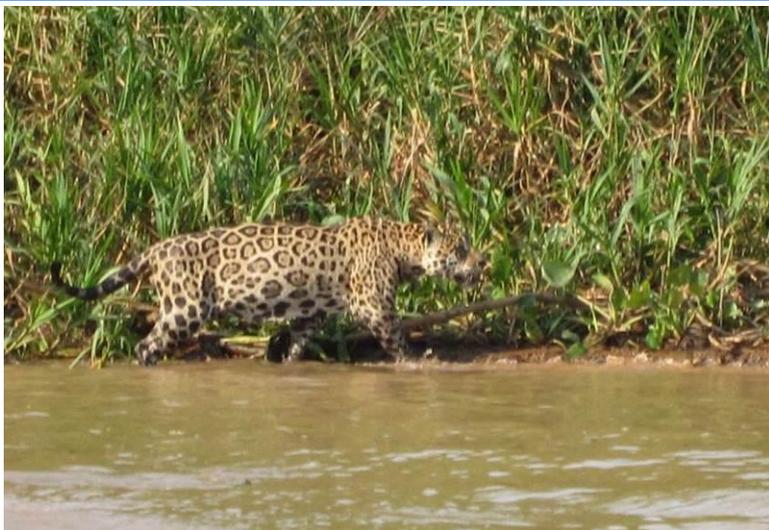


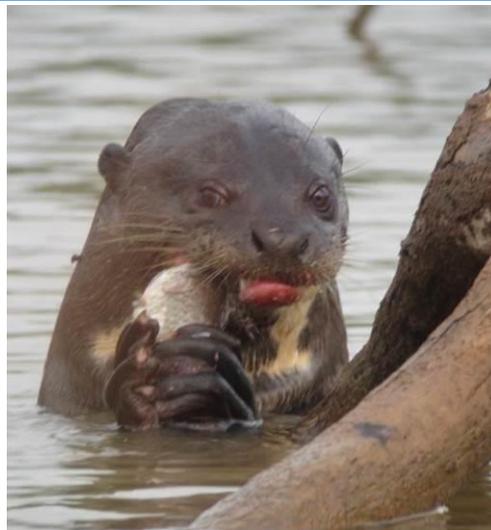
# Brazil – Just Jaguars

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 -17 September 2014



Jaguar



Giant River Otter



Yacare Caymen

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## Day 1

**Saturday 6th September**

Our flight left London Heathrow...and being a Brazilian airline and crew we had to adapt quickly to accepting strong, black coffee in tiny cups or tea with powdered milk spooned in to it. That was all part of the adventure! A wide range of films and music kept us entertained throughout the night. Sleeping was difficult due to the recurring realisation that specific Jaguars were prowling around the Pantanal at that very moment whose paths would collide with ours in the next few days!

## Day 2

**Sunday 7th September**

We arrived at Sao Paulo at 6am which was 4 hours behind UK time. The time spent waiting for our connecting flight to Cuiaba was spent flicking through field guides and longing to see some of the magnificent birds and mammals leaping to life off the pages. Some ventured out of the airport to take advantage of nearby birding opportunities. There were reports of Blue and White Swallows and the only Swallow-tailed Hummingbird and Bananaquit of the trip. It is a 2 hour flight into the interior and takes us across another time zone. When we arrived at Cuiaba we were 5 hours behind UK. A smiling, warm greeting from Marcos was as welcome as the news that a buffet meal awaited us at a restaurant just across the road. There was a fine choice of food. Its value was determined by mass and each plate had to be weighed, which was rather a novelty.

We were on the road by 2.15pm in a comfortable, air-conditioned bus which shielded us from the 35°C temperature outside. As we weaved our way through the townscape the first Brazilian birds were noted-European House Sparrow and Feral Pigeon! This was open savannah country with Black Vultures soaring over scattered, Pink Trumpet trees. Greater Rheas strutted with an air of superiority across parched open ground. A comfort break at a tourist complex close to Pacone offered us an array of unbelievably tacky souvenirs, which there was no time to buy...well, we didn't rush to do so on the way back either! It was 3.45pm when we began driving along the 140km of the Transpantaneira highway. After the first few kilometres we transferred to a comfortable, open safari truck for the remainder of the trek to our first lodge at Pouso Alegre. Exotic birds spotted from the bus included Toco Toucans and a Red-legged Seriema which we stopped to admire as it stepped cautiously through the low scrub searching for snakes.



A huge Caiman blocked the road at the old police checkpoint where we disembarked for a stretch and to change vehicles. Gradually the light faded and fireflies ignited their bursts of cold, chemical flashes like a million eyes spying on our incursion into their wilderness. It was dark by 6pm and Marcos began spotlighting making rapid scans along the roadside, alternately side to side. A Red Brocket Deer and a prowling Crab-eating Fox were disclosed by the beam. Paraques and other nighthawks lifted reluctantly from the dusty track as we bumped along towards them.

Brazilian Rabbits, Capybaras and Lesser Fishing Bats were all picked out by the dancing beam. Within 20 minutes of our arrival at the lodge of Pouso Alegre we were tucking into chicken pie. We had travelled so far and seen so much already that it was hard to believe that it was still only Sunday!

## Day 3

## Monday 8th September

A pre-breakfast wander around the lodge compound introduced us to the spectacular Hyacinth Macaws and an array of woodpeckers, woodcreepers, parakeets and exquisite doves. Toco Toucans and Azara's Agoutis vied for our attention. In true pantomime spirit, whichever direction you selected to look, there was always something behind you!

Breakfast offered a feast of ultra-fresh fruits like pineapples, melons and bananas with freshly baked fruit loaf. At 8.30am, we set off for a morning drive in the truck. The seats are very comfortable and the view is as good from any position. The beautiful night-flowering water lilies that we had illuminated last night were firmly closed now, but Yellow and Pink Trumpet trees and Red-flowered Bromeliads daubed splashes of bright colours on to the greens and browns of the savannah landscape. A pair of Jabiru Storks tended to two well-grown chicks perched on their enormous nest of sticks which was wedged in the fork of an imposing, decaying tree. Hammocks are zones of raised forest that don't flood and where the trees are taller and densely clustered. Here white, fluffy balls of Kapok hung pendulously above the twine-entangled canopy. Cattle Tyrants are attracted to any large, moving life-form that is likely to kick insects out as it plods along. We were regarded in the same light and consequently the Cattle Tyrants seemed very confiding and tame.

