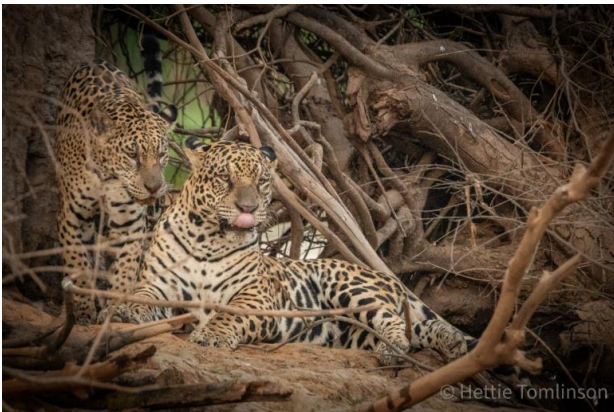


Brazil – Just Jaguars!

Naturetrek Tour Report

28th September – 9th October 2023



Tour report kindly compiled by client Yvonne Wilson
Photographs kindly provided by Helen Tomlinson, Len Williamson and Yvonne Wilson



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Tour participants: Raul Guarnizo (Leader) with 12 Naturetrek clients.

Introduction

This 12 day excursion to the Northern Pantanal, extending into the heart of the region, was a first time encounter for all the participants and exceeded all expectations. Perhaps the tour should be named “Not Just Jaguars” because whilst Jaguars were undoubtedly the stars of the “show”, there was so much more to see (as predicted) and the inward and outward journeys to the central Cuiaba River area respectively served to give us a fascinating introduction and sequel to the whole experience. From beginning to end, the Pantanal just kept giving in terms of wildlife viewings (mammals, birds, reptiles etc). The tour leader, Raul Guarnizo was excellent and was both easy going and knowledgeable, as well as sharp-eyed and clearly passionate about the location, as he shared his “office” with us. Especially with regards to the viewings by boat, he and his colleagues made every effort to manoeuvre us into the best positions to capture photographs with optimal angles and lighting. Throughout, accommodation and catering was excellent and all our hosts were friendly and welcoming with the luxurious Flotel a particular highlight. The programme was full-on and varied with just about every spare moment taken up with one activity or another, be it on foot, by boat or vehicle and both by day and night, with after dinner presentations at the Flotel, just in case the day wasn’t fulfilling enough!

As a group, we were extremely privileged to see no less than 14 Jaguars, with multiple sightings on all four days in “Jaguarland”. In addition, we were treated to several otter sightings, including one extended session with a family of Giant Otters, and a myriad of birdlife – raptors, parrots, kingfishers, herons etc. A visit to the serene Piquiri Lodge to see the resident Hyacinth Macaws and a viewing of an Ocelot at the hide at Southwild Lodge were very special. An added bonus was the weather which was kind to us throughout, albeit hot, although latterly, the odd shower and rumbles of thunder signalled that the wet season was impending.

All in all, an excellent and memorable trip and a huge privilege to experience the wealth of natural assets the region offers and to appreciate and contribute to the ongoing conservation efforts to preserve this unique location.

Day 1

Thursday 28th September

Four of the group left Heathrow at 21.25 for the overnight LATAM flight to Sao Paulo, arriving at 05.00 local time. The remaining eight clients were already in Brazil, having opted for pre-trip extensions of various sorts. They all overnighted at the Fazenda Matto Grosso in Cuiaba.

Day 2

Friday 29th September

Fine and sunny. 44°C

Those already in Cuiaba met Raul at reception at 9am and as a group, were driven by Moosio back to the airport to await the arrival of the rest of the group on the Sao Paulo flight. On the way, Raul gave a commentary about the locality and distributed field guides, courtesy of Southwild, to each of us. (They proved to be a very useful and informative asset and a much appreciated souvenir). We learned that Cuiaba is the centremost city in the South American continent, the hottest city in Brazil (thank goodness for air-con) and is the mango capital of Brazil! The mango season was imminent but not quite underway. The scheduled flight arrived on time at 10.25 and with the

group complete, Raul took us to a nearby restaurant, the Aeroporto Grill, for an early lunch. There was an extensive buffet with an impressive array of dishes and a selection of meats carved directly off the bone at the table.

After lunch, we set off to Pocone. This section of the drive took about 90 minutes. After a brief stop and stretch of legs, we continued and soon left the tarmac behind as we joined the gravelled Transpantaneira Highway. We rendezvoused with our open safari truck and a new driver, Nego, shortly afterwards. Luggage was speedily transferred from the minibus into the truck and tucked in under a groundsheet to protect from the road dust and before long, we were heading on our way. We paused at the iconic gateway officially marking the Transpantaneira Highway to pose for group photos and acknowledge that we were entering the Pantanal at last. A lone Rufous Hornero (Argentina's national bird) welcomed us as it perched on top of the gateway with its classic clay "oven" nest on display. We were to see this industrious bird (and its nests) on a daily basis thereafter but it claimed our first tick on the checklist!



En route, Raul explained that our three accommodation locations had been selected to maximise wildlife sightings. Accordingly, Pouso Alegre had a reputation for mammals, The Flotel would provide a focus on Jaguar encounters, as well as an array of other species and Southwild Lodge was renowned for the variety of birdlife but would also offer a good chance of seeing an Ocelot (with luck).

The drive from Pocone to our first lodge, Pouso Alegre, took about four hours but also served as our first safari drive. The journey was punctuated with multiple stops for photo opportunities of the abundant and diverse wildlife visible on both sides of the road and pretty much apparent from the gateway onwards. Early on, Raul introduced us to a points system that he has personally devised to allocate a "rarity grading" to wildlife sightings. The rarer the sighting, the more points it would attract. For instance, a Capybara might attract 1 point (no more than 10) as against an Agami Heron who might score 100 (or even more). A Harpy Eagle would presumably score several hundred! Additional points might be allocated for multiple sightings or unusual behaviours or on achieving sightings of all species within a particular grouping. Whilst somewhat arbitrary and certainly not a universally recognised system by Naturalists, it proved to be useful in allowing us to appreciate the exclusivity (or not) of the various sightings and injected some humour into proceedings. There was no written record of the system, so, we were entirely dependent on Raul's random estimates in response to each request. Most of us lost track of the points tallies early on but Raul certainly takes the credit for implementing it.

Birdlife was especially prominent and shared the location with hundreds of Caiman (low points scorers!) lined up on the edges of waterholes, as well as basking in the water. The inevitable Capybara were our first mammal sightings. Birds included, Rhea, Southern Screamer, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Bare-faced Curassow, Guira Cuckoo, Grey-cowled Wood Rail, Limpkin, Wattled Jacana, Wood Stork, Jabiru Stork, Plumbeous, Buff-necked and Green Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Tiger Heron, Striated Heron, Capped Heron, egrets, Muscovy Duck, Black-

collared Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Amazon Kingfisher, Crested Caracara, Smooth-billed Ani, Monk Parakeet, Tropical Kingbird, Great Kiskadee and Yellow-billed Cardinal, to name but a few. Just before dusk, we stopped to check out a roadside tree renowned for providing a daytime roost for a Great Potoo. Sure enough, the bird was there sleeping, absolutely motionless and beautifully camouflaged, another great sighting for the checklist.



