Tanager** (*Sanhacu-cinzento*) *Tangara sayaca*, **Palm Tanager** (*Sanhacu-do-coqueiro*) *Tangara palmarum*, both of which are common throughout *Alagoas*.



Sayaca Tanager
(Sanhacu-cinzento)
Tangara sayaca

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Resources

- Maceió is the capital of [Alagoas](#), a state in the north east of Brazil. The Lagoons, ‘[Lagoa Mundaú](#)’ and ‘[Lagoa Manguaba](#)’ are only a short drive from and there are lots of companies offering boat tours. You need an English-speaking guide however.
- The [Aldebaran private estate](#) is a 20 min drive from [Maceió](#) city centre.
- The [Murici Atlantic Rainforest](#) is located in the north of [Alagoas](#) and is owned by a Brazilian family.
- Field Guide: A field Guide to the Birds of Brazil – Ber Van Perlo, Oxford University Press

Maps

Maceió

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Maceió/@-9.5353673,-35.6869382,11z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x70138f2941ebc55:0xd1630decf3a3513>

Murici Atlantic Rainforest

“Full of endemic and unclassified birds and one of the most important reserves in South America”.

<http://www.fragmentedforests.org/forest-facts/south-american-murici-reserve/>

Should anyone have any queries related to the content of this trip report or the location, please email mail@buskin.co.uk .