After lunch some of us wandered around, despite the heat, enjoying the rich bird life. Others felt that a siesta was more appropriate to their needs. We watched Wattled Jacanas dancing delicately across the lily pads with their long toes spreading their weight and red sealing wax lappets dangling attractively. It is the responsibility of the male Jacana to incubate the eggs and care for the young whilst the females continue their hedonistic lives. An Orange-backed Troupial was a colourful sight as it stripped and swallowed whole purple flowers from the bank side



vegetation.

At 3pm we were led into the forest to search for Black-tailed Marmosets and Black-capped Capuchins. Both troops were confiding and actively feeding, grooming or threatening each other in amusing bouts of frenetic action. Red berries on the only fruiting tree in the vicinity attracted the entire troop of squabbling Black-capped Capuchins. Springy branches sagged and sighed under the strain of their bouncing leaps. Thunder clouds amassed and rumbles grumbled through the heavy, humid air bringing stifling conditions all of a sudden...but thankfully no rain fell on this occasion.

To avoid the heat our evening safari was held back until 4.20pm. Just minutes after our truck jumped into life we halted abruptly beneath a rotting, leafless tree to peer up at a bulky nest. Peering back with staring red eyes and erect ear tufts was the startled face of a Great Horned Owl. Observing the springing, tail-raised gait of a pointed nosed Coati was our next reason to shudder to a halt. Pledging a vow of silence we eased into position alongside a water hole and sat patiently and still in the hope that creatures would emerge. First an Agouti, then a Red Brocket Deer crept out into the open. Chestnut-breasted and Piping Guans paraded by. A gesture from Marcos suggested that it was time for sundowners. Silently and surreptitiously cans of ice-cool beer were smuggled between us. Then, suddenly, like an assault from a repeat firing Kalashnikov, ring pulls exploded with fizz and pop and a fit of giggles reverberated beyond the truck and escaped into the still night air. The silent vigil was over and we trundled back. Spot-lighting illuminated 5 Crab-eating Foxes, 3 Red Brocket Deer, 3 Grey Brocket Deer and hordes of Capybara. We had enjoyed our foray into the night but Marcos announced that we would take an extra night excursion after dinner.

Evolution by natural selection has dealt a cruel hand to some animals. Imagine an animal that is large, but wafer thin as if it had been compressed in a sandwich toaster. Make it excessively long-haired and give it a tube face like a Dead Sea scroll. Then deny it teeth. Give it beady eyes and force it to walk on bare knuckles. On top of this compel it to consume a diet of ants and commit it to suffer chronic acid indigestion. This was the spectre caught in the spot-light which resolved into a ponderous Giant Anteater! It shuffled into view scraping the base of a termite mound and extruding its sixty-centimetre, sticky, spiny, saliva smeared tongue into the cracks. A second Giant Anteater emerged from the darkness and stepped into the beam of the search light. This was a mother with a baby slung over its back like a child's pyjama case. It was such an endearing sight that sentiment gushed from even the hardest hearts – ahhhh!

## Day 4

Tuesday 9th September

If anyone remained in slumber at 5am that was about to change as the pre-dawn shouting match between rival gangs of Chaco Chachalacas broke out. A cacophony of raucous, chortling and cackling calls with repeated cries of “cha-ka-raka” at high volume awoke all but the totally comatose. An early breakfast was prepared at 5.30am and by 6.10am we were on the road again for the 120km drive south to Porto Jofre. There was so much to see that the dusty, bone-shaking ride passed very quickly. Hyacinth Macaws squabbled in the palm trees sporting their breath-takingly beautiful, blue plumage and gaudy yellow face make-up. The intense bickering, as each macaw covets its neighbour's selected palm nut, seemed unnecessary as food was in plentiful supply. By contrast pairs all preened delicately and affectionately. Each rearranging and realigning its partner's plumes until satisfied that they lay smartly.



It took a while for one member of the group to master the name of the Kiskadee. The hit record was not by Kiskadee and Elton Guan! These ubiquitous flycatchers perched prominently in all terrain and were our constant companions throughout the trip along with the remarkable Horneros or Ovenbirds.

It is down to good fortune if a particular animal emerges at the road side just as the vehicle is approaching. This was precisely the case with the elusive mustelid known as a Tayra. Two of these scarce carnivores bounded onto the track resembling Polecats on steroids. It was an exciting and unexpected sighting, but they didn't linger.

We were grateful to the hotelier at the Mato Grosso Hotel for accommodating our comfort stop. This modern building squats on the bank of the River Pixaim. Its gardens are adorned with bird feeders which attracted a colourful array of small birds like Cardinals and Saffron Finches. Soon we were off again and marvelling at the diversity of wildlife around us. Black Howler Monkeys, Swamp Turtle, Marsh Deer and Laughing Falcon were amongst the most memorable sightings. As we left the savannah behind the vista opened up into a huge expanse of marshland. It was here that we found our first Southern Screamer and enjoyed superb views of three roosting Great Horned Owls. They were aloft in an isolated clump of tall trees and although undisturbed by our presence, they nevertheless kept an eye on our movements.



The riverine settlement of Porto Jofre loomed into view at 11.20am and here we transferred to a flat-bottomed, outboard driven speed boat to transport us up the Cuiaba River to where our Flotel was moored. It was midday and lunch was on the table as we disembarked. The fresh fish offered was delicious and the subsequent fare on this vessel was indeed of excellent quality and variety despite its remote location. By 2.30pm we found ourselves adorned with life jackets, seated and raring to go on our first water borne safari. Our destination was The Three Brothers zone, unsurprisingly centred at the confluence of, three rivers! Every sand bank on the river held a community of the same four species of birds. They were Pied Lapwing, Black Skimmer, Large-billed Tern and Yellow-billed Tern. We entered the Black Channel which narrowed progressively as Water Hyacinths choked this tranquil waterway. The outboard motor had to be thrust into reverse periodically to free the propeller from entwining, choking weeds.