There was a brief glimpse of a Coati just before we turned into the drive for Pouso Alegre around 19.00. Raul turned the last seven kms into a night drive, using the spotlight to identify Band-tailed Nighthawks and Pauraque, as well as a Brazilian Rabbit, several Crab-eating Foxes and two separate Tapir, one with a calf, before we arrived at reception. Rooms (air conditioned and some shared with resident tree frogs!) were allocated and it was straight to dinner before crashing out in readiness for an early start the following morning.

Day 3

Saturday 30th September

Overcast and dull but still hot. 41°C

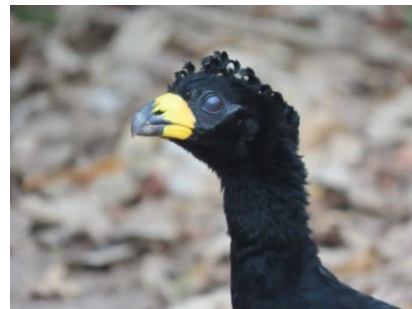
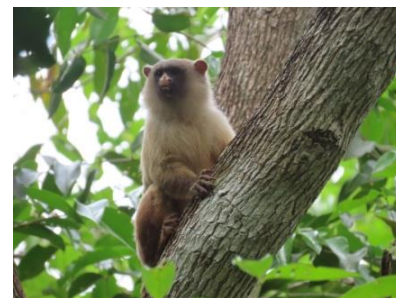
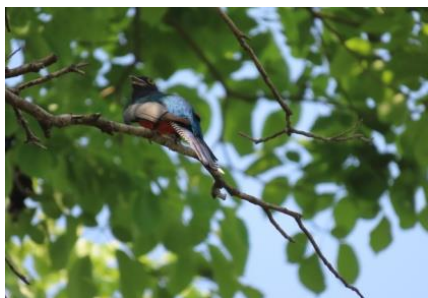
Chaco Chacalacas inevitably provided the early morning call for our full day at Alegre. The group congregated around the feeder at the back of the restaurant before breakfast to observe and photograph the “early birds” around 06.00. Toucans eluded us but there were numerous Yellow-billed Cardinals mixing with Saffron Finches and Greyish Baywings, Chopi Blackbirds, a pair of Bare-faced Curassow, doves and Picazuro Pigeons. In nearby bushes, a Glittering-bellied Emerald was flitting around. Subsequently, a large troop of Coati arrived, some of whom raided the feeder, scattering the birds as they passed through, seemingly oblivious to our presence.



At 07.30, after breakfast, the group convened again for a relaxed morning stroll on a loop trail through the property, still a working ranch. Rain was forecast and indeed, we had a few spots early on but as soon as waterproofs were donned, it stopped and held off. Close to base, Raul spotted a pair of Hyacinth Macaws perched nearby. They flew overhead and proved elusive thereafter but nevertheless, it was a good start to the morning. There was a brief glimpse of an Agouti before we stopped near some outbuildings to watch the antics of a troop of Capuchin monkeys. We were then diverted to observe a pair of Toco Toucans flitting amongst the trees nearby and simultaneously, a Vermilion Flycatcher vied for attention.

Raul pointed out various trees, shrubs and vines and in particular, demonstrated how jagua fruit can temporarily tattoo skin. A couple of volunteers in the group carried proof of the effect for the rest of the trip! As we proceeded, we saw Jabiru Storks on a nest (no chicks), Woodcreepers, Campo Flicker, Little Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Rusty-backed Spinetail, Monk Parakeet, a Turquoise-fronted Amazon, Cooi and Tiger Herons, Hawks, a Blue-crowned Trogon (male), two troops of Black-tailed Marmosets, Black Howler Monkey, a Black and White Tegu and a couple of Marsh Deer. Back at base, we peered into a small barn to see roosting Greater Bulldog Bats.





We had free time before and after lunch to rest or stroll around the immediate vicinity. The Capuchin monkeys, several Black and White Tegu, a lone Coati and a Lava Lizard all provided entertainment in the heat of the day.



At 15.30, we re-convened for another brief stroll to visit a lookout tower on the property. En route we spotted a Rhea who approached us warily before sidling round and away, giving us a “bird’s eye view”. On foot, there’s an opportunity to appreciate the sheer size of the bird. At the top of the tower, there was a welcome breeze. The elevation afforded an appreciation of the terrain and contour of the land. At some distance, a pair of Jabirus were tending to two chicks in a lofty nest and our lone Rhea could be seen making good progress to an unknown destination. On the return leg, crossing some swampy ground, Raul pointed out hundreds of empty Apple Snail shells, no doubt devoured by Snail Kites amongst others during the last wet season. Raul informed us that the snails are vital to the ecosystem in helping to oxygenate the stagnant water as levels recede, thereby sustaining life.



Back at base, we took to the truck to drive to a waterhole with an open hide, passing several bodies of water on the way and spotting Capybara, Caiman and another Marsh Deer. Some photographers were already installed at the hide, so most of the group remained under the cover of the truck and took advantage of the elevated perspective of the scene it offered. Wood Rail, Jacana and Southern Lapwing were all in attendance. A Red Brocket Deer came down to drink, unperturbed by a Purplish Jay briefly landing on its back. It gave way to a large group of White-lipped Peccaries who noisily emerged from the undergrowth. The Peccaries lingered for quite some while, jostling for position at the water's edge and constantly "arguing", before moving on. A Blue-throated Piping Guan and a Chestnut-bellied Guan took their turns to quench their thirst and a curious Hyacinth Macaw watched us from a nearby tree but by now, dusk was approaching, and it was getting tricky to capture quality photographs.

The thirsty work of wildlife watching was rewarded with chilled sundowners from the icebox. Another Brocket Deer came down to drink. Nighthawks turned up in abundance, swooping backwards and forwards across the water. Some loud rustling in the undergrowth signified the approach of something big and sure enough, a Tapir and her calf revealed themselves. They were very skittish but eventually braved the open ground to drink briefly before heading for cover again. We had good views with the aid of Raul's spotlight.



By now, it was dark and we embarked on a night drive on different tracks to the previous evening. We paused at another waterhole and turned out the lights to marvel at the night sky which had cleared during the course of the afternoon. The Milky Way was visible but the Southern Cross was below the horizon. In the truck headlights, we saw Brocket Deer, a Brazilian rabbit and Crab-eating Foxes on the way back to base.

