



Brazil Trip Report

The Pantanal and Iguazu Falls

5th to 21st August 2011



Jaguar by Markus Lilje

Trip report by tour Leader: Markus Lilje

Tour summary

The huge South American country of Brazil played host for most of this fantastic two-week tour. Commencing with a brief glimpse of the edge of the southern Amazonian biome, we then experienced a far more in-depth encounter with some of what the Pantanal – the largest wetland in the world – has to offer, finally finishing off with a short look at the magnificent Iguazu Waterfall in the endangered Atlantic forest biome.

Brazil: August 2011

After arriving in the busy metropolis of Sao Paulo, we had a night to recover from our international flights before moving on into the central part of this vast South American land. Cuiaba, a city well-positioned between the southern Amazon and the Pantanal, is where we deplaned and were soon met by our local guide Paula and driver Josef, who would accompany us for much of the next 2 weeks and the first section of the tour respectively. Soon we were off in our minibus, heading in a northerly direction towards our first lodge, Jardim da Amazonia. On the way we were



already treated to sightings of a few great species including Greater Rhea and Burrowing Owl, which were a welcome sign of natural life on the long stretches of deforested land that we drove through. The lodge is very well positioned on the Rio Claro and in a patch of really good forest that still holds a wide range of species. On arrival in the garden we were treated to what was potentially in store for us, with a few bird families that are restricted to the Neotropics showing well. This included Lettered Aracari, Silver-beaked Tanager and Amethyst Woodstar, amongst many others. During our time here we did a boat trip up the incredibly clear and briskly-flowing river, went on a few walks and birded around some fish ponds, and were treated to some great home-cooked meals. Some of the many highlights we enjoyed in the area were Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Red-necked and Chestnut-eared Aracaris, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Black-crowned and Masked Tityras, Spotted Puffbird, White-banded Swallow, Black Caracara, Black-eared Fairy, Swallow-winged Puffbird, the southern Amazonian special - Black-girdled Barbet, Scaled Pigeon, Laughing Falcon, Red-bellied and Red-shouldered Macaws and many others. At a nearby lake we spent some time during the afternoon waiting for the large numbers of Blue-and-Yellow Macaws to come in to roost, and during our wait we added Bat and Aplomado Falcons and Short-tailed Swift. The area also produced a few mammals, the most entertaining being the Capybara that were well habituated here and allowed really close approaches (This species was eventually to become common later on in our journey). Proboscis Bat were seen during the boat trip and we glimpsed Brown Cappuchin making their way through the canopy.



Heading back south and past Cuiaba, we made our way toward the main centre of our forthcoming activities. Just after passing the official entrance to the Transpantania Road, we were in the thick of maybe the most active part of the wetland that we would experience on the entire tour, with an amazing number of caimans, herons, egrets and storks fattening up on the buffet of fish that were struggling for air in the ever decreasing pools of water. Roseate Spoonbill, Jabiru, Snail Kite, Grey-necked Wood Rail, Black-collared Hawk and many Wood Stork were some of the highlights in this area and the first of many of

these birds we would see over the next few days. In the northern Pantanal we then spent a single night at the Rio Claro Lodge, where we arrived in the dark after enjoying a brief view of Giant Anteater and

Brazil: August 2011

sightings of Crab-eating Fox and Brazilian Rabbit. On our morning here in the northern Pantanal we went on another boat ride – our first opportunity to obtain close-up views of some of the species we would soon see in good numbers. Sungrebe and Agami Heron were recorded for the only time on our tour, Anhinga and Neotropical Cormorant were common, 4 of the 5 possible kingfishers were seen, and we had good numbers of numerous other species. Highlights around the lodge grounds where we spent the rest of the morning included the uncommon Chestnut-bellied Guan, Bare-faced Currawong, our first stunning Vermillion Flycatcher, Blue-fronted, Yellow-chevrons, Nanday and Blue-crowned Parakeets, Red-crested and Yellow-billed Cardinals and Orange-backed Troupial.

We then headed down the remaining 100km of the Transpantaneira road and over its many bridges – near one of which we had the luck to see 2 Yellow Anacondas, as well as Long-winged Harrier, Maguari Stork and the lovely Sunbittern. We also passed many pools teeming with life while on the way to Porto Joffre, our base for the next 4 nights. It was in this area that we were hoping to encounter the tour's main mammal target: the Jaguar – easily the mightiest cat of the Americas and only smaller than Tiger and Lion on a worldwide scale. Finding



these large cats in this area mainly involves searching along and scanning the banks of the Cuiaba River and a number of its smaller tributaries. We did 4 of these tours, lasting 4 to 5 hours each, in fairly narrow boats with big engines that allowed us to cover large areas of water fairly quickly. Quite early on during the first boat trip we found another of our special targets in the area – Giant River Otter,



which gave us great close-up and extended views as they carried on with their fishing activities in one of the smaller side channels. We also enjoyed wonderful views of many other water-associated species such as Paraguayan Caiman, Capybara, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher and the bizarre-looking Boat-billed Heron during the first few trips, but alas the Jaguar frustratingly stayed out of sight. Some of the other birds we enjoyed from the boat included Crane Hawk, Wattled Jacana, White-winged Swallow, Black-capped Donacobius, Black

Skimmer, Capped Heron, Collared and Pied Plovers and Pale-legged Hornero.

Halfway through our third boat trip from Porto Joffre, we were informed on the boat's radio that a Jaguar had been spotted only a few kilometres away. We headed there as fast as the boat could carry us and were soon standing there with around 10 other boats, anchors down, enjoying great views of this magnificent cat just casually lying on the bank, visible through a perfect gap in the dense riverine undergrowth! Our next Jaguar was seen on the road north of Porto Joffre on the same afternoon. The final boat trip, however, was the most amazing of the lot: first we had fantastic long views of one Jaguar; then another 2, which had just crossed the river, also showed well – and, to top it all off, we also had 4 separate groups of Giant River Otter! How could we possibly ask for more?!



