

MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS, SNAKES and INSECTS

observed in BRAZIL Nov 4 – 16 2012

Stefan Lithner



Jaguar

Photo Stefan Lithner

Participants on this trip were Olof Persson, and Magnus Levin Särö. The trip was a combined mammal, serpent and bird trip. Our six target-species were Jaguar, Giant Anteater, Harpy Eagle, Maned Wolf, Giant Armadillo and Green Anaconda. Our guide in Brazil was Paulo Boute, Boute Expeditions.

Names and order for mammals follow Duff Lawson; Mammals of the World a checklist.

Nov 4

In the afternoon of Nov 4 we landed at Cuiaba Airport, Mato Grosso and were picked up by Paulo Boute. After a few short errands in Cuiaba we drove south to Pantanal. Already before reaching the gate “Here begins the Pantanal” on Transpantaneira Road, (“Transpant Aheira aqui começa o Pantanal do Mato Grosso”) we passed a road-killed Southern Tamadua.

In the evening about an hour before sunset we turned off the main road and drove towards Hotel Fazenda Pouso Alegre. Along the road we found both Red Brocket Deer and Grey

Brocket Deer, but also South American Coati and Azara's Agouti. Just before entering the yard of the fazenda, we stopped to study and photograph a Red-footed Land-turtle at the edge of the road. Shortly after leaving the turtle we found a Nine-banded Armadillo foraging along the same edge of the road.

After having unpacked our luggage we returned to a water pool just outside the gates of the fazenda. Since the season was dry we encountered several Yacare Caimans here, and also Crab-eating Fox and Crab-eating Raccoon. After dark we had supper and went to bed.

Nov 5

Our guide Paolo was just as anxious to get started as we were, so we all had our alarm clocks set at 04:00. We soon left the fazenda. On our way back to the main road, a Brazilian Tapir crossed the road a few meters in front of us. Also a Forest Rabbit was seen at the side of the road.

We arrived in Porto Joffre, made a quick change from car to medium fast boat. The boat-ride upstream Piquiri River to Piquiri Lodge took a little over two hours. During the ride we saw two Giant Otters and two Black-striped Tufted Capuchins, and also a Southern Tamandua digging in the steep sandy river-bank. Almost as soon as we stopped the boat it climbed the edge and disappeared.



Red Brocket Deer

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Southern Tamandua

Photo © Stefan Lithner

We arrived at Piquiri Lodge shortly before lunch. During lunch we were informed that a Six-banded Armadillo frequently feeds on leftovers from the kitchen. Learning that we were anxious to see it, the personnel offered to call us when it arrived. We had not even settled after lunch when we were called for.

The Armadillo seemed very habituated. It paid no attention to us, and after feeding the animal sought shade in a corner under the arcade of the house.

After lunch we entered the boat again and travelled upstream. We searched for Jaguar along forest edges and along sandbanks on the slow side of river meanderings. On one occasion we stopped to study jaguar-tracks on one of the numerous riverbanks. We saw three Giant Otters, two Black-striped Tufted Capuchins but no Jaguar.

Nov 6

We got up shortly before sunrise and saw two Azara's Agouti on the lawn outside our rooms. After a quick breakfast we stepped into the boat and this time travelled downstream. During the morning our boat driver spotted a False Water Cobra resting on a branch about three meters above the edge of the river.



Six-banded Armadillo

Photo © Stefan Lithner

In the afternoon we travelled upstream again, and saw more Giant Otters, completely undaunted, allowing our boat to come as close as about four or five meters from them. During the afternoon we also saw two Neotropical River Otters, one of them having caught a a Bottom-feeder Fish; *Hypostomus sp.* A pair of Black-striped Tufted Capuchin and Capybaras were also seen during the afternoon..

On returning to the banks in front of Piquiri Lodge, butterflies were numerous. At least six species were present. Four were identified; *Dryadula phaetusa*, *Marpesia Chiron*, *Marpesia petreus* and *Phoebis sennae*. Two more species were photographed.



Giant Otter

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Neotropical River Otter

Photo © Stefan Lithner

Nov 7

We started by going upstream to a turningpoint. Capybaras were present at several sites along the river. The mightiest specimen, as well as a baby we found up here.

After turning we met another boat with another group of ecotourists. A quick exchange of information revealed they had spotted a pair of jaguars, a male courting a female only about 15 minutes downstream.

