



Field Guides Tour Report

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon I 2012

Jul 7, 2012 to Jul 18, 2012

Marcelo Padua

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).



*Our fourth Jaguar emerges from the grass with its eyes fixed on its prey. This was a fantastic tour for these big cats, complementing some exciting and very diverse birding.
(Photo by guide Marcelo Padua)*

I have to admit that I always get a little nervous at the start of the Jaguar Spotting tour. After all it takes quite a bit of confidence to name a tour after one of the world's rarest cats, and although they are pretty reliable in the northern Pantanal, there are plenty of stories of people who have visited the area and missed them. But that was not the case for us, as we saw not only one but four of these magnificent cats on our tour. However, let me get back to telling you what a great time we had with Jaguars after I fill you in on the many other great experiences we had leading to those sightings.

Our tour started with some fantastic sightings: on our way to Gardens of the Amazon we had our first looks at Red-legged Seriemas, one of the most iconic birds of the Cerrado, and we spotted a juvenile Crowned Eagle just by the road -- I can't tell you how many times I had been there and yet never seen a Crowned Eagle by the road! I can only assume that this young bird was wandering around in search of a place to establish a territory. It was certainly a great start to our tour, as were the days that followed at Gardens of the Amazon, with great looks at Spotted Puffbird (the first record ever for the lodge), male and female Cone-billed Tanagers really close to us, the usual late-afternoon show of Blue-and-Yellow Macaws, and some wonderful views at some really nice antbirds such as Black-faced Antbird, Spix's Warbling-Antbird, and Chestnut-tailed Antbird.

We then packed our bags and headed off to the Pantanal -- after all that is where the Jaguars were, and we eager to see them! But first we made a stop for a night at Rio Claro in order to break the long journey that leads to the very end of the Transpantaneira Highway, and in order to allow plenty of time for us to bird along the way. This paid off big time with great looks at Chestnut-bellied Guan, Nanday Parakeet, Ferruginous Pigmy-Owl, Bare-faced Curassows, Rusty-backed Antwren, a very nice Giant Anteater spotted by Linda as we drove out of the lodge and -- a particular highlight of the tour for everyone -- a Howler Monkey giving birth, something we would have easily overlooked if it had not been for Martha's keen eyes. At the end of the day as we arrived at Porto Jofre we were welcomed by Hyacinth Macaws flying around the place, and we savored the memories of a far-above-average day in the Pantanal.

Now it's time to get back to the story of those cats -- those big spotted cats! Our first Jaguar came unexpectedly and more quickly than usual. We were all standing on the deck getting ready to board the boat at first light when our boatman got a message on the radio saying that a Jaguar had been spotted just five minutes away from the lodge. We all jumped in the boat and blasted to the spot, arriving just in time to see the Jaguar briefly before it snuck into the bushes. We were all somewhat dizzy with the experience -- none of us had expected this to happen so suddenly and so briefly, but we had seen a Jaguar in the wild and we were all ecstatic. Then our boatman told us that just the day before a pair of Jaguars had killed an Capibara up the river, so we decided to go upstream to look for this pair, a mother and an almost fully grown juvenile, and as we had hoped they were on site and so we watched them sitting there at very close range, yet almost invisible as they sat in the shade in the bushes guarding their precious kill. We watched them for quite some time before leaving as more boats started to gather around us to see the cats.

The following day was dedicated to birding the surroundings of our lodge, and we had great looks at Toco Toucans, Fawn-breasted Wren, Chestnut-eared Aracari, White-naped Xenopsaris, and a very cooperative Great Potoo, among other species. It was a truly spectacular day, but deep down inside

we all seemed to be thinking about one thing: we all wanted "the" look at a Jaguar, you know, the one imprinted in the backs of our minds, the one where we would be able to close our eyes and still see it. Sure, we had seen three Jaguars and we all felt privileged and happy to have done so, but we also knew they were out there on the river and we all wanted at least one chance of getting a bit better view.

