

Brazil: Emas national park, Pantanal and Cristalino Lodge - June 27-July 15, 2006

Report by Sjef Öllers

Introduction

This trip was the first serious introduction to the Neotropics and its wildlife for me and my partner. We had done several extended trekking trips in Argentina and Chile in the past, where we did look out for wildlife as well, but hiking was the main goal then. This time seeing wildlife was the main focus of the trip. We decided to visit three different areas: the cerrado of Emas national park, the inevitable Pantanal wetland, and rainforest at the Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

Itinerary

Day 1, June 27 : Flight from Amsterdam to Sao Paolo – connecting flight to Cuiaba
Day 2, June 28 : Transfer to Emas national park
Day 3, June 29 : Emas national park
Day 4, June 30 : Emas national park
Day 5, July 01 : Emas national park
Day 6, July 02 : Return to Cuiaba – overnight Cuiaba
Day 7, July 03 : Transfer to Pantanal – Pouso Alegre
Day 8, July 04 : Pantanal – Pouso Alegre
Day 9, July 05 : Pantanal – Pousada Jaguar
Day 10, July 06 : Pantanal – Fazenda Santa Tereza
Day 11, July 07 : Pantanal – Fazenda Santa Tereza
Day 12, July 08 : Morning in the Pantanal – transfer to Cuiaba – night bus to Alta Floresta
Day 13, July 09 : Arrival at Alta Floresta – transfer to Cristalino jungle lodge
Day 14, July 10 : Cristalino jungle lodge
Day 15, July 11 : Cristalino jungle lodge
Day 16, July 12 : Cristalino jungle lodge
Day 17, July 13 : Morning at CJL - afternoon at Floresta Amazonica Hotel
Day 18, July 14 : Morning at FAH – transfer to airport –flight to Cuiaba
Day 19, July 15 : Flight to Sao Paolo and connecting flight back to Amsterdam



Travel Arrangements

We flew directly from Amsterdam to Sao Paolo with KLM. At the international airport Guarulhos we had to take a bus to the domestic airport Congonhas for our flight to Cuiaba. There is a well-organized bus service between both airports. The bus trip between both airports usually takes about 35-60 min. depending on traffic conditions. However, try to arrive as early as possible at Congonhas; the airport can be quite

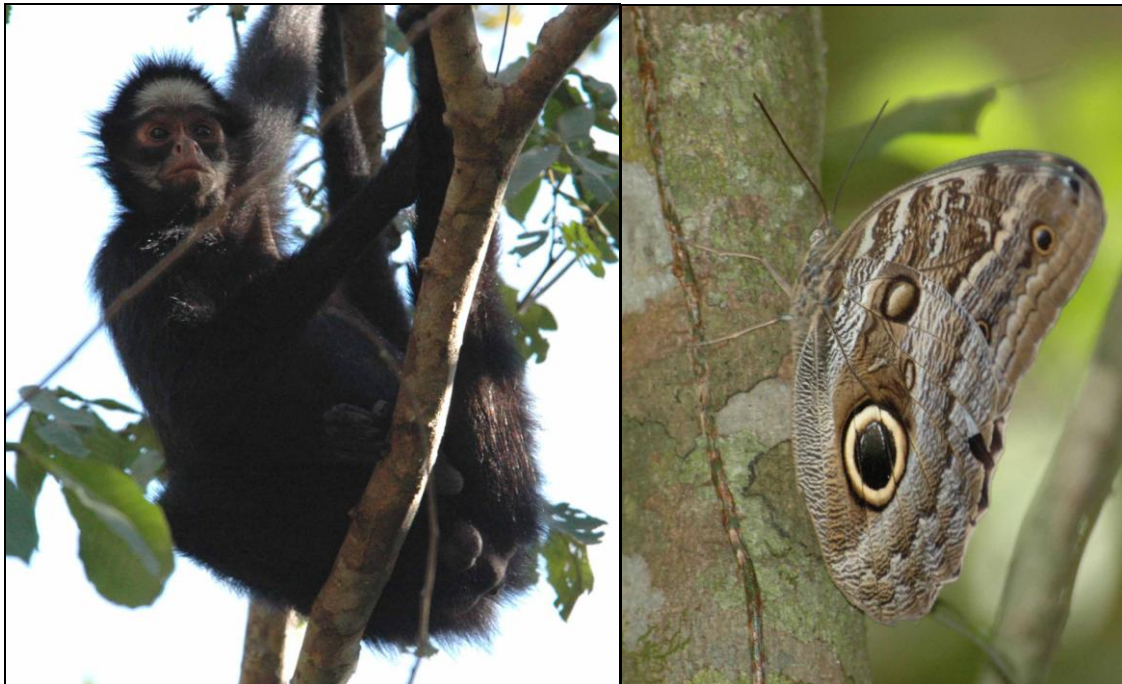
chaotic and departure times and gates seem rather flexible. Local flights from Sao Paulo to Cuiaba were luckily booked with TAM as Varig had just gone bankrupt around the end of June.

For Emas national park we contacted the Pantanal Bird Club through their website: <http://pantanalbirdclub.org/>. At the time, they were the only company that I could find that had a serious track record for this remote national park on the border of Mato Grosso and Goias. They are located in Cuiaba. Theoretically it is possible to visit the park by yourself. But you would still need a permit to visit the park. Obtaining the permit could be time-consuming and you need to speak Portuguese. Going with a tour operator probably saves you a lot of hassle and possibly allows you to visit areas in the park that you would not get access to if you were visiting the park by yourself.

For the Pantanal visit we contacted Natureco (www.natureco.com.br), which is also located in Cuiaba. They can arrange all kinds of tailor-made trips around Cuiaba including Pantanal, Chapada de Guimaraes, Serra de Araras and more or less nearby Amazonian destinations such as Cristalino, Villa Belha, etc.

Cristalino jungle lodge and the Floresta Amazonica Hotel were booked directly with the booking office of the lodge (<http://www.cristalinolodge.com.br/>). We also booked the night bus from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta and the flight back to Cuiaba with Trip Airlines though Cristalino.

Booking and payment with these tour operators/lodges was straightforward and easy. For more comments on the tour operators see also the daily log and in the accommodation section below.



Accommodation

Fazenda Santa Amelia (near Emas national park): nice place with pastures, remnant forest patches, and shady trees directly around the lodge: birdwatching is good. Friendly owners. Food was simple, but well-prepared and tasty. Rooms were large, clean and practical. Overall, a very pleasant place to stay. The only disadvantage is that it is a 45 min drive to the closest park entrance, which results in long days and a lot of driving. On the plus side, mammals and other wildlife can turn up at the ranch and on the way to the park.

Pousada Alegre (Pantanal): beautiful setting in birdy surroundings. The rooms are simple, but practical and absolutely fine. Everything you need is there. The lodge runs several conservation projects (particular, but not exclusively for hyacinth macaws). The lodge has various walking trails that are excellent for birding, but commoner Pantanal mammals can be seen as well. Good birding from the veranda and lodge grounds

itself as well (hyacinth macaws in the trees in front of the rooms). Night drives can be productive for both mammals and birds. Recommended.

Pousada Jaguar (Pantanal): Our room with a disproportionately large bathroom was fine, but the plumbing of the water tap in our bathroom was funny: every time we would wash our hands, we had a minor flooding in the bathroom. A nuisance, however, was the extremely noisy generator. Luckily they turn it off around 11-11.30 pm, although this is still rather late if you want to get up at 4-4.30 am. The lodge is situated directly next to the Transpantaneira (traffic won't bother you here, because there is hardly any). Food was very good. If they would do something about the generator noise, I would revisit this place and stay much longer. The lodge has at least two trails for walking/birdwatching, but most people seem to focus on game drives trying to find felines or other mammals. In the dining room there is an interesting chalk board showing the monthly sightings for the most spectacular mammals in the area. Of the felines, jaguar and ocelot were seen most often in the last few months before our visit (4-5 times each month on average). Anyway, if one would stay here 3-4 nights one is almost guaranteed to have several good mammal sightings. Good birding around the lodge in the morning and evening.

Fazenda Santa Tereza (Pantanal): Good location along the Pixaim river. Rooms and food were good. Good birding directly from the veranda. Just like the other ones, this lodge has also a few trails that are excellent for birds and mammals. Friendly staff and Dindao is an excellent boatman/guide. Night drives for mammals were less productive when we were there, but I don't see why you shouldn't get good sightings here.

Cristalino Jungle Lodge and Floresta Amazonica Hotel: Our stay at this lodge was a bit disappointing, which we had not expected at all considering its excellent reputation. When we arrived, it turned out that there was no bird guide available for us at Cristalino Jungle Lodge despite the fact that our confirmed booking clearly stated that we would get a private customized birding program with an English-speaking guide. When we arrived at their main office at the Floresta Amazonica Hotel, they offered us some messy alternatives, all equally ill-conceived. Slightly annoyed, we decided to go up to the lodge and see how the situation would be over there. When we arrived there, we heard that our appointed non-birder Brazilian guide was not available. He would be available the next day, but a bit later we were informed that he would not be available anymore at all the day after that. Then we were told that our birding trip had been changed into a kind of ecotourism trip with birding included where it would fit the schedule of the guides. It was obvious that they simply had not bothered to make any arrangements for us. At the time there basically were only two English speaking guides, a young American couple who worked there as volunteers. He was an excellent bird guide, but had already been assigned to two American couples. She had to deal with the other clients. Her main interests were butterflies and insects, although her wildlife knowledge in general was actually very good (but it seemed that her heart was more with the "bugs" and a bit less with birds and mammals). Unsurprisingly, there were more clients than guides. Tailor-made packages obviously is a service that the lodge cannot deliver in high season. Apart from that, the lodge itself is excellent: the food is very good, most of the lodge staff and both volunteer guides were very friendly and helpful, both the standard and VIP rooms are excellent and the infrastructure with many trails is outstanding. So, I don't want to bash this lodge, but it would be wise to check with Cristalino beforehand whether you are actually going to get the program you have booked and paid for.

Floresta Amazonica Hotel is an upmarket hotel with nice rooms and good food, but less creative dishes than at Cristalino. Directly behind the hotel grounds there is a remnant patch of rainforest with a few walking trails. Behind the swimming pool, there is a football pitch bordering the forest. Birding the forest edge from here is excellent as you can see many forest birds and scan the sky for raptors. Mammals (in particular agoutis and monkeys) are also often seen at the forest edge in the morning and evening.

Daily Log

Day 1, June 27 : Flight Amsterdam Sao Paolo – connecting flight to Cuiaba

We arrived in Sao Paolo around sunset. From the international airport Guarulhos we took the airport bus to the domestic airport Congonhas, where there was total chaos because Varig had just gone bankrupt. We were glad to have a TAM flight to Cuiaba. After a chaotic check-in, all passengers were transported by bus from the gate to the airplane. When passengers started boarding the plane, TAM realized that this was not the right airplane. Ouch! Back in the bus, transfer to a new gate and onwards to the correct airplane. Upon arrival in Cuiaba it was comforting to see that the luggage had actually been loaded onto the correct airplane. We were picked up at the airport by our guide Braulio Carlos from Pantanal Bird Club. The night was spent at Diplomata Hotel: good breakfast, but noisy (loud airconditioning, busy nightlife and heavy traffic throughout the night). It is an adequate hotel if arriving late as we did. Otherwise I would suggest taking a hotel in downtown Cuiaba.