We arrived about twenty minutes later and found the two animals, the male resting lazily about five meters from the edge of the river and the female about the same distance from the river and about ten meters from the male. The male kept an eye on us even though it did not reveal any uneasiness. We slowly glided as close to him as about ten meters from the edge of the river. At one occasion the male walked over to the female.

After our close study of the jaguars we returned to the lodge.



Jaguar female

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Jaguar male

Photo © Stefan Lithner

In the evening about 23:30 I took a stroll around the lodge and down to the river equipped with my Pettersson D 240X ultrasound-bat-detector and tape-recorder. During 1½ hour I made about 50 recordings on the detector with time expansion 34 seconds long, and transferred them onto my recorder.

After returning to Sweden I analysed the recordings on Pettersson analysis program BatSound 4.1.4. One hundred and fifteen calls were recognized. There were from one to five different calls on each recording. Highest frequency was registered at 117 kHz and lowest frequency was registered at 9,8 kHz. At least ten different calls were recognized. Three of them were recognized as typical hunting-calls. Three of them were recognized as probably hunting-calls. Two of them were recognized as social calls. Two of them were recognized as probably social calls. Two “catching-sequences” were also recognized. Since the abundance of species of bats in this part of the world is very high, and consequently the work in assessing from which species the different calls come from is demanding, there are still very few assessed recordings available for comparison.

Two Crab-eating Foxes were also present in the garden, and half a dozen Yacare Caimans were present around the boats at the river.

Nov 8

In the morning we left Piquiri Lodge with a fast boat and reached Porto Joffre in less than an hour. We entered our car and headed north. On our way to Mato Grosso Lodge we stopped at IBAMBA Research Centre where Paulo knew there was a Giant Potoo breeding, and also some Seba’s Short-tailed Bats. We found the birds and two specimen of the bat were hanging in the ceiling of a shed at the research station.

We arrived at the lodge, checked in and had lunch. After lunch we took a stroll on one of the trails next to the lodge. We saw more Giant Otters, a female Marsh Deer and again heard Black Howler-monkeys were howling closer to us here than on any other place. Unfortunately we did not see any.

Nov 9

We started our drive at 04:30, drove north and turned off towards Jamil's Ranch. The area is known to be good for Ozetlot, Jaguarundi and Giant Anteater among others. About one kilometre before the ranch the country opens and turns into fields with knee-high grass and plenty of ground-termite piles. At dawn, about 05:35 we spotted an animal, about knee-high moving towards the edge of the forest. First suggestion was Jaguarundi, but after a few more moments we glimpsed features hinting towards a Canidae. Comparing and concluding our observations did not lead to any identification.

Another boat-ride outside Mato Grosso Lodge produced more Giant Otters and Yacare Caymans.

After breakfast we left the lodge. Shortly after nine o'clock we arrived at Campo Largo. On the drive from the main road up to the campo and back we saw six or seven Marsh Deer grazing on both sides of the road. We arrived at Canto do Aracuã for lunch. In the afternoon we walked some paths behind the lodge, primarily for birds, but also saw another Azara's Agouti and two Black-striped Tufted Capuchins.



Marsh Deer

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Black-striped Tufted Capuchin

Photo © Stefan Lithner

Nov 10

We got up at 04:30, to be out at five. After some listening before and during sunrise, we had breakfast. We left the lodge and continued towards Cuiaba. We paid another visit to Fazenda Pouso Alegre. On the way down to the fazenda we again saw a Red Brocket Deer, a South American Coati, more marsh Deer but also two Black-tailed Marmosets.

Approaching the town of Jaciara the heavy cargo-traffic was jammed. Vehicles almost every one 26 or 28 meters long were queuing to get through the village. We therefore stopped in Jaciara for the night

Nov 11

This day we spent a lot of time driving. In the middle of the afternoon we were driving towards the entrance of Emas National Park. The weather had not been very good during the day. As rain started to fall more continuously a Seven-banded Armadillo crossed the road at close range.

Shortly thereafter we drove down to Fazenda Santo Antonio do Pontal and checked in. Here we had our first chance to photograph the introduced Cane Toad. About 30 minutes later we

went out to do some afternoon-and dusk-watching. Just outside the park we saw our first Pampas Deer.