So we set out once again in search of these magnificent animals. We left the lodge early in the morning and headed straight out to where we had seen those two Jaguars. There they were once again, sitting in the shade, the dead Capybara nowhere in sight yet its presence made obvious by the smell. We found a good place to anchor and wait and then it happened. One of the Jaguars got up and walked out into the sun and stared at each one of us before lying down on the bank to sun itself totally out in the open -- our gamble had paid off!

After we all had quenched our thirst for Jaguar and nearly filled our memory cards, we went on along the river until we came across a group of Giant Otters, watching them for a while as they went along the river and getting an amazing insight into their ecology and behavior. That was when I spotted another Jaguar upstream. The animal was sitting on some grass, and although it was relatively in the open we could barely see it, but experience has taught me that Jaguars do not stay in the open for too long in the midday sun, and so we anchored once again to see what was happening. We did not have to wait long as the Jaguar darted out of the grass and jumped from the bank into some reeds, killing a Caiman right before our eyes and dragging it into the forest. No one could have hoped for anything more!

On our last day we had very different weather as a cold front rolled in, affecting our day's birding and costing us several species we had hoped to see in the area. But we still managed to find an amazing pair of Red-legged Seriemas that came so close to us that we could hardly fit them into our binoculars. Not a bad finale!

I enjoyed myself every step along the way of this tour, and I hope you did too. As we say in Brazil, "Um abraço!"

--Marcelo

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Rheidae (Rheas)

GREATER RHEA (*Rhea americana*) – Common along the road to Gardens of the Amazon, where they are often found on soybean plantations.

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

GRAY TINAMOU (*Tinamus tao*) [*]

CINEREOUS TINAMOU (*Crypturellus cinereus*) [*]

UNDULATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus undulatus*)

BRAZILIAN TINAMOU (*Crypturellus strigulosus*) [*]

SMALL-BILLED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus parvirostris*) [*]

Anhimidae (Screamers)

SOUTHERN SCREAMER (*Chauna torquata*)

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – The most common of the whistling-ducks in the Pantanal! We saw many of them along the drive on the transpantaneira.

MUSCOVY DUCK (*Cairina moschata*) – It is nice to see these birds where they actually belong, especially given the fact that scientists clearly had no clue of their origin when naming the bird.

BRAZILIAN TEAL (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) – Although somewhat dull-looking when sitting, these birds display amazing colors when they take flight.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

CHACO CHACHALACA (*Ortalis canicollis*) – The ever-present and loud sound of the pantanal... To me these chachalacas fill the vocal space in the pantanal as the Screaming Pihás do in the Amazon!

CHESTNUT-BELLIED GUAN (*Penelope ochrogaster*) – These guans occur in the Cerrado as well as the Pantanal, but if you really want to see one the best place to look is in the northern Pantanal.

BLUE-THROATED PIPING-GUAN (*Pipile cumanensis*) – The Blue-throated and the Red-throated Piping-Guans both occur in the Pantanal and they hybridize in this area. We saw a number of birds with blue throats, several with pure red throats, and quite a few birds that were clearly hybrids.

RED-THROATED PIPING-GUAN (*Pipile cujubi*) – We saw some of these at the Gardens of the Amazon where the Blue-throated does not occur.

BARE-FACED CURASSOW (*Crax fasciolata*)

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

MARBLED WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) [*]

Ciconiidae (Storks)

MAGUARI STORK (*Ciconia maguari*) – A great spot by Ella, these birds are not always present in the Pantanal and in some years are harder to find than in others.

JABIRU (*Jabiru mycteria*)

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – Seen twice on the tour and both times spotted by Martha. Way to go!

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)

WHISTLING HERON (*Syrigma sibilatrix*) – Although a relatively common bird, there is nothing ordinary about the appearance of this ornate heron. Always one of my favorites!

CAPPED HERON (*Pilherodius pileatus*)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

BOAT-BILLED HERON (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)

BARE-FACED IBIS (*Phimosus infuscatus*)

PLUMBEOUS IBIS (*Theristicus caerulescens*) – Another one of the Pantanal "specialties" -- we had several of these birds seen extremely well during our tour.

BUFF-NECKED IBIS (*Theristicus caudatus*)

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*)

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes burrovianus*) – Seen in the pantanal, where it replaces the Greater Yellow-headed Vulture that is at Gardens of the Amazon.