The radio crackled and a muffled boatman's voice garbled the whereabouts of a large, male Jaguar. We were not prepared for the action that followed. Suddenly the boat lurched forwards and whipped up spray as it reached warp factor 12 in 3 nano seconds. This rocket force propulsion became affectionately known as 'Jaguar speed'.

After 20 minutes we performed the nautical equivalent of a hand brake turn and retraced our flight path as a better Jaguar had been discovered. We arrived to find other boats anchored in close proximity to an indolent, disinterested male Jaguar who lounged in the shade of a river cut platform backed by a low cliff. After a while it stood up to reveal its impressive muscle-bound feline frame. It resettled only to be plagued by troublesome, horse flies that clearly annoyed and agitated the Jaguar causing it to thrash its bulbous head and slash its blotchy tail with great irritation.

A group of Capybaras tried to swim past silently and inconspicuously but the Jaguar had spotted them. Raising his heavy head he glanced at them showing mild interest, but then flopped down in repose again. Dusk was approaching and it was time to leave. Proboscis Bats, Lesser Fishing Bats and Band-tailed Nightjars wheeled and danced back and forth over the glistening river. After a splendid meal and as the Southern Cross was rising, we enjoyed a talk on Pumas then retired to the sanctity of our cabins to reflect on the day's wonderful sightings.



## Day 5

## Wednesday 10th September

Murmurations of early morning river activity and the awakening forest seeped through the Jaguar-patterned curtains ensuring that no alarm call was necessary. The Flotel rests against a thin band of forest which attracts many birds, Capybaras and Caiman to within exceptionally close range. Rusty-margined Flycatchers, Rufous-tailed Jacamars and Solitary Casiques were joined by cardinals and kingfishers perched at almost touching distance.



At 7am we piled into the craft and were off. In just minutes we were enthralled by a group of 6 Giant Otters with ravenous appetites. They hunted in a tight pack, porpoising sleekly through the murky water and diving into the hyacinth beds to flush out thrashing, leaping fish. Once one otter makes a catch it swims away from the others to avoid its meal being snatched. There is a limit to the cooperative spirit. It is usual for the otter to swim along with jaws firmly clamped around a catfish until it finds a log to support it as it crunches the

fish to bits. After rapidly dispatching the entire catch, the otter has ground to make up on the rest of the family who have surged ahead in the relentless search for more fish. Using propulsion from its beaver-like tail and huge, webbed feet it soon rejoins the pack. Evolution has pushed the sense organs of the Capybara upwards towards the crown of its head. The nostrils, eyes and ears are aligned to remain above water so the giant rodent can conceal its mass but retain awareness of its surroundings. They glide along like mini hippos and mate in the water. We know...we were watching a pair when a Jaguar alert tore us away. Two Jaguars were similarly engaged.

There was much growling as a radio-collared male had enticed a female into his territory. From what we heard it seems clear that his advances had met with success. We left them in favour of returning to the rivers' confluence. Anchoring in midstream exposed us to the scorching sun searing down from a cloudless sky. Large umbrellas were erected to shade us, but they had to be held in position by press-ganged volunteers. The two Jaguars here were also in mating mood but in attempting to mount, the male overbalanced and tumbled off sending clouds of dust cascading into the river as he fell to the ground and slipped down the slope. He roared with anguish.

We returned to the Flotel at 11.30am for lunch and a break before our next adventure. Three Giant Otters sneaked past the boat unseen by most. Black Howler Monkeys were more conspicuous but soon we were speeding towards another Jaguar. This time fourteen boats had converged on a reposing male. Some of them were far too close in contravention of the code and blocking everyone else's view. Marcos was quite right to feel unhappy with this situation and we fully supported his decision to move us on. Two large Green Iguanas scurried across a sand bank. A lone Giant Otter swam alongside for a while but then a call alerted us to the discovery of a Yellow Anaconda. When we arrived it had wrapped itself beneath a tangle of vegetation but its thick, immense head was poking out. What a sight!

Another Jaguar, found lounging in the open on a sand bank, was a famed caiman hunter with a blind eye. We watched him for a very long time in the hope that he would overcome his indolence and give pursuit to one of the caiman that surfaced less than 25m from him. He showed mild interest but flopped back down to doze. It was then that we realised our vessel was firmly grounded on a shoal of sand. The outboard protested and whined as it choked on bellowing clouds of emissions. Those of us at the stern had to scramble and totter forwards to redistribute the weight so that our beached boat could float off the sand bank.



As we parted company with the Jaguar the warm glow of the sinking sun was dissolving into the obscurity of dusk. Colours faded to grey and shapes became fuzzy as the night-shift clocked on. Band-tailed Nightjars fluttered against the gloomy sky whilst Lesser Fishing Bats swooped back and forth across our boughs. These bats exude a strong odour and a musty scent assaulted our nostrils as scores of them winged to and fro displacing the day-flying swallows from this niche. Spot-lighting from the Flotel later in the evening revealed the much bulkier Greater Fishing Bats with their rusty, orange pelage and translucent, bone-revealing wings. Their odour can be detected from a distance of 100 metres. Some large, lamp-eyed moths were snapped up as they flew towards the spot-light. After another first class meal we were entertained by an informative talk on the lives of Capybaras.

## Day 6

Thursday 11th September

This morning there were some very colourful and fascinating birds hopping around the branches and feeders right by the doors of our cabins; Solitary Casiques were weaving a pendulous nest; Yellow-billed Cardinals and Silver-beaked Tanagers; Rusty-margined Flycatchers and Rufous-tailed Jacamars; Green, Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers; all paraded alongside before breakfast.

