

ITINERARY

RAINFOREST & SAVANNA

ALTA FLORESTA & THE NORTHERN PANTANAL, BRAZIL

June 19 – July 4, 2021



The Chestnut-bellied Guan is a Brazilian endemic which may be easiest to find in the Pantanal. We've gotten great looks at these and other large cracids in the Pantanal and Rio Cristalino areas. Photograph by participant Carol Trovall.

We include here information for those interested in the 2021 Field Guides *Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil* tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

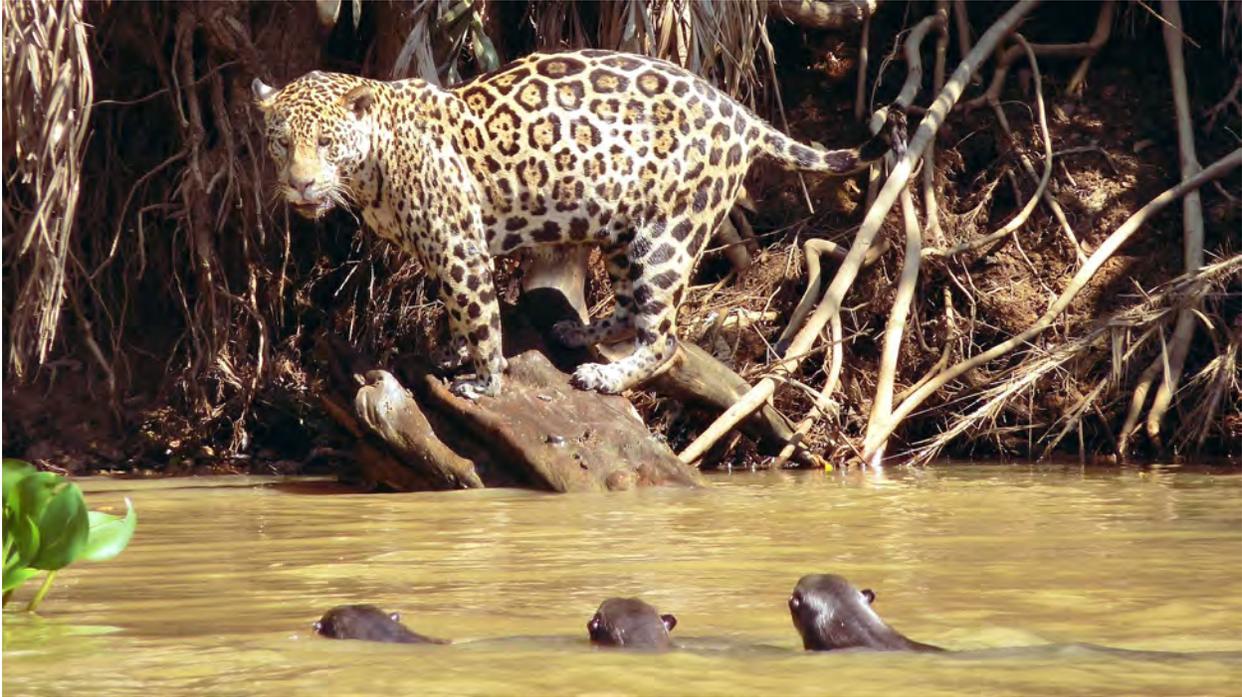
These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

It has been said by some that there are two kinds of people in the world: forest people and savanna people. With that wisdom in mind, and certainly not wanting to leave anyone out, we aim to take you all (well, 10 of you in 2021) birding in two of our very favorite places in Brazil: Alta Floresta, for non-stop forest and sparkling rivers, and the northern Pantanal, a vast savanna/wetland without equal on the continent of South America. We'll spend several days birding at each of them.

Over the years, some of the features of birding tours that clients have told us they enjoy the most have included staying for several days in a single, birdy place; spending most of the day on foot instead of in vehicles; taking time to learn about the natural history and behavior of the birds they see; having regular afternoon periods for rest or birding a

little on their own; and (often mentioned last but almost never forgotten) great food. Your Field Guides leaders like all of these things, too, but it is relatively rare that a tour destination, especially a tropical one, provides the special setting required for the ultimate combination of activities. Hours after arrival at Alta Floresta and the Cristalino Jungle Lodge, you will know that *you are there!* Having unpacked, your clothes and books in handy places all over the room, you will still be deliriously happy because the moving van is delayed another WEEK...there is nothing to do but bird, eat, and sleep!