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

GRAY-HEADED KITE (*Leptodon cayanensis*) – Great looks at a bird in flight at Gardens of the Amazon.

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

BLACK-COLLARED HAWK (*Busarellus nigricollis*) – These beautiful birds have become habituated to fetching fish thrown by the boatmen in the pantanal, allowing for some fantastic photo opportunities.

CRANE HAWK (BANDED) (*Geranospiza caerulescens gracilis*)

GREAT BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus urubitinga*)

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

CROWNED EAGLE (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*) – A real bonus on this tour. A juvenile bird sitting close to the road allowed for some great looks at this magnificent bird.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*)

WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

BLACK CARACARA (*Daptrius ater*)

SOUTHERN CARACARA (*Caracara plancus*)

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*)

Cariamidae (Seriemas)

RED-LEGGED SERIEMA (*Cariama cristata*) – Seen more than once on the tour, but those two birds on the last day were especially nice as they came so close to us -- it was almost impossible to fit them into our binoculars. Truly a memorable moment.

Eurypygidae (Sunbittern)

SUNBITTERN (*Eurypyga helias*)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

GRAY-NECKED WOOD-RAIL (*Aramides cajanea*)

ASH-THROATED CRAKE (*Porzana albicollis*) [*]

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*) – Another great spot by Martha.!

Heliornithidae (Finfoots)

SUNGREBE (*Heliornis fulica*) – Many thanks to Susan for spotting this one for us. We could easily have missed it!

Aramidae (Limpkin)

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

PIED LAPWING (*Vanellus cayanus*) – We had excellent looks at this handsome bird. Definitely a crowd pleaser!

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*)

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (WHITE-BACKED) (*Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*)

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*)

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

YELLOW-BILLED TERN (*Sternula superciliaris*)

LARGE-BILLED TERN (*Phaetusa simplex*)

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops niger*)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

SCALED PIGEON (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

PICAZURO PIGEON (*Patagioenas picazuro*)

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*) [*]

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)

SCALED DOVE (*Columbina squammata*)

PICUI GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina picui*)

BLUE GROUND-DOVE (*Claravis pretiosa*) – Certainly one of the hardest ground-doves to see, but it is fairly common at Gardens of the Amazon where we had great looks.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) – Seen by Ed only, these doves are forest species and they are usually hard to see well.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

NANDAY PARAKEET (*Nandayus nenday*) – These parakeets are somewhat uncommon in the northern pantanal, but there is a colony near one of our lodges and we saw them very well.

PAINTED PARAKEET (PAINTED) (*Pyrrhura picta microtera*) [*]

MONK PARAKEET (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)

PEACH-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Aratinga aurea*)

HYACINTH MACAW (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) – Certainly one of the most iconic birds in the Pantanal, the Hyacinth Macaw is very common around Porto Jofre where we spent 3 nights.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW (*Ara ararauna*) – Several of these birds came in to roost around a lake near Gardens of the Amazon.

RED-BELLIED MACAW (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)

BLUE-WINGED MACAW (*Primolius maracana*)

YELLOW-COLLARED MACAW (*Primolius auricollis*)

RED-SHOULDERED MACAW (*Diopsittaca nobilis*)

YELLOW-CHEVRONED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris chiriri*)

SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET (*Touit huetii*) – This was the first time this species was seen around the lodge. Unfortunately as it is often the case with the genus *Touit*, they were only seen in flight and only Ted managed to get on them before they disappeared.

ORANGE-CHEEKED PARROT (*Pyrilia barrabandi*) [*]

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)

SCALY-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus maximiliani*)

BLUE-FRONTED PARROT (*Amazona aestiva*)

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

LITTLE CUCKOO (*Coccyua minuta*) [*]

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

BLACK-BELLIED CUCKOO (*Piaya melanogaster*)

GUIRA CUCKOO (*Guira guira*)

STRIPED CUCKOO (*Tapera naevia*)

GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

Strigidae (Owls)

TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops choliba*) – Both the gray and the rufous forms were seen extremely well on one of our night outings in the Pantanal.