Around Porto Joffre we also went on a number of interesting walks and drives which added to the great

Brazil: August 2011

array of species we had seen. In this area and a few kilometres to the north, we had Maguari Stork – an uncommon and unpredictable member of this family, nesting Great Horned Owl, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Southern Screamer with chicks, Little Cuckoo, Fawn-breasted and Thrush-like Wrens, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Scarlet-headed and White-browed Blackbirds, White-wedged Piculet, Grey-crested Cacholote, Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Nacunda Nighthawk and Common Tody-Tyrant, to name just some of the highlights.



Heading back north, we then had a single night at Mato Grosso Hotel where we spent some time walking around in the area, as well as venturing out on a night drive. During this time we managed to find Red Brocket Deer, Great Potoo, the gorgeous Campo Flicker, Mato Grosso Antbird, Barred Antshrike, Red Pileated Finch and the very scarce White-naped Xenopsaris. It was interesting to see how many Piranhas a local fisherman was catching and what other fish were attracted to the area.



We again caught a plane at the Cuiaba airport and headed south to Campo Grande, where we were met by a driver who took us straight to the Caiman Ecological Reserve, our base for the next 4 nights. We arrived quite late and were treated to some great mammals as we made our way through vast areas of farmland – first we almost hit a running Brazilian Tapir that wanted to cross the road, before it quickly disappeared; and then, as we entered the property, we soon found a Southern Tamandua, which allowed us to get very close views as it slowly walked through the grass – what a

start to our time on this huge private ranch!

Our days at the Caiman ranch were very interesting, as we witnessed the interaction between cowboys, the 30,000 cattle and the area's abundant and diverse wildlife (for South American standards) on the 50,000 hectare property. This late in the season the region is fairly dry, with a number of small pans in the process of drying out, a few marshes, some larger open wetlands and a river. Most of the larger roads here are raised to allow traversing them in the wet season when most of the property is flooded. The Cordilheira Lodge was our base from where we did a number of drives and walks, as well as heading out for a boat trip on a river that forms the property's boundary.

Compared to anywhere else on the tour, the wildlife was very common and we added a surprising number of new species to our already very respectable list. Some of the highlights here were seeing both species Anteater exceptionally well, Nine- and Six-banded Armadillos, White-lipped and Collared Peccaries, Pampas and 3 other species of Deer, and South American Coati. On our last night drive in the area we were lucky to see another Jaguar – the first seen on the property in over 2 weeks – that soon disappeared into the thicket, only to be called out by Nego, our local guide and driver, with a self-made traditional



Brazil: August 2011



instrument. This very large male Jaguar gave some great views and even lay down in the open, before it again merged with the dark undergrowth and disappeared. Some of the many great birds we observed on the property were Red-legged Seriema, White Woodpecker, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, White and White-rumped Monjitas, Amazonian Motmot, Common and Great Potoos, Blue-crowned Trogon, Whistling Heron, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and the multi-coloured Toco Toucan. The area possibly has one of the highest densities of the incredible Hyacinth Macaw – the largest Parrot in the world –

and we had some very memorable sightings, including two birds playing and flying together for over 5 minutes, giving some amazing views.

The food here was always great and very varied and included a dinner outside in the forest after a star-gazing session, and a huge cowboy-hosted barbeque near the nerve-centre of Caiman's cattle-activities. We were also able to take a closer look at some of the local cowboy culture and how the attempt is being made here to conserve this – and thereby the Pantanal – by not allowing other, more environmentally harmful industries to move into the area.

After a night's break in Sao Paulo, we took another flight to the Brazilian side of the Iguazu Falls – the final destination on our tour. Here we were met by Paula once again before transferring across the border into Argentina and the Iguazu National Park, where we stayed during our time here. After breaking for lunch, we then went for a walk around the different pathways, marvelling at a few of the 275 individual falls that make up the almost 3km wide Iguazu Falls! At this point there was already twice the normal amount of water going over the falls after exceptionally heavy rains in the area, but by the next afternoon the amount had almost tripled to an amazing 16 000 cubic metres of water per second going over the edge! On the bird front, Plush-crested Jay are very common here, we had distant views of the huge Great Dusky Swifts wheeling over the falls, and saw Green-headed, Ruby-crowned, Black-goggled and Magpie Tanagers. We also found Brazilian Guinea-pig and the larger and darker race of Brown Cappuchin, now often called Black Cappuchin. In addition, we visited a very small but lush nearby garden which has a large number of hummingbird feeders, attracting 8 species during the time we were there and giving us astounding opportunities to see these beautiful little birds at very close quarters. The huge Swallow-tailed Hummingbird came in a few times and we also had Black Jacobin, Versicoloured Emerald, Planalto Hermit, Black-throated Mango and White-throated Hummingbird, among others. These were joined by Violaceous and Chestnut-bellied Euphonias, Blue Dacnis, Ruddy Ground



Dove, Bananaquit and a number of blackbirds at the feeders.



All-in-all, our tour was a great success and we managed to find most of the targets that we had set out to find, with fantastic views and great photo opportunities of the majority of them to boot. From a birding point of view, the continent has so much to offer that any short trip can do no more than serve as a small introduction to the

Brazil: August 2011

amazing variety to be found here. The Pantanal, in combination with these incredible falls, has no parallel anywhere in South America, and it was with many great memories that we boarded our planes in Sao Paulo to head back to our respective countries.

Photo credits: Jaguar, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Silver-beaked Tanager, Jabiru, Yellow Anaconda, Sunbittern, Giant River Otter, Capped Heron, Tamandua, Six-banded Armadillo, Hyacinth Macaw, Giant Anteater & Iguazu Waterfall – all taken by Markus Lilje during the tour.

BIRD LIST (283 species)

Tinamous Tinamidae

Undulated Tinamou

Crypturellus undulatus

A common and more regularly encountered species of dryer areas, we saw it both in the Caiman area after hearing it daily throughout the Pantanal.

Rheas Rheidae

Greater Rhea

Rhea americana

Good numbers were seen between Cuiaba and Nobres at the start of the tour, with smaller numbers later in the Pantanal.

Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans Cracidae

Chaco Chachalaca

Ortalis canicollis

Very common in the Pantanal.

Chestnut-bellied Guan

Penelope ochrogaster

3 birds seen in the morning near the Rio Claro, northern Pantanal.

Blue-throated Piping Guan

Pipile cumanensis

Good numbers were seen in the Pantanal especially along big rivers.