Day 2, June 28 : Transfer to Emas national park

Next day we were picked up timely by Braulio and our driver Laugio (I hope that it is the correct spelling) in a spacious mini-bus. The transfer to Emas is long: about 10-11 hours of near non-stop driving with a short stop for lunch, a few pee stops and a bit of birding. When leaving Cuiaba for Emas, one passes after an hour of driving through a hilly area with degraded remnants of the original vegetation. Most of the cerrado here has been converted to open grassland for cattle ranching. These areas still hold common open country birds. Shortly before Rondonopolis there is a miniature, but quite spectacular stretch of tablelands that jut out of the otherwise flat landscape. This place is good for birdwatching. We checked this place for birds on the day of our return.

After Rondonopolis the countryside becomes shockingly monotonous; this is an area with endless quadrants of monocrops (mainly soja, sorghum and cotton). Up to the 1980s a lot of the cerrado vegetation was still intact in this area. Within a timespan of 20 years, the cerrado has been nearly completely destroyed by unsustainable agricultural methods. Apart from the habitat destruction this land conversion has created few (long-term) jobs for the local people. Emas national park is a small, but pristine remnant of cerrado habitat. After hours of lifeless monocrop horror, reaching the borders of Emas was a relief. Finally, the wildlife started reappearing again: American kestrel, yellow-rumped marshbird, guira cuckoo, many burrowing owls and the beautiful streamer-tailed tyrant were roadside birds. Along the park border we saw our first Pampas deer.

At the main entrance and ranger station at the southern end of the park, we made a short stop for formalities and did some quick birding. Here we saw many chopi blackbirds, barred antshrike, peach-fronted parakeet, white-rumped and gray monjita. The first of many red-legged seriemas were seen. Emas national park is named after the Greater Rhea (“ema” in Brazilian Portuguese), which was quite commonly seen inside or near the park.

In the late afternoon we drove to our final destination, the Fazenda Santa Amelia, at about 40 min driving from the park entrance. The grounds of the ranch themselves can be very birdy. In the afternoon we had a first taste: blue-and-yellow macaw, chestnut-eared aracari, turquoise-fronted and peach-fronted parakeet were seen among others.

Day 3, June 29: Emas national park (southern sector)

Both for mammal and birdwatching it is essential to be in the park around dawn. Therefore, wake-up time was usually between 4 and 4.30 am. After a quick breakfast we headed off and spotlighted along the park borders. Our first spotlighting morning proved to be very productive with two single tapirs foraging on the agricultural fields adjacent to the park borders. It is bizarre to see these animals in this kind of habitat. A spectacular start nevertheless. Shortly before, we had already seen a group of white-lipped peccaries crossing the road and many Pampas deer along the park border.

When the sun was up, we started birding on foot near the park entrance: bearded tachuri was unfortunately not responding to tape playback. However, we did see among others the following birds: white-vented tanager, white-banded tanager, wedge-tailed grass-finch, cock-tailed tyrant, blue-black grassquit, sharp-tailed grass-finch, plumbeous seed-eater and black-masked finch.

We continued within the park to the Lake of the Capybaras (none were seen). Birding was quite good though along the gallery forest: helmeted manakin, toco toucan, white-bellied warbler, rufous-tailed jacamar, southern yellowthroat, purplethroated euphonia, sooty tyrannulet, burnished-buff tanager, blue-black grassquit and narrow-billed woodcreeper were seen among others. Within the park yellow-faced amazon, turquoise-fronted amazon and peach-fronted parakeet were regularly seen.



We returned back to our lodge for lunch. After lunch we made a short walk around the lodge grounds: in the grassy area in front of the lodge we found no less than 14 burrowing owls with a single scan across the field. Other species seen were red-legged seriema, lineated woodpecker and streaked flycatcher. A large eagle was seen from the edge of the forest remnant on the lodge grounds, but it could not be identified with certainty (possibly a juvenile crowned solitary eagle, see discussion in the trip list).

In the afternoon we went back to the park. Right at the park border we spotted our first maned wolf! What a spectacular and graceful animal. Definitely one of the best sightings of the whole trip.

In the park we drove to a watchtower with beautiful views over a mosaic of scrubby vegetation, open grassland and lush gallery forest along the river. From the watchtower Braulio found a laughing falcon with his scope, unfortunately the only sighting during the trip. Red-shouldered macaws and tame curl-crested jays were other good sightings. The long spotlighting trip in the park was slow in the beginning. Best bird, however, was the highly localized and very rare white-winged nightjar, which was seen hovering over the cerrado. Surprisingly, relatively few nightjars were seen. About halfway the drive we saw a single Pampas deer. Towards the end of the night drive, there were several spectacular sightings: the endemic hoary fox and our first common potoo were excellent, but a giant anteater carrying a baby on his back was unforgettable.

Day 4, June 30: Emas national park (northern and central sector)

Today we would make a very long drive through the park from south to north and back, a round trip of about 200 km. At the lodge ferruginous pygmy-owl was heard and barn owl was seen in the very early morning. The spotlighting drive to the park did not yield any noteworthy sightings.

Shortly after the sun was up, we saw again a maned wolf. Most likely, it was the same animal that we saw yesterday afternoon as it was not that far from where we saw the wolf yesterday. This sighting was even better, allowing us to take pictures and prolonged viewing. Brilliant! From the southern entrance we drove a few kilometers north to the park head office where we saw a pair of bare-faced curassows with one chick on the lawn next to the buildings. A bit further we made a first stop for some birding on foot. We saw many of

the species of the day before again. New species were pale-breasted spinetail, whistling heron and aplomado falcon. Many yellowfaced amazons, an Emas specialty, were seen today.



Mid-morning we reached the northeastern park entrance and continued for some 20 min to reach the largest piece of semi-deciduous dry forest (cerradao forest) within the park. It is beautiful forest with an excellent trail leading through it. It takes about 2 hours to complete the trail at birding speed. This forest held a lot of good birds, but many were quite high up in the canopy. Birds seen included female large-billed antwren, blue dacnis, southern antpipit, grey-headed tanager, flavescent warbler, yellow-olive flatbill, pale-bellied tyrant-manakin, helmeted manakin, a male burnished-buff tanager, a pair of rusty-backed antwrens and Planalto tyrannulet.

After a lunch break at the park rangers's office at the northeastern entry, we left the park and drove along the northern park border to the ranger station in the northwest. This paved road yielded several excellent sightings: red-winged tinamou by the side of the road and a rather suicidal spotted nothura sitting in the middle of the road. We also saw our first vermilion flycatcher, a fairly common, but beautiful bird. Arriving at the gate of the ranger station, we found the gate closed and the ranger not at home. We drove all the way back and re-entered the park again in the northeast. We took the unpaved road inside the park directly parallel to the park fence and the paved road. Apart from hundreds of grassland sparrows and many blackthroated saltators, relatively few birds were seen. However, we received major compensation by seeing shortly after each other a tropical rattlesnake and more exciting an urutu (cross pit-viper). Both snakes were sunning themselves on the road, but fled into the scrub when approached. Braulio and Laugio managed to direct these poisonous snakes out of the grass with help of the tripod. Quite spectacular to see them at work. Once out in the open, both snakes freezed and good pictures could be taken. Both snakes are very beautiful with fantastic cryptic coloration. Definitely an unexpected highlight!



We continued to the outer western reaches of the park, where we found a short-eared owl resting on a termite mound in glorious evening light. A rather uncommon bird here and an excellent sighting. Close by we also found a large flock of grassland yellow-finches, migrants that had just arrived according to Braulio.

During our drive through the park we realized that Emas national park requires patience and perseverance: the mammal and bird densities at first glance appear to be very low, especially from 10am to 4pm. Maybe even more so than in other places, all "action" takes place at night and around dusk/dawn. On the plus side, many of the mammals in the park are spectacular and/or rare. Almost any mammal you will see is special. In addition, there are a large number of bird specialties, some of which are hard or near-impossible to find elsewhere.

Light was now fading and we were slightly disappointed that we had not found a giant anteater in daylight (this day was the most likely day to see them out in the open in daylight in the park, but it was not to be). The spotlight was turned on around sunset, but for a long time absolutely nothing happened (apart from many burrowing owls standing on the road). Not even a nightjar was seen. Suddenly, all hell broke loose when Braulio sighted a giant armadillo digging at the edge of the road. We raced forward and a bit later we were standing within 1 meter of one of the rarest mammals on the continent. Unfortunately, the armadillo had just started digging and his head and front claws were no longer visible, so we could only see about 3/4 of the animal. It is a spectacular animal built like an armoured tank with giant claws. Laugio and a park ranger who had joined us tried to entice the armadillo to turn around, but the animal just kept digging. Within a few minutes the armadillo had made a burrow going at least 1 meter deep into the ground. There was no way we could get this animal out of the burrow. We kept on looking at the incredible digging speed of the armadillo. At one point, it slightly turned around within the burrow allowing for a view from the side, but frustratingly I could only glimpse the back of its head, but I could not see his eyes or snout. Maybe not a perfect sighting, but it was unbelievable to see the animal in full digging action. A bit further on we saw our first couple of crab-eating foxes.

Day 5, July 01: Emas national park : Cone-billed tanager site

Today we visited the site of the recently rediscovered and very rare cone-billed tanager. Emas national park was at the time the only known site for this bird (at least one more site has now been found). Around dawn we arrived at the site: in the beginning things were very quiet birdwise, but after an hour various birds started responding to tape playback. Blue dacnis, yellow-bellied elaenia, olivaceous woodcreeper, rufous Casiornis and glittering-throated emerald were some of the birds seen. Like many tanagers, the cone-billed tanager often travels in mixed flocks. But by 9.30 am all the usual flock members had shown up, but not the tanager. Braulio decided to try again in the afternoon. On our drive back, we saw a six-banded armadillo run away and disappear in a burrow that was half-finished. Again we were looking at the backside of a digging armadillo. Frustrating. On the way back to the lodge we also made a stop at a small lake/wetland created by a small dam. Best birds were pied-billed grebe, little grebe, yellow-chinned spinetail and white-headed marsh tyrant. A few capybaras were seen as well.

Around 4 pm we were back at the tanager site. Endless playbacks of the tanager's calls could not entice the bird to appear. We had also tried several spots further on along the marshy forest, but to no avail. So, we decided to give it another try tomorrow morning before going back to Cuiaba. Nevertheless, many birds were seen today including helmeted manakin, burnished-buff tanager, fawn-breasted tanager, southern yellowthroat, white-rimmed warbler, white-bellied warbler, rusty-backed spinetail, red-shouldered macaw, toco toucan and pale-bellied thrush.