TAWNY-BELLIED SCREECH-OWL (AUSTRAL) (*Megascops watsonii usta*) – It took a little bit of work, but we got a great look at this bird that some authors consider a separate species from the birds found north of the Amazon river.

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*)

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*)

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

NACUNDA NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles nacunda*) – Several birds roosting right behind our rooms at Porto Jofre.

BAND-TAILED NIGHTHAWK (*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*) – It is always nice to see these birds slowly coming out over the rivers at dusk, and then hundreds of them foraging during the last minutes of daylight each day.

COMMON PAURAUQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

OCELLATED POORWILL (*Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*)

BLACKISH NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus nigrescens*) – Nice to see this bird during daytime around Gardens of the Amazon.

Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

GREAT POTOO (*Nyctibius grandis*) – We had some great looks at this species and Ed even got some amazing pictures of it in flight. Not to mention their bizarre vocalizations which we were fortunate enough to hear.

COMMON POTOO (*Nyctibius griseus*) – A great spot by Ed!

Apodidae (Swifts)

SHORT-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura brachyura*)

PALE-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura egregia*)

FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis squamata*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

RUFIOUS-BREASTED HERMIT (*Glaucis hirsutus*)

BUFF-BELLIED HERMIT (*Phaethornis subochraceus*) – One of the harder hummers to find in the Pantanal, we had one come into the pygmy-owl tape, but it did not stick around for long.

BLACK-EARED FAIRY (*Heliodytes auritus*)

WHITE-TAILED GOLDENTHROAT (*Polytmus guainumbi*)

BLACK-THROATED MANGO (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

BLUE-TUFTED STARTHROAT (*Heliomaster furcifer*)

AMETHYST WOODSTAR (*Calliphlox amethystina*)

GRAY-BREASTED SABREWING (*Campylopterus largipennis*)

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*)

GLITTERING-THROATED EMERALD (*Amazilia fimbriata*)

GILDED HUMMINGBIRD (*Hylocharis chrysura*)

Trogonidae (Trogons)

BLACK-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon melanurus*) [*]

GREEN-BACKED TROGON (*Trogon viridis*)

BLUE-CROWNED TROGON (*Trogon curucui*)

BLACK-THROATED TROGON (*Trogon rufus*) [*]

Momotidae (Motmots)

AMAZONIAN MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*)

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle torquata*)

AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*)

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*)

PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*)
SPOTTED PUFFBIRD (*Bucco tamatia*)
RUFOUS-CAPPED NUNLET (*Nonnula ruficapilla*)
BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa nigrifrons*)
WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa morphoeus*)
SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

BROWN JACAMAR (*Brachygalba lugubris melanosterna*)
BLUE-CHEEKED JACAMAR (*Galbula cyanicollis*)
RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR (*Galbula ruficauda*)
BRONZY JACAMAR (*Galbula leucogastra*) [*]

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

BLACK-GIRDLED BARBET (*Capito dayi*) – We had fantastic looks at this southern Amazon endemic, including a displaying pair that stuck around a flowering tree for us.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

LETTERED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*)
CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)
RED-NECKED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus bitorquatus*)
GOULD'S TOUCANET (*Selenidera gouldii*) – We saw these colorful birds twice at Gardens of the Amazon.
TOCO TOUCAN (*Ramphastos toco*)
WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*) [*]
CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos vitellinus*) [*]

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

BAR-BREADED PICULET (*Picumnus aurifrons*)
WHITE-WEDGED PICULET (*Picumnus albosquamatus*)
WHITE WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes candidus*) – A relatively common bird, still our good looks figured among some of the highlights of the tour.
YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)
LITTLE WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis passerinus*)
RED-STAINED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis affinis*)
YELLOW-THROATED WOODPECKER (*Piculus flavigula*) [*]
GREEN-BARRED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes melanochloros*)
PALE-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Ceelus lugubris*)
CREAM-COLORED WOODPECKER (*Ceelus flavus*)
RINGED WOODPECKER (*Ceelus torquatus*) [*]
RED-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus rubricollis*)
CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