After dinner, we all gathered to complete the checklist which had been neglected up until then on account of having absolutely no spare moment to do it! However, after a concentrated effort, the task was done and all was up to date – no mean feat, given the myriad of sights and sounds already encountered in just two days. After that, we all eagerly retired to our rooms in anticipation of an early start the following morning.

Day 4

Sunday 1st October

Fine and sunny. 40°C

The restaurant staff kindly prepared an early breakfast to enable us to get away by 06.00. With luggage loaded and covered and Negu in the driving seat again, we headed south for Porto Jofre. We had a good send off from a pair of Jabirus wading/feeding in a roadside pond, with Buff-necked Ibis, Chacalaca and a pair of Bare-faced Curassow with chicks at the water's edge - our final sighting at Alegre and a fitting conclusion to the first section of the itinerary.

Back on the Highway, the habitat was more open on either side with extensive areas of pasture dotted with hundreds of termite mounds. There were countless bridges on the Highway as the route crossed waterways/swampy areas. Many of the wooden bridges were being replaced with concrete structures, necessitating detours on tracks below and around them. This was no problem to us travelling at the end of the dry season but it would be a different story after the waters rise. From the truck, we saw Caiman and Capybara of course and numerous birds – a similar range to Day 2. Flocks of Fork-tailed Flycatchers in roadside bushes were a new sighting. We stopped for a comfort break at a lodge on the banks of the Pixaim River. Here, we were treated to a mini “birding frenzy” with the predictable Saffron Finches, Yellow-Billed Cardinals, Greyish Baywings and Kiskadees dominating the feeders, an Anhinga drying its wings on the riverbank and another surfacing with a fish in its beak and Peach-fronted/Nanday/Monk Parakeets in the mango trees. As a final bonus, some of the group saw a Neotropical Racer swimming across the river.



Continuing south, a Black tailed Marmoset crossed the road in front of the truck and gave away the presence of a troop in the trees lining the road. We paused to catch further glimpses and attempt photographs of the elusive monkeys. Further on, the roadside terrain appeared more swampy and birdlife proliferated again – ibis, egrets, herons, storks, spoonbills, vultures, hawks etc. There was a second comfort break at a roadside lodge. Continuing on our way, we spotted a couple of Marsh Deer, the male sporting an impressive set of antlers. We reached Porto Jofre in good time and headed for the moorings on the banks of the Cuiaba River where our luggage was promptly offloaded and transferred to a waiting boat from the Flotel. We said goodbye to Nego and were introduced to Jumar, our boat driver for the next four days.

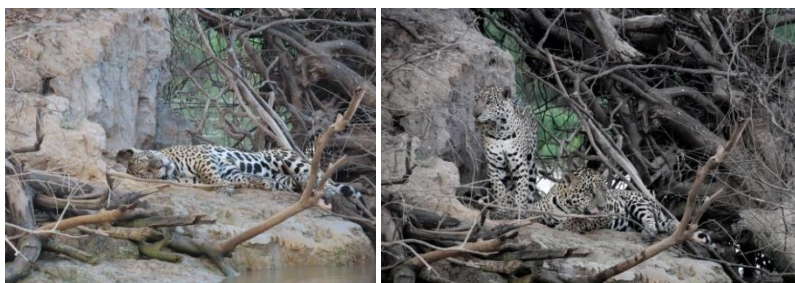
We arrived at the Flotel after roughly 30 minutes on a 12 seater boat. We travelled up the Cuiaba River and turned down a tributary, the Piquiri River to reach our floating accommodation. We were greeted by the Flotel's resident Southwild Naturalist, Xavier Tobin, who delivered an introductory talk, outlining the work of Southwild in Jaguar conservation and Jaguar research through monitoring, habitat protection and both sponsorship and liaison with local communities/landowners. We were then allocated our luxurious and spacious, air conditioned suites. A delicious buffet lunch was served almost immediately and there was then some free time before our first planned river outing in search of Jaguars. It was an opportunity to regroup and refresh except that a pair of nesting Rufous-tailed Jacamar were competing for attention directly behind the Flotel and they seemed to be conspiring with various photogenic kingfishers patrolling the vicinity!



At 15.30, we all eagerly embarked into the boat and headed off back to the Cuiaba River to see what we could find. The cooling breeze created by the motion of the boat provided welcome respite from the heat and boat travel itself provided a completely different perspective in this watery habitat. Raul and Jumar followed up on a reported Jaguar sighting but by the time we arrived at the location, it had moved away from the river. However, almost immediately, another sighting was shared over the radio and Jumar raced to the spot.

At the junction of the Cuiaba and Three Brothers Rivers, we continued up the smaller river, abruptly slowing down when we spotted boats on a bend. This time, we were lucky and although there were multiple boats already in position, Jumar was able to sidle in amongst the crowd to give us good views of a Jaguar asleep on the sandy bank. More than this however, it soon became apparent that there was another sleeping Jaguar, directly behind the first!! Initially, Raul thought they were a mating couple. They were sensibly “out for the count” in the heat of the day and we were in for a long wait. Not knowing what future sightings we might have, we savoured every opening of an eye, raising of the head, stretching of limbs, yawns etc but both Jaguars tantalisingly showed no signs of stirring.

Two hours later, in the golden evening light, with temperatures pleasantly waning and sustained by sundowners, our patience was rewarded by some movement at last. Both Jaguars stood up and the second one moved forward. Raul then recognised them as two male cousins: Woody and Liko (named by the Jaguar Research Group). Unusually for Jaguars, these two individuals were known to hang out together. Apparently, their mothers are sisters and the two cubs were raised together, hence the bond. At three years old, they are still young and presumably not yet in direct competition. Woody was quite a bit larger than Liko and had a much darker coat. Despite the fading light, it was a magnificent sight to see these two individuals at relatively close quarters.



Most boats, needing to get back to Porto Jofre, had already left the scene and after lingering for a little longer, we too reluctantly headed back, the river views backed by a dramatic sunset. Back at the Flotel, a buffet dinner was served and then, there was just time to update the checklist before Xavier gave an interesting presentation on

Caiman. In the talk, he covered taxonomy, anatomy, behaviour, distribution and ecology of the species and this proved to be a recurring format for the nightly lectures thereafter.