While we're watching for birds, we'll also keep an eye out for interesting mammals. On a recent tour, we saw this female Jaguar being confronted by three Giant Otters. While we can't guarantee anything this exciting, we have excellent chances of seeing a Jaguar, and probably Giant Otters as well. Photograph by participant Guy Tingos.

Alta Floresta lies just west of Brazil's geographic center in far northern Mato Grosso state, between the upper reaches of the great Tapajos and Xingu rivers. Here in the depths of southern Amazonia, based primarily in a single comfortable forest lodge on the beautiful Rio Cristalino, we'll immerse ourselves in one of the richest avifaunas on the globe. A visit to Alta Floresta is a birding experience of the highest order, for here, we are based directly in the forest, with trails and the beautiful river just out our doorstep. And two wonderful canopy towers make all the canopy specialties here much easier to see eye-to-eye! This is a huge forest preserve where there are no indigenous or outside people and there is no hunting, where large cracids are almost tame and South American Tapirs are seen with some regularity along the Cristalino. We're fortunate to be alive during a time when such places exist. This point is driven home as we see the massive scale of forest destruction around the town of Alta Floresta (only an hour or so away and across the upper Tapajos River), which has been in existence for only about forty years.

Among the regional specialties are Red-throated Piping-Guan, Dark-winged Trumpeter, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Kawall's Parrot, Black-girdled Barbet, Red-necked Aracari, Bare-eyed Antbird, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Snow-capped Manakin, and Tooth-billed Wren. More widespread southern Amazonian species we may encounter include Brazilian Tinamou, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, Pale-rumped Swift, Brown-banded, Collared, and Rufous-necked puffbirds, Blue-necked Jacamar, Curl-crested Aracari, Curve-billed Scythebill, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Short-billed Leaf-tosser, Saturnine and Glossy antshrikes, Manu Antbird, Spotted Antpitta, Purple-throated Cotinga, White-browed Purple-tuft, Flame-crested and Fiery-capped manakins, Cinnamon Tyrant, Dusky-tailed Flatbill, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, and a variety of raptors, with luck including such rarities as Gray-bellied and White-browed hawks, and, *ahem*, some larger species. We may also encounter some rarely seen mammals in this region, such as the beautiful Silvery Marmoset, White-whiskered Spider Monkey, and White-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey. The forest behind our nice hotel in Alta Floresta also offers very good birding, and we have been fortunate to see Harpy Eagles at or near their nest there in recent years!

Our itinerary starts with a two-day visit to the red-rock canyon country of Chapada dos Guimaraes and ends with four days in the northern Pantanal. That region is truly one of the birdiest in all of South America, and it is in the Pantanal that

we stand a fairly good chance of finding a Jaguar. Even if you've birded the southern Pantanal, you will see some new birds in the north, perhaps a Cinereous-breasted Spinetail or Subtropical Doradito, or the handsome Chestnut-bellied Guan. On past tours we've seen nearly 30 species of parrots and macaws, making this tour one of our richest for psittacids.



*The small Red-Shouldered Macaw is one of a number of parrots we'll see on this tour.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails at Cristalino are mostly level, but we will be hiking up to 1.5-2 miles per outing and standing still for long periods of time while birds are called in. There is one trail that climbs a steep, rocky hill, but you can opt out of this. Our walks in the Pantanal are on level ground and most of the birding will be done on dirt roads.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time in observation towers that are about 50 meters high; you'll need to climb up to reach the platform. We will have several short boat rides to reach some of the trailheads and a few longer ones to look for specialties; you'll need to be able to get in and out of the boat. Such boats do not have a cover. In the Pantanal, we will do some travel by boat as well.
- **PACE:** Days will start pre-dawn (4:30AM). On most days, there should be time for an afternoon siesta, if you wish. There will be opportunities for night-birding on some evenings.
- **ELEVATION:** We will be close to sea level for the entire tour and our highest altitude will be approximately 2000 feet.
- **WEATHER:** Climate is generally warm, with highs in the 70-80's F at Alta Floresta, and up to the low 90's F in the Pantanal. Evenings can be cool, and there is the possibility of austral cold fronts that may drop temperatures to the mid-40's F; these cool temps may last for several days. Rain is always possible.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.

- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature. On our boat trips in the Pantanal, rest stops will be few and far between.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

This tour can be combined with Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt, June 5-20, 2021.

About the Birding Areas

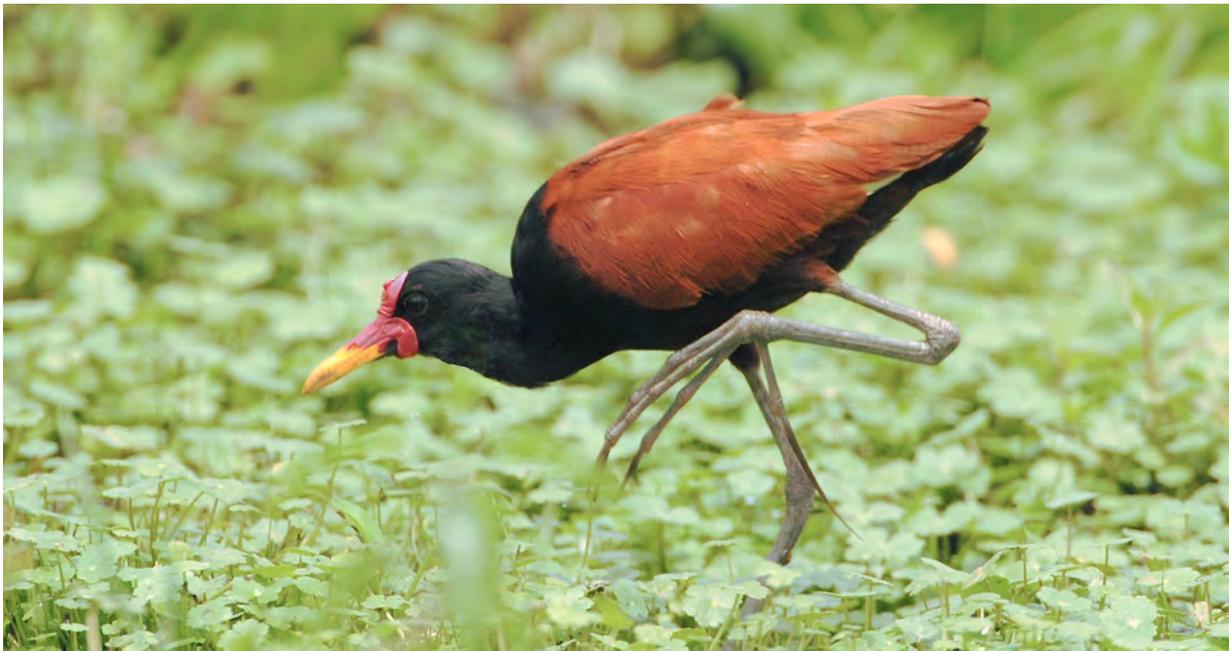


Chapada dos Guimaraes—The Chapada dos Guimaraes is a spectacular red-rock escarpment along the western edge of the Planalto Central, or Central Plateau of Brazil. The tableland along the top of the plateau is generally covered with *cerrado* habitat, a rather closed grassland with many species of arid-adapted trees on gently rolling ground. Specialties of this habitat range from White-eared Puffbird, Rufous-winged Antshrike, Rusty-backed Antwren, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant, White-rumped and White-banded tanagers, Coal-crested Finch, and Black-throated Saltator, to Horned Sunge, Curl-crested Jay, and the recently described Chapada Flycatcher. Patches of woodland and forest along the escarpment itself harbor a different set of specialties, such as Helmeted Manakin and Large-billed Antwren, species that need good woodland. Here too, one finds some Amazonian species near the southern limit of their ranges. Note that possibilities occurring primarily in this habitat on our tour are indicated on the checklist with a G.