A little while later we took off on farm-roads next to the national park and along the edge of the national park. About an hour before dark Olof spotted a Giant Anteater maybe 500 meters away, as it was foraging on termites from mounds on short green grass. It was a great moment. We could not get close enough to take any pictures. On our drive back to the gravel road we saw one Crab-eating Raccoon, two Crab-eating Foxes and glimpsed an animal that might have been a skunk, but could not assess the identification. We finished our day about an hour after dark, returned to our lodge and had supper.

Nov 12

We got up shortly before 04:00 and started our drive at four o'clock. We drove the same route as the previous evening. Again we saw the Crab-eating Raccoon, the Crab-eating Fox and two Striped Hog-nosed Skunks.

After breakfast we drove to the entrance of the national park and picked up a park-guide. Then we continued to Emas Research Centre. On the way a White-lipped Peccary crossed the road. From the research centre we walked to a nearby bridge across Rio Formoso and took a track leading downstream out into the habitat to find some rare birds and a Green Anaconda that was reported here the day before.



Green Anaconda; head Photo © Stefan Lithner



full length Photo © Stefan Lithner

We spent a while looking for the Anaconda before Paulo spotted it. The serpent then was resting full length in knee-high grass vegetation densely interspersed with low and medium high bushes. It was obviously digesting a prey taking advantage of the heat from the sun, increasing bacterial and chemical activities in its interior. Rumours talked about an animal

being “five or six meters long”. It is difficult to estimate the length of an unfamiliar animal in the wild. My estimation indicates that the animal might have been even longer than 6 meters. Photo on the right above, is taken by the photographer standing less than one meter from the head of the animal and Magnus in the far end standing about one meter from the tip of its tail.

On our way back to park entrance we drove some sandy roads and looked for Giant Armadillo. At one section with sandy road-slopes we found several holes, made by Giant Armadillo, but no animal.

Returning to the site where we saw the Giant Anteater we found it again, foraging on termites from termite mounds in a pasture with short grass, by the far side of an arable field only about 300 meters from the farm-road. Paulo instructed us how to cross the field and then approach the animal. We did. This evening we also saw a Six-banded Armadillo. Tapir-tracks were also seen on the arable field.



Giant Anteater

Photo © Stefan Lithner

Nov 13

In the morning we returned to the area around the bridge beyond the research centre, mainly to look for a few rare birds (Cone-billed Tanager and Coal-crested Finch).

We then continued further north in search for Maned Wolf. According to rangers in the park there were at least eight animals in the northern part, and fairly regular observations in the central parts as well. In the central part we found droppings and tracks.

After lunch we returned to the same area. Paulo’s intention was to go all the way up north, to where the Maned Wolves were regularly seen. The afternoon was rather grey and rainy. In the central part of the park a group consisting of between 50 and 60 White-lipped Peccary crossed the road at close range, and six or seven Pampas Deer were also seen in this area.

When we started our drive north, the rain increased. Paulo with great experience of driving in this kind of terrain and in this weather launched a try, but the water level on the road became too high and the car was not equipped for this kind of transports. We had to give up that effort.

About half an hour before sunset we returned to the road where we found several holes made by Giant Armadillo and drove this section but found no animals.

Nov 14

We left our lodge and also Emas National Park before sunrise, this way giving some mammals a last chance. A Marsh Deer was seen next to the road, but no more mammals. We then spend a large part of the day on the road to Sierra das Arraras. On one occasion when we stopped at a petrol-station we found a road-killed Blindsnake.

We checked in at Pousada Currupira d'Arraras after dark.

Nov 15

Before breakfast we walked the area around the lodge. Here Magnus picked up a Guianan Squirrel. After lunch we birded around the lodge. In one of the ponds a Brazilian Radiolated Swamp Turtle swam across. According to rumours the parents frequently brought Capuchin Monkeys to the nest. We did not see any monkeys here.



Harpy Eagle

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Yellow Rat-snake

Photo © Stefan Lithner

During a passage on one of the tracks a Yellow Rat-snake was resting on a trunk of a tree. Towards the evening we drove to Currupira Road and walked to the bridge to look for some birds. On our way back a small or smallish rather slender Armadillo was spotted at the side of the road. In size it was rather similar to the Seven-banded, but the ears did not stick up as long as on the Seven-banded. Our observation however was not adequate to make a positive identification.

Nov 16

We started by returning to Currupira Road before sunrise hoping to find some more birds and mammals, but found no mammals.