Day 5

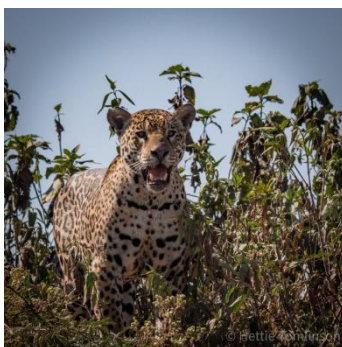
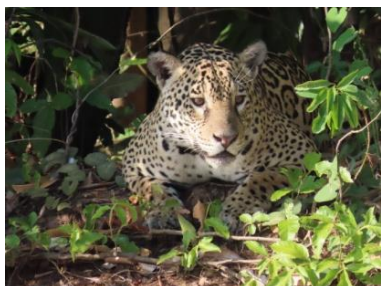
Monday 2nd October

Fine and sunny again. 41°C

Breakfast was served from 05.30 – again, buffet style. Fed and watered, we set off in the boat at 06.30 to see what we could find. Literally, 15 minutes into the excursion, at the junction of the Piquiri and Cuiaba Rivers, we came across another boat which had just witnessed a Jaguar swimming across to the corner and walking up the riverbank. Raul directed Jumar to proceed along the Cuiaba River, close to the bank and almost immediately, his intuition was rewarded by a sighting of a large lone Jaguar. We later learned from Xavier (after he checked the database) that this individual was his namesake – a Jaguar also called Xavier and it was the first time he had been spotted all year. At first, Xavier (the Jaguar, not the human) patrolled along the bank and we got multiple glimpses as he emerged from around bushes. A large Coccoi Heron vied for attention on the same bank but took off as we approached. Ultimately, the wooded bank gave way to an open section with rafts of floating water hyacinth and here, Xavier turned inland away from the river and disappeared. Albeit a brief encounter, it was nice to have him virtually to ourselves and so soon after setting off.



Continuing along the Cuiaba River, we soon came across a pair of Toco Toucans flitting amongst the branches of overhanging trees and being mobbed by Kiskadees - a great spectacle to watch. Shortly afterwards, still on the Cuiaba River, we came across an armada of boats (more than 10) who had gathered to watch another lone Jaguar lying on the riverbank. This was Stella. She was lying in the shade, right on the edge of the bank and seemed to be taking a keen interest in the assembled crowd, serenely eyeing the boats lined up in front of her, apparently totally unphased. After a short while, she stood up and proceeded along the bank. She was clearly now in hunting mode and frequently disappeared under rafts of water hyacinth, only to reappear either on the bank again or in the water. She was clearly totally at home in either medium. There were two or three pounces, but no prey fell victim. We followed her for at least two hours, past the junction between the Cuiaba and Three Brothers Rivers again and past the mouth of the Black Channel. At one point, she swam across to the opposite side to try her luck there. It was apparent that she had lost part of her tail. No one knew exactly how this had happened. The “armada” continued to follow her as she stalked the river bank. There were multiple photo opportunities of her in various hunting modes. She was a picture of single minded concentration.



Ultimately, we decided to leave her in peace and headed further upstream. On a large bend, we came across several Capped Herons. Further on, there was a pair of Jabiru Storks on a sandy beach. Rounding a bend, Raul spotted some Black Howler Monkeys high in the trees. We turned at this location and headed back downstream where we came across the flotilla that was still observing Stella. She had kept to the bank we last saw her on but had advanced a considerable distance. We watched her for a little while longer before heading back to the Flotel for lunch.



After lunch, a family of Giant Otters was observed a short distance downstream from the Flotel itself. With the binoculars, it was possible to observe them feeding, playing and swimming. In setting off for the afternoon drive, we initially travelled up stream on the Piquiri River for a few Kms. No otters could be found, so, we turned and headed back to the Cuiaba/Piquiri junction. This time, we headed downstream in the direction of Porto Jofre. Jumar headed over to a sandbank where a resident Yellow Anaconda was curled up. Its head was just visible in the middle of the coils but it was hard to appreciate its overall size in its coiled state. It had caught a Snow Pleco, a type of Catfish. The fish had succumbed, but it had not yet been devoured possibly because of barbs which might make it tricky to swallow.

Moving on from this sighting and now heading upstream, Raul showed us a tree on the riverbank which was acting as a roost for proboscis bats. Directly overhead, a Ringed Kingfisher was posing on a branch, providing excellent photo opportunities.



We continued upstream on the Cuiaba river, passing a Cocoi Heron in an interesting pose. The closed wings were held out from the body, exposing the pale undersurface. The bird's posture was possibly an attempt at thermoregulation. We turned off into the Black Channel. Several small Caiman were patrolling the mouth of the Creek. On either side of the open water, thick rafts of water hyacinth with their lilac coloured blooms threatened to choke the navigation channel. We came across a juvenile Black-collared Hawk perching on an overhanging branch and shrieking disapproval of us (or maybe it was seeking some parental support) but again, the encounter afforded brilliant photo opportunities.



A little further up the Channel, we saw a Giant Otter and then another. They were fleeting glimpses and the otters did not linger, possibly disturbed by multiple boats in the vicinity. At this point, we received a call of a Jaguar sighting and sped back to the main river and further upstream, met a collection of boats. By the time of our arrival, the Jaguar had turned away from the bank and was no longer visible. Disappointing though it was to have missed the sighting, we really couldn't complain. It had been a full-on day. We had our sundowner against the backdrop of another dramatic sunset and headed back to the Flotel, accompanied by swooping Greater Bulldog Bats and Nighthawks.

Checklists were up dated immediately after dinner and then we were educated by Xavier with another interesting presentation, this time on Capybara, before turning in.

Day 6

Tuesday 3rd October

Another fine and hot day weather-wise. 42°C

A similar schedule was followed to the previous day with the boat departing at 06.30, although a Green Kingfisher contrived to delay us by posing beautifully in the morning light at the back of the Flotel and the pair of nesting Jacamars were also seeking attention! As we got underway, we headed up the Piquiri River for about an hour to a lodge, once a farm, which had been re-wilded, making it a haven for birds and in particular, the endangered Hyacinth Macaws.

Almost immediately, en route, we encountered a Capybara at the water's edge and further on, a Chestnut-bellied Guan, a Blue-throated Piping Guan, a Turkey Vulture and a Pied Lapwing (Plover) on a beach. A large flock of Snail Kites circled overhead, slowly traversing across the river. Our attention was then drawn to a Great Black

Hawk perched on a branch overhanging the river. It tolerated our presence at really very close quarters, affording yet more wonderful photo opportunities. The encounter was enhanced by the arrival of the bird's partner who unexpectedly landed on a branch above and the two promptly mated! Next, a Striated Heron posed on a branch and soon after, as we rounded a sharp bend, we came across Black Skimmers and a flock of Peach-fronted Parakeets on another sandy beach. To add to all of this, an Osprey flew overhead.

As we continued, the vibrant colouring of a Green Iguana caught Raul's attention in the bright morning light. The pale orange of the sandbank provided the perfect backdrop as the iguana posed warily on a mound just above the water. It must have felt relieved when we were distracted by a lone Neotropical Otter porpoising right by the boat. We followed for some while, both up and downstream and on both sides of the river, as it changed direction. Constantly on the move, it was tricky to capture the "perfect" shot and it served as a timely reminder that sometimes, it is better to put the camera down and savour the moment. We hadn't even arrived at the Lodge at this point in proceedings!