Rio Cristalino Jungle Lodge—This remote lodge, reached by about an hour of river travel in motorized aluminum boats, lies in an area of undisturbed rainforest where much of the wildlife remains remarkably confiding. Facilities include eight comfortable individual rooms with modern, private bathrooms and ceiling fans. A communal dining area, bar and library are also available and the blackwater Rio Cristalino is fantastic for a refreshing swim—shallow (two to five feet) with sandy bottom sloping to deeper spots with emergent rocks—and there is even a dock out to deeper water, complete with tables and beach umbrellas! It feels great on hot Amazonian afternoons, even if there are some pesky deer flies. The food at the lodge is simply wonderful (hard to imagine, but you'll see). Radiating out from the lodge are several trails, where we'll bird quietly for Dark-winged Trumpeters, curassows, and other shy species, and we'll seek both the specialties and more common birds of the area in a variety of settings. In particular we'll spend some quality time atop each of the two metal canopy towers, watching for such specialties as Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Kaway's Parrot, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Black-girdled Barbet, Striolated Puffbird, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, and Tooth-billed Wren. We'll stake out fruiting trees that can attract a wide variety of frugivores, from Lettered, Red-necked, and Curl-crested aracaris to Spangled and Purple-throated cotingas and Paradise, Green-and-gold, and Opal-rumped tanagers. We'll also listen carefully for mixed-species feeding flocks, led by Cinereous Antshrikes and White-winged Shrike-Tanagers and accompanied by a variety of woodcreepers, furnariids, and antwrens. Bamboo thickets isolated in the Alta Floresta region are particularly rich in birds, and we'll spend the needed time to dig out most of the prizes hidden in this microhabitat. We'll be constantly on the alert for swarming army ants, whose attending birds often include the striking Bare-eyed Antbird and Black-spotted Bare-eye. **Electricity is powered by generator during the day and photovoltaic power at night.**

The Pantanal—The Pantanal biome embraces that low-lying region of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, adjacent Bolivia, and northern Paraguay within the basin of the Rio Paraguai, a south-flowing river of little gradient which crosses Paraguay, joins the Paraná, and empties eastward at Buenos Aires. Its climate parallels that of the *cerrado*, with a pronounced dry season from April to October. However, much of the region is seasonally inundated or otherwise saturated during the rainy season due to poor drainage. The Pantanal supports a range of habitat types varying from semideciduous and evergreen forests on well-drained, fertile soils to *cerrado/savanna* on nutrient-poor soils; from tree-palm woodlands on moist soil to permanent marsh and true *pantanal*, i.e., flat, seasonally flooded grassland with scattered clumps of *cerrado* scrub on slightly elevated soil platforms whose surfaces generally do not become inundated. It is the shrinking of vast marshes and pantanal during the dry season, which traps fish in receding pools and creates the spectacular concentrations of wildlife for which the area is famous.

Water-associated species can be found in amazing abundance, from Jacare Caiman and Capybara to Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, Southern Screamer, Limpkin, and herons, egrets, spoonbills, storks (three species), ibises (five species including Plumbeous), and kingfishers (four species). Jabirus are nesting in June, but it's also prime time to see such scarce austral migrants as Bearded Tachuri, Subtropical Doradito, and Tawny-bellied Seed eater. Add to these the fabulous Hyacinth Macaws and an array of interesting land birds such as Chaco Chachalaca, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Bare-faced Curassow, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Golden-collared Macaw, Monk, Peach-fronted, Blue-crowned, and Yellow-chevroned parakeets, Blue-fronted and Scaly-headed parrots, Nacunda Nighthawk, Buff-bellied Hermit, Gilded and Swallow-tailed hummingbirds, Spot-backed Puffbird, White-wedged Piculet, White and Pale-crested woodpeckers, Campo Flicker, Chotoy, Cinereous-breasted, White-lored, and Rusty-backed spinetails, Gray-crested Cacholote, Narrow-billed, Planalto, and Great Rufous woodcreepers, Red-billed Scythebill, Planalto Slaty-Antshrike, Black-bellied Antwren, Mato Grosso Antbird, Campo Suiriri Flycatcher, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Red-crested and Yellow-billed cardinals, White-bellied and Rusty-collared seedeaters, and Unicolored and Scarlet-headed blackbirds (catch your breath)...and the Pantanal may well be the highlight of the trip! Primarily Pantanal species are indicated on your checklist with a P.