The first Jaguar call of the day came in swiftly and the spray sputtered as the engine screamed to 'jaguar-speed'. The spectral delights of miniature rainbows holding station in the spray distracted us from the perils of high speed transit. By the time of our arrival, Jaguar number 6 had tired of tourists. She raised her lissom frame, swished her tail and ambled into the dark recesses of the thicket. We now entered a rare passage of time where the pace slackened. All was quiet until a gust of wind snatched Marcos' Naturetrek cap and sent it gambolling downstream like a skimming stone. Skilful manoeuvring by the boatman ensured its safe retrieval. That was the extent of excitement until news of a huge male Jaguar known as Adriano pacing along the river bank restored adrenalin levels and we were off once more. He was our Jaguar number 7 but he was not alone. Another male, accompanied by the female we saw yesterday, was in his territory. The two males engaged in a violent combat with much growling, snarling and grunting. They thrashed about in the undergrowth beneath the tapestry of thickly foliated trees so we could only guess at the outcome.

A kaleidoscope of swirling sulphur, orange and olive winged butterflies attracted us to a sand bank. Myriads of fluttering wings gyrated round a fixed point like moths to a flame where a concentration of minerals and amino acids had seeped into the sand. The butterflies were imbibing fresh supplies of essential ions.

Several examples of commensalism were witnessed on this trip where two species interact to their mutual benefit but without obligation. Here we saw an obese male Capybara rolling over invitingly to expose his under carriage to a delighted Giant Cowbird who proceeded to peck off troublesome ticks and mites with relish.



It was very hot so we returned to base for an extended lunch break and set out again later than usual. This session was spent in the company of the one-eyed Jaguar known as Mick. This is what ensued... The orange and black head of a Jaguar rose up through the tangle of water hyacinths and glared intently in our direction. It was an immense male. He shook himself clear of the encumbering, clinging water weeds and plodded along the soft sediment of a sand bar with tail raised and swishing. He was hunting for caiman as he slid furtively into the murky water and swam beneath the overhanging

lianas and swaying branches. His countenance oozed hunger with a single-minded mission to satiate the pangs without delay. Suddenly, its gait was arrested and with heavily jawed head protruding forwards it focussed all of its alert senses upon a movement in the reeds. With powerful flexing of its rippling muscles it leaped forwards and pounced sending spray flying as a fan of golden droplets glinting momentarily in the dancing sunbeams. The caiman respond with uncharacteristic alacrity, dived deeply and escaped. The thwarted predator heaved at soggy clods with bulging shoulder muscles as if disbelieving of its victim's escape. The Jaguar changed tactics, scrambled up the embankment and stumbled upon a burrow. This time there was no prospect of escape for the hapless rodent cowering below ground. The Jaguar scooped it out, snapped its jaws into the struggling flesh and slinked off into the forest with its agouti-sized snack. We had been privileged to observe the hunting tactics of this consummate predator for over an hour. It was an emotional and humbling experience so engaging and captivating that you were oblivious to the presence of others.

Meanwhile the pugilistic Adriano had been rediscovered. He was licking and grooming his more finely spotted pelage that clearly distinguished him from his rivals. Had he triumphed over his neighbour or was he tending to wounded pride? Dusk descended all too soon and after another satisfying meal, we sat back to learn more about the Giant Otters of the Pantanal.

## Day 7

## Friday 12th September

Early morning watching in the proximity of the Flotel was again very profitable. Blue-faced Piping Guans, Rufescent Tiger Herons, Anhingas, kingfishers and caimans grabbed attention. Our river based session this morning was to be a long boat ride up the Piquiri River to an encampment known as Pousada Piquiri. It was an enchanting excursion with plenty to marvel at. Over 100 Black Skimmers squatted on a sand bar amongst Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns. Some skimmers were fishing by ploughing a furrow in the water with the longer, lower mandible submerged feeling for fish. Then an Osprey circled above peering down for hapless fish loitering near the surface. Suddenly, I spied a large, thick, yellow head protruding from the water at an angle of 45°. This image suggested only one possibility. “Anaconda!” “Anaconda!” I announced excitedly. Marcos slowly raised his head and with admonishing, lateral wagging of his slender index finger he quietly muttered “caiman” and on we went. There was no mistake about the next sighting. When boatman John thrusts the gear level sharply and we drop with alacrity down through the warp factors into sudden reverse, Pavlovian conditioning led us to expect another thrilling encounter. John had spied two bulky shapes under cover at the end of a sand bar. These resolved into two splendid Brazilian Tapirs loitering in the shade. One displayed its pachyderm ancestry by raising its diminutive trunk and flaring its nostrils like two Hoovers on full suction. The air currents emanating from us were probably as unsavoury to the tapirs as the bats’ odour had been to us.

It was 8.30am when we disembarked at Pousada Piquiri and we were allowed an hour and a half to explore these enchanted gardens. It was indeed a paradise. The hotelier does all he can to attract wildlife. There were scores of birds to enjoy.



Yellow-rumped Casiques attended to their tear-drop nests swinging from a palm tree. Guans, Chachalacas, Cow Birds, Black Vultures, Caracaras and above all Hyacinth Macaws graced the gardens. Loquacious parrots chattered and squabbled as they flittered restlessly from tree to tree. The highlight for many was to observe two Six-banded Armadillos industriously excavating burrows by showering plumes of earth skywards as they gradually descended to a Hadean world. All too soon it was time to depart and head back for lunch.

The afternoon trip began well. A pair of King Vultures had alighted on a sand bar close to the Flotel. By very skilful and gradual manoeuvring of the boat, John managed to position us exceptionally close to these regal scavengers without disturbing them. We couldn't linger though, as a muffled Jaguar alert crackled out from the radio and we held on to our hats. A female Jaguar stepped out of cover and walked sedately along the sun-drenched, ochreous, sandy bank in full view and evenly illuminated by the sun glowing from behind us.

After enjoying a degree of intimacy with her it was time to switch our attention back to George. He had been relocated so we zoomed off, leaning over at meanders, like TT riders, and mopping the spray from our faces. This male Jaguar was lying on the bank peering up at a petrified juvenile Rufescent Tiger Heron. The bird panicked and fled. George eased himself down the bank and slunk into the cool river with scarcely a ripple. He swam a long way keeping to the edge and ducking beneath overhanging branches in his search for caiman or inattentive Capybaras. Periodically he scrambled out and climbed the bank with water draining from his black and orange coat. A posse of alarmed Capybaras lined up to face him and barked their warning message across the river. This Jaguar was intent upon seizing a caiman and paid no heed to these petrified rodents. After a satisfyingly long period of time spent watching this enigmatic Jaguar we withdrew and returned to base.