Red-throated Piping Guan

Pipile cujubi

This attractive cracid was seen well at Jardim da Amazonia, with 4 more seen in the northern Pantanal.

Bare-faced Curassow

Crax fasciolata

This fabulous bird was impressively common in the Pantanal.

Screamers Anhimidae

Southern Screamer

Chauna torquata

These large waterfowl were fairly common in the Pantanal and we obtained excellent views, including a number of birds with very small chicks.

Ducks, Geese, Swans Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis

We had a few of these clearly-marked birds in the Caiman area.

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Small numbers at Rio Claro right at the start of the tour, with 2 more sightings in the Caiman area.

Brazilian Teal

Amazonetta brasiliensis

2 birds were seen briefly at a great pan in the Caiman area.

Storks Ciconiidae



Brazil: August 2011

Wood Stork

Abundant in the Pantanal.

Mycteria americana

Maguari Stork

We were lucky to record this often very difficult species on 8 days of the tour, with highest numbers near Porto Joffre.

Ciconia maguari

Jabiru

Another common denizen of the Pantanal.

Jabiru mycteria

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Plumbeous Ibis

A large ibis, also common at water edges in the Pantanal.

Theristicus caerulescens

Buff-necked Ibis

More strikingly attractive than the previous species, they were also seen frequently in small numbers in the Pantanal.

Theristicus caudatus

Green Ibis

Nowhere commoner and more easily observed in the Pantanal, where we saw them in small numbers on most days.

Mesembrinibis cayennensis

Bare-faced Ibis

This was the least common of the ibis species on the tour, with observations on 6 days.

Phimosus infuscatus

Roseate Spoonbill

These beauties wowed us throughout the Pantanal, although most sightings were in flight.

Platalea ajaja

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Rufescent Tiger Heron

Huge numbers of these stunning birds throughout the Pantanal with the highest daily count of 40+! What a beautiful bird in both its brilliant rufous adult plumage and cryptic spotted juvenile garb.

Tigrisoma lineatum

Agami Heron

A single seen very briefly on the southern Rio Claro boat trip.

Agamia agami

Boat-billed Heron

This is always a big target in the area; we had small numbers in the evening and a few great sightings on day roosts.

Cochlearius cochlearius

Black-crowned Night Heron

Commonly seen in the Pantanal.

Nycticorax nycticorax

Striated Heron

Reasonable numbers seen daily in the Pantanal.

Butorides striata

Western Cattle Egret

Common in the Pantanal and all open, farming areas. A natural introduction from Africa.

Bubulcus ibis

Cocoi Heron

Also known as the White-necked Heron, this large species was commonly encountered in the Pantanal.

Ardea cocoi

Great Egret

Very common in the Pantanal.

Ardea alba

Capped Heron

First encountered along the river in Amazonia, this great bird was seen on 7 consecutive days – small numbers.

Pilherodius pileatus

Whistling Heron

This beautiful heron was encountered in small numbers on the first day in the northern Pantanal and again in the Caiman area in the south.

Syrigma sibilatrix

Brazil: August 2011

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Seen on 2 days in the northern Pantanal.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Another commonly encountered Pantanal species.

Cormorants, Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Commonly recorded in the Pantanal and Iguazu Falls.

Anhingas, Darters Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

The Snakebird was commonly encountered along rivers and wetlands in the Pantanal.

New World Vultures Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Small numbers of this widespread vulture were observed throughout.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

Very widespread in the Pantanal, though only in small numbers.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*

We recorded a total of 5 birds around the southern Amazon during the first days of the tour.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

The most widespread and common vulture seen every day bar one.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

2 birds were seen in total at the start of the tour, both distant and in flight, one adult and one juvenile.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Small numbers almost daily in the Pantanal.

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni*

We had a single one of this uncommon raptor in flight in the Pantanal.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

This long-legged hawk seen well on 4 days of the tour – reminded us very much of the African Harrier Hawk in its behaviour.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*

Fairly frequently encountered throughout the Pantanal.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*

This attractive hawk was seen almost daily in the Pantanal.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*

This raptor typifies the Pantanal where it is pleasantly common.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

This familiar Neotropical raptor was seen in small numbers throughout the Pantanal.

Caracaras, Falcons Falconidae

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater*

A good-looking bird, seen in flight at Jardim da Amazonia.

Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*

The most frequently encountered raptor of the trip.

Brazil: August 2011

Yellow-headed Caracara

Milvago chimachima

This small caracara was seen near the river where we did a boat trip on the Caiman property.

Laughing Falcon

Herpetotheres cachinnans

We had a few very good views of this striking raptor in the southern Amazon, with another showing in the Caiman area.

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

2 birds were seen during the tour; the first near Nobres and another later near the Caiman property.

Aplomado Falcon

Falco femoralis

Recorded on 3 days, with the first sighting being of a bird at the lake near Jardim da Amazonia.

Bat Falcon

Falco ruficularis

A beautiful little falcon that was seen well at Jardim da Amazonia, Caiman and Iguazu Falls.

Seriemas Cariamidae

Red-legged Seriema

Cariama cristata

The first pair was seen north of Cuiaba in the shade of a tree, with good numbers later in the Caiman area, southern Pantanal.

Sunbittern Eurypyidae

Sunbittern

Eurypyga helias

This is a wonderful monotypic bird that is always great to see – we had some good sightings on 4 days in the Pantanal!

Finfoots Heliornithidae

Sungrebe

Heliornis fulica

An often elusive bird, we had a single individual at Rio Claro in the northern Pantanal. It is the smallest and plainest of the three finfoots, but nevertheless a great bird to watch.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Grey-necked Wood Rail

Aramides cajanea

Wonderfully common and easy to observe in the Pantanal where we had good numbers on most days!

Purple Gallinule

Porphyrio martinicus

A single juvenile bird was seen briefly in very thick vegetation, northern Pantanal.

Limpkin Aramidae

Limpkin

Aramus guarauna

Common monotypic species in the Pantanal.

Stilts, Avocet Recurvirostridae

White-backed (Black-necked) Stilt

Himantopus melanurus

Only two birds were seen and scoped as we entered the Pantanal near Pocone.