*Wattled Jacana and many other water-loving birds inhabit the Pantanal.
Photograph by participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levengood.*

Itinerary for Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil

Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 19-20 Jun. To Cuiaba, Mato Grosso. International overnight flights depart the US on the evening of Day 1 and arrive in Brazil early on the morning of Day 2. Due to arrival times into Brazil, it may be necessary for some to depart the US a day early in order to make it to Cuiaba by 12:00 p.m. on Day 2 in time to hit a fabulous churrascaria (Brazilian BBQ/grill). Hopefully you'll be starving by now (try not to eat those in-flight snacks!), and you will be impressed and deeply satisfied by the great salad bar (all fine for consumption) and delicious selection of meats and other dishes. Enough said. We'll then waddle out to our bus and head north to the Chapada dos Guimaraes, about an hour away.

After checking into our comfortable lodge and getting organized, we'll spend the late afternoon birding nearby woodland. Following another good meal, we'll get to bed early to catch up on sleep after the long international flight. Night of Day 2 at Pousada Cambara in Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Day 3, Mon, 21 Jun. Cerrado and seasonally dry forest birding. We'll have an early breakfast and drive a few kilometers out into *cerrado* habitat to bird for several hours this morning. It's sure to be an exciting time unless a southern cold front has moved in. After a break at the hotel, we'll bird another patch of Cerrado in the afternoon in search of any species we may have missed in the morning. Our targets will include White-rumped and White-banded tanagers, the nomadic Coal-crested Finch, Curl-crested Jays, and many other *cerrado* endemics that are not likely to be seen on other areas of the tour. Night at Pousada Cambara in Chapada dos Guimaraes.



The White-banded Tanager is also known as the "Shrike-like Tanager", for obvious reasons! This monotypic genus is a cerrado specialist. Photograph by participant Paul Edmondson.

Day 4, Tue, 22 Jun. Flight to Alta Floresta. This morning will see us out early in one of several birdy places around Chapada, and then we'll head back to Cuiaba for the flight to Alta Floresta. Assuming current flight schedules, we should depart around noon for the one-and-a-half hour direct flight followed by an immediate transfer to Cristalino Jungle Lodge with a couple of important birding stops en route, one at a *Mauritia* palm swamp to look for Point-tailed Palmcreeper, and another along the forested section of the road that approaches the Teles Pires. Once aboard our boats, we'll first cross the "clearwater" Teles Pires before continuing up the blackwater Rio Cristalino. Tannins leached from vegetation through the sandy soil impart the dark color to the river. For the half-hour to one-hour uncovered boat ride (depending on how often we brake for Capped Herons, Sunbitterns, or Red-throated Piping-Guans), you should have a long-sleeved shirt and hat for the sun, sunscreen, and a personal waterproof pack or bag to protect valuable equipment in case of rain (if there are clouds in the sky; again, a rarity this time of year). Once at the lodge, we'll have almost a full week to explore our amazing surroundings. Night at Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

Days 5-9, Wed-Sun, 23-27 Jun. The Cristalino Jungle Lodge. Once we make it to the lodge, there are lots of habitats to check out, from dense bamboo thickets, to shady forest streams, to river-edge forest, to rocky outcrops fringed by an odd association of terrestrial bromeliads, huge *Philodendron*, scrubby palms, and dry forest. You'll see some of the biggest trees you've ever seen, magnificent Brazil Nut trees with limbs bigger than most tree trunks 100 feet above ground (there was a huge Crested Eagle in one of these on a past trip). By exploring different areas (and as we retrace our steps), there will be plenty of new things to discover each day, including a good variety of southern Amazonian mammals. You just never know what you'll see, which is what makes it so fascinating and fun! There is always more to learn. For example, on our 1997 tour we confirmed the recently described Kawall's Parrot to be fairly common along the Cristalino. This magnificent parrot (it's an *Amazona* the size of a Mealy!) was described to science only in 1989 and remains poorly known in the wild. On several tours, we have had marvelous telescope views of this little-known parrot from the new canopy tower.