Day 6, July 02 : Return to Cuiaba – overnight Cuiaba

At sunset we were back again at the tanager site. A single collared peccary was seen at park border. Quite quickly, the mixed flock, in which the tanager usually is seen, started to appear. A glimmer of hope came back. But around 10 am we still had not seen or heard anything resembling the "phantom tanager". We decided to give up, because we still had to go back a long way. Of course, there was some disappointment about missing the tanager, but with maned wolf, two tapirs, giant armadillo, giant anteater and a good amount of Emas bird specialties in the bag, it would be silly to complain.

During the drive back to Cuiaba we stopped at the tablelands near Rondonopolis. This proved to be an excellent birding spot. Biggest attraction was the presence of at least 5 horned screamers. Other trip ticks

were white-lined tanager, grey hawk, red-and-green macaw, blue-winged parrotlet, double-collared seedeater and Brazilian duck. In the early evening we arrived in Cuiaba and were dropped off at Hotel Los Angeles opposite the bus station. The hotel is cheap, acceptably clean, but completely lacking in character. We said goodbye to Braulio and Laugio and thanked them for a wonderful trip.

Day 7, July 03: Transfer to Pantanal – Pouso Alegre

Next morning we were picked up by Markus and Munir from Natureco. I had made all the arrangements with Munir, the manager of Natureco. So it was nice to see that Munir had come along to have a quick chat. Markus would be our guide for the trip. Within a few minutes we were on our way to the Pantanal.

Right after Poconé, the bird density started to increase exponentially. Some 10 km after Poconé, there is the entrance to the Transpantaneira. Even within a few kilometers, we had already ticked off all stork species, a good selection of herons and ibisses, limpkin and unimaginable numbers of snail kites. Good birds kept on coming: sunbittern, southern screamer, green ibis, and the beautiful scarlet-headed blackbird.



We checked in at Pouso Alegre, a lovely place with varied surroundings, excellent for birding. Around the lodge is grassland, open woodland, small pools, bushes and a few large shallow lagoons that were bursting with caimans, capybaras and many water birds. Some 300 meter from the lodge, there was a big lagoon with countless great white egret and snowy egret. In addition, roseate spoonbill, jabiru, maguari stork, rufescent tiger heron, limpkin, striated heron, black-collared hawk and large-billed tern were seen flying in and out to feed. In the adjacent trees and vegetation there were roosting wood storks and black-crowned night herons. Around dusk, nacunda nighthawks would show up hawking over the lagoon. Hyacinth macaws can be seen from the veranda of the lodge at almost any time of the day. However, larger gatherings of 10-15 of the macaws were only seen in the morning.

Day 8, July 04: Pantanal – Pouso Alegre

We made a dawn walk exploring the area around the lodge. A sunbittern showing its spectacular wing pattern was seen on the edge of a pool close to the lodge. Other new birds were red-billed scythebill, orange-backed troupial, black-crowned tityra and an adult great black hawk. A nest of a rufescent tiger-heron in an open tree at eye level next to the road was seen about 250 meters from the lodge. The adult and two juveniles (still in down) were all three holding their heads up trying to look like branches (similar to bitterns). Amazing sight. A small group of black-striped tufted capuchin monkeys was feeding in a tree behind the lodge. Many capybaras were seen in the wetland near the lodge and on the Transpantaneira.

Later in the morning we made a horse ride seeing the following new species: black-backed water tyrant, little blue heron, yellowish pipit, white-browed blackbird and unicolor blackbird. A female marsh deer could be approached up to 10m. The animal remained alert, but did not run away.

The afternoon walk was fairly quiet. Best species were chestnut-bellied guan, greater thornbird and baywinged cowbird. However, the spotlighting trip was quite entertaining with 3 coatis, 3 crab-eating foxes, 2 red brocket deer, a common potoo and many pauragues.



Day 9, July 05 : Pantanal – Jaguar Lodge

A quick look around around the lodge in the early morning resulted in chotoy spinetail and red-throated piping-guan. The amount of herons, storks, spoonbills and ibises at the lagoon near the lodge was even more impressive than the day before. I almost stumbled over a fearless immature rufescent tiger-heron behind me when I was taking a picture of the bird-filled lagoon.

We continued on the Transpantaneira southwards. Underway we saw black howler monkey, marsh deer and red brocket deer. Best was a black-morph jaguarundi that crossed the road some 10 meters in front of our car. It immediately ran for cover, but it stopped just long enough at the edge of the bushes to allow us a look at its slender appearance and rather unusually shaped head. A stop for black-tailed marmoset also produced a male blue-crowned trogon and striped cuckoo.

Around 11 am we reached the Pousada Jaguar. We relaxed a bit until lunch and then made an afternoon walk through the forest trail behind the pousada. Birding was rather poor (probably much better in the morning), but we did see pale-legged hornero, silver-beaked tanager and grey-headed tanager. Laughing falcon was heard but not seen. After the forest walk we made a short walk across the Transpantaneira. We saw (among others) black-striped capuchin monkey, black howler monkey, crab-eating fox, saffron finch, straight-billed woodcreeper, greater thornbird, nesting golden-collared macaw! and a few hyacinth macaws (that visit the palm stands next to the pousada every evening).

We also made the night drive with the faint hope of seeing one of the cats. We failed and there was hardly any mammal activity at all that night, but we did see red brocket deer, ferruginous pygmy-owl and best of all a great potoo. The great potoo was not mimicking a branch for a change. The bird was active and sitting upright giving it a more owl-like appearance. Fantastic!

Day 10, July 06: Pantanal – Santa Tereza lodge

In the morning we drove down further south on the Transpantaneira towards Campo Jofre, a very flat and open area of fields that become seasonally flooded. When we were there, the area was still completely flooded. Conditions were quite good for ducks and herons, but not for waders. The scenery was very beautiful, but few new birds were seen: whitefaced whistling duck, rusty-collared seedeater and grey-breasted martin.

After breakfast we went back north towards the Fazenda Santa Tereza. The drive was rather uneventful. At the lodge we immediately had two new birds at the feeding station in front of the rooms: giant cowbird and shiny cowbird. Other regular visitors were yellow-billed cardinals and saffron finches. Across the river I spotted another little blue heron.

In the afternoon we would make the first of three boat trips. Our first trip went downstream. Besides Markus, the local boatman/guide called Dindao joined us. He was very good: excellent in approaching the birds and knowing all the right spots along river. The vegetation along the river is lush and dense with lots of vines and entangled vegetation. There was an amazing density of kingfishers: ringed, amazon and green kingfisher seemed omnipresent. Green-and-rufous kingfisher and pygmy kingfisher were seen as well, but always in flight. A little blue heron was flushed. Anhingas and neotropical cormorants were plentiful along this river stretch. The first highlight was a sungrebe. It was seen in the middle of the river, but it immediately swam towards the dense vegetation. Luckily there was just enough time to have a good look at the bird and we could even take a (poor) picture. As we continued, the river got narrower and narrower. At the point where we could not really continue with our motorized boat, we encountered a small colony of boat-billed herons, juveniles and adults. The bill is just as amazing as you imagine it would be. I was so engaged looking at the herons that I nearly forgot about the spectacular cattle egret roost opposite the roosting boat-billed herons. After enjoying the shy herons and the cattle egrets for a while, we went back upstream. Already in high spirits with good sightings of sungrebe and boat-billed heron, I was expecting a relaxed and uneventful ride back, but first we found a juvenile boat-billed heron and grey-necked wood-rail together other out in the open. Not very far from the lodge, there is an area with dense, lush vegetation floating on the river and Dindao had told us that we might get lucky with a special bird there. When we approached the area, I saw in a dark corner a large heron and unbelievably it proved to be the near-mythical (for me at least) agami heron. When the bird saw us, it flew up immediately, but amazingly it landed in an even better spot right out in the open and simply remained there. Excellent views were had by all and I could even take some pictures (albeit in very poor light at dusk). Unforgettable! Near the lodge a small group of band-tailed nighthawks crossed above our heads.

Day 11, July 07 : Pantanal – Santa Tereza lodge

This morning we decided to go downstream on the river again, but this time we would take a canoe hoping that a more silent and stealthy approach would result in better views of the agami heron or other goodies. The canoe definitely proved to be an advantage to look for small birds. We had good views of band-tailed antbird and great antshrike in the thick riverine vegetation. Two sungrebes were seen this time. With the canoe we could peddle further down the river than with the boat. Here we found more boat-billed herons in the gallery forest. Another pale-legged hornero and no less than four grey-necked woodrails were seen. Unfortunately, the agami heron did not show for a second time. In the late morning we birded around the lodge resulting in 5 hyacinth macaws (a less common sighting here), golden-green woodpecker and the beautiful black-hooded parakeets (a.k.a. Nanday parakeet).

In the afternoon we went upstream to see giant river otters. The river is much wider here and the boat has to go at high speed, because the otters are quite far away. Nevertheless, good birds were seen: sunbittern, sungrebe, five species of kingfisher, red-throated piping guan and chestnut-bellied guan. Mammals seen included capybara, black-and-gold howler monkey and of course the giant river otters. The encounter with the otters was somewhat disappointing. They have learned the otters to jump on the edge of the boat and beg for fish, which makes it a bit of a circus attraction. Luckily, we could see the otters both on land and in the water (giving one a good idea of their rather massive size).

In the evening we made another night drive: the mammals were largely absent apart from a single brocket deer and a Brazilian rabbit. There were many nightjars around: I managed to get very good views of a male scissor-tailed nightjar in full plumage. Many paraques and several spot-tailed nightjars and little nightjars

were around Several smaller nightjars/nighthawks remained unidentified, but we were pretty sure that we had seen lesser nighthawk as well.

Day 12, July 08: Morning in the Pantanal –transfer to Cuiaba –night bus to Alta Floresta

Today would be our last morning in the Pantanal. Close to the lodge is riverine forest that is seasonally flooded. When we were there, most of the ground was dry. The birding proved to be very good: little, golden-green and pale-crested woodpeckers were seen. A smashing male blue-crowned trogon was sitting out in the open on the trail. Many small birds were around as well: pearly vented tody-tyrant, ashy-headed greenlet, chestnut-vented conebill, planalto hermit, reddish hermit, rufous casiornis, plain tyrannulet, yellow-olive flycatcher and masked gnatcatcher. Furthermore, buff-throated and narrow-billed woodcreeper, rufous-tailed jacamar and several tanagers. In the forest, we obviously walked quietly enough to actually see two undulated tinamou. Pleased with the good birding we were about to leave the forest, when Dindao spotted a tamandua! It was right down at eye level clinging to a palm tree. When it saw us it climbed very slowly and seemingly unimpressed one meter higher. We could approach the animal up to 4 meters without getting a response from the animal, but we stayed at about 5-6 meters, which was more than close enough to get decent pictures.



After lunch Markus drove us back to Cuiaba. On the Transpantaneira we saw a green iguana, a tegu lizard, quite a few capaybaras, and surprisingly 2 or maybe 3 truly wild giant river otters and a possible Neotropical otter.