Plovers Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing

Vanellus chilensis

A very common bird throughout.

Collared Plover

Charadrius collaris

A single bird was seen very well on a sand bar on the Cuiaba River near Port Joffre.

Pied Plover

Hoploxypterus cayanus



Brazil: August 2011

Several of these striking waders were seen on the bigger sandbars in the Pantanal, Cuiaba River.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*
Wonderfully common in the Pantanal, around any wet areas.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*
At least 60 were seen on a sandbar near Porto Joffre, with a few more later at Caiman.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*
This elegant, small tern was seen on 4 consecutive days on the Cuiaba River near Porto Joffre.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*
This large and strikingly patterned tern was observed in small numbers throughout the Pantanal.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Common Pigeon *Columba livia*
Seen in the cities.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*
Around 10 birds were seen in 2 days at Jardim da Amazonia.

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*
This large and attractive species was commonly encountered almost daily.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*
This beautiful pigeon was recorded in small numbers, with best views in the northern Pantanal.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*
2 birds were seen from the boat trip at Jardim da Amazonia.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*
Seen in the Caiman area in large flocks.

Scaled Dove *Scardafella squammata*
This beautiful, long-tailed dainty dove was seen in the Pantanal.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*
The common small dove seen at most locations and most days of the tour.

Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui*
Most common in the southern Pantanal, with first sightings near Rio Claro.

Long-tailed Ground Dove *Uropelia campestris*
Another beautiful, tiny dove, this speciality was seen on one day in the southern Pantanal.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*
Encountered daily in good numbers in the Pantanal.

Parrots Psittacidae

Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*
One of the stars of the Pantanal, this the largest parrot in the world (in length not weight – that title belongs to the Kakapo), was pleasantly common in the Pantanal despite its endangered status. Recorded daily, our most memorable sighting was when 2 birds were hanging onto a branch with their bills and punching with their feet.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*
Another beautiful psittacid, we had around 35 birds coming in to roost in the late afternoon near a lake in the southern Amazon.

Brazil: August 2011

Red-bellied Macaw

Orthopsittaca manilata

Highest numbers seen at the same site as the above species, with another sighting near Rio Claro.

Golden (Yellow)-collared Macaw

Primolius auricollis

This sought-after species showed on 3 of the last days we had in the Pantanal.

Red-shouldered Macaw

Diopsittaca nobilis

This species was seen well around our lodge in the Nobres area, at the start of the tour.

Blue-crowned Parakeet

Aratinga acuticaudata

Great views of around a dozen birds in the Rio Claro garden, with more later in the southern Pantanal.

Peach-fronted Parakeet

Aratinga aurea

Commonly seen in flight over the Pantanal, before we had good views of the bird perched.

Nanday Parakeet

Nandayus nenday

This attractive black-headed and red-legged parakeet was seen on a few days in the Pantanal.

Blaze-winged Parakeet

Pyrrhura devillei

This is an uncommon species that was just seen once in the Caiman area.

Monk Parakeet

Myiopsitta monachus

This communally nesting parakeet was abundant in the Pantanal where they were observed daily, sometimes they will build their nests in the lower branches of a Jabiru nest.

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet

Brotogeris chiriri

Another common parrot in the Pantanal, first perched birds at Rio Claro.

Orange-cheeked Parrot

Pyrrilia barrabandi

An uncommon species, we had one bird fly over at Jardim da Amazonia.

Blue-headed Parrot

Pionus menstruus

Commonly recorded in the southern Amazon.

Scaly-headed Parrot

Pionus maximiliani

This takes over from the above species in the Pantanal.

Turquoise (Blue)-fronted Amazon

Amazona aestiva

After we had 15 birds in the Rio Claro area, we recorded them daily at Caiman.

Mealy Amazon

Amazona farinosa

4 birds seen in total at Jardim de Amazonia.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Guira Cuckoo

Guira guira

Gangs of these curious, social cuckoos were frequently observed in the Pantanal.

Greater Ani

Crotophaga major

This large species tends to prefer riverine areas and was observed along Rio Cristalino and on 2 days further south, they are migratory and must have just returned from further north.

Smooth-billed Ani

Crotophaga ani

One of the most regularly encountered birds of our tour, highest numbers seen in the central Pantanal.

Little Cuckoo

Coccyua minuta

A single bird was seen very well during a walk at Porto Jofre.

Squirrel Cuckoo

Piaya cayana

A widespread but attractive bird, we obtained great sightings at almost all locations visited.

Owls Strigidae

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Two birds were seen very well near their nest near Porto Joffre, while another was seen during a night drive near the Pixaim River.

Brazil: August 2011

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Glaucidium brasilianum

A single bird was first heard and then seen very well during a walk in the Caiman Reserve.

Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia

The most frequently encountered owl on the tour, these cute birds were seen at the roadside near Nobres, and we later had a pair that was always around their burrow near our Caiman lodge.

Potoos Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo

Nyctibius grandis

Birds were observed on 4 days during the tour – all at night and in the Pantanal.

Common Potoo

Nyctibius griseus

Not quite as many sightings as the previous species, although they were more common at Caiman.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Band-tailed Nighthawk

Nyctiprogne leucopyga

A fairly distinctive nighthawk, observed in very small numbers around and just north of Porto Joffre.

Nacunda Nighthawk

Podager nacunda

Big flocks of this very distinctive Nighthawk were seen on a few occasions near Porto Joffre.

Pauraque

Nyctidromus albicollis

The most commonly encountered nightjar, over ten were seen on some night drives in the Pantanal.

Spot-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus maculicaudus

A single bird was seen very well during a Porto Joffre night drive.

Blackish Nightjar

Caprimulgus nigrescens

A pair of these dark nightjars was flushed off a roost near our lodge in the southern Amazon, before they perched long enough for us to get brief scope views.

Swifts Apodidae

Great Dusky Swift

Cypseloides senex

This huge swift was observed, sometimes in huge flocks, over the Iguazu Falls, where they could also be seen diving into the water to get to their roost sites.

Grey-rumped Swift

Chaetura cinereiventris

This species was observed on one day in the southern Amazon.

Chapman's Swift

Chaetura chapmani

This species was on the day we drove back to Cuiaba from Jardim da Amazonia.