Most of the trails (with one major exception) are level and easy to walk. The single steep trail ascends to a rocky hilltop (*serra*) in the forest and provides a look at the canopy (and it's not very long or difficult). Nights at the Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

Day 10, Mon, 28 Jun. To Alta Floresta and on to The Pantanal. After another morning of birding near our lodge, we'll take some time to pack and we'll boat back to the opposite bank of the Teles Pires and make our way back to Alta Floresta, and after a hearty lunch we will board our flight to Cuiaba, where we will load into our bus and begin our journey on the *Transpantaneira* Highway to the south. Assuming our flight is on time, our first lodging in the Pantanal will be the closest, Pousada Piuval, located right at the edge of the Pantanal where there is still a significant influence from the *cerrado*. En route we'll watch the fields for Red-legged Seriema and big Nacunda Nighthawks that fly in the pinkening sky at sunset. Night at Pousada Piuval.



Scarlet-headed Blackbirds are rather uncommon, but we should run across them in the marshes of the Pantanal.
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 11, Tue, 29 Jun. Pousada Rio Claro. This morning we'll check out the extensive low-lying marsh right behind our lodgings (hordes of whistling-ducks and waders, including huge Jabirus) and then bird the lovely wet grassland and *cerrado* along the lodge's private roads, hoping especially for Swallow-tailed Hummingbirds and perhaps White Woodpecker. We're sure to see our first Hyacinth Macaws this morning, automatically marking this as one of the most memorable days of birding in your life! Collecting those who may have fainted at the sight of their first macaws, we'll continue to a nearby trail through semi-open woodland, where we've had good luck with Helmeted Manakin—this time we'll catch you if you faint again—Planalto Slaty-Antshrike, and Large-billed Antwren, among numerous other species.

After lunch, we'll continue south for some 40 kilometers on the *Transpantaneira* to Rio Claro Lodge, where we'll bird the river in the late afternoon in search of Sungrebes, Blue-throated Piping-guans and Yellow-collared Macaws. We may offer a night-drive along the entrance road after dinner. Possibilities include Nacunda Nighthawk, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, lots of Pauraques, and some nocturnal mammals such as Crab-eating Fox and, with great luck, Giant Anteater and Ocelot. Night at Pousada Rio Claro.

Day 12, Wed, 30 Jun. Pousada Rio Claro and the *Transpantaneira* south to the Rio Cuiaba and Porto Jofre Lodge. After an early breakfast, we'll watch the procession of woodcreepers, Curassows, Guans and other species that investigate the grounds of the lodge for leftover insects attracted to the lights by night while the mango trees welcome dozens of Parrots and Parakeets including the locally scarce Black-hooded Parakeet. While it's still early, we'll head for the wooded section of the entrance road where possibilities include Common Thornbird, Undulated Tinamou, the gorgeous Pale-crested Woodpecker, Planalto Woodcreeper, and many others. We'll plan to bird several woodlands this morning, returning to the lodge late-morning to pack and have lunch.

This afternoon we'll continue to the southern terminus of the *Transpantaneira* on the bank of the Rio Cuiaba. The drive features about 100 km of birds, capybaras, caiman, and other critters. We'll especially watch for Maguari Stork, Southern Screamer, and Scarlet-headed Blackbird, stopping at any number of spots just to scope the surroundings and see what's around, especially late in the day when things become more active. It's a dead-end road and traffic is light. That, plus the fact that the road is significantly elevated above the surrounding floodplain, makes the *Transpantaneira* one of the great birding roads in the world. Night at Porto Jofre.

Day 13, Thu, 1 Jul. Porto Jofre and the Rio Cuiaba. Fighting our way through the macaws, curassows, guans, and chachalacas on the lodge grounds, we'll hit the river early for an exciting morning of birds, with a good chance of encountering a family of Giant Otters! This is a good area for the very local Fawn-breasted Wren, and we'll make a special effort to get a good look at a pair or two. Watch, too, for Sungrebe and Sunbittern, all five kingfishers, and a variety of raptors. A major goal today is finding a Jaguar. In recent years, Jaguars have been seen quite regularly along some stretches of rivers near Porto Jofre, and we and other boats in radio contact will be on the river early to be sure to reach the best areas for Jaguars as the sun warms the banks and the great cats come to the river edge to loaf and occasionally hunt capybaras or caiman. After a siesta, we'll emerge in the late afternoon for some birding and perhaps a nocturnal drive along the Transpantaneira to look for mammals. Night at Porto Jofre.