We found out much more about individual Jaguars during an illustrated presentation by Marcos after dinner. It was fascinating to learn about the project to conserve them. Each individual Jaguar is identifiable by the pattern of markings on its head. The researchers were able to identify all but one of the Jaguars we saw on this trip. Details of their past associations and behaviour patterns were shared with us and we were shown maps of individual territories. The degree of overlap was surprising.

## Day 8

Saturday 13th September

Sadly the 4 nights allocated to us on the Flotel were now over. The wildlife had been spectacular but the quality and quantity of excellent food should also be acknowledged. At 7am we took an excursion to rendezvous with our family of 6 Giant Otters. They were soon located and we followed them for an hour as they fed incessantly. A struggling catfish was easily subdued by the large, webbed and sharp clawed paws of this supremely well adapted animal. As they swam close to the margins they would periodically spy-hop to scan for Jaguars. We passed a large, deceased caiman which was floating belly up and receiving the attention of 4 Black Vultures who were desperately trying to hack their way into its flesh. They danced and stepped like Canadian log-rollers in an attempt to maintain balance. It was time to return to the Flotel for coffee and to finish packing our bags.

At 8.30am we pulled away towards our third and final lodge on the River Pixaim via Porto Jofre. We were reflecting on our good fortune to have seen 7 different Jaguars on 14 occasions when Jaguar number 8 popped up unexpectedly. It was a new female resting on the bank. We certainly had done very well for sightings of this icon of the Pantanal. Transferring luggage and personnel to the truck went smoothly and we chugged off at 9.30am. The drive back along the Transpantaneira highway was equally as fascinating as the drive out. Lots more Southern Screamers were seen including one with a chick. A Yellow-footed Tortoise trundled across the road. Marsh Deer were seen here and there and all the expected raptors lined the route. The timings on this tour have been so slick and accurate that it came as no surprise to find lunch was ready and waiting when we arrived at Southwild Lodge. During an orientation walk that afternoon we were shocked to see a bird that we considered to be a flycatcher behaving quite differently. It was another Kiki Dee; sorry, Kiskadee!



A Great Kiskadee swooped down to seize a huge frog. It flew up to a whacking station and proceeded to thump the frog repeatedly against the solid support. Cameras whirred! The heat was intense and the humidity soared. Thunder clouds amassed. This did not bode well for our spot-lighting session. We set out at 4.30pm and enjoyed identifying a variety of birds. As we were going down the Transpantaneira highway Marcos took the wise decision to retreat. However, the storm broke and rain cascaded through the truck's open sides and although we were soaked, it was actually a fun-filled experience that we all enjoyed. There was much laughter and high spirits and we re-labelled the cool box to read 'raindowners!' Frogs and toads hopping around doorways and seeking to break into our rooms were entertaining!

## Day 9

## Sunday 14th September

Although the Jabiru's nest was unoccupied it was worth climbing the observation tower to greet the rising sun. White-faced Whistling ducks, silhouetted against the red fiery globe, flew towards the awakening river. Toco Toucans mingled with the ubiquitous parrots. A Forked-tailed Flycatcher flew back and forth dragging its streamers behind it like a train on a wedding gown.

After breakfast we clambered into two boats and steadily motored upstream to meet some boat-habituated characters. The first performer was a confiding Great Black Hawk who snatched the fish thrown out for it with ease. Next up was a Ringed Kingfisher. It was less skilful and needed a couple of attempts to grasp the tempting bait. At the interval we established that Laughing Falcons really do guffaw. Then the finale followed...



Two Jabiru Storks, upon hearing the outboard, flew around the meander to greet us. They alighted expectantly on a sandy bank and gulped down every fish tossed to them.

As we slowly passed beneath the concrete bridge by the Mato Grosso Hotel the opportunity arose to look at roosting Proboscis Bats. They characteristically roost in a line and grasp the substrate with all four points of contact. At night their flight is very

fast and straight making them readily identifiable in a country with so many species of Chiropterans. As the river narrowed and beds of Water Hyacinth flanked the banks we were confronted by a new habitat. Here we found the mythical Sun Grebe nodding its head as it swam around the drowned tree roots. It clambered out of the water to perch on a branch enabling us to see its ridiculous feet! The legs bore black and yellow vertical stripes and the toes were broad and lobed with black and yellow bands. An even more bizarre bird awaited us round the next meander. It was a juvenile Boat-billed Heron with a very broad, shovel-like bill designed for scooping up frogs and fish. We would have liked more time in this lagoon as it was secluded and no other boats were around. However, we had to leave for lunch. It was hot so Marcos decided to give us a 4 hour break. Most opted to sleep but some explored the trails, thorn scrub and acacia clumps surrounding the estate in defiance of the heat.

It was a thrilling walk with Howler Monkeys, Great Antshrike, White-rumped Monjita, several species of hawks and a Solitary Sandpiper all on view. The group reassembled at 4pm for a walk into the gallery forest past the Jaguar warning sign and remote camera. Although we did grasp the notion of it being dangerous for one person to venture into this zone, we were perplexed by the notion that it was deemed to be safe for two! Our late afternoon drive led us to two splendid, antlered Marsh Deer and a party of 20 Collared Peccaries. As the sun set the dusty road glowed red for a while. Large Nacunda Nighthawks were dislodged from their resting sites in the middle of the road. An Agouti trotted past. Now it was dark enough to begin spot-lighting. This is always an exciting activity. The possibility of illuminating one of the many spectacular mammals frequenting the highway fills you with expectation. Tonight we encountered 6 Crab-eating Foxes; (Although one trotted off with a frog in its jaws); 3 Marsh Deer; 1 Red Brocket Deer; 1 Grey Brocket Deer and 3 Great Horned Owls.