We arrived soon after though, landing on the beach where myriads of Swallowtail and Sulphur Butterflies were congregating on the sand, presumably seeking minerals. We were immediately noisily greeted by several pairs of Hyacinth Macaws in the trees just up from the beach. Cicadas contributed to the ambient cacophony and were particularly loud as temperatures rose. The property's owner provided water and told Raul that we would be the very last group to visit for the season. Luck was on our side then because the visit provided the best opportunity of the trip to observe the Hyacinth Macaws, amongst other birds, including Bare-faced Curassow and Buff-necked Ibis. From the verandah, we could sit and watch the macaws and parakeets visiting the trough to drink and various birds nesting in the eaves of the property. At one point, the owner emerged from the kitchen with a Yellow-billed Cardinal which he had rescued after it had flown in. He released the bird and then signalled to a pair of habituated Jabiru Storks who bounded across the grass to collect some treats. A pair of Yellow-chevrons Parakeets were spotted, and we followed them round the back of the property but they did not linger. We strolled around the serene location. The Hyacinth Macaws were undoubtedly the stars of the "show", posing and squawking in the mango trees, laden with fruit yet to ripen and flying low in pairs to and from their nesting tree and the water trough. Not to be outdone however a pair of Pygmy Owls were spotted high in a tree nearby - our first owl sighting of the trip. We were finally sent on our way by a Chaco Tree Frog on the verandah and a pair of White-eyed Parakeets back at the beach.





On the return leg of the trip, we unexpectedly came across a lone King Vulture walking along a beach. This sighting meant all four species of vulture had been seen on the trip – bonus points awarded by Raul for this achievement! A Large-billed Tern kept the vulture company, but it soon flew off. After that grand finale, we were overdue to return to the Flotel.



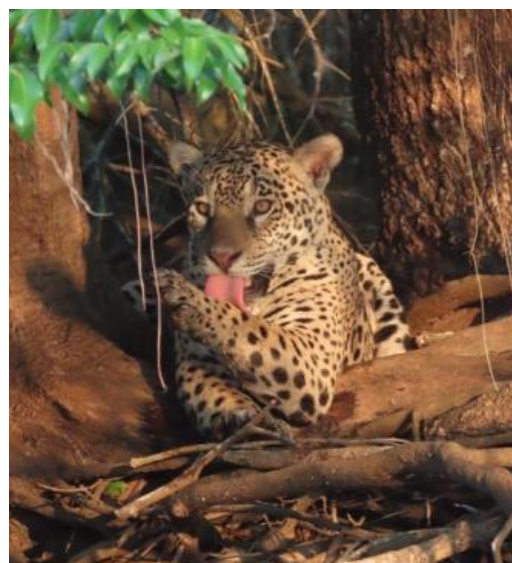
After lunch, word got round that the otters were back and sure enough, they were hunting and playing just up river again and provided entertainment for those disinclined to opt for a siesta.

At 15.30, as usual, we set off for the afternoon boat trip. Just at the Cuiaba/Piquiri junction, we spotted an osprey drinking at the water's edge. It allowed us to get quite close before it flew off.



Thereafter, we made directly for the Black Channel. Here, an armada of boats signalled something of interest and indeed, Stella (again) was lying under a tree on the riverbank. She moved on after a short while and disappeared, so, we proceeded along the Channel and discovered another group of boats. The focus of their attention was another two Jaguars, Amber and her cub, asleep in the shade on the opposite riverbank at some distance. Although clearly visible in the binoculars, the lighting was poor and it didn't seem that there would be any action anytime soon so, with temperatures at 42°C, the unanimous decision was to move into the shade. The shade provided welcome relief and surveying the scene, we were able to check out the sleeping Jaguars and the antics of kingfishers, an Anhinga, Cormorants and Capybara swimming in the Channel.

Raul must have had a 6th sense that it was worth waiting around because after an hour or so, with temperatures edging down, we returned to the earlier vantage point for the Stella sighting and sure enough, she had returned. Jumar negotiated a good position and the golden late afternoon light was shining directly on Stella, making her even more photogenic. Again, after a short while, she got up and disappeared but we simply sat it out, whilst being entertained by a Rusty-margined Flycatcher and a Rufous-bellied Thrush. Sure enough, Stella returned. Presumably she'd had an abortive hunting session under the floating water hyacinth. She posed for us, looking directly at the cameras, before indulging in a washing session. Again, such a privilege to see. We had our sundowners against this backdrop before leaving Stella in peace and returning to the Flotel. It had been an exceptional day.



After dinner, the checklist was completed as usual before the evening lecture on Giant Otters. We learned about Giant Otter social behaviour and the differences between them and Neotropical Otters. Afterwards, several group members went onto the top deck to scrutinize the night sky.

Day 7

Wednesday 4th October

Again, fine and sunny. 41°C

Our final full day at the Flotel got underway in style with a call of “otters” before we’d even left. We set off downstream and soon caught up with the family. There were at least ten individuals and they were actively hunting, feeding and playing at close range. We watched the interactions between adults and youngsters, the adults being very protective but possessive of their catches, perhaps to encourage the juveniles to hunt for themselves. There was a lot of “chatter” and squabbling but scenes of playful interaction as well. In hunting, the otters would swim under the marginal plants to spook fish hiding amongst the roots and overhanging branches and then give chase, fish sometimes jumping completely out of the water to avoid capture. From observation, it did seem that the otters were very efficient killing machines with an impressive set of canines and totally at home in the water. There was only one other boat present and so, it was an exclusive scene. We lingered for at least an hour, and we weren’t even out of sight from the Flotel! We moved on reluctantly, but little did we know that this triumphant start to the day was a good omen for what was to follow!



We hadn’t even reached the Cuiaba/Piquiri junction before catching up with another boat who had briefly spotted a mother Jaguar with cubs on a beach. She had disappeared into the undergrowth at the back of the beach and although we dawdled there in hope, the family did not reappear and so, we continued on our way up the Cuiaba. As it turned out, this was not a bad decision and it seemed that this day was destined to have a Jaguar “cub” theme, as shortly, we came across a Jaguar and two young cubs swimming across the river, seemingly completely at ease, despite the strong current. Another boat with documentary film makers (and a very serious looking camera) was already there filming the spectacle and must have been in just the right place at the right time, as indeed we were. We shared the scene as the Jaguars reached the beach and proceeded to walk along it in full view. The mother was Patricia and the two cubs were this season’s, just three or four months old. The cubs are very vulnerable to male Jaguars at this age and Patricia was clearly attentive. We were later informed that the cubs have yet to be registered on the Southwild Jaguar database, so infrequently have they been seen. We were able to get flank shots for Xavier to use for the database. The cubs, one in particular, were curious about us but eventually caught up with mum and on a bend where the beach ran out, they climbed the bank and disappeared. It was a timely reminder that when it comes to wildlife viewing, you never know what might be round the corner, so, the disappointment at missing out with the family at the previous beach quickly turned to elation - what a gem to witness that interaction.