Day 14, Fri, 2 Jul. Birding north along the Transpantaneira Highway. We'll have birded the *Transpantaneira* south to Porto Jofre a couple of days ago, and this morning we'll catch the far end of it at dawn as birds are awakening to work our way north. The wide-open marshlands of the southern *Transpantaneira* offer remarkably different birding opportunities at dusk and dawn, and we'll have plenty of time to thoroughly enjoy both periods. We'll break the northbound drive for a great lunch above the Pixaim River, and by mid-late afternoon we'll have made our way to Aymara Lodge. By this time we will have amassed a long birdlist but some night birding will have us looking for Mottled Owl, Black-banded Owl and a number of Nightjars including Scissor-tailed. Night at Aymara Lodge.

Days 15-16, Sat-Sun, 3-4 Jul. Com abraços, grande Pantanal, we're headed home... Following a productive early morning birding around our lodge, we'll reserve time to shower and pack up before driving back to Cuiaba in time for lunch, our final check-list session, and the late-afternoon flight for connections home. Most flights to Miami depart in the late evening on Day 15, arriving the morning of Day 16 (July 4). *Uma boa viagem para todos!*

About Your Guides

Marcelo Barreiros is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

Marcelo Barreiros is a natural trip leader and I would be delighted to take any trip with him as the lead guide. Aside from his mastery of the birds and environment, he projects a warm and humble confidence as well as a great sense of humor and even playfulness, which I appreciated enormously. W. M.; Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus

Micah Riegner grew up exploring the Central Arizona Highlands and was fortunate to have parents who took him along on college field courses ranging from the coast of Mexico to the mountains of Costa Rica, where encounters with tinamous, barbets, and jacamars launched him into the birding world at a young age. During his time at Prescott College, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia, where he worked as a guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil. For his master's degree, he studied the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers. When he's not in the field, he tries to make time to paint birds and other creatures that spark his interest.

"Micah Riegner was a delightful last-minute addition to the tour with Bret Whitney and Tom Johnson, and he added tremendous value. He was attentive to everyone and performed as though he'd worked together with Bret and Tom for years.... terrific!" D. R.; Great Rivers of the Amazon II

Micah guided tours with Bret Whitney, John Coons, Dan Lane, and Tom Johnson before joining Field Guides full time in 2019. Micah is a generous guide with an easy laugh and is eager to share his love of birds and nature in the years to come. We know you will have a great time traveling with him, too!

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for the guides; just click on a photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7175 from Cuiaba

DEPOSIT: \$725 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 20, 2021

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$875 (Singles may be limited, please check with your tour manager.)

BUNGALOW UPGRADES AT RIO CRISTALINO: Junior and Regular Bungalow pricing available upon request; limited to lodge availability

LIMIT: 10

Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a current passport, valid for at least 6 months prior to its expiration date to enter Brazil.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please review the Yellow Fever Information included with the CDC packet and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals). If you do not have a certificate, please contact your local travel clinic to set up a time to receive your vaccination soon. We have heard from some clients that there are shortages of the vaccine. In addition, some clinics won't administer the vaccine until they can schedule five people at one time. We have been advised that if you have a condition or allergy that prevents you from having the vaccine you can present a letter from your doctor stating this and the requirement will be waived. This is the link to the CDC page where you can read more about Yellow Fever:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil>

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International overnight flights depart the US on the evening of Day 1 (*June 19*) and arrive in Brazil early on the morning of Day 2 (*June 20*). Please arrive in Cuiaba on Day 2 by 12:00PM. You may depart Cuiaba on Day 15 (*July 3*) after 3:00PM. Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$7175 for one person in double occupancy from Cuiaba. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 15, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 15, the flights from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta and return, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). The tour fee includes lodging in the standard rooms at Rio Cristalino. **Bungalows carry an additional cost and are offered on a "first come, first served" basis; however, if only the bungalows are available when you sign up, you will be billed for the bungalow.** Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Cuiaba, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$875. (Singles may be limited. Please check with your tour manager to see if singles are available.) If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$725** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 60 days prior to departure, or **by April 20, 2021. We will bill you for the final payment at either 60 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

Field Guides reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

NCP 7/2020

09/18MP
1/21 RK; peg