Short-tailed Swift

Chaetura brachyura

This bizarrely shaped swift was seen very well on a few occasions at Jardim da Amazonia.

Neotropical (Fork-tailed) Palm Swift

Tachornis squamata

Fairly frequent around palms in the southern Amazon, a very distinctive slender swift.

Hummingbirds Trochilidae

Planalto Hermit

Phaethornis pretrei

A few birds were seen very well in the hummingbird garden in Foz du Iguazu.

Buff-bellied Hermit

Phaethornis subochraceus

There was a single bird seen well near Porto Joffre in the Pantanal.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird

Eupetomena macroura

We obtained great views of a female at the Iguazu feeders.

Black Jacobin

Florisuga fusca

Another common visitor to the Iguazu Falls feeding garden.

Brazil: August 2011

Black-throated Mango

Anthracothorax nigricollis

A few birds were seen briefly at Jardim da Amazonia, before we had great views at the feeders near Iguazu Falls.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph

Thalurania furcata

Seen on 3 days in the southern Amazon and again in the northern Pantanal.

Violet-capped Woodnymph

Thalurania glaucopis

This beauty was observed in good numbers around the feeders near Iguazu.

Gilded Sapphire

Hylocharis chrysura

One bird was seen at Caiman, before we had good numbers around the feeders.

White-throated Hummingbird

Leucochloris albicollis

One or two birds were seen around the feeders near the Iguazu Falls.

White-tailed Goldenthrout

Polytmus guainumbi

A single distinctive female was seen very well around Caiman.

Versicolored Emerald

Amazilia versicolor

Maybe the most common of the hummingbirds adding to the buzz around the Iguazu feeders.

Glittering-throated Emerald

Amazilia fimbriata

2 birds were seen in the southern Pantanal at Caiman lodge.

Black-eared Fairy

Heliothryx auritus

Another stunning hummer that was seen well but briefly in the Jardim da Amazonia garden.

Amethyst Woodstar

Calliphlox amethystina

A single tiny bird was seen very well in the Jardim da Amazonia garden.

Trogons Trogonidae

Blue-crowned Trogon

Trogon curucui

This bird was surprisingly common around Porto Joffre and Caiman, where it was seen on 5 days.

Surucua Trogon

Trogon surrucua

Two birds seen near our hotel at the Iguazu Falls.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

American Pygmy Kingfisher

Chloroceryle aenea

We did very well to see this species on 6 days of the tour, mostly around the Cuiaba River and just north of Porto Joffre in the Pantanal.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher

Chloroceryle inda

A usually shy kingfisher that was recorded on 2 days, with one allowing fantastic views and an incredibly close approach.

Green Kingfisher

Chloroceryle americana

Recorded on 7 days of the tour – usually in flight, but we did have a few good perched views.

Amazon Kingfisher

Chloroceryle amazona

Along with the next species the most common on the tour and seen along most rivers.

Ringed Kingfisher

Megaceryle torquata

This is a very large and pleasantly common species in the Pantanal, a few seen in the southern Amazon.

Motmots Momotidae

Amazonian (Blue-crowned) Motmot

Momotus momota

Heard and glimpsed at Jardim da Amazonia, before we enjoyed great sightings during one of the Caiman Reserve walks.

Brazil: August 2011

Jacamars Galbulidae

Brown Jacamar

Brachygalba lugubris

A few birds were seen very well near Jardim da Amazonia.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar

Galbula ruficauda

We had this beautiful bird on 5 days of the tour, with great first sightings of male and female birds near our Jardim da Amazonia accommodations.

Puffbirds Bucconidae

Spotted Puffbird

Bucco tamatia

This is a very uncommon species that was seen very well near an oxbow lake at Jardim da Amazonia.

Black-fronted Nunbird

Monasa nigrifrons

Seen on 5 days with good first views again in the southern Amazon.

Swallow-wing [ed Puffbird]

Chelidoptera tenebrosa

A common species along the Rio Claro at Jardim da Amazonia, where they hawk insects over the river.

Barbets, Toucans Ramphastidae

Black-girdled Barbet

Capito dayi

A special bird for the southern Amazon, we did well to get great views at our first accommodations.

Lettered Aracari

Pteroglossus inscriptus

5 birds were seen well on our arrival at Jardim da Amazonia, the first real day of the tour.

Red-necked Aracari

Pteroglossus bitorquatus

This beautiful toucan was recorded when we had one bird during our full day at Jardim da Amazonia.

Chestnut-eared Aracari

Pteroglossus castanotis

Recorded on 4 days during the tour, with closest view in the Rio Claro Lodge gardens.

Toco Toucan

Ramphastos toco

This amazing “flying-banana” bird was seen in small numbers in the northern Pantanal and at Iguazu Falls and was more common in the Caiman area.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Ochre-collared Piculet

Picumnus temminckii

A single bird was seen briefly near our Iguazu Falls Lodge.

White-wedged Piculet

Picumnus albosquamatus

We had great views of this tiny woodpecker just north of Porto Joffre in the Pantanal.

White Woodpecker

Melanerpes candidus

A strikingly beautiful bird that was seen well on two days on the Caiman property.

Little Woodpecker

Veniliornis passerinus

The most common of the woodpeckers in the Pantanal, recorded on 6 consecutive days.

Red-stained Woodpecker

Veniliornis affinis

2 birds were seen fairly well in the scope near Jardim da Amazonia, just before we left the area.

Golden-green Woodpecker

Piculus chrysochloros

Surprisingly, we had this tough species on 3 days of the tour, first views from the boat in the southern Amazon, closest views at Rio Claro Lodge.

Green-barred Woodpecker

Colaptes melanochloros

Great views were enjoyed at Cordilheira Lodge, Caiman, after first views near Porto Joffre.

Campo Flicker

Colaptes campestris

A beautiful woodpecker, seen first at Mato Grosso Hotel and further sightings at Caiman.

Brazil: August 2011

Pale-crested Woodpecker

Ceelus lugubris

A species that was seen very well on a single occasion during a walk at Caiman in the Pantanal.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker

Campephilus melanoleucos

A beautiful female was seen in the trees near an abandoned research station in the Pantanal.