## Day 10

## Monday 15th September

We were up before the sun and ready for a new experience. The plan was to drift downstream exchanging the reverberant groaning of outboard motors for the cool, lapping peaceful, dipping of paddles so that we could listen to the dawn chorus. It was so tranquil as redness bled into the eastern horizon and birds called as they filtered out from their roosts to wing their way to distant feeding grounds. We drifted in silence. It was the vibrant atmosphere of the awakening river life with its plethora of tropical sounds that was so enchanting. Bird vocalisations consisted of short, repeated phrases rather than the sustained songs of a European dawn. Kingfishers had already re-established ownership of their favoured perches and they were ready to plunge as the visibility improved. At 6.45am the outboards jerked to life and we zoomed back for breakfast hoping to catch the Toco Toucans at the feeders.

By 8.30am we were back on the river heading to a landing site where a woodland trail had been hacked out of the forest. Nothing prepares you for your first encounter with some birds that you have only seen in photos or videos. The Shoebill in Africa is one, but here before us was another.

An old, rotten tree devoid of leaves had a greyish, rough bark and decaying stumps projecting upwards. One of these stumps opened its eyes and blinked. Its bark was actually vermiculated and streaked feathers patterned as if coated with a collage of moths' wings.



This was a roosting Great Potoo. Its cryptic colouration and uncanny resemblance to a log serve to camouflage it most effectively as it spends the daylight hours in a catatonic state. The previous evening we had illuminated one with the spot-light as it hunted for large flying insects. Another individual was located deeper in the forest.

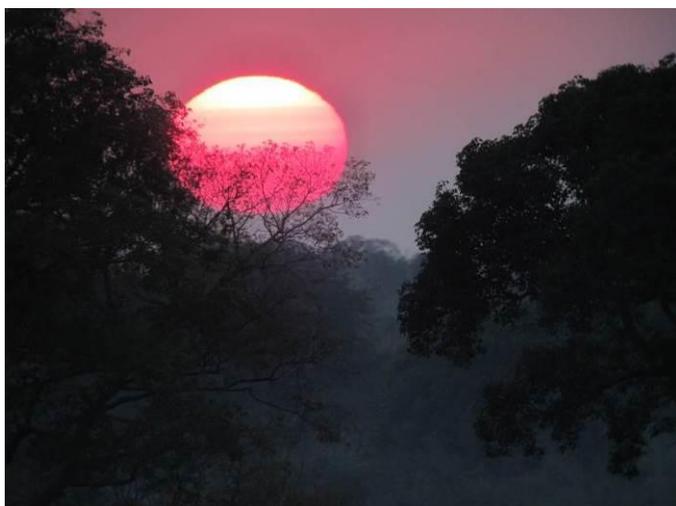


There were some Jaguar prints in the dried mud but they were quite old. However, a trail camera was set up to monitor any action. We resumed our river trip and fortuitously stumbled upon a skulking Agami Heron stepping sedately through the shallows. This is surely the most attractive of the world's herons sporting iridescent patches of shiny green, blue and warm chestnut complemented by its bright yellow bill and legs. It is renowned for secrecy and freezes rather than flees if disturbed. Boat-billed Herons scattered along the river had opted to roost alone and higher up in the trees. Caimans were hunting actively along the margins scattering fish in all directions; several leaping blindly out of the water in frantic efforts to escape. A Giant Otter swam out to investigate the boat giving us very close views as we made our return journey to the lodge for lunch.

There was time for some independent activity in the afternoon before the 3.30pm departure for another up river excursion. Black Howler Monkeys cavorted in the canopy. A mother supported a youngster clinging to her belly while the jet black male hung about using his prehensile tail to good effect. A little further upstream we met a troop of Capuchins. Primates are always entertaining to observe as their interactions never cease. A mating pair suffered persistent interference from a third individual resulting in bellicose behaviour rather than amorous. Unexpected happenings cause amusement. Several Capuchins were demonstrating their agility and mastery of their arboreal domain when one bounced out onto a springy branch. Suddenly, a large, elongated, green spiny mass was catapulted into the air and crashed down into the thicket below. It was a startled Green Iguana descending involuntarily and by the fastest route!

A tall lookout tower of dubious soundness was ascended by some of us. If you ignored the deep splits in the framework and took no notice of the swaying motion, it was probably worth the risk to ascend for the view.

It was approaching sunset and we docked on a sandy shore to watch the rapid transition from daylight to dusk. There were no clouds to absorb and diffuse the redness, but a shimmering red trail on the water created a magic of its own. Spot-lighting on the way back showed that the essentially nocturnal Boat-billed Herons had emerged from their day time roosts to begin feeding. Nightjars and bats assumed control of the aerial domain as swallows and martins retreated. Flocks of Amazon parrots crossed in waves as they made for their roosting sites. Snowy, Great White and Cattle Egrets adorned a clump of trees like baubles on a festive tree as they settled to roost. There was no rest for Caiman and Capybaras who seem to maintain a 24 hour circadian rhythm.



Dawn



Dusk

Today we had followed the lives of riverside inhabitants from before dawn to after dusk. We had witnessed the dramas and traumas; the comedies and farces comprising the daily existence of members of this rich ecosystem. It had been an enthralling experience!

## Day 11

## Tuesday 16th September

Creeping out of my room as the Chachalacas announced the approach of dawn; I met with a strange, eerie sound like a bellowing gale gushing out of the forest. It resembled a gathering of ogres all drawing breathe and exhaling asynchronously. This was a troop of howler monkeys greeting the sun-god with the religious fervour of ancient Incas.



There was just enough time after breakfast for a final session with the Toco Toucans before we had to pack up and leave for Cuiaba. They have been coming to the feeding station regularly around breakfast time. This morning there was no sign of them and we feared that their routine may have changed. To everyone's delight these comical birds appeared during breakfast and the announcement of their arrival initiated a mass exodus from the cornflakes and toast. Cruising down the Transpantaneira highway in an air-conditioned bus is a luxurious way to travel, but it doesn't make crossing the multitude of rickety, wooden bridges

any easier. Some were in such a state of disrepair that we had to circumvent them. As expected there was wildlife to be seen all the way. A huge snake, either an anaconda or a boa, squirmed across the dusty road and disappeared into a marsh. A Black Tegu lizard nodded its greeting. We stopped to admire a Greater Rhea with at least 17 ungainly, long-legged chicks clustering around her as she walked sedately through the scrub.