We arrived in Cuiaba in the late afternoon, where we checked in for the night bus to Alta Floresta. Good service and good chairs with ample leg space. Minor disadvantage is that the bus stops about every hour to load and unload passengers, so light sleepers will not sleep much during the night.

Day 13, July 09: Arrival at Alta Floresta – transfer to Cristalino Jungle Lodge (CJL)

We arrived around 6.45 am at Alta Floresta bus station where a driver from the Floresta Amazonica Hotel picked us up. After we had taken breakfast, we were driven to the boat landing and transported to the lodge by boat. During the boat ride we saw two Neotropical otters and several bare-faced curassows. Many

swallow species were racing just above the water, including the attractive white-winged swallows and white-banded swallows.

The first real activity was in the afternoon: we were assigned to the female volunteer guide, because her partner was occupied with other clients. We hiked up to the canopy tower with a detour along the Figueiras trail. Birding was quite good and the views over the canopy are breathtaking. Best birds were the incredible spangled cotinga, flame-crowned tanager, black-girdled barbet, Cuvier's toucan, Amazonian oropendola and a bunch of psittacidae including red-fan parrot, Kawall's parrot and blue-headed parrot.

Day 14, July 10: Cristalino Jungle Lodge

The next morning I was lucky enough to be able to join two very friendly American couples that were on a birding holiday as well. On the trail next to the dining room we found a blackish nightjar. A good start. We visited the Serra Trail, passing along a forested ridge with (semi)deciduous forest. In the forest the birding was quite slow, but once up the ridge lots of birds were seen: rufous-winged antwren, thick-billed euphonia, paradise jacamar, striolated puffbird, pied puffbird and white-browed purplethroat were some of the goodies seen. Best of all was a couple of purple-throated cotingas that showed up in the tree right next to the viewing point on the trail. Everybody had good views of both male and female. In the sky we found greater yellow-headed vulture, double-toothed kite, swallow-tailed kite, 3 king vultures and a good selection of swifts including Chapman's, pale-rumped, white-collared, gray-rumped and short-tailed swift. My girlfriend had not been feeling well, so she had taken a more relaxing walk at the Caja Trail seeing Spix's guan and cryptic forest falcon.



Just before lunchtime I heard a lot screaming and squealing in the forest. My partner and I grabbed our photo and video cameras and we raced towards the noise. A group of spider monkeys seemed to have a dispute with capuchin monkeys not far from our rooms. Eventually the much more aggressive spider monkeys managed to chase off the capuchin monkeys. Feeling victorious and charged with adrenaline, they now turned their attention to us. First they just screamed and rattled the branches, but because the terrestrial monkeys wouldn't move they switched to throwing reasonable big branches at us. I managed to impress the pack leader for a minute with some low grunts and arm waving, but then he regained the initiative by throwing even bigger branches and faeces at us. This worked, we had to step back, but what a brilliant encounter.

In the afternoon, the friendly Alfredo, one of the Brazilian staff, was our guide. He took us on the Taboca trail and explained us about forest plants and their use. We saw more spider monkeys and the quite impressive saki monkeys, but little else.

Day 15, July 11 : Cristalino Jungle Lodge

In the morning we went up the tower again together with a friendly French couple and their son and the female volunteer guide. Birding at the tower was disappointing with little activity. We still did get several good birds though: bare-necked fruitcrow, curl-crested aracari, black-faced dacnis and orange-bellied euphonia. Our guide and the French couple continued to the saleiro with the tree house, but we preferred to stay in the tower. A family of Guyana squirrels in the tree next to the tower provided some entertainment. A decent number of parakeet and parrot species was seen, but otherwise the birding from the tower remained poor.

My girlfriend and I decided to walk the (very easy) Caja trail by ourselves. A male white-tailed trogon was a pleasant surprise. After that we managed to sneak up quite closely to a massive great tinamou, an excellent sighting. A blue-crowned mot mot was heard, but not seen.

In the afternoon we went out again with the female guide and the French family to the Castanheiro trail. The forest is beautiful (it seemed excellent for manakins), but we were treated with eco-tourism chit-chat. Definitely not why I was here. On the way back in the boat we caught a glimpse of a tayra, but it immediately disappeared when it saw us. Overall, a disappointing day.

Day 16, July 12: Cristalino Jungle Lodge

Today was to become much better. In the morning we made a long full-morning excursion to the Cigana oxbow lakes, some 2-3 hours upstream along the Rio Cristalino joined by the two American couples and the male volunteer guide. The trip upriver is very beautiful, especially the area around the oxbow lakes is very picturesque. Main goal was seeing the hoatzins that live there. Many hoatzins were heard, but about 7-8 individuals were actually seen. The birds proved to be rather shy. In another oxbow lake we tried for varzea schiffornis, but were unsuccessful. Major compensation was obtained by seeing the spectacular razor-billed curassow! Three neotropical otters, two capybaras, spotted tody flycatcher, buff-breasted wren, swallow tanager, amethyst woodstar, four! sunbitterns, yellow-crowned amazon, glossy antshrike, bat falcon and about 8 green ibises were other highlights.

In the afternoon I did some relaxed birding along the Caja trail and around the lodge. Best birds: Spix's guan and semi-collared nighthawk. My girlfriend joined a boat trip down to the Teles Pires River seeing an umbrellabird, a juvenile boat-billed heron, and lots of caimans, but no mammals.



Day 17, July 13: Morning at CJL - afternoon at Floresta Amazonica Hotel

Our last morning we were assigned again to the female guide to walk the recently opened Teles Pires trail. It is a beautiful trail with a lot of variation in vegetation and the birding was excellent. Quite quickly we found a stunning male red-headed manakin in the middle storey of the forest. In the crown of a big scrophia tree we spotted Gould's toucanet and black-tailed trogon. About halfway on the trail we stumbled upon a

mixed flock that included silverbeaked tanager, white-shouldered tanager, grey-headed tanager and the beautiful green-and-golden tanager. In the understorey we found ornate antwren and black-faced antbird. In an area where lightning had created an open space in the forest, three woodpeckers were seen: red-stained, yellow-throated and red-necked woodpecker. We were also shown several interesting insects and signs of insect presence. Mammal sightings could have been better: only saki and capuchin monkeys were seen.

After lunch we were transferred back to the Floresta Amazonica Hotel together with both American couples and the bird guide. The drive back to Alta Floresta brought burrowing owl, bat falcon, red-bellied macaw, fork-tailed palmswift, lineated woodpecker and rusty-margined flycatcher. The highlight was without doubt point-tailed palmcreeper in a remnant patch of palm forest.

We arrived at the Floresta Amazonica Hotel in the late afternoon, so we headed out straight away to see the harpy eagle nest that was active that year. Luckily the juvenile was on the nest, gorging himself on a rather big looking prey. We spent some 45 min at the nest looking at this magnificent eagle. We returned to the hotel around dusk and suddenly we stumbled on a large terrestrial bird. Everybody in front of me got rear views, but because I was lagging behind a bit I got lucky with a perfect sideways view of the bird, a dark-winged trumpeter!

Day 18, July 14: Morning at FAH –flight to Cuiaba

Next morning we tried to go to the harpy eagle nest as soon as possible, but it was hard to drag ourselves away from the forest edge behind the hotel. A lot of birds were active: bare-necked fruitcrow, red-necked aracari, white-throated (Cuvier's) toucan, red-necked woodpecker, mealy amazon and magpie tanager were seen among others.

In the forest we were lucky enough to see the dark-winged trumpeter again (very nice, especially because not everyone could see it well (or at all) last evening). We also had good views of a male white-tailed trogon. The young harpy eagle was still there. It was having some last nibbles at his meal before jumping up to one of the branches. In the same tree, a lineated woodpecker was drumming. It was great to have this size comparison, because this not particular tiny woodpecker was dwarfed by the size of the eagle. In the forest we also encountered a group of black spider monkeys.

On the way back our guide found a short-tailed pygmy-tyrant directly at the forest edge. In the air plumbeous kite was seen. We moved to a series of small ponds near the lodge, where at least 10 swallow-tailed kites were hawking around a tree picking leaves from tree and pulling something from the leaves (possibly caterpillars).

Near the pond it was getting too hot and birding started to slow down, but we managed to see yellow-tufted woodpecker and masked tityra. A great sighting was a black hawk-eagle above the forest that was being mobbed by a swallow-tailed kite. We went back to the rooms to pack our luggage. I did so quickly and went for a quick last walk in the forest. Birding was quiet as expected, but I got good views of a couple of dot-winged antwrens, two crested oropendolas and a white woodpecker. I tried to lure in a screaming piha by imitating its call. Surprisingly, the bird came closer and closer and I had some glimpses of the bird, but it was amazing to see how well it could remain hidden despite being only a few meters away. It then managed to sneak out again unseen.

At noon we had a last lunch and then a transfer to the airport. The flight back to Cuiaba had some delay and was rather bumpy with several unpleasant vertical drops in the beginning, but we arrived on time. In Cuiaba we said goodbye to both American couples, whom had been fantastic company during our stay in Cristalino. By coincidence, we ended up seeing Munir Nasr from Natureco again at the airport. The American couples were also going to visit the Pantanal and Chapada dos Guimaraes with Natureco. Munir was so kind to offer us a ride into town to bring us to hotel Amazon, which was very much appreciated. Hotel Amazon is a really nice place to stay, excellent rooms and good breakfast.

Day 19, July 15 : Flight Cuiaba – Sao Paulo and connecting flight back to Amsterdam

Uneventful travel day.

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MAMMALS

Giant Anteater/*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*: seen only once in Emas, but we were lucky to see a mother with a young animal on her back.

Southern Tamandua/*Tamandua tetradactyla*: one spectacular sighting of one in a tree at eye level in forest near Santa Tereza Lodge.

Yellow or Six-banded Armadillo/*Euphractus sexcinctus*: one digging on an unpaved road close to Emas.

Giant Armadillo/*Priodontes maximus*: one digging a burrow on a road inside Emas national park.

Lesser Fishing (Bulldog) Bat/*Noctilio albiventris*: (probably) this species at dusk over the Pixaim river.

Black-tailed (Silvery) Marmoset/*Callithrix melanura*: seen only once near Pousada Jaguar, about 5 individuals.

[Feline (Azara's) Night-monkey/*Aotus azarae infulatus*: one seen very poorly on the Rochas Trail just after sunset].

Brown-tufted Capuchin/*Cebus paella*: quite common near the Cristalino lodge.

Black-Striped Tufted Capuchin/*Cebus libidinosus*: seen on the lodge grounds of all 3 lodges in the Pantanal.

White-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey/*Chiropotes albinasus*: seen about 4-5 times, of which one was an excellent sighting of them out in the open near the lodge.

Black howler monkey/*Alouatta caraya*: seen about 4-5 times in the Pantanal in small groups of 2-8 animals.

Black Spider Monkey/*Ateles paniscus*: Great views of 5 at FAH.

White-whiskered Spider Monkey/*Ateles marginatus*: seen a few times in Cristalino usually in groups of 5-8.