Ovenbirds Furnariidae

Pale-legged Hornero

Furnarius leucopus

This beautiful riverside furnarid was seen very well during boat trips in the Pantanal.

Rufous Hornero

Furnarius rufus

A more open country species, this is one of the most common species we encountered on the tour.

Chotoy Spinetail

Schoeniophylax phryganophilus

A rather aberrant but attractive spinetail, single birds were seen on 2 days in the Pantanal.

White-lored Spinetail

Synallaxis albilora

Single birds seen on 2 days in the Pantanal.

Rusty-backed Spinetail

Cranioleuca vulpina

Another spinetail encountered in a dense stand of trees north of Porto Joffre.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail

Certhiaxis cinnamomeus

An aberrant spinetail occurring in the Pantanal, we obtained excellent views of one building a nest.

Rufous-fronted (Common) Thornbird

Phacellodomus rufifrons

A single bird was seen near its nest on the Caiman property.

Greater Thornbird

Phacellodomus ruber

Seen on 2 days in the Porto Joffre area, including 2 birds near their nest.

Grey-crested Cacholote

Pseudoseisura unirufa

This attractive and large furnarid was seen on several occasions in the Pantanal.

Point-tailed Palmcreeper

Berlepschia rikeri

This beauty kept calling frequently in the Jardim da Amazonia garden, where we tracked one down, giving us great views for a while. Their ability to disappear in palm leaves is nothing short of remarkable.

White-eyed Foliage-gleaner

Automolus leucophthalmus

A few birds were heard, with one finally showing up well in the forest near Iguazu Falls.

Streaked Xenops

Xenops rutilans

We obtained superb views of this cute bird in the Porto Joffre area.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper

Dendrocincla fuliginosa

A single bird was seen well in the Iguazu Falls forest.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper

Sittasomus griseicapillus

This is a distinctive small woodcreeper that showed well near Porto Joffre, Pantanal.

Great Rufous Woodcreeper

Xiphocolaptes major

This is a massive and sought-after woodcreeper that we had on 2 days in the Caiman area.

Planalto Woodcreeper

Dendrocolaptes platyrostris

A single seen in the Caiman forests, southern Pantanal.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper

Dendroplex picus

This is another lovely woodcreeper species that showed very well on 2 days in the Pantanal.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper

Lepidocolaptes angustirostris

A very beautiful open country woodcreeper seen several times in the Pantanal.

Red-billed Scythebill

Campylorhamphus trochilirostris

We enjoyed excellent views of this impressive species, first just before our first Porto Joffre boat ride and again at our Caiman lodge grounds.

Brazil: August 2011

Antbirds Thamnophilidae

Great Antshrike

Taraba major

This open country species was encountered a few times in the Pantanal. The male superficially resembles an African puffback or boubou.

Barred Antshrike

Thamnophilus doliatus

This is a beautiful species that we had good views of on 2 occasions, the very different male and female birds are both stunning.

Amazonian Antshrike

Thamnophilus amazonicus

We had a pair of these birds in the patch of forest near Jardim da Amazonia.

Southern White-fringed Antwren

Formicivora grisea

Another southern Amazonian tick, seen very well on the first full day of the tour.

Rusty-backed Antwren

Formicivora rufa

A dry-country species, we had single birds on 2 days in Caiman Reserve.

Mato Grosso Antbird

Cercomacra melanaria

A pair of these range-restricted antbirds was seen well on forest edge in the Pantanal.

Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae

Yellow-bellied Elaenia

Elaenia flavogaster

This species was seen on only one day at the Iguazu Falls.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet

Camptostoma obsoletum

A smallish tyrannid, seen on a number of occasions in the central and southern Pantanal.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher

Leptopogon amaurocephalus

One of the easily-identified flycatchers, seen well near Iguazu Falls.

Plain Inezia (Tyrannulet)

Inezia inornata

A very small flycatcher that was seen well in a great flock just outside Porto Joffre.

Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant

Hemitriccus striaticollis

A single bird was seen briefly in the Jardim da Amazonia forest.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant

Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer

On the final morning at Jardim da Amazonia we had a single bird high up in a large tree.

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher

Poecilatriccus latirostris

This was a very cooperative species that moved around in the thick undergrowth near Porto Joffre and showed well for everyone.

Common Tody-Flycatcher

Todirostrum cinereum

This is a beautiful little bird that showed really well in a thick stand of trees on the Transpantania, near the owl nest.

Yellow-olive Flatbill (Flycatcher)

Tolmomyias sulphurescens

A species we observed twice in the Pantanal, once near Mato Grosso Hotel and again at Caiman.

Fuscous Flycatcher

Cnemotriccus fuscatus

Seen twice in the same place, near the owl nest north of Porto Joffre.

Vermilion Flycatcher

Pyrocephalus rubinus

What a stunning colour! This was seen brightening up its surroundings on a good number of occasions throughout the tour in the Pantanal.

White-rumped Monjita

Xolmis velatus

We enjoyed good views of this distinctive flycatcher, mostly on fence posts on the Caiman property.

White Monjita

Xolmis irupero

A stunning bird seen twice in the Caiman area.

Black-backed Water Tyrant

Fluvicola albiventer

Brazil: August 2011

This bird was seen on 2 days, catching insects over marshy areas.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*

A very distinctively marked bird that showed well, also associated with wetlands.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

Particularly common in the Pantanal, we recorded up to 20 daily.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

We had 3 birds on 2 days in one of the large trees in the garden, Jardim da Amazonia.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*

Recorded on 3 days in the northern Pantanal.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

2 birds were seen at Jardim da Amazonia, before we had more sightings around Iguazu.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

This was the most common member of this family on the tour, seen almost daily.

Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lictor*

Similar to the previous species, had good numbers in the northern Pantanal along the riverbanks.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Seen on the boat trip at the Rio Claro, where we had 2 birds.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Another large flycatcher, recorded every single day in the northern Pantanal.

[Eastern] Sirystes *Sirystes sibilator*

A very distinctive black and grey flycatcher that was seen well near the Iguazu Falls.

Rufous Casiornis *Casiornis rufus*

A single bird was seen very well, low down in open forest in the Caiman Area.