On our way to Cuiaba we had a short stop in a forest patch near the Currupira Gas Station to look for Blue-necked Tanager. We did not find the tanager, but found another two Black-tailed Marmosets. We then drove to Cujaba, had lunch and stepped into the Airport.

MAMMALS

Giant Anteater

Myrmecophaga tridactyla

One seen Nov 11 and 12/11 at Emas NP. Two found road-killed well apart from each other on Nov 14.

Southern Tamandua

Tamandua tetradactyla

One seen at the banks of Piquiri River Nov 5.

Six-banded Armadillo

Eupractus sexcinctus

One foraging at Piouiri Lodge Nov 5 and one waddling along the edge of a harvested cornfield just outside Emas NP Nov 12.



Nine-banded Armadillo Photo © Stefan Lithner



Azara's Agouti Photo © Stefan Lithner

Nine-banded Armadillo

Dasypus novemcinctus

One seen near Fazenda Pouso Allegre Nov 4.

Seven-banded Armadillo

Dasypus septemcinctus

One seen just outside Emas NP on Nov 11.

Forest Rabbit

Sylvilagus brasiliensis

One seen at the side of the road near Fazenda Puso Allegre Nov 5 and one seen 16 near Pousada Currupira d'Arraras in the morning of Nov .

Guianan Squirrel

Sciurus aestuans

One seen at Pousada Currupira d'Arraras Nov 15.

Azara's Agouti

Dasyprocta azarae

One to three seen daily in Pantanal Nov 4 – 9.

Capybara

Seen daily in Pantanal Nov 4 – 10.

Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris



Capybara

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Crab-eating Fox

Photo © Stefan Lithner

Jaguar

Two, male and female seen together at the edge of Piquiri River Nov 7.

Panthera onca

Neotropical River Otter

Two seen in Piquiri River Nov 6. One of the animals had caught a Bottom-Feeder fish; *Hypostomus sp.* There are currently 137 species recognized in this genus.

Lutra longicaudis

Giant Otter

Three to six specimen seen daily in Piquiri River Nov 5 – 10, and a group also seen at an oxbow-lake outside Mato Grosso Lodge Nov 10.

Pteronura brasiliensis

Crab-eating Fox

Three near Fazenda Pouso Alegre Nov 4, two seen at Piquiri Lodge Nov 6 and Nov 8, one to two seen at Emas NP Nov 11 – 12 and one seen at Pousada Currupira d'Arraras Nov 15.

Cerdocyon thous

Striped Hog-nosed Skunk

Two seen at Emas NP Nov 12.

Conepatus semistriatus

South American Coati

Two seen along the road to Fazenda Pouso Alegre Nov 4 and one seen here Nov 9.

Nasua nasua

Crab-eating Raccoon

Three specimen near Fazenda Pouso Alegre Nov 4 and one at the edge of Emas NP Nov 11 and Nov 12.

Procyon cancrivorus

Seba's Short-tailed Bat

Two seen at IBAMBA Research Centre, Pantanal Nov 8.

Carollia perspicillata

Black-tailed Marmoset*Callithrix melanura*

Two seen near Fazenda Pouso Alegre Nov 4 and two seen in a Forest patch near the Currupira Gas Station Nov 16.

Black-striped Tufted Capuchin*Cebus libidinosus*

Two seen Nov 5 and one seen Nov 6 along Piquiri River, and two seen at Canto do Aracua Nov 9.

Black Howler Monkey*Alouatta caraya*

Groups heard in Pantanal Nov 5, 8 and 9.

White-lipped Peccary*Tayassu peccary*

In Emas NP one was seen crossing a dirt-road south of the research center Nov 12, and on Nov 13 a flock consisting of 50 to 60 animals was seen in the central part of the park. One specimen was also seen along the main road during transport Nov 14.

Red Brocket Deer*Mazama americana*

One seen near Fazenda Pouzo Alegre Nov 4 and Nov 10.

Grey Brocket Deer*Mazama gouazoupira*

One seen near Fazenda Pouzo Alegre Nov 4.



Pampas Deer

Photo © Stefan Lithner

Marsh Deer*Blastocerus dichotomus*

Two seen along the road between Porto Joffre and Mato Grosso Lodge, Pantanal Nov 8 and about ten seen in Pantanal Nov 10. Largest number was seen along the drive from main road up to Campo Largo where six or seven animals were grazing. One was also seen outside Emas NP in the morning of Nov 14.