By now, we were close to the junction of the Cuiaba/Three Brothers River and for the first time, we proceeded up the Cuiaba for several Kms before turning down the Caxiri Channel. On the way, we encountered another Giant Otter hunting and feeding. This one was solitary and certainly not hanging around but nevertheless, it was yet another great viewing.

In the narrow Caxiri Channel, the pace slowed and the ambience was more intimate. There were several Caiman lurking and rounding a bend, we found two Capybara at the water's edge and only a few yards from a Caiman half submerged in the water with jaws gaping. The Capybara appeared to be eyeing up the opposition but did not seem particularly perturbed. Perhaps it was too hot for a fight? Further along the Channel, we saw a Cocoi Heron with a fish in its mouth and a colony of Cormorants roosting in a dead tree. The Channel looped round to give us access back into the Three Brothers River. From that junction, we headed back downstream to the Flotel.



As usual, we set off at 15.30 for our final boat excursion. We headed straight for the Black Channel where we found several boats lined up, with occupants looking intently ahead. Always a reliable sign of something of interest, we joined the throng and some of the group caught a glimpse of a Jaguar in a gully and partly hidden in undergrowth. This individual was on the move and it quickly disappeared before it could be identified. We wandered up the Channel, pausing in a raft of floating vegetation to photograph a Caiman basking with open jaws right by the side of the boat. If it thought we might be tasty for lunch, it was far too hot to be considering hunting and we did not regard it as a threat – at least whilst still safely installed INSIDE the boat. The limit of navigation was soon reached and we turned and slowly retraced our route. On the way, we spotted a troop of howler monkeys and on the opposite side of the Channel, we were entertained by a pair of Black-capped Donacobius, a Yellow-rumped Cacique, a Rusty-margined Flycatcher and a lily hopping Jacana.



We returned to the main river and continued upstream on the Three Brothers River, pausing at a beach where a family of Capybara were basking. We were just at the junction with the Caxiri Channel again when Raul and Jumar must have had a radio message as we unexpectedly set off at pace and after a few Kms, came across another sleeping Jaguar and not just one but two older cubs! They were all sleeping in the shade of a fallen tree which was resting partly on the riverbank and partly in the water. The second cub was not immediately apparent in the background and was rather hidden by tree branches. Jumar sidled into a good position and we prepared to sit it out. We were later told that this was Tina with her two one year old cubs (still to be named on the Southwild database). We knew the routine after the experience of Day 4 and resolved to sit it out in the hope that before dusk, the family might well stir. At this time in the late afternoon, the intensity of the heat was diminishing which made the stand off quite tolerable and as usual, the sundowners provided a boost! Sure enough, Tina and the adjacent cubs surfaced at around 17.30, one by one. First, Tina arose and transferred to the trunk of the tree, lying astride it with legs dangling to survey the boats nearby. The elusive cub that had hitherto been largely out of view joined mum on the trunk, playing with her tail like a kitten with a ball of string. The other cub got up and went round the back to sit on the beach before joining the others on the tree trunk. The light was failing now and all the boats except our sister boat from the Flotel had had to leave to get back to Porto Jofre. With our accommodation on the river this side of Porto Jofre, we were able to hang on a little longer and eke out the sighting. What a privilege to have the family virtually to ourselves and what a grand finale to this section of the trip. 14 Jaguar sightings in all (including the brief glimpse of one earlier in the afternoon) and seven of them on this last day in “Jaguarland” on the Cuiaba River and her tributaries.



It was dark by the time we tore ourselves away and the two boats sped back to the Flotel, Raul using his spotlight to help guide Jumar round the tight bends although eyes adapted quickly and the wake of the other boat provided a guide.

After dinner, the checklist was updated and Xavier presented his Jaguar talk which was particularly topical after the day's sightings. He illustrated the talk with some amazing video footage of Jaguars hunting and set us a challenge to name the Jaguars we had seen in the field by matching images with those on Southwild's database, using the facial markings, unique to each individual. Xavier elaborated on Southwild's research programme, part of which maintains a database of all the local Jaguars, based on daily sightings and location recordings, assisted by images provided by guests from their boat viewings. The four cubs encountered earlier are yet to be allocated names and registered on the database and we were encouraged to submit photos with the aim of promoting their inclusion.

A final check of the night sky revealed rather too much cloud for good viewing.

Day 8

Thursday 5th October

Some cloud but hot. 42°C

At 07.00, after breakfast and a final check of the nesting Jacamars, we reluctantly boarded the boat for the last time for the ride back to Porto Jofre. Very soon after setting off, we spotted a Toco Toucan, up to no good, raiding a Kiskadee nest and being valiantly mobbed by the owners. A lone Hyacinth Macaw flew overhead as if to see us on our way! En route, we checked out the Yellow Anaconda from Day 5. Sure enough, it was there again and this time, the head was readily visible. (The catfish was nowhere to be seen).

Back at Porto Jofre, Nego was ready and waiting with the open truck and once the luggage was loaded, we drove back north onto the Transpantaneira Highway. As before, there were numerous birds on view on both sides of the road – Herons, Spoonbills, Screamers, Wood Storks, Ibis, Hawks etc. There appeared to be more Caiman than ever - literally hundreds lined up around each waterhole. Black-tailed marmosets were again seen in roadside trees before reaching Southwild Pantanal Lodge aka Fazenda Santa Tereza around 11.30. We were introduced to Lucy, the manageress, who offered welcome drinks and allocated rooms (again air-conditioned thankfully). Lunch was served soon afterwards and yet again, there was an impressive buffet. The afternoon was free time for a siesta or bird watching in the grounds of the lodge. With the riverside setting (Pixaim River), there was plenty to see - Kingfishers, Herons, Purplish Jays, Cardinals, Doves, Caiman (of course) and particular highlights were an Orange-backed Troupial visiting the feeders by the restaurant and a Yellow-rumped Cacique.

We re-convened just before 17.00 to visit the Ocelot hide, some 500m down a footpath. We were greeted by another pair of Rufous-tailed Jacamars on the track. They went ahead of us briefly before taking cover.



Raul pointed out a Green-barred woodpecker. We took our places in the hide. Bait was already in place. Within a few minutes, an Ocelot appeared. Remnants of daylight together with the floodlighting in the hide enhanced the photographic opportunities and some beautiful shots were captured. We were later told that the individual was named “Anna” and she was an older female who had had kittens last year. She cleared the bait and appeared to be making off but more bait was laid out and she returned for it. A further helping was served and this time, she remained very close, intently watching the staff member. Once the last remnants were taken, she moved on. It was a gem of a sighting.