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*

Heard and seen well in the northern Pantanal around Rio Claro.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

Jardim da Amazonia produced the first record of this species on the tour.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Another of these very similar birds, seen well at Caiman reserve.

Cotingas Cotingidae

Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus*

We had a few birds that were seen fairly well on all the days at Jardim da Amazonia.

Manakins Pipridae

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*

We had great views of these loud clicking birds in the forest near the Iguazu Falls, including one bird doing a brief hopping display.

Band-tailed Manakin *Pipra fasciicauda*

A few absolutely stunning birds were seen well in the Iguazu area forest.

Tityras, Becards Tityridae

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*

This species was seen at Jardim da Amazonia and later in the southern Pantanal.

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*

A single male bird was seen well very near Porto Joffre.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*



Brazil: August 2011

Another single male that was seen on one occasion near the Jardim da Amazonia garden.

White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha*

This is a very uncommon species that was amazingly encountered on two separate occasions – once near the Mato Grosso Hotel and again on the last morning drive at Caiman.

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

This is a fairly common bird in the area, we had two single in the Pantanal.

Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis*

2 birds were seen well in the northern Pantanal.

Crows, Jays Corvidae

Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*

Very common in the Pantanal, especially around our lodgings.

Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops*

This beauty was first seen in Caiman and was later abundant at Iguazu Falls.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*

First birds in the southern Amazon with abundant numbers on the Cuiaba River in the Pantanal.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Good numbers of these very large areal feeders were seen during most portions of our tour.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*

The most common swallow around the Porto Joffre area.

White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*

A really stunning river-associated swallow seen along the Rio Claro at Jardim da Amazonia.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Another species recorded most days during the first half of the trip with highest numbers around rivers.

Black-capped Donacobius Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*

This cheerful, attractive bird was commonly encountered at wetlands in the northern and central Pantanal – a monotypic family.

Wrens Troglodytidae

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*

A large, noisy palm-loving wren, we found this species to be common in the Pantanal, even occurring in our lodge gardens.

Fawn-breasted Wren *Thryothorus guarayanus*

Seen well on a single day, when we had great views near Porto Joffre.

(Southern) House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Seen very well at Jardim da Amazonia and right at the end at the Iguazu Falls.

Gnatcatchers Polioptilidae

Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher *Polioptila lactea*

A single small bird was seen briefly in the Iguazu forest.

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola*



Brazil: August 2011

This bird was recorded on 4 days, busily feeding in the mid-storey and canopy in Pantanal woodlands.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers Mimidae

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

Commonly encountered in open areas, particularly in the Caiman area.

Thrushes Turdidae

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

Brazil's national bird! Seen very frequently at all sites.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

Fairly commonly encountered at lower densities than the previous species.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

One or two birds were seen in the open areas around our hotel at the Iguazu Falls.

Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

This introduced species was seen around towns and cities.

Finches Fringillidae

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*

A single bird seen well in a tree not far from our Iguazu Hotel.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*

This bird was very common around the hummingbird garden near the Iguazu Falls.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*

A very uncommon species in the Pantanal where we had a single bird near Porto Joffre.

Rufous-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia rufiventris*

A stunning species that we got a brief look at in the Jardim da Amazonia forest.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*

Around 2 male birds were seen in the Iguazu hummer garden, where they showed very well.

New World Warblers Parulidae

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*

A single bird was seen briefly near the forest at Iguazu Falls.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

We had a few views of this thicket species in the Iguazu forests.

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds Icteridae

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*

This large bird was most often encountered around Caiman.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*

After a first sighting in Jardim da Amazonia, they were encountered more often near Porto Joffre.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

A few birds were seen well at Iguazu, where we had one bird perched at touching-distance.

Solitary Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*

Another fairly common bird that gave good views in the Pantanal.

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus*

An absolutely stunning bird, seen on 5 days during our time in the Pantanal.

Brazil: August 2011

- Variable Oriole** *Icterus cayanensis*
Another woodland species that was fairly frequent in the Pantanal.
- Chopi Blackbird** *Gnorimopsar chopi*
Seen on every day during the second half of the tour, where it was common.
- Scarlet-headed Blackbird** *Amblyramphus holosericeus*
An absolute beauty, seen twice in the Pantanal where it is a highly-sought species.
- Unicolored Blackbird** *Agelasticus cyanopus*
Fairly common in the Pantanal, where we had this sexually dimorphic species on a few days.
- Baywing (Cowbird)** *Agelaioides badius*
Common in the Pantanal, especially around our lodges.
- Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*
A massive bird that was pleasantly common in the Pantanal.
- Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*
First seen at Jardim da Amazonia, but more regularly encountered in the Pantanal where it was often around lodge feeders.
- White-browed Blackbird** *Sturnella superciliaris*
A stunning bird that was only seen once, when we scoped one north of Porto Joffre.

Bananaquit Coerebidae

- Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*
A very common species in the Iguazu area after first sightings in Caiman.

Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies Emberizidae

- Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis*
Seen well and in good numbers around the waterfalls.
- Red-crested Cardinal** *Paroaria coronata*
Small numbers of these stunning birds were seen in the Rio Claro area as well as around Caiman.
- Yellow-billed Cardinal** *Paroaria capitata*
Abundant in the Pantanal where many were seen daily and it was recorded for 11 days.

Tanagers and Allies Thraupidae

- Magpie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus*
A single bird was seen fairly quickly in the forest near the lower trail at the Iguazu Falls.
- Black-goggled Tanager** *Trichothraupis melanops*
Small numbers of these unusual tanagers seen in the Iguazu forests.
- Ruby-crowned Tanager** *Tachyphonus coronatus*
One of the black tanagers – seen near our hotel near the Iguazu hotel.
- Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo*
This is another stunning species that really shows up well in the sunlight, common in the Pantanal.
- Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*
A few birds were seen in the Jardim da Amazonia area.
- Sayaca Tanager** *Thraupis sayaca*
The pale-blue species was the most commonly encountered tanager during much of the tour.
- Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum*
An extremely widespread tanager, highest numbers around Jardim da Amazonia.
- Green-headed Tanager** *Tangara seledon*
This beauty was encountered near the Iguazu Waterfall.