PALE-LEGGED HORNERO (*Furnarius leucopus*)
RUFOUS HORNERO (*Furnarius rufus*)
CHOTOY SPINETAIL (*Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*)
CINEREOUS-BREADED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis hypospodia*)
WHITE-LORED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albiflora*)
RUSTY-BACKED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca vulpina*)
YELLOW-CHINNED SPINETAIL (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*)
RUFOUS-FRONTED THORNBIRD (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*)
GREATER THORNBIRD (*Phacellodomus ruber*)
RUFOUS CACHOLOTE (*Pseudoseisura unirufa*)
POINT-TAILED PALMCREEPER (*Berlepschia rikeri*) – Seen right around the lodge at Gardens of the Amazon, this ornate furnariid specializes in Mauritia Palm trees.
STREAKED XENOPS (*Xenops rutilans*)
OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)
STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Dendroplex picus*)
ELEGANT WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*) [*]
BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)
BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (DUSKY-BILLED) (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus eytoni*)
NARROW-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*)
RED-BILLED SCYTHEBILL (*Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*)

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

GREAT ANTSHRIKE (*Taraba major*)

BARRED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus murinus*) [*]

NATTERER'S SLATY-ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus stictocephalus*) – This bird was formerly considered part of the *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex and is one of six species that were split following an article published in 1997. On this tour we saw two species from that complex, the Natterer's and the Planalto Slaty-Antshrikes.

PLANALTO SLATY-ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus pelzelni*)

AMAZONIAN ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus amazonicus*)

PLAIN ANTVIREO (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)

CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes caesius*) – A nuclear species of understory flocks, it was always present when we had flocks in the forest.

PYGMY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula brachyura*) – It was not easy to see this minute canopy antwren, but with some work and a lot of neck craning we managed to get a pretty good look at it.

AMAZONIAN STREAKED-ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula multostriata*)

LONG-WINGED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula longipennis*)

LARGE-BILLED ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus longirostris*) [*]

RUFIOUS-WINGED ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*)

DOT-WINGED ANTWREN (*Microrhopias quixensis*)

RUSTY-BACKED ANTWREN (*Formicivora rufa*)

GRAY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra cinerascens*) [*]

BLACKISH ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra nigrescens*) [*]

MATO GROSSO ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra melanaria*)

WHITE-BACKED FIRE-EYE (*Pyriglena leuconota*) [*]

BLACK-FACED ANTBIRD (*Myrmoborus myotherinus ochrolaema*) – If only all the antbirds were as well behaved as this, I think they would be everyone's favorite!

SPIX'S WARBLING-ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis striata*) – Another very well-behaved antbird. As a matter of fact it came so close that it was difficult to focus on it.

BAND-TAILED ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*)

SILVERED ANTBIRD (*Sclateria naevia argentata*)

CHESTNUT-TAILED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza hemimelaena*)

BLACK-THROATED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza atrothorax*) – Now this was a nasty one, as it would not sit still and when it did it was often behind branches. But we persisted with it and finally managed to get a good look.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*) – A great look around the Gardens of the Amazon on our last morning!

FOREST ELAENIA (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

WHITE-BELLIED TYRANULET (*Serpophaga munda*) – This was the little unidentified flycatcher at Campos do Jofre. This may very well be the first record for the bird in the Pantanal, and there are very few records for it in Brazil, all of which are from the south.

SOUTHERN SCRUB-FLYCATCHER (*Sublegatus modestus*) – We saw this stubby-billed flycatcher a couple of times coming in to mob the pygmy-owl.

PLAIN TYRANULET (*Inezia inornata*)

SHORT-TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Myiornis ecaudatus*) – At little more than two inches long, this tiny bird was smaller than some of the beetles we saw at Gardens of the Amazon.

SNETHLAGE'S TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus minor*)

STRIPE-NECKED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus striaticollis*)

PEARLY-VENTED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*)

ZIMMER'S TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus minimus*) [*]

RUSTY-FRONTED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Poecilotriccus latirostris*)

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

GRAY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

ROYAL FLYCATCHER (AMAZONIAN) (*Onychorhynchus coronatus coronatus*)

RUDDY-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)

EULER'S FLYCATCHER (*Lathrotriccus euleri*)

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

DRAB WATER TYRANT (*Ochthornis littoralis*)

WHITE-RUMPED MONJITA (*Xolmis velatus*)

BLACK-BACKED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola albiventer*)

WHITE-HEADED MARSH TYRANT (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)

CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosa*) – A common bird throughout the Pantanal, but the ones at Porto Jofre that followed us around catching bugs we flushed were certainly a treat.