On our return, dinner was served and there was just time to catchup on checklist entries before we went on a night drive along the main drive of the Lodge back to the Highway. We saw Red and Grey Brocket Deer, a Tapir and a glimpse of an Armadillo (apparently, nine-banded).

Day 9

Friday 6th October

Fine and sunny initially with cloud bubbling up in the afternoon. Hot. 44°C

It was the usual early start before 06.00 to check for avian visitors to the feeders and several of the group took the opportunity to climb the nearby observation tower overlooking a Jabiru nest. This afforded views directly across and on this morning, a pair of Jabirus were in residence, albeit no chicks currently. Below the storks, Monk Parakeets were flying in and out of the shared nest, most bringing in material to reinforce their own quarters.





Breakfast was served at 06.30, followed by a boat ride on the river at 07.30. The group was accommodated in two boats travelling together. Initially, we headed downstream but rafts of water hyacinth made further navigation impossible after a few hundred yards, necessitating a turn and exploration in the opposite direction. Raul spotted a pair of shy Sunbitterns with beautiful plumage wandering on a narrow stony beach, partly hidden by foliage. We backtracked to the Lodge and continuing upstream and round a bend, Raul pointed out a Black-crowned Tityra perched high up in a tree. Then, there was a Ringed Kingfisher, posing with a large, freshly caught fish and a juvenile Egret, followed by a family of Capybara who waited for us to pass before swimming across the river. Further on, we spotted a troop of Howler monkeys feeding on huge seed pods hanging from a tree, but we didn't linger.

The driver beached the boat temporarily on a shallow, muddy bank where there was a break in the foliage. Looking through, there was a pond and amongst the foliage between the river and the pond, there was a Golden Tegu and a Green Iguana but both were partly obscured by the undergrowth. Moving on however, we had a superb view of another larger Green Iguana basking on the riverbank in the company of an Amazon Kingfisher, Little Blue Heron (one of several on this stretch of river) and a White-headed Marsh Tyrant. As we emerged into a section with more open banks and agricultural land, we saw a couple of juvenile Jabirus, who were quite skittish and Cocoi Herons. One of the drivers threw fish offerings across the river but there were no takers for the free snack. More Capybara lined the water's edge before we came to the riverside lodge adjacent to the Transpantaneira Highway where we had stopped to stretch our legs on the way south on Day 4. We went as far as the road bridge before turning back. Under the bridge, proboscis bats were roosting and Kiskadees nesting. A notable sighting on the way back was a Sungrebe – a high scoring bird according to Raul's points system!



We arrived back around 10.30 and had free time both before and after lunch for birding around the Lodge, reviewing photographs, siestering, enjoying the air-con to seek relief from the heat of the day and/or swinging in the hammocks.

We reconvened at 15.00 to embark on a stroll directly from the property a little further afield. With a family of Capybara grazing nearby, we set off in the direction of the Ocelot hide and continued on the footpath beyond. Raul spotted a Planalto Slaty Antshrike in the bushes alongside. It proved very tricky to see clearly but with patience, most of the group caught glimpses. The path eventually came to a clearing where there were the remnants of another hide. Here, there were mango trees and it had been a favoured spot for tapirs to feed on the fruit but not in the aftermath of the fires of 2020 which ravaged massive swathes of the Pantanal, destroying habitat and ecosystems. Accordingly, the hide had become pretty derelict but Raul was hopeful it might be resurrected in due course. We ambled on and round in a loop back to the Ocelot hide and then, to the Lodge, coming across the pair of Jacamars again en route.

At 17.00, there was the option to return to the Ocelot hide. This time, no Ocelots showed up but just before we vacated the site, a Crab-eating Fox trotted in and had a good sniff around. It was by no means a disappointing session though as whilst we were waiting for some action, a pair of Great Antshrikes flew in and out to entertain us and even briefly mated in full view in the floodlit arena! We just about managed to maintain our decorum and avoid cheering!! It was also an opportunity to listen to the sounds of the forest as darkness fell - the Cicadas, a Screech Owl calling, Parrots/Parakeets squawking in the canopy and the snorting of maybe a Peccary or Feral Pig. And, of course, we shouldn't forget the characteristic whine of man-eating mosquitoes, seeking a meal from the congregated captive audience!



Another delicious buffet dinner was served on our return, followed by updating of checklists before we all retired. No night drive tonight but it had been a fulfilling day.

Day 10

Saturday 7th October

Bright and sunny initially. Brief thunderstorm after lunch. Hot. 42°C

Arriving for breakfast, we were greeted by a Crab-eating Fox lying on the grass by the feeders right outside the restaurant surveying the scene. He or she was definitely posing!

Around 07.30, we piled into the truck and embarked on a drive around the property. Raul educated us with all sorts of snippets about the flora and fauna. He explained about strangler fig trees and found us a couple of gruesome Tarantula remains. He pointed out a man-made nesting box, erected in the hope of attracting Hyacinth Macaws who are in need of help as they are endangered by habitat loss and showed us a Greater Thornbird nest which had fallen down from a tree. From the truck, we identified a Barred Antshrike, multiple Greater Ani, a Silver-beaked Tanager, Peach-fronted Parakeets, Crested Caracara, Guira Cuckoos, Pigeons, Doves, Jays and Guans.



Back at the Lodge, we again had free time. Cloud had bubbled up during the morning and after lunch, there was the odd rumble of thunder and it rained heavily. Fortunately, it was relatively brief and had passed over by the time we were due to meet for our last boat trip at 15.30. If anything, the rain made it feel more humid rather than refreshing the atmosphere. We again headed off in two boats upstream. Early on, we claimed almost simultaneous sightings of the last two kingfishers on the list that had hitherto eluded us - a pygmy and a green and rufous kingfisher (bonus points for the complete set!).



Another “first” for us at Southwild (although we had seen one at Alegre) was a Turquoise-fronted Amazon. Further on, a Black Collared Hawk was strategically perched on a branch above the river and calling loudly. The driver tossed a fish across the river and the Hawk swooped in and grabbed the prize in its talons. Repeating the exercise resulted in a Ringed Kingfisher seizing its opportunity - neat interactions to witness and photograph, even if it was staged. We got the impression that it wasn’t the first time these “performing” individuals had been bribed!

We again stopped at the gap in the undergrowth to peer into the pond beyond. On this occasion, Raul spotted an Agami Heron in the bushes between us and the pond but, despite the driver throwing in some fish, it did not venture out in the open to retrieve it. Instead, a Crested Caracara who had presumably witnessed proceedings from a suitable vantage point, flew down and claimed the bait. The Agami's loss was the Caracara's gain! We didn't have time to go as far as the road bridge on this outing but notable sightings on the way back were a Fork-tailed Flycatcher and a Pale-legged Hornero, as well as the compulsory Capybara and a pig wallowing in mud heaven!