South American coati/*Nasua nasua*: seen only once after dark, group of 3 animals (rufous morph) on the access road to Pouso Alegre.

Tayra/*Eira barbara*: one seen sneaking away quickly from a log on the forest edge at Cristalino. Creamy-coloured head was clearly seen.

Hoary fox/*Dusicyon vetulus*: 2 individuals seen in Emas.

Crab-eating Fox/*Cerdocyon thous*: one sighting of a couple in Emas, three sightings in the Pantanal: twice a couple, once three animals.

Giant otter/*Pteronura brasiliensis*: a group of 7-8 habituated animals on a boat trip from Santa Tereza and 2 or 3 along the Transpantaneira.

Southern river otter (Neotropical otter)/*Lontra longicaudis*: seen several times along the Rio Cristalino

Jaguarundi/*Felis yagouaroundi*: one crossing the road quickly in the morning on the Transpantaneira, but it stopped long enough to see it through the bins for a few seconds, black morph.

Maned wolf/*Chrysocyon brachyurus*: seen twice in Emas, but most likely the same animal.

Brazilian tapir/*Tapirus Terrestris*: two individuals seen at Emas and one from the tree house in Cristalino.
 Marsh deer/*Blastocerus dichotomus*: 4 sightings of individuals in daytime, including a beautiful male, most of them were remarkably relaxed.
 Pampas deer/*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*: fairly common around the southern park border of Emas nationalpark, several individuals seen inside the park.
 Red brocket deer/*Manzama americana*: seen about 5-6 times during spotlighting trip or very early in the morning, mostly seen alone or in couples.
 Grey brocket deer/*Mazama gouazoubira*: seen only once in the Pantanal.
 Collared peccary/*Tayassu tajacu*: a group of about 15 and one single animal in Emas.
 White-lipped peccary/*Tayassu Pecari*: a group of about 20 in Emas.
 Guianan squirrel/*Sciurus aestuans*: a group of 6-7 animals in a tree next to the tower in Cristalino.
 Tapiti a.k.a. Brazilian rabbit/*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*: one seen at Santa Tereza during spotlighting
 Capybara/*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*: less abundant than I expected, but still seen daily in the Pantanal and sporadically in Cristalino.
 Azara's agouti/*Dasyprocta azarae* many at Alta Floresta, quite tame.



BIRDS

Great Tinamou/*Tinamous major* (one seen very well at the Caja trail)
 Undulated Tinamou/*Crypturellus undulates* (heard several times in Emas and Pantanal, two individuals seen well in forest at Santa Tereza)
 [Small-billed Tinamou/*Crypturellus parvirostris* (heard only in Emas)]
 Red-winged Tinamou/*Rhynchotus rufescens* (seen at the side of the paved road at the northern park border of Emas)
 Spotted Nothura/*Nothura maculosa* (seen on the paved road at the northern park border of Emas)
 [Dwarf Tinamou/*Taoniscus nanus* (heard only in Emas)]
 Greater Rhea/*Rhea americana* (common in the fields around Emas, only a few seen in the Pantanal)
 Least Grebe/*Tachybaptus dominicus* (about 8 individuals seen only once at a pond near Fazenda Santa Amelia)
 Pied-billed Grebe/*Podilymbus podiceps* (2 individuals seen only once at a pond near Fazenda Santa Amelia)
 Olivaceous Cormorant/*Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (common along rivers in the Pantanal, daily in low numbers in Cristalino area)
 Anhinga /*Anhinga anhinga* (common along rivers in the Pantanal, daily in low numbers in Cristalino area)
 Great Egret/*Casmerodius albus* (common in the Pantanal)

Snowy Egret/*Egretta thula* (common in the Pantanal)
 Cocoi Heron/*Ardea cocoi* (common in the Pantanal, a few seen in Cristalino area)
 Little Blue Heron/*Egretta caerulea* (rather shy, only a few seen in the Pantanal)
 Cattle Egret/*Bubulcus ibis* (common)
 Striated Heron/*Butorides striatus* (common in the Pantanal, low numbers in Cristalino)
 Agami Heron/*Agamia agami* (one magnificent adult on top of thick vegetation along the Pixaim river)
 Whistling Heron/*Syrigma sibilatrix* (daily seen in Emas in small numbers, a few seen in the Pantanal)
 Capped Heron/*Pilherodius pileatus* (daily seen in the Pantanal and Cristalino in small numbers)
 Black-crowned Night-Heron/*Nycticorax nycticorax* (fairly common in the Pantanal)
 Rufescent Tiger-Heron/*Tigrisoma lineatum* (daily seen in small numbers in the Pantanal, a few seen in Cristalino)
 Boat-billed Heron/*Cochlearius cochlearius* (small colonies along the Pixaim river and one juvenile fishing along the Cristalino river)
 Plumbeous Ibis/*Harpiprion caerulescens* (regular sightings in the Pantanal, low numbers)
 Buff-necked Ibis/*Theristicus caudatus* (common around Emas and fairly common in the Pantanal and around Alta Floresta)
 Green Ibis/*Mesembrinibis cayennensis* (two seen at Emas, about ten individuals in the Pantanal and Cristalino)
 Bare-faced Ibis/*Phimosus infuscatus* (usually in medium-sized flocks, only seen in the Pantanal)
 Roseate Spoonbill/*Platalea ajaja* (uncommon, low numbers, highest count of about 10 birds around P. Alegre)
 American Wood Stork/*Mycteria Americana* (common in the Pantanal, low numbers in Cristalino).
 Maguari Stork/*Ciconia maguari* (daily low to medium numbers in the Pantanal)
 Jabiru/*Jabiru mycteria* (daily seen in the Pantanal varying from 5-40 individuals, about 5 Jabiru nests were visible from the Transpantaneira road).
 White-faced Whistling-Duck/*Dendrocygna viduata* (seen only once at Campo Jofre)
 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck/*Dendrocygna autumnalis* (only a few sightings in the Pantanal)
 Ringed Teal/*Anas leucophrys* (seen once only)
 Brazilian Duck/*Amazonetta brasiliensis* (seen once in the Pantanal and once on the way back to Cuiaba from Emas)
 Muscovy Duck/*Cairina moschata* (several sightings in the Pantanal and Cristalino)
 Horned Screamer/*Anhima cornuta* (about 5-6 individuals near Rondonopolis)
 Southern Screamer/*Chauna torquata* (seen only 3 times in the Pantanal only)
 King Vulture/*Sarcorampus papa* (seen two times, 3 individuals at both times, Cristalino)
 Black Vulture/*Coragyps atratus* (common)
 Turkey Vulture/*Cathartes aura* (common)
 Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture/*Cathartes burrovianus* (low numbers in all visited areas)
 Greater Yellow-headed Vulture/*Cathartes melambrotus* (about 2-3 seen in Cristalino/Alta Floresta)
 White-tailed Kite/*Elanus leucurus* (1 or 2 birds seen daily in and around Emas)
 Swallow-tailed Kite/*Elanoides forficatus* (several in Cristalino and at least 10 in Alta Floresta)
 Double-toothed Kite/*Harpagus bidentatus* (two seen on Serra Trail in Cristalino)
 Plumbeous Kite/*Ictinia plumbea* (one seen well at Alta Floresta)
 Snail Kite/*Rostrhamus sociabilis* (common in the Pantanal)
 White-tailed Hawk/*Buteo albicaudatus* (seen almost daily in Emas)
 Gray Hawk/*Asturina nitida* (only seen once near Rondonopolis)
 Road-side Hawk/*Rupornis magnirostris* (common in cultivated areas and fairly common in the Pantanal and Emas)
 Black-collared Hawk/*Busarellus nigricollis* (quite common in the Pantanal)
 Savanna Hawk/*Buteogallus meridionalis* (common around Emas and Pantanal)
 Great Black Hawk/*Buteogallus urubutinga* (seen about once a day in the Pantanal and few times in Cristalino)
 Crane Hawk/*Geranospiza caerulescens* (one seen very well in Emas)
 [Crowned Solitary Eagle/*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* (at Fazenda Santa Amelia we made an after-lunch walk (without Braulio). Suddenly red-legged seriemas started giving incessant alarm calls. Quickly I realized they were not alarmed by us and I scanned the sky and found a very large raptor. The bird was accompanied (or so it seemed) by a black vulture, which was handy for size comparison. I had good views of the bird, but unfortunately I had left my camera in the room. Back at my room I immediately made notes and a drawing. In the room I also checked *Raptors of the World* by A. Lees and initially I thought juvenile/immature crested eagle, because the bird appeared to be rather whitish from below, but it seemed rather impossible to me to see that species there. In addition, several features did not quite fit my notes and drawings for it to be a

crested eagle. I told Braulio about the sighting, but understandably he reacted skeptical. A bit later we departed from the lodge for our evening drive to Emas. Almost at the same spot where I had seen the bird flying, Braulio and Laugio now saw a huge raptor fly off from the forest edge. Unfortunately, I could not see the bird from where I was sitting. We jumped out of the bus, but the bird had disappeared in the forest. Frustrating. The fact that Braulio and Laugio now had seen the bird as well at least ensured me that I had not been hallucinating. Description of the bird: the bird was very large, definitely one of the larger eagles. Wings were broad and had clear dark blackish tips on the primaries. Across the underwing on the primaries and secondaries, there seemed to be faint barring and the trailing edge of the underwing was clearly dark, but not black. The underwing coverts were/seemed very pale, almost white with only a faint streaking. The body from below (belly, chest, head) seemed mostly off-white with very faint streaking, but darker around the lower belly (almost looked like a dark band, but must have been the thighs). The tail appeared to be white with a clearly visible, but not very strong subterminal band. The tail was relatively short, definitely shorter than the width of the wing. I only got very poor views of the upper parts of the bird but it seemed to be bicolored on the upper wings, paler on the coverts and darker on the primaries and secondaries, but I could only see the contrast, no details (strong sunlight from above). Based on the above I think that the bird must have been a juvenile/immature Crowned Solitary Eagle despite that the bird appeared less buff-colored and more off-white from below and less streaked on the undercoverts and body than shown in most field guides. Comments are welcome.}]

Harpy Eagle/Harpia harpyja (one juvenile at Alta Floresta)



Black Hawk-Eagle/Spizaetus tyrannus (one seen well in flight at Alta Floresta)

Long-winged Harrier/Circus buffoni (seen only twice in Emas)

Laughing Falcon/Herpetheres cachinnans (seen only once in Emas and heard once at P. Jaguar)

Cryptic Forest-Falcon/Micrastur (seen only once by my girlfriend)

Black Caracara/Daptrius ater (only one mediocre sighting at Teles Peres river in Cristalino area)

Yellow-headed Caracara/Milvago chimachima (common around Emas and cultivated areas)

Southern-crested Caracara/Polyborus plancus (common in Emas, Pantanal and cultivated areas)

Bat Falcon/Falco ruficularis (seen several times in Cristalino area and one possible in the Pantanal)