Pampas Deer*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*

At Emas NP one female was seen Nov 11 and altogether six or seven were seen in the central part of the park Nov 13.

Brazilian Tapir*Tapirus terrestris*

One crossed the road from Fazenda Pouso Alegre up to the main road Nov 5.

CAYMANS

Yacare Cayman*Caiman yacare*

Regularly seen in Pantanal Nov 4 – 10, a few seen Pousada Currupira d'Arraras Nov 15 -16.



Yacare Caiman

Photo © Stefan Lithner

LIZARDS

The species are listed in alphabetic order for their scientific names, even though common names or “work-names” are placed first.

Collared Lizard *Crotaphytus collaris*
Seen at Mato Grosso Lodge Nov 9. (Det. Paulo Boute)

Iguana *Iguana iguana*
Seen in Pantanal; Pouso Alegre Nov 4, Piquiri River Nov 6 and 7, and at Mato Grosso Lodge Nov 9.

Argentinian Black and white Tegu *Tupinambis merianae*
Seen in Pantanal Nov 6, in Emas NP Nov 12 and 13, and Pousada Currupira d’Arraras Nov 15 and 16.

FROGS and TOADS

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina*
This introduced species was seen and heard in and around Emas NP Nov 10 – 14.



Rhinella marina
Stefan Lithner

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Leptodactylus fuscus

Photo ©

Woodcock Frog (Whistling Frog) *Leptodactylus fuscus*
Heard outside Facenda Alegre in the evening of nov 4, and seen and heard around Piquiri Lodge nov 5 – 8.

Pepper Frog *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus*
Heard outside Pousada Currupira d’Arraras Nov 15.

TURTLES and TORTISES

Red-footed Land-turtle

Chelonoidis carbonaria

One seen and photographed near the entrance of Fazenda Pouso Alegre Nov 4.

Brazilian radiolated swamp turtle *Acanthochelys radiolata*

One swimming across a pond at Pousada Currupira d'Arraras Nov 15.



Chelonoidis carbonaria

Photo © Stefan Lithner

SERPENTS

The species are listed in alphabetic order for their scientific names, even though common names or “work-names” are placed first.

Green Anaconda (Giant Anaconda) *Eunectes murinus*

One seen at Preto River Emas NP Nov 12.

False Water Cobra

Hydrodynastes gigas

One resting on a branch about three meters above the edge of Piquiri River Nov 6.

Yellow Rat-snake (Chicken Snake) *Spilotes pillatus*
One seen at Chapada dos Imatar NP Nov 15.

Blind Snake *Gymnophiona*
Approximately 175 species are currently recognized. One found road-killer in Pedro Preta City Nov 14.

BUTTERFLIES

The species are listed in alphabetic order for their scientific names, even though common names or “work-names” are placed first.

Orange Banded Heliconian *Dryadula phaetusa*
One seen at river bank in front of Piquiri Lodge Nov 5.

Variable Cracker *Hamadryas feronia*
One seen Curripira Road near the bridge across the River. Nov 15.



Hamadryas feronia

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Hamadryas feronia

Photo © Stefan Lithner

Many-banded Daggerwing *Marpesia chiron*
Some specimen seen at the river bank in front of Piquiri Lodge Nov 5 – 7.

Ruddy Daggerwing Butterfly *Marpesia petreus*
Some specimen seen at the river bank in front of Piquiri Lodge Nov 5 – 7.

Cloudless Sulphur Butterfly *Phoebis sennae*
Large gatherings at the river bank in front of Piquiri Lodge Nov 5 – 7.



Marpesia Chiron
Lithner

Photo © Stefan Lithner



Marpesia petreus

Photo © Stefan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Paulo Boute for arranging our trip in Brazil, and also for his ambitious efforts to find all taxa we wanted to see. I also acknowledge Paulo Boute for helping me with names on sites mentioned, as well as verifying data, and Olof Persson and Magnus Levinn for verifying dates and localities for observations.

ADRESSES and LINKS

Report compiler Stefan Lithner: slit@lithner.se

Full report (including birds):

<http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/South-Central%20Brazil,%20Lithner%202012.pdf>

Photos from this trip available on: http://www.pbase.com/stefan_lithner

Paulo Boute, Boute Expeditions, Varzea Grande, Mato Grosso: pauloboute@hotmail.com

Home Page: www.boute-expeditions.com