

**Ibirapuera Park** is a large municipal park in the centre of **Sao Paulo, Brazil**.

Birds can be seen on the lakes, lawns, trees and bushes that cover almost two square kilometres. It is a popular park with the local Paulistas, who jog, walk, skate and socialise here. A number of buildings in the park include the Planetarium and the Museum of Modern Art. Security patrols are regular, giving the park a safe feel to it. Even so it would be wise to bird in company if possible.

Other birdwatchers are not often seen, but the park has plenty to offer a visitor with limited time and opportunities in the city. The abundant birds of the lawns include **Rufous-bellied Thrush** and **Rufous Hornero**. In the skies above, **Blue-and-white Swallows** and **Black Vultures** are omnipresent. On the lakes, **Neotropic Cormorants** will be seen, while the trees overhanging the water hold **Greater Kiskadees**. The trees will usually produce **Sayaca Tanagers** and **Picazuro Pigeons**.

It is possible to take a figure-of-eight-style route around the lakes, crossing at each bridge. This will bring observers past most of the environments in which they are likely to find birds.

A taxi is likely to stop at the security gate which can be found at Google Earth Ref; 23°34'59.57"S 46°39'27.47"W. There are other entrances, but this is the most direct from the downtown area. The area immediately south from here is dotted with trees and shrubs. **Swallow-tailed Hummingbirds**, **Sapphire-spangled Emeralds** and **Bananaquits** may be seen in the flowering trees.

**Southern Lapwings** may be seen on the more open areas.

From the security gate, follow the road around to the west, passing through a wooded area. **Shiny Cowbirds** may be seen here. **Rufous-bellied Thrush** and **Rufous Hornero** are abundant throughout the park. There is a hot-spot at the small bridge separating the two lakes (Google Earth Ref; 23°34'59.82"S 46°39'41.50"W). **Great Kiskadees** will be found here in the water-side trees.

**Chalk-browed Mockingbird** is reliable at this spot. The lake will probably have **Neotropic Cormorants**, **Great Egrets** and **Common Gallinules**. There is an exotic collection on the lower lake including Australian Black Swans and Chinese Geese. The assumption is made that the Mallards have been artificially introduced too. Make up your own mind about the Muscovy Ducks.

Continue along the western side of the lake, travelling south. A hedge marks the border of the park and may contain **Common Tody-flycatcher** and **House**

**Wren. Plain Parakeets** may be seen flying into and out of the larger trees south of the intersection. Look out also for **Red-shouldered Macaw** and **Maroon-bellied Parakeet**. Turn left at the intersection and walk east. The trees here are good for **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Sayaca Tanager** and **Picazuro Pigeon**. The lawns commonly attract **Cattle Tyrant** and **Southern Lapwing**. Watch for **Tropical Kingbird** hawking for insects from a prominent perch.

A metal bridge arcs high across the narrow waist of the lake, effectively creating two lobes. The bridge gives the observer a bit of height to get a look at the trees on either side. **Sayaca Tanager**, **Palm Tanager** and **Saffron Finch** can be seen here. The flowering shrubs on the other side often attract hummingbirds and **Bananaquits**. **Amazon Kingfisher** and **Green Kingfisher** may be seen passing under the bridge as they move between the two parts of the lake.

Turn right over the bridge. Smaller trees give way to larger eucalypts along the north-east bank of the lower lobe. Across the lake a small section of bank has been fenced off to allow a tiny natural length. Scanning here may produce either of the kingfishers and occasionally a **Squirrel Cuckoo**. The smaller bushes along the near bank may produce **Red-crested Cardinals** (the status of various cardinal species in the park may be disputed). **Fawn-breasted Tanager** and **Burnished-buff Tanager** have been seen along this stretch.

A small bridge crosses as a stream drains from the lake. Follow the path back up the other side of the lake. A Hibiscus hedge protecting the natural area is good for hummingbirds, but there are often feral cats around here which deter the birds. Cross the metal bridge again and this time, keep left. **Shiny Cowbirds**, **Chalk-browed Mockingbirds** and **Rufous-collared Sparrows** are often seen around the buildings.