Aplomado Falcon/Falco femoralis (daily 4-5 individuals in Emas)

American Kestrel/Falco sparverius (daily 5-15 individuals in Emas and surroundings, only seen there)

Chaco Chachalaca/Ortalis canicollis (common in the Pantanal)

Spix's Guan/Penelope jacquacu (seen several times in Cristalino area in groups of 2-6)

Chestnut-bellied Guan/Penelope ochrogaster (seen about once daily in the Pantanal)

Red-throated Piping-Guan/Pipile cujubi (two seen at CJL on July 10)

Blue-throated Piping-Guan/Pipile cumanensis (a group of 4 was seen on July 5 en route to the Jaguar lodge and a total of 8 was seen scattered over several adjacent trees during a boat trip at Santa ereza on July 6)

Bare-faced Curassow/Crax fasciolata (seen about once daily in the Pantanal, once a pair with chick in Emas and twice in Cristalino)

Razor-billed Curassow/Mitu tuberosa (one individual at the oxbow lakes in Cristalino)

[Marbled Wood-Quail/Odontophorus gujanensis (heard only in Cristalino area)]

Hoatzin/Opisthocomus hoazin (about 5-10 seen at the oxbow lake in Cristalino area, but many more were hiding in the vegetation)

Limpkin/Aramus guarauna (common in the Pantanal, only sporadic sightings in Cristalino)

Dark-winged Trumpeter/*Psophia viridis* (one individual seen very well in Alta Floresta, I read later that this might have been a habituated or tame bird)

Blackish Rail/*Rallus nigricans* (one seen very well out in the open in a pool at marshy forest in Emas)

Gray-necked Wood-Rail/*Aramides cajanea* (seen daily in low numbers in the Pantanal, fairly shy)

[Ash-throated Crake/*Porzana albicollis* (heard only in Emas)]

[Uniform Crake/*Amaurolimnas concolor* (heard only in Emas)]

Sungrebe/*Heliornis fulica* (a few seen on the Pixaim river during boat trips)

Sunbittern/*Eurypyga helias* (seen with some regularity in the Pantanal and Cristalino, in total about 10-12 different individuals seen)

Red-legged Seriema/*Cariama cristata* (common around Emas, sparse in the Pantanal – still too wet during our visit)

Wattled Jacana/*Jacana jacana* (common, but less frequent and less numerous than expected)

Southern Lapwing/*Vanellus chilensis* (common in cultivated areas)

Pied Plover/*Hoploxypterus cayanus* (two birds on a sandy spit on an island in the Teles Pires river in the Cristalino area)

Paraguayan Snipe/*Gallinago gallinago* (mostly heard and two silhouettes seen in flight at dusk in Emas)

Common Stilt/*Himantopus himantopus* (surprisingly uncommon in the Pantanal during our visit, seen 3 times)

Large-billed Tern/*Phaetusa simplex* (only seen at P. Alegre and Campo Jofre)

Scaled Pigeon/*Columba speciosa* (fairly common in low numbers in the Pantanal)

Picazuro Pigeon/*Columba picazuro* (common in Emas, also seen elsewhere)

Pale-vented Pigeon/*Columba cayennensis* (common around Emas, also seen elsewhere)

Ruddy Pigeon/*Columba subvinacea* (several seen at oxbow lake in Cristalino area)

Plumbeous Pigeon/*Columba plumbea* (common in cultivated areas underway to Emas)

Eared Dove/*Zenaida auriculata* (seen only once at Pouso Alegre)

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove/*Columbina minuta* (seen at Pouso Alegre)

Ruddy Ground-Dove/*Columbina talpacoti* (seen at Pouso Alegre)

Picui Ground-Dove/*Columbina picui* (common)

Blue-Ground-Dove/*Claravis pretiosa* (several seen on the Serra Trail, Cristalino)

Long-tailed Ground-Dove/*Uropelia campestris* (seen only once in the Pantanal)

Scaled Dove/*Scardafella squammata* (quite common in the Pantanal)

White-tipped Dove/*Leptotila verreauxi* (quite common to common in the Pantanal)

Gray-fronted Dove/*Leptotila rufaxilla* (quite common to common in the Pantanal)

Hyacinth Macaw/*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* (seen at all 3 lodges in the Pantanal, but best at Pouso Alegre and Pousada Jaguar)



Blue-and-Yellow Macaw/*Ara ararauna* (common in Emas and CJL)
Scarlet Macaw/*Ara macao* (common in CJL)
Red-and-Green Macaw/*Ara chloroptera* (a few seen near Rondonopolis and one bird flying in Cristalino area)
Chestnut-fronted Macaw/*Ara severa* (several sightings in Cristalino area)
Golden-collared Macaw/*Propyrrhura auricollis* (seen only once in the Pantanal near Pousada Jaguar, two adult birds nesting with a young bird peeking out of the hole in the nesting tree)
Red-bellied Macaw/*Orthopsittaca manilata* (only seen in Alta Floresta)
Red-shouldered Macaw/*Diopsittaca nobilis* (quite common in Emas)
Blue-crowned Parakeet/*Aratinga acuticaudata* (one sighting in the Pantanal of 2 birds on July 4)
White-eyed Parakeet/*Aratinga leucophthalmus* (seen at least once in Emas and quite common at CJL)
Peach-fronted Parakeet/*Aratinga aurea* (common at Emas and quite common in the Pantanal)
Nanday (black-hooded) Parakeet/*Nandayus nenday* (one sighting of 4 birds at Santa Tereza Lodge)
Crimson-bellied Parakeet/*Pyrrhura rhodogaster* (seen several times in CJL)
Painted Parakeet/*Pyrrhura picta* (seen several times in CJL from the tower)
Monk Parakeet/*Myiostitta monachus* (most common around Pouso Alegre, but seen throughout the Pantanal)
Dusky-billed Parrotlet/*Forpus sclateri* (most easily seen at the boat jetty of CJL)
Blue-winged Parrotlet/*Forpus xanthopterygius* (one sighting of a small group near Rondonopolis)
Golden-chevroned Parakeet/*Brotogeris chiriri* (seen daily in low numbers in the Pantanal)
Golden-winged Parakeet/*Brotogeris chrysopterus* (few sightings in the Pantanal and Cristalino)
White-bellied Parrot/*Pionites leucogaster* (several sightings at Cristalino)
Blue-headed Parrot/*Pionus menstruus* (seemingly common in Cristalino and Alta Floresta area)
Scaly-headed Parrot/*Pionus maximiliani* (only one sighting in the Pantanal on the grounds of Sta Tereza lodge)
Yellow-faced Amazon/*Amazona xanthops* (Emas speciality, seen daily in small to medium numbers, 2-10 birds)
Turquoise-fronted Amazon/*Amazona aestiva* (quite common in Emas and Pantanal)
Yellow-crowned Amazon/*Amazona ochrocephala* (one sighting of 4 birds in Cristalino area)
Orange-winged Amazon/*Amazona amazonica* (seen twice in frustrating fly-overs in the Pantanal)
Mealy Amazon/*Amazona farinosa* (common at Alta Floresta)
Kawall's Amazon/*Amazona kawalli* (one mediocre sighting from the tower in Cristalino of 4 birds flying)
Red-fan Parrot/*Deroptyus accipitrinus* (seen twice very well from the tower in Cristalino)
Squirrel Cuckoo/*Piaya cayana* (seen about once in every 2-3 days in all visited areas)
Smooth-billed Ani/*Crotophaga ani* (common especially in cultivated areas)
Greater Ani/*Crotophaga major* (to my surprise seen only once in Cristalino)
Guira Cuckoo/*Guira guira* (common around Emas and fairly common in the Pantanal)
Striped Cuckoo/*Tapera naevia* (one seen at Campo Jofre)
[Pavonine Cuckoo/*Dromococcyx pavoninus* (heard only in Emas)]
Common Barn Owl/*Tyto alba* (fairly common in Emas, one seen at the Santa Amelia lodge)
[Tropical Screech-Ow/*Otus choliba* (heard many times in Emas, only seen by our guide Braulio)]
[Great Horned Owl/*Bubo virginianus* (heard only in the Pousada Jaguar area)]
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl/*Glauclidium brasilianum* (one seen in the Pousada Jaguar area)
Short-eared Owl/*Asio flammeus* (one splendidly seen in Emas)
Striped Owl/*Asio clamator* (one seen well just before dawn while spotlighting in Emas)
Great Potoo/*Nyctibius grandis* (one seen in the Pousada Jaguar area)
Common Potoo/*Nyctibius griseus* (seen twice, one in Emas and one in the Pantanal)
Semi-collared Nighthawk/*Lurocalis semitorquatus* (two seen on the grounds of Cristalino Lodge)
[Lesser Nighthawk/*Chordeiles acutipennis* (several seen at Sta. Tereza seemed to be this species)]
Band-tailed Nighthawk/*Nyctiprogne leucopyga* (at least 4 seen on the Pixaim river near Sta Tereza Lodge)
Nacunda Nighthawk/*Podager nacunda* (seen throughout the Pantanal, but most at Pouso Alegre)
Pauraque/*Nyctidomus albicollis* (the most common nightjar on roads in the Pantanal, also seen in Emas and Cristalino).
Ocellated Poorwill/*Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* (one poor sighting at Cristalino).
Spot-tailed Nightjar/*Caprimulgus maculicaudatus* (several seen during spotlighting trip at Santa Tereza).
Blackish Nightjar/*Caprimulgus nigrescens* (one seen very well at Cristalino lodge just after dawn).
White-winged Nightjar/*Caprimulgus candicans* (a few seen during spotlighting in Emas).
Little Nightjar/*Caprimulgus parvulus* (at least one during a night drive at Sta. Tereza)
Scissor-tailed Nightjar/*Hydropsalis torquata* (one seen very well with tail-streamers during spotlighting trip at Santa Tereza).