RUFIOUS-TAILED FLATBILL (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*)

DULL-CAPPED ATTLA (*Attila bolivianus*)
BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLA (*Attila spadiceus*) [*]
GRAYISH MOURNER (*Rhytipterna simplex*) [*]
SWAINSON'S FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus swainsoni*)
SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus ferox*)
LESSER KISKADEE (*Pitangus lictor*)
GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*)
RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)
STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)
TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

SCREAMING PIHA (*Lipaugus vociferans*) – Without a doubt the most characteristic sound of the Amazon, so it was nice to see the bird that is responsible for all that noise.
POMPADOUR COTINGA (*Xipholena punicea*) [*]
BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW (*Gymnoderus foetidus*) – These fruitcrows are migrants here and we hit them at just right this time, with birds seen almost every day at Gardens of the Amazon.

Pipridae (Manakins)

DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*)
FIERY-CAPPED MANAKIN (*Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*) – We had to work really hard to see this minute manakin, but it was certainly worth it. Manakins rule!
WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN (*Manacus manacus*)
HELMETED MANAKIN (*Antilophia galeata*) [*]
FLAME-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Heterocercus linteatus*)
RED-HEADED MANAKIN (*Pipra rubrocapilla*)

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BLACK-CROWNED TITYRA (*Tityra inquisitor*)
MASKED TITYRA (*Tityra semifasciata*)
THRUSH-LIKE SCHIFFORNIS (*Schiffornis turdina*)
CINEREOUS MOURNER (*Laniocera hypopyrra*) [*]
WHITE-NAPED XENOPSARIS (*Xenopsaris albinucha*) – We found one of these birds at Campos do Jofre. This species is a migrant here and it occurs in very small numbers in the area, so we were very lucky to get such good looks at it.
GREEN-BACKED BECARD (*Pachyramphus viridis*) [*]
PINK-THROATED BECARD (*Pachyramphus minor*) – We had some really good looks at one adult male as well as some females and juveniles of this species on our last morning at Gardens of the Amazon. Certainly one of the most handsome of the becards!

Vireonidae (Vireos)

RED-EYED VIREO (MIGRATORY CHIVI) (*Vireo olivaceus chivi*)
GRAY-CHESTED GREENLET (*Hylophilus semicinereus*) – Far more often heard than seen, this bird's car-alarm-like song was constantly in the background when we were near forest edge.
ASHY-HEADED GREENLET (*Hylophilus pectoralis*)
TAWNY-CROWNED GREENLET (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)
SLATY-CAPPED SHRIKE-VIREO (*Vireolanius leucotis*) [*]
RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

PURPLISH JAY (*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW (*Atticora fasciata*)
SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)
GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)
WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*)
WHITE-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*) – An austral migrant, this bird becomes more common this far north when a cold front moves in from the south, as we observed.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

THRUSH-LIKE WREN (*Campylorhynchus turdinus unicolor*)
TOOTH-BILLED WREN (*Odontorchilus cinereus*) – A really hard one to see as it is a canopy bird, but we managed to pull one of these into view.
MOUSTACHED WREN (*Pheugopedius genibarbis*)
BUFF-BREASTED WREN (*Cantorchilus leucotis*) [*]

FAWN-BREASTED WREN (*Cantorchilus guarayanus*) – This wren has a fairly small world distribution and we barely made it into their range. We managed to get some good looks.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Poliotilidae (Gnatcatchers)

LONG-BILLED GNATWREN (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) [*]

MASKED GNATCATCHER (*Poliotila dumicola*) – Always one of the first responders to the owl tooting in the Pantanal.