Then we came up to a spectacular area of swamp bordering the highway. There were hundreds of large, mean-looking caiman lining the fringes of a water-filled channel. Many were piled on top of each other with mouths gaping brandishing sharp teeth from insincere grins. Many egrets and ibises congregated here too. The final sighting of note was of a Burrowing Owl perched prominently on top of a termite mound. We arrived at Cuiaba airport in good time for our flight to Sao Paulo which left at 2.15pm. There we waited to transfer to the onward flight to UK for the remaining 5 of us who were not embarking upon extensions.

## Day 12

## Wednesday 17th September

We touched down at Heathrow and said goodbye to our companions who had shared a truly wonderful tour together.

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## Species Lists

### Mammals

	Common name	Scientific name	September											
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
1	Giant Anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>		3										
2	Six-banded Armadillo	<i>Euphractes sexcinctus</i>							1					
3	Greater Fishing Bat	<i>Nocilio leporinus</i>				40+	20+	20c		20c			2	
4	Lesser Fishing Bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>	1					40c		30c	10			
5	Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>	3	12	12	3		5		4	3			
6	Brazilian Tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>						2						
7	Giant River Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>				6	7	1	6		1			
8	South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>		1										
9	Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>	2	5	1					6				
10	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>			2									
11	Silvery (Pantanal) Marmoset	<i>Callithrix argentata</i>		3										
12	Black Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>	3	4	5	5	1	2	1	3	2	1		
13	Black-capped Capuchin Monkey	<i>Cebus apella</i>		4				6			3			
14	Azara's Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>	1	2				1		1			1	
15	Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	50c	40+	50+	50c	20+	30+	40+	100+	60+	30+		
16	Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>			3				4	3				
17	Red Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>		4						1	1			
18	Brown Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>	2	2	1					1				
19	White-lipped Peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>												
20	Collared Peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>	2							13			1	
21	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>			1	4	3	2	1					
22	Brazilian Rabbit	<i>Silvylagus brasiliensis</i>	3											

### Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Yacare Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus jacare</i>	20c	20c	30+	15	12	20c	30+	10	20+	150+
2	Red-footed Tortoise	<i>Chelonoides carbonaria</i>							1			
3	Neck-side River Turtle sp	<i>Podocnemis sp.</i>			1							
4	Common (Green) Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>		1	1	4	2	1		2	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	September										
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
5	Black Tegu lizard	<i>Tupinambis merianae</i>		1								1	
6	Lizard spp	<i>Teiidae spp.</i>				1		1					1
7	Yellow Anaconda	<i>Eunectes notatus</i>				1							1
8	Giant Toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>								1			
9	Cane Toad	<i>Bufo paracnemis</i>											
10	Tree Frogs	<i>Hyla spp.</i>		1	1								
11	Snake	<i>Psomophis germimaculatus</i>		2									
12	Green Jungle Runner -Giant Ameiva	<i>Ameiva ameiva</i>			1			1	1				
13	Golden Tegu Lizard	<i>Tupinambis teguixin</i>				1		1				1	
14	Milk Frog							1					
15	Spined Lizard sp							1					
16	Brazilian-lancehead	<i>Bothrops moojeni</i>										1	

## Birds

1	Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	4	10	3								20+
2	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax olivaceus</i>	2		3	6	48	8	2	5	20+	20+	
3	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>			5	12	9	20c	11	12	30+	7	
4	Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>							1				
5	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	1		1					1	1		
6	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	20c	20c	20c	4	3	20+	12	6	9	7	
7	White-necked (Cocoi) Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	10	15	20+	20+	20+	30+	20+	14	30+	5	
8	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	6	5	20c	7	9	7	15	4	3	2	
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	20c	20+	30+	3	2	20c	6	5	40+	9	
10	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	7	7	5	4	4	3	20+	6	25c	9	
11	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	1	1						2		
12	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearia</i>								2	10		
13	Rufescent Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>	3	3	8	7	6	9	6	5	8	5	
14	Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>									1		
15	Plumbeous Ibis	<i>Harpiprion caerulescens</i>	10	6		3	3	2	3	2			
16	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>		2	2		2	2	8	2	3	6	
17	Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>	4	2	6		4		8	3	2	4	
18	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	3		2					1		2	

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	5	6	4	6	8	4	5	5	3	8
20	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	5	8	18	6	6	10	8	8	4	18
21	Southern Screamer	<i>Anhima torquata</i>			3				12			
22	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>								12		
23	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	3		1					1		1
24	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	12	20	50c	50c	30+	50+	20	12	15c	20c
25	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>			6	8	2	7	5	2	2	30+
26	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>		1	10	10	6	12	6	5	3	2
27	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>						2	1			
28	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					1			1		
29	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>				2						
30	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>							1			
31	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>		1							1	
32	Long-winged Harrier	<i>Circus buffoni</i>		1	1							
33	Crane Hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>						1			1	
34	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	1	3	6	7	8	2	6	4	3	1
35	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	3	3	6	2	2	3	8	1	2	
36	Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	5	6	7	1	3	5	4	5	6	2
37	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>		1	25c	3	3	2	4	1		2
38	White-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>						1				
39	Harris' Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>										2
40	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>									1	
41	Crested Caracara	<i>Polyborus plancus</i>	4	20c	50+	30+	20c	50+	30c	20+	20+	20c
42	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>			3					1		
43	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>		1								
44	Chaco Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>	3	70+	50c	10	8	10	20+	20+	20c	with
45	Chestnut-bellied Guan	<i>Penelope ochrogaster</i>		6	4			8	10			
46	Blue-throated Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>			4	3	6	20+	9	4	5	
47	Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>								1	1	
48	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guaranauna</i>	8	4	2				3	2		4
49	Red-legged Seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>	1									
50	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>		2	2	4	2	1	1			