White-collared Swift/*Streptoprocne zonaris* (5 seen from the car driving back to Cuiaba)
 Chapman's Swift/*Chaetura chapmani* (at least 5 seen from the Serra Trail in Cristalino)
 Gray-rumped Swift/*Chaetura cinereiventris* (several seen from the Serra Trail in Cristalino)
 Pale-rumped Swift/*Chaetura egregia* (common in Cristalino area)
 Short-tailed Swift/*Chaetura brachyuran* (several seen from the Serra Trail in Cristalino)
 Fork-tailed Palm-Swift/*Tachornis squamata* (one in the Pantanal and five in Alta Floresta area)
 Planalto Hermit/*Phaetornis pretrei* (one in Emas and one, possibly two, in the Pantanal)
 Reddish Hermit/*Phaetornis ruber* (one seen in the Pantanal, one heard at Alta Floresta)
 Swallow-tailed Hummingbird/*Campylopterus macrourus* (seen daily at Emas)
 White-vented Violetear/*Colibri serrirostris* (a few seen daily in Emas)
 Black-throated Mango/*Anthracothonax nigricollis* (a few seen daily in Cristalino)
 Fork-tailed Woodnymph/*Thalurania furcata* (seen twice in Cristalino area)
 Versicolored Emerald/*Agyrtria versicolor* (seen twice in Emas)
 Glittering-throated Emerald/*Polyerata fimbriata* (seen twice in Emas)
 Amethyst Woodstar/*Calliphlox amethystine* (one in Cristalino area)
 Black-tailed Trogon/*Trogon melanurus* (seen twice in cristalino area, one male and one female, respectively)
 White-tailed Trogon/*Trogon viridis* (one male at Alta Floresta and one male at Cristalino)
 Blue-crowned Trogon/*Trogon curucui* (one male seen near Pousada Jaguar and one male on the forest trail at Santa Tereza)
 Ringed Kingfisher/*Ceryle torquata* (common in the Pantanal, several in Cristalino)
 Amazon Kingfisher/*Chloroceryle amazona* (common in the Pantanal, daily in Cristalino)
 Green Kingfisher/*Chloroceryle americana* (fairly common in the Pantanal, daily in Cristalino)
 Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher/*Chloroceryle inda* (can be hard to see well, seen a few times in the Pantanal)
 Pygmy Kingfisher/*Chloroceryle aenea* (seemed even harder to find, seen twice in the Pantanal)
 Rufous-tailed Jacamar/*Galbula ruficauda* (once in Emas and occasionally in the Pantanal and Cristalino)
 Paradise Jacamar/*Galbula dea* (three sightings in Cristalino)
 [Blue-crowned Motmot/*Momotus momota* (heard only in Cristalino)]
 Pied Puffbird/*Notharchus tectus* (one on the Serra Trail, Cristalino)
 Striolated Puffbird/*Nystalus striolatus* (one on the Serra Trail, Cristalino)
 Black-fronted Nunbird/*Monasa nigrifrons* (fairly common in all three areas)
 [White-fronted Nunbird/*Monasa morphoeus* (one possible sighting at Cristalino, bird in flight)]
 Swallow-wing Puffbird/*Chelidoptera tenebrosa* (fairly common in the CJL area, several residing at the lodge grounds)
 Black-girdled Barbet/*Capito dayi* (seen twice at Cristalino, once from the tower and once on the Teles Pires trail)
 Chestnut-eared Aracari/*Pteroglossus castanotis* (seen in all areas visited, quite common)
 Red-necked Aracari/*Pteroglossus bitorquatus* (one at Alta Floresta)
 Curl-crested Aracari/*Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* (several from the tower in Cristalino)
 Gould's Toucanet/*Selenidera gouldii* (one on the Teles Pires trail, CJL)
 Yellow-ridged (Channel-billed) Toucan/*Ramphastos vitellinus* (one seen from the tower in CJL)
 White-troated (Cuvier's) Toucan/*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri* (one seen at FAH)
 Toco Toucan/*Ramphastos toco* (quite common in Emas and Pantanal)



[White-wedged Piculet/*Picumnus albosquamatus* (heard several times, but seen only once in flight and not very well)]

Campe Flicker/*Colaptes campestris* (quite common in Emas, not seen in the Pantanal)

Green-barred Woodpecker/*Colaptes melanochloros* (quite common around Pouso Alegre lodge)

Yellow-throated Woodpecker/*Piculus flavigula* (one on the Teles Pires trail)

Golden-green Woodpecker/*Piculus chrysochloros* (seen twice on forest trail near Santa Teraza lodge)

Pale-crested Woodpecker/*Ceuleus lugubris* (one seen on the forest trail near Santa Teraza lodge)

Lineated Woodpecker/*Dryocopus lineatus* (one at Fazenda Santa Amelia, one at Pantanal, several around Alta Floresta)

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker/*Melanerpes cruentatus* (5 individuals seen in Alta Floresta at water ponds near the hotel)

White Woodpecker/*Melanerpes candidus* (best sighting was a group of 9 birds in one tree at Fazenda Santa Amelia, occasional sightings in the Pantanal and one at Alta Floresta)

[Little Woodpecker/*Veniliornis passerinus* (one almost certain sighting near P. Alegre, but ID not 100%)]

Red-stained Woodpecker/*Veniliornis affinis* (common in Cristalino area)

Crimson-crested Woodpecker/*Campephilus melanoleucos* (quite common in the Pantanal)

Red-necked Woodpecker/*Campephilus rubricollis* (seen twice, once at Cristalino on the Teles Pires trail and once at Alta Floresta near the hotel)

[Collared Crescentchest/*Melanopareia torquata* (heard only in cerradao forest in Emas)]

Great Antshrike/*Taraba major* (at least 4 seen in the Pantanal near Pousada Alegre, at one site we saw two males, of which one male made an incredible hopping display, almost like a jumping kangaroo but also with a suggestion of walking-through-air. Both Markus and I looked at each other in total amazement. I have never seen a bird perform this kind of acrobatic walking-through-air action before. The bird came out of the vegetation jumping really high up from fence pole to fence pole. Unbelievable sight.)

Glossy Antshrike/*Sakesphorus luctuosus* (at least 3 birds at Cigana oxbow lake in Cristalino)

Barred Antshrike/*Thamnophilus doliatus* (quite common in Emas and Pantanal in right habitat)

Ornate Antwren/*Myrmotherula ornata* (a couple seen very well on the Teres Pires trail)

Rufous-winged Antwren/*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* (at least four seen in CJL area)

Large-billed Antwren/*Herpsilochmus longirostris* (3 sightings in Emas and Pantanal)

Dot-winged Antwren/*Microrhophias quixensis* (1 pair seen very well in the forest behind the Alta Floresta Hotel)

Rusty-backed Antwren/*ormicivora rufa* (2 times a couple in Emas)

Black-faced Antbird/*Myrmoborus myotherinus* (1 couple seen well on the Teles Pires Trail)

Band-tailed Antbird/*Hypocnemoides maculicauda* (seen occasionally in the Pantanal and CJL)

Rufous Hornero/*Furnarius rufus* (common in the Pantanal)

Pale-legged Hornero/*Furnarius leucopus* (a few seen in thick riverine vegetation in the Pantanal)

Chotoy Spinetail/*Schoeniophylax phryganop* (only seen 3 or 4 times, most around Pouso Alegre)

Pale-breasted Spinetail/*Synallaxis albescens* (seen once in Emas)

Yellow-chinned Spinetail/*Certhiaxis cinnamomea* (seen once at the small wetland near Fazenda Santa Amelia)

Rusty-backed Spinetail/*Craniolaeca vulpine* (the most common spinetail, seen in all 3 areas)

Greater Thornbird/*Phacellodomus ruber* (several seen in the Pantanal, especially at Pouso Alegre, one sighting in Emas)

Point-tailed Palmcreeper/*Berlepschia rikeri* (a couple seen in palm stands near Alta Floresta reacting to tape play-back)

Gray-crested Cacholote/*Pseudosseisura unirufa* (seen daily in small numbers in the Pantanal)

Rufous-rumped Foliage-Gleaner/*Philydor erythrocerus* (one sighting in Emas on July 2)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper/*Sittasomus griseicapillus* (seen twice in Emas area)

[Wedge-billed Woodcreeper/*Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (one possible sighting in CJL, ID not 100%)]

Great Rufous Woodcreeper/*Xiphocolaptes major* (two sightings in the Pantanal)

Straight-billed Woodcreeper/*Xiphorhynchus picus* (two sightings, one in CJL, one in the Pantanal)

Buff-throated Woodcreeper/*Xiphorhynchus guttatus* (one on the forest trail at Fazenda Sta. Tereza)

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper/*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* (seen twice in Emas)

Red-billed Scythebill/*Campylorhamphus trochilis* (one seen at Pouso Alegre)

Cock-tailed Tyrant/*Alectrurus tricolor* (a couple seen in Emas)

Planalto Tyrannulet/*Phyllomyias fasciatus* (one in Emas in the dry cerradao forest)

Plain Tyrannulet/*Inezia inornata* (one on the forest trail at Fazenda Sta. Tereza)

Amazonian Scrub-Flycatcher/*Sublegatus obscurior* (one at CJL)

Highland Elaenia/*Elaenia obscura* (one sighting in Emas)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia/*Elaenia flavogaster* (seen twice in Emas)
 Small-billed Elaenia/*Elaenia parvirostris* (seen twice in CJL area from the tower)
 Sooty Tyrannulet/*Serpophaga nigricans* (a couple seen very well at Emas near the “Lake of the Capybaras”)
 Sharp-tailed Grass-Tyrant/*Culicivora caudacuta* (seen daily in Emas in groups of 4-8 birds)
 Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant/*Euscarthmus meloryphus* (one mediocre sighting at Emas)
 Sepia-capped Flycatcher/*Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (one was seen on the forest trail at Santa Tereza lodge)
 Southern Antpipit/*Corythopsis delalandi* (only seen once in dry cerrado forest in Emas)
 Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant/*Myiornis ecaudatus* (one seen very well out in the open at the forest edge near Alta Floresta Hotel after tape playback from our guide)
 Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant/*Lophotriccus galeatus* (one seen very well out in the open from the tower at CJL)
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant/*Hemitriccus margaritaceivent* (one at Sta Tereza lodge on the forest trails)
 Common Tody-Flycatcher/*Todirostrum cinereum* (seen in all areas visited)
 Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum* (seen at the oxbow lakes in Cristalino)
 Yellow-olive Flatbill/*Tolmomyias sulphureus* (two seen in the cerrado forest in Emas and one near Sta Tereza)
 [White-throated Spadebill/*Platyrinchus mystaceus* (heard only in Emas)]
 [White-crested Spadebill/*Platyrinchus platyrhincos* (heard only at Serra trail)]
 Vermillion Flycatcher/*Pyrocephalus rubinus* (quite common in the Pantanal and in Emas)
 Drab Water-Tyrant/*Ochthornis littoralis* (one sighting at the boat jetty on the Teles Pires river)
 Gray Monjita/*Xolmis cinerea* (common in Emas, also seen in the Pantanal)
 White-rumped Monjita/*Xolmis velata* (common in Emas, also seen in the Pantanal)
 Black-backed Water-Tyrant/*Fluvicola albiventer* (a few seen in marshes in the Pantanal)
 White-headed Marsh-Tyrant/*Arundinicola leucocephala* (marshy areas, most often seen in the Pantanal)
 Long-tailed Tyrant/*Colonia colonus* (seen everytime when visiting the tower and along rivers in CJL)
 Streamer-tailed Tyrant/*Gubernetes yetapa* (seen only twice in the Emas area)
 Cattle Tyrant/*Machetornis rixosus* (quite common around Emas, Pantanal and Alta Floresta)
 Rufous Casiornis/*Casiornis rufa* (one sighting in the Pantanal and seen twice in CJL area)
 [Grayish Mourner/*Rhytipterna simplex* (heard only)]
 [Sirystes/*Sirystes sibilator* (heard only in Emas)]
 Short-crested Flycatcher/*Myiarchus ferox* (common in all areas)
 Brown-crested Flycatcher/*Myiarchus tyrannulus* (common in all areas)
 Swainson's Flycatcher/*Myiarchus swainsoni* (one sighting in CJL area)
 Great Kiskadee/*Pitangus sulphuratus* (common in all areas visited)
 Lesser Kiskadee/*Philohydor lector* (fairly common in all areas)
 Boat-billed Flycatcher/*Megarynchus pitangua* (uncommon, mostly in the Pantanal)
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher/*Myiozetetes cayanensis* (quite common in all 3 areas)
 Social Flycatcher/*Myiozetetes similis* (seen mostly in the Pantanal)
 Streaked Flycatcher/*Myiodynastes maculates* (one sighting at Fazenda Santa Amelia)
 Variegated Flycatcher/*Empidonomus varius* (seen daily in CJL area)
 Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher/*Griseotyrannus aurantioatr* (seen every time in CJL from the tower)
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher/*Tyrannus savanna* (always seen in CJL from the tower)
 Tropical Kingbird/*Tyrannus melancholicus* (quite common in Emas, Pantanal and Alta Floresta)
 Masked Tityra/*Tityra semifasciata* (seen at CJL and Alta Floresta)
 Black-crowned Tityra/*Tityra inquisitor* (one sighting of a male at Pouso Alegre)
 Red-headed Manakin/*Pipra rubrocapilla* (one male on the Teles Pires trail)
 Helmeted Manakin/*Antilophia galeata* (several seen in Emas)
 Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin/*Neopelma pallescens* (one seen at Emas)
 Purple-throated Cotinga/*Poryphyrolaema porphyrola* (one couple very close on the Serra trail, great sighting!)
 Splanged Cotinga/*Cotinga cayana* (several seen from the tower in CJL)
 White-browed Purpletuft/*Iodopleura isabellae* (one rather poor sighting on the Serra trail)
 Screaming Piha/*Lipaugus vociferans* (heard very often, but seen only twice flashing across an open area)
 Amazonian Umbrellabird/*Cephalopterus ornatus* (only seen by my girlfriend on a boatrip on Cristalino river)
 Bare-necked Fruitcrow/*Gymnoderus foetidus* (one sighting at CJL and one at FAH)
 White-rumped Swallow/*Tachycineta leucorrhoa* (seen only in Emas area)
 White-winged Swallow/*Tachycineta albiventer* (common in CJL and Pantanal area)
 Brown-chested Martin/*Phaeoprogne tapera* (seen only twice, one in CJL and one in the Pantanal area)
 Gray-breasted Martin/*Progne chalybea* (common in CJL and Pantanal area)