Brazil: August 2011

- Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis*
Another absolute stunner, seen well at Jardim da Amazonia.
- Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis*
This canopy tanager was seen very well and in good numbers in the southern Amazon.
- Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata*
A single one of these beauties was seen in the Jardim da Amazonia garden on our arrival.
- Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana*
Another beautiful bird, seen very well and at close quarters in the hummingbird garden, Iguazu.
- Chestnut-vented Conebill** *Conirostrum speciosum*
A single bird was seen in a flock near Porto Joffre.
- Red (-crested) Pileated Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus*
We had wonderful views of a pair during early morning birding near Mato Grosso Hotel.
- Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola*
Abundant in the Pantanal, where it was almost recorded daily.
- Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*
Only 2 birds were seen in the northern Pantanal, where one was sporting some black in its plumage.
- Rusty-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila collaris*
A few birds were seen in the Pantanal, north of Porto Joffre.
- White-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila leucoptera*
A single male showed very briefly during our morning birding at Mato Grosso Hotel.
- Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis*
A total of 3 birds were seen during the tour, with first birds at Rio Claro and a single later at Caiman.

Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies Cardinalidae

- Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus*
A single bird was recorded near some fish ponds at Jardim da Amazonia.
- Green-winged Saltator** *Saltator similis*
A bird was seen well during the walk we did in the forest near our Iguazu Falls.
- Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens*
The most common Saltator during the tour, seen on 5 days in the Pantanal.
- Black-throated Saltator** *Saltator atricollis*
3 birds were recorded in total on two days in the Caiman area.

List of Mammals Encountered:

- Giant Anteater** *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*
This was one of the big targets for the tour and we got the first one early on in the northern Pantanal, when we had a brief view of one disappearing into the bushes at dusk. At Caiman we then had an incredible total of 9 of these very strange animals, including some that we walked towards and got very close to, allowing photo opportunities.
- Collared Anteater (Southern Tamandua)** *Tamandua tetradactyla*
Two sightings of another special mammal – both at Caiman and both allowing very close approaches.
- Nine-banded Armadillo** *Dasypus novemcinctus*
This animal is much scarcer than the next species and was seen twice at Caiman on the same day – the first sighting during a walk.
- Six-banded Armadillo** *Euphractus sexcinctus*
We totalled around 7 of these amazing animals in the Caiman area.

Brazil: August 2011

Lesser Bulldog (Fishing) Bat

Noctilio albiventris

Seen on 5 days during the tour, flying over water in the Porto Joffre and Caiman areas.

Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat

Noctilio leporinus

This is a huge water-associated species that was first seen very well in the Porto Joffre area, 2 or 3 were seen very well later at Caiman.

Long-nosed Bat

Rhynchonycteris naso

These bats roost on the underside of trees and branches that overhang rivers – we had a small group roosting at Cristalino Lodge.

Seba's Short-tailed Bat

Carollia perspicillata

We had a small group of these bats roosting in an old research station near the Transpantania.

Brown (Tufted) Capuchin

Cebus apella

Small numbers seen at Jardim da Amazonia, in the Pantanal and higher numbers around Iguazu.

Note: We recorded two races that are now often split – in the Pantanal and Jardim da Amazonia we had Bearded Capuchin Cebus libidinosus and around Iguazu Falls we recorded Black Capuchin C. apella.

Black Howler

Alouatta caraya

Good numbers were seen well in the Caiman area, before we had first views in the northern Pantanal.

Crab-eating Fox

Cerdocyon thous

Encountered in the northern Pantanal a few times, before they were later abundant at Caiman.

Ocelot

Leopardis pardalis

A single beautiful cat was seen in the early evening on the Transpantania, north of Porto Joffre.

Jaguar

Panthera onca

The no. 1 mammal target for the tour; after a few days with no luck we had 4 animals from the boat in the Porto Joffre area, one on the Transpantania and then a final big male at Caiman. All of them showed really well and gave us good opportunities to watch these magnificent beasts in their natural habitat.

Giant Otter

Pteronura brasiliensis

Another huge target on the tour, we recorded a total of 6 groups in the Cuiaba river and the Caiman area, including some great views and 4 family groups on one morning outing.

South American Coati

Nasua nasua

These animals were seen fairly commonly encountered in Caiman, after we had a few cross the road in the northern Pantanal.

Brazilian Tapir

Tapirus terrestris

Unfortunately we only had a single animal very briefly, when it almost ran in our vehicle on our approach to the Caiman reserve.

Collared Peccary

Pecari tajacu

A group of 3 were quite relaxed and seen well in the Caiman area.

White-lipped Peccary

Tayassu pecari

We had a big herd of over 70 animals that were around the Cordihera Lodge for 3 days while we were there, some even came right to the lodge to feed on some of the seedpods.

Marsh Deer

Blastocerus dichotomus

After some good views of this fairly scarce animal along the Transpantania, we had a few more, while on foot around Caiman.

Red-brocket Deer

Mazama americana

Similar to the next species, our first one was seen on a night drive in the Pantanal, with a second at Caiman, where it ran across the road.

Grey-brocket Deer

Mazama gouazoubira

Slightly more common than the previous species, it was also encountered in the Pantanal.

Pampas Deer

Ozotoceros bezoarticus

Brazil: August 2011

Only in the southern Pantanal during our tour, where they were very common and were seen daily.

Capybara

Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris

These giant rodents were first encountered at Jardim da Amazonia, where they are very relaxed, they are also very common and were seen daily in the Pantanal.

Coypu (Brazilian Guinea-pig)

Myocastor coypus

This small mammal was seen very well near the Iguazu Falls, where we had them on 2 days.

Azara's Agouti

Dasyprocta azarae

Another smallish mammal, seen on 3 days in the Pantanal as well as the forest at Iguazu.

Spotted Paca

Agouti paca

2 of these great and distinctive mammals were seen very well at Caiman reserve.

Brazilian Rabbit / Tapiti

Sylvilagus brasiliensis

Seen during a night drive in the Pantanal, near Rio Claro - the only possible rabbit species on the tour.

Other species of wildlife encountered included Paraguayan Caiman (Pantanal), Green Iguana (Pantanal), Amazon Race Runner (Cristalino), Tegu Lizard (Pantanal), Yellow Anaconda (Pantanal).

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com
Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com