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
51	Pied Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cayanus</i>			2	2	4	6	1			
52	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	10	6	4		2		5	7	4	7
53	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>							1		1	1
54	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	7	8	4	2	2	1	3	3	1	2
55	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>			50c	8	9	20c	100c			
56	Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sterna supercilialis</i>			8	7	14	20c	18			
57	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	2	1	6	10	8	9	10		12	14
58	Picazuro Pigeon	<i>Columba picazuro</i>	4	10	2	2	1		10	100+	20c	20c
59	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>	3		3	2	1	6	10	8	8	2
60	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>		2	1				4	3	6	2
61	Scaled Dove	<i>Columbina squamatta</i>		10	6			3	4	6	6	5
62	Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		4	6		2	6	5	10	3	3
63	Picui Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>		2					2			
64	Long-tailed Ground-Dove	<i>Uropelia campestris</i>		6							2	
65	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		4	6	2	4	20c	20c	20+	20c	20c
66	Feral Pigeon ("Rock Dove")	<i>Columba livia</i>	11									20+
67	Hyacinth Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>	1	6	8			14	5	2	5	2
68	Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>	3	10	4	4	5		8	6	7	6
69	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>		100+	50c	20c	12	20c	10	2		10
70	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>		6	3	4	2	4	4	4	6	2
71	Scaly-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>		3								
72	Blue-fronted ( Turquoise ) Parrot	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>		10	10	2	4	4	6	10	60+	4
73	Orange-winged Parrot	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>					1					
74	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		1	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	1
75	Little Cuckoo	<i>Piaya minuta</i>							1			
76	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	3	20c	50c	20+	10	8	20+	14	8	5
78	Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>	1	6	2				6	2		1
79	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>		1	1					2		
80	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>										1
81	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>		1							3	
82	Grey Potoo (Common Potoo)	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>	1									
83	Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga</i>			30+	12		30+		3	12	

	Common name	Scientific name	September										
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
84	Nacunda Nighthawk	<i>Podager nacunda</i>		1							3		
85	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	3	2							1		
86	Little Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus parvulus</i>									1		
87	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i> or all							1				
88	Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>										1	2
89	Blue-crowned Trogon	<i>Trogon curucui</i>						1					
90	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	2	7	50+	20+	14	20+	14	12	20+	10	
91	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	4	3	12	10	5	8	4	10	5	2	
92	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>		1	1	1	3	1	1	3	2		
93	Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>			1		1			2	2		
94	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>			3	7	4	3	1				
95	Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>	1	1			3						1
96	Chestnut-eared Araçari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>	1	1		1		1	2	2			1
97	Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	
98	White Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>			1		3						
99	Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>		1	1			1					
100	Golden Green Woodpecker	<i>Piculus chrysochloros</i>										1	
101	Green Barred Woodpecker	<i>Chrysoptilus melanochloros</i>		1						1	1		
102	Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>							1	2			1
103	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>		1						1			
104	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>		2									
105	Great Rufous Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes major</i>		1									
106	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus picus</i>								1	1		
107	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>		1					1				
108	Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>		1	1				1	2	1	1	
109	Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Camphlorhamphus trochilirostris</i>		1						1			
110	Pale-legged Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>		2		3	2					6	
111	Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>		20c	30+	4	1	6	20+	20+	8	20+	
112	Chotoy Spinetail	<i>Schoeniophylax phryganophila</i>					2			2	1	1	
113	Rusty backed Spinetail	<i>Cranioaluca vulpina</i>				2	2	2	2	1	1	1	
114	Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomea</i>				2			2	2	2		
115	Greater Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus ruber</i>				1	1		1				

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
116	Grey-crested Cachaote	<i>Pseudoseisura unirufa</i>	1		1			1	4	3	1	3
117	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>								1		
118	Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>					1	1				
119	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>					2					
120	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>		1	1	1			3	1	1	1
121	Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosus</i>	6	20+	20+			12	8	8	3	5
122	White-rumped Monjita	<i>Xolmis velatus</i>	1						1	2	1	
123	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>		2	6	8	7	9	6	14	2	3
124	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>			2			1	1	1	1	1
125	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>		1	1							
126	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>		1		3	1	2	2			
127	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>										1
128	Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus lictor</i>				1	3	2	1	3	4	
129	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	10	15	50+	20c	12	20+	20c	20+	15	8
130	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>		6	20c	50+	30+	30+	15	10	X	18
131	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>		2								2
132	Brown-chested Martin	<i>Phaeoprogne tapera</i>	3	20+	40c	100+		6	10	60+	20+	12
133	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>			4		1	20+	20c	4	2	3
134	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>			20+	100+	50c	80+	20+	2	3	5
135	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>										
136	Purplish Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>	1	3	6	3	5	3	6	7	5	4
137	Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapillus</i>		2	7	2	4		5	2	2	2
138	Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>		2	1	1		2		6	1	2
139	Buff-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus leucotis</i>				1	1	1	1			
140	Rufous-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>		2	1			2	2	2	3	2
141	Chestnut-vented Conebill	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>							1			
142	Hooded Tanager	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>									1	
143	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>									1	
144	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>		2	6	2	6	7	20+	16	9	6
145	Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>			1				3	3	5	4
146	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>							2	2	1	1
147	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>		3			1	2	1	3	1	2

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
148	Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	2	1					2	3	2	3
149	Yellow-billed Cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>	4	20+	50+	100+	50c	40c	50+	30+	30+	20c
150	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		5	4							15c
151	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	6	8	20c			12	12	12	20c	12
152	Rusty-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila collaris</i>	1									
153	Bay-winged Cowbird	<i>Molothrus badius</i>		40+	50c				14	20c	20+	10
154	Giant Cowbird	<i>Scaphidura oryzivora</i>		6	20+	3	4	20+	2	6	6	4
155	Screaming Cowbird	<i>Molothrus rufoaxillaris</i>					4					
156	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	10					X	X	X	X	X
157	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>		2	4	3	1	3	4	6	6	2
158	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>		3		10	7	30+	20c	6	8	3
159	Solitary Cacique	<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>			2	2	10	1	1		7	1
160	Epaulet Oriole	<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>		1						1		
161	Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>		2	6	8	1	2	1	6	3	2
162	Unicolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius cyanopus</i>				2	2		2			
163	Chopi Blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>		8				20c				

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!