Donacobiidae (Donacobius)

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIOUS (*Donacobius atricapilla*) – I know they are common, I know they are widespread, but I just love to watch these birds displaying with tails fanned.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

PALE-BREASTED THRUSH (*Turdus leucomelas*)

HAUXWELL'S THRUSH (*Turdus hauxwelli*) [*]

RUFOUS-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus rufiventris*)

CREAMY-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus amaurochalinus*)

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

CHALK-BROWED MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus saturninus*)

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

YELLOWISH PIPIT (*Anthus lutescens*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

MASKED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*)

Coerebidae (Bananaquit)

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

CONE-BILLED TANAGER (*Conothraupis mesoleuca*) – One of the main targets for this tour and we completely nailed it with excellent looks from close range.

HOODED TANAGER (*Nemosia pileata*)

CHESTNUT-VENTED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum speciosum*)

YELLOW-BACKED TANAGER (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)

FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)

SAYACA TANAGER (*Thraupis sayaca*) – This is the Blue-gray Tanager replacement in the pantanal.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

TURQUOISE TANAGER (*Tangara mexicana*)

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*)

MASKED TANAGER (*Tangara nigrocincta*) – We even saw this handsome tanager around the cabins at Gardens of the Amazon.

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*)

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis*)

BLACK-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator atricollis*) – This is a bird more typical of the Cerrado, and we saw one by the road on the day we drove to the Pantanal.

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

RUSTY-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila collaris*)

LINED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila lineola*) – Seen only by Ella!

DOUBLE-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

WHITE-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila leucoptera*)

TAWNY-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila hypoxantha*) – These small seedeaters are austral migrants and they winter here. Although most of them were in non-breeding plumage, we managed to see some still sporting some of their more colorful plumage.

SAFFRON FINCH (*Sicalis flaveola*)

RED-CRESTED CARDINAL (*Paroaria coronata*)

YELLOW-BILLED CARDINAL (*Paroaria capitata*)

RED-CRESTED FINCH (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)

PECTORAL SPARROW (*Arremon taciturnus*)

SAFFRON-BILLED SPARROW (*Arremon flavirostris*) [*]

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

CHOPI BLACKBIRD (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)

SCARLET-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Amblyramphus holosericeus*) – John spotted the first one of these lovely birds for us. It is certainly one of the most handsome blackbirds I know.

UNICOLORED BLACKBIRD (*Agelasticus cyanopus*)

BAY-WINGED COWBIRD (*Agelaioides badius*)

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

GIANT COWBIRD (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

EPAULET ORIOLE (*Icterus cayanensis*)

ORANGE-BACKED TROUPIAL (*Icterus croconotus*)

SOLITARY BLACK CACIQUE (*Cacicus solitarius*)

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela*)

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

OLIVE OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius bifasciatus yuracares*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

PURPLE-THROATED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia chlorotica*)

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia laniirostris*)

RUFIOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

MAMMALS

GHOST BAT SP. (*Diclidurus virgo*) – Seeing this species in the pantanal was a little bit of a surprise for me, but it was very nice to see that white bat flying in the spotlight.

GREATER BULLDOG BAT (*Noctilio leporinus*)

SILVERY MARMOSET (*Callithrix argentata*) [*]

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*) – These are the ones found at Gardens of the Amazon.

BLACK HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta caraya*) – One of the highlights of the tour was seeing a female giving birth right by the side of the road. A fascinating experience that was well documented by Susan.

BROWN CAPUCHIN (*Cebus apella*)

WHITE-BELLIED SPIDER MONKEY (*Ateles belzebuth*)

GIANT ANTEATER (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) – A great spot by Linda!

CAPYBARA (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)

AZARA'S AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta azarae*)

PACA (*Cuniculus paca*) – Seen by the river on a night outing.

CRAB-EATING FOX (*Cerdocyon thous*)

SOUTH AMERICAN COATI (*Nasua nasua*)

GIANT OTTER (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) – We had some fantastic looks at these fascinating animals and even got to see a lot of interaction between the members of the family.

JAGUAR (*Panthera onca*) – I think I made it pretty clear in the introduction that we had some of the best looks ever at these magnificent cats.

MARSH DEER (*Blastocercus dichotomus*)

RED BROCKET DEER (*Mazama americana*)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 348 bird taxa and 17 mammal taxa