White-banded Swallow/*Atticora fasciata* (quite common in C JL area)
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow/*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* (seen in all areas visited)
 Purplish Jay/*Cyanocorax cyanomelas* (seen in the Pantanal on July 3 and 5)
 Curl-crested Jay/*Cyanocorax cristatellus* (seen only in Emas)
 Thrush-like Wren/*Campylorhynchus turdinus* (several sightings in the Pantanal)
 Black-capped Donacobius/*Donacobius atricapillus* (several sightings in the Pantanal and in C JL area)
 [Tooth-billed Wren/*Odontorchilus cinereus* (heard only in C JL)]
 Buff-breasted Wren/*Thryothorus leucotis* (one seen on the trip to the oxbow lakes in C JL)
 House Wren/*Troglodytes aedon* (many seen at Emas)
 Masked Gnatcatcher/*Poliophtila dumicola* (quite common in Emas, a few seen in the Pantanal)
 Rufous-bellied Thrush/*Turdus rufiventris* (common in the Pantanal)
 Pale-breasted Thrush/*Turdus leucomelas* (one sighting of 2 birds in Emas)
 Creamy-bellied Thrush/*Turdus amaurochalinus* (several seen in the Pantanal)
 Chalk-browed Mockingbird/*Mimus saturninus* (a few sightings in Emas and Pantanal)
 Yellowish Pipit/*Anthus lutescens* (a few seen during horse ride at Pouso Alegre)
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike/*Cyclarhis gujanensis* (surprisingly seen only at Emas !)
 Ashy-headed Greenlet/*Hylophilus pectoralis* (two seen near Sta Tereza Lodge)
 Tropical Parula/*Parula pitaiyumi* (surprisingly this bird was only seen in Emas, daily sightings in Emas)
 Southern Yellowthroat/*Geothlypis velata* (this species was only seen in Emas, daily sightings in low numbers)
 Flavescent Warbler/*Basileuterus flaveolus* (only seen in the dry cerrado forest in Emas)
 White-bellied Warbler/*Basileuterus hypoleucus* (daily in Emas, once in the Pantanal)
 White-striped Warbler/*Basileuterus leucophrys* (seen twice in Emas)
 Bananaquit/*Coereba flaveola* (only seen in Cristalino about 4-5 times)
 White-banded Tanager/*Neothraupis fasciata* (only in Emas, daily multiple sightings)
 White-rumped Tanager/*Cypsnagra hirundinacea* (only in Emas, daily multiple sightings)
 Magpie Tanager/*Cissopis leveriana* (one in Alta Foresta, forest edge)
 Gray-headed Tanager/*Eucometis penicillata* (fairly common, almost always in mixed flocks, seen in all three areas visited)
 Flame-crested Tanager/*Tachyphonus cristatus* (3 individuals from the tower in Cristalino)
 White-shouldered Tanager/*Tachyphonus luctuosus* (seen a few times in C JL area)
 White-lined Tanager/*Tachyphonus rufus* (1 pair seen in tablelands near Rondonopolis)
 Silver-beaked Tanager/*Ramphocelus carbo* (common in all areas visited, often in mixed flocks)
 Sayaca Tanager/*Thraupis sayaca* (seen about 4 -5 times in the Pantanal, biggest group 8 individuals)
 Palm Tanager/*Thraupis palmarum* (common in all areas visited)
 [Cone-billed Tanager/*Conothraupis mesoleuca* (not seen!!, the biggest miss in Emas)]
 Fawn-breasted Tanager/*Pipraeidea melanonota* (only 1 sighting in Emas)
 Purple-throated Euphonia/*Euphonia chlorotica* (one pair in Emas)
 Thick-billed Euphonia/*Euphonia laniirostris* (several sightings in Cristalino)
 Orange-bellied Euphonia/*Euphonia xanthogaster* (several sightings in Cristalino)
 Green-and-Gold Tanager/*Tangara schrankii* (at least five in a mixed flock on the new Teles Pires Trail)
 Burnished-buff Tanager/*Tangara cayana* (3 sightings in Emas, one male, one female and one pair)
 Black-faced Dacnis/*Dacnis lineata* (seen twice in Cristalino, one pair at the lodge, one male from the tower)
 Blue Dacnis/*Dacnis cayana* (a couple seen twice in Emas)
 Chestnut-vented Conebill/*Conirostrum speciosum* (this bird was seen by our guide Markus in the Pantanal, but I only got poor rear views)
 Swallow Tanager/*Tersina viridis* (2 different sightings of one male and one pair at at Cigana oxbow lake in Cristalino)
 Grassland Sparrow/*Ammodramus humeralis* (common to abundant in Emas)
 Cinerous Warbling-Finch/*Poospiza cinerea* (one sighting only on the way to Emas)
 Grassland Yellow-Finch/*Sicalis luteola* (one large flock in Emas)
 Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch/*Sicalis citrine* (seemed quite common in Emas)
 Saffron Finch/*Sicalis flaveola* (one pair in Emas and several sightings in the Pantanal)
 Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch/*Emberizoides herbicola* (quite common in Emas)
 Black-masked Finch/*Coryphaspiza melanotis* (one male in Emas)
 Blue-black Grassquit/*Volatinia jacarina* (one pair in Emas)
 Plumbeous Seedeater/*Sporophila plumbea* (common in cultivated areas and Emas area)
 Rusty-collared Seedeater/*Sporophila collaris* (seen only once at Campo Jofre in the Pantanal)
 Red-crested Cardinal/*Paroaria coronata* (seen only a few times in the Pantanal)
 Red-capped Cardinal/*Paroaria gularis* (only in Cristalino along the river, 3 sightings)

Yellow-billed Cardinal/*Paroaria capitata* (quite common in the Pantanal)
 Grayish Saltator/*Saltator caeruleus* (seems rather common in the Pantanal)
 Black-throated Saltator/*Saltator atricollis* (common in Emas, also seen in the Pantanal)
 Crested Oropendola/*Psarocolius decumanus* (fairly common in Pantanal and seen several times in Cristalino)
 Amazonian Oropendola/*Gymnostinops bifasciatus* (one sighting from the tower in Cristalino)
 Yellow-rumped Cacique/*Cacicus cela* (common in the Pantanal and Cristalino)
 Solitary Black Cacique/*Cacicus solitarius* (seen a few times in low numbers in the Pantanal)
 Epaulet Oriole/*Icterus cayanensis* (seen in low numbers in the Pantanal and once in Cristalino area)
 Orange-backed Troupial/*Icterus croconotus* (1-4 daily seen in the Pantanal)
 Unicolored Blackbird/*Agelaius cyanopus* (seen in marshy areas of the Pantanal on July 4 and 5)
 White-browed Blackbird/*Leistes superciliaris* (two seen in a marshy area during the horse ride at Pouso Alegre)
 Scarlet-headed Blackbird/*Amblyramphus holosericeus* (1-2 seen daily in marshy areas of the Pantanal)
 Chopi Blackbird/*Gnorimopsar chopi* (common in Emas)
 Yellow-rumped Marshbird/*Pseudoleistes guirahuro* (only seen in cultivated areas not far from Emas)
 Bay-winged Cowbird/*Molothrus badius* (only seen in the Santa Tereza area)
 Shiny Cowbird/*Molothrus bonariensis* (only seen in the Santa Tereza area)
 Giant Cowbird/*Scaphidura oryzivora* (a few seen at Sta tereza lodge)
 House Sparrow/*Passer domesticus* (common in Cuiaba, did not really pay attention to this species)

IDENTIFIED REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS

Cross pit-viper a.k.a. Urutu/*Bothrops alternatus*: one seen at the northern border of Emas.
 Tropical rattlesnake/*Crotalus durissus*: one seen at the northern border of Emas.
 Common green iguana/*Iguana Iguana*: shy, seen a few times in the Pantanal and once at Cristalino.
 Amazon bark anole/*Anolis Ortonii*: singles on July 9 and 10 (Cristalino)
 Amazonian racerunner/*Ameiva Ameiva*: 1-3 daily at Cristalino
 Spix's kentropyx/*Kentropyx calcarata*: The most common skink at CJL.
 Black tegu lizard/*Tupinambis teguixin*: seen three times in the Pantanal, seen well on July 8 while sunning on the Transpantaneira road. Seconds later the animal was almost deliberately run over by locals in a pick-up truck.
 Pantanal swamp turtle/*Acanthochelys macrocephala*: One on the boat trips at Sta. Tereza.
 Yellow-footed tortoise/*Geochelone denticulata*: two seen in the Pantanal.
 Cane Toad/*Bufo marinus*: about 3-4 seen during the trip.