Just beyond the Planetarium, the walker will recognise the small hot-spot bridge and a figure-of-eight pattern has been completed. The entrance and security gate will be found by turning right. There is not an official taxi rank here, but is probably the best place to find one without trying to flag one down on the road.

Sao Paulo has a reputation for being a dangerous city and personal security should be a prime concern for anyone walking by themselves. Do not carry obvious valuable items. It may be wise to arrange for a taxi to meet you at a given time and place.

Snap-shot trip descriptions can be seen by following these links;

<http://redgannet.blogspot.co.uk/2009/08/sao-paulo-august-2009.html>

<http://redgannet.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/ibirapure-park-sao-paulo-november-2012.html>

The [dedicated South and Central America page](#) at Redgannet contains other sites in Sao Paulo, including [Canterreira State Park](#) and [Sao Paulo Botanical Gardens](#).

The list below was compiled over 6 visits with an average of 25 species seen on each outing.

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*), Pied-billed Grebe [sp] (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Neotropic Cormorant [sp] (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*), Great Egret [sp] (*Ardea alba*), Snowy Egret [sp] (*Egretta thula*), Striated Heron [sp] (*Butorides striata*), Black Vulture [sp] (*Coragyps atratus*), Great Black-hawk [sp] (*Buteogallus urubitinga*), Roadside Hawk [sp] (*Buteo magnirostris*), Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*), Yellow-headed Caracara [sp] (*Milvago chimachima*), Common Gallinule [sp] (*Gallinula galeata*), Southern Lapwing [sp] (*Vanellus chilensis*), Picazuro Pigeon [sp] (*Patagioenas picazuro*), Eared Dove [sp] (*Zenaida auriculata*), Ruddy Ground-dove [sp] (*Columbina talpacoti*), Maroon-bellied Parakeet [sp] (*Pyrrhura frontalis*), Red-shouldered Macaw [sp] (*Diopsittaca nobilis*), Blue-winged Parrotlet [sp] (*Forpus xanthopterygius*), Plain Parakeet (*Brotogeris tirica*), White-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolurus*), Blue-fronted Parrot [sp] (*Amazona aestiva*), Squirrel Cuckoo [sp] (*Piaya cayana*), Swallow-tailed Hummingbird [sp] (*Eupetomena macroura*), Sapphire-spangled Emerald [sp] (*Amazilia lactea*), Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*), Green Kingfisher [sp] (*Chloroceryle americana*), Lineated Woodpecker [sp] (*Dryocopus lineatus*), Rufous Hornero [sp] (*Furnarius rufus*), Narrow-billed Woodcreeper [sp] (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*), Common Tody-flycatcher [sp] (*Todirostrum cinereum*), Vermilion Flycatcher [sp] (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), Masked Water-tyrant [sp] (*Fluvicola nengeta*), Cattle Tyrant [sp] (*Machetornis rixosa*), Great Kiskadee [sp] (*Pitangus sulphuratus*),

Rusty-margined Flycatcher [sp] (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*), Tropical Kingbird [sp] (*Tyrannus melancholicus*), Rufous-browed Peppershrike [sp] (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*), Blue-and-white Swallow [sp] (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*), Gray-breasted Martin [sp] (*Progne chalybea*), House Wren [sp] (*Troglodytes aedon*), Rufous-bellied Thrush [sp] (*Turdus rufiventris*), Chalk-browed Mockingbird [sp] (*Mimus saturninus*), Bananaquit [sp] (*Coereba flaveola*), Sayaca Tanager [sp] (*Thraupis sayaca*), Palm Tanager [sp] (*Thraupis palmarum*), Fawn-breasted Tanager [sp] (*Pipraeidea melanonota*), Burnished-buff Tanager [sp] (*Tangara cayana*), Saffron Finch [sp] (*Sicalis flaveola*), Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*), Red-cowled Cardinal (*Paroaria dominicana*), Yellow-billed Cardinal [sp] (*Paroaria capitata*), Rufous-collared Sparrow [sp] (*Zonotrichia capensis*), Yellow-winged Blackbird [sp] (*Agelasticus thilius*), Shiny Cowbird [sp] (*Molothrus bonariensis*), Epaulet Oriole [sp] (*Icterus cayanensis*), House Sparrow [sp] (*Passer domesticus*).