Returning to the Lodge, we were initially greeted by a pair of Jabirus who came forward and eagerly accepted the fish the driver still had left. We weren't sure if they were the same pair who occupied the nest by the tower but again, it looked as if they were familiar with the routine. Disembarking, we had a second greeting from Lucy and her staff who had set up chairs on the grass by the pool and unexpectedly presented us with our last sundowner and canapés. It was an opportunity to thank them all for their hospitality and especially Raul for his expert guidance.

However, ever greedy in our quest for sightings, we were not done, as those who wished, were able to visit the Ocelot hide again. On the way in, we spotted a Little Woodpecker. Sadly, the Ocelots were not playing ball. On this occasion, nothing turned up to claim the food (not even a Crab-eating Fox, although the mosquitoes were out in force, as ever). It made us appreciate even more keenly the sighting of the Ocelot we had all experienced on our first evening at Southwild Lodge.

After our last dinner together as a group, we had our final night drive. We again took the main track out to the Highway and back. We saw three species of deer: Pampas and Red and Grey Brocket, a Tapir, a Crab-Eating Fox, a Brazilian Rabbit, bats and a fleeting glimpse of a Crab-eating Raccoon from the mammal list and a Pauraque to represent the birds - not a bad tally to round off the day. Back at base, we deferred the checklist to the morning and retired to pack.



Day 11

Sunday 8th October

Started bright. Cloud bubbled up later. 40°C

After breakfast, Raul took us through the final checklist update. We had certainly clocked up an impressive range and frequency of sightings, confirming the abundance of wildlife on display and the rich diversity of the Pantanal. The reality had exceeded all expectations and we felt truly privileged to have had the experience.

We settled our bills and luggage was loaded into the minibus for the onward journey up the Transpantaneira Highway. We departed at around 09.30. We again stopped at the roadside roost of the Greater Potoo who was there, as before and looked as if it hadn't budged since we last passed by. Whilst beautifully camouflaged, the morning light favoured the photographers, and we took the opportunity to capture more shots to add to the ones we had taken previously towards dusk. Three members of the group had opted for an extension at Piuval Lodge and were dropped off on the way. The rest of the group continued on their way to Cuiaba with Raul. Back in Cuiaba, there were a number of options on offer for spending the final few hours and the unanimous choice was to visit a city park with the possibility of seeing Black-tailed Marmosets.

We arrived at Mae Bonifacia State Park in good time. At 43°C, Cuiaba was living up to its reputation as the hottest city in Brazil! The Park was clearly popular with the locals who seemed very tolerant of the heat. There was a viewing tower to climb that afforded a fantastic view out over the Park. Raul used an App to mimic the call of the Marmosets but initially, there was no response. He told us that the Marmosets living in the Park had been rescued from the illegal pet trade and subsequently released. They are living wild and are thriving. Persistence paid off and a bit further on, all of a sudden, there was a response to Raul's calls! A group of Marmosets appeared only a couple of metres from us in the trees on the edge of the path. There were adults with young playing with each other and they gradually edged a bit closer, giving us a fantastic view and some last photographic opportunities. Sadly, we soon had to leave. It was a short journey to the airport where Raul helped us all with checking in. Soon, it was time to say goodbyes to Raul and fellow travellers. All were booked on the evening flight to Sao Paulo where some were heading back to the UK, whilst others were due to visit the Iguazu Falls as a post trip extension the following day.



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Birds (H = Heard only)

Generic codes: E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced			Date: Just Sept. - Oct. 2023 Jaguars 29-08 - Raúl's Group											
Common name	Scientific name	Trip	29	30	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08		
Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>		●	●	●									
Red-winged Tinamou	<i>Rhynchotus rufescens</i>													
Southern Screamer	<i>Chauna torquata</i>		●		●		●	●	●					
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>													
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>													
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>													
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>		●	●	●									
Brazilian Teal	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>													
Chaco Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Rusty-margined Guan	<i>Penelope supercilialis</i>													
Chestnut-bellied Guan - E	<i>Penelope ochrogaster</i>			●	●		●		●	●	●			
Blue-throated Piping Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Red-throated Piping Guan	<i>Pipile cujubi</i>													
Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●			
Nacunda Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles nacunda</i>													
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>													
Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga</i>			●	●		●	●						
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>		●	●		●					●			
Little Nightjar	<i>Setopagis parvula</i>													
Scissor-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydrosalis torquata</i>													
Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>											●		
Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>		●											
Sick's Swift	<i>Chaetura meridionalis</i>													
Planalto Hermit	<i>Phaethornis pretrei</i>													
Scale-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis eurynome</i>													
White-bearded Hermit	<i>Phaethornis hispidus</i>													
Glittering-bellied Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>													
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>													
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>													
Versicoloured Emerald	<i>Chrysuronia versicolor</i>													
Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Chionomesa fimbriata</i>			●										
Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>		●	●	●		●				●			
Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>										●	●		
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>													
Little Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzua minuta</i>													
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>				●				●	●	●			
Dark-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>													
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>													
Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>													
Picazuro Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>													
Scaled Dove	<i>Columbina squammata</i>			●	●		●		●	●	●	●		
Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Picui Ground Dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>													
Blue Ground Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>													
Long-tailed Ground Dove	<i>Uropelia campestris</i>													
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>													
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>									●				
Grey-cowled Wood Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>		●	●	●				●	●	●			
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>													
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>													
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>		●		●			●	●		●			
White-backed Stilt	<i>Himantopus melanurus</i>													
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Collared Plover	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>													
Pied Plover	<i>Hoploxypterus cayanus</i>						●							
Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>													
Pantanal Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguaiae</i>													
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>													
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>		●					●						
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>													
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>													
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>						●	●	●					
Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sterna superciliaris</i>				●	●	●	●						
Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>					●	●	●	●	●	●			
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>				●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Maguari Stork	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>				●				●	●				
Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>				●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>				●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Plumbeous Ibis	<i>Theristicus caerulescens</i>		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>		●		●		●		●	●	●			

		29	30	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>										
Bare-faced Ibis	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>										
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>										
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>										
Rufescent Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>										
Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>										
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>										
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>										
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>										
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>										
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>										
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>										
Capped Heron	<i>Ptilherodius pileatus</i>										
Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>										
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>										
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>										
King Vulture	<i>Sarcorampus papa</i>										
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>										
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>										
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>										
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>										
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>										
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>										
Long-winged Harrier	<i>Circus buffoni</i>										
Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>										
Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>										
Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>										
Crane Hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>										
Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>										
Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>										
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>										
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>										
American Barn Owl	<i>Tyto furcata</i>										
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>										
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>										
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>										
Tropical Screech Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>										
Blue-crowned Trogon	<i>Trogon curucui</i>										
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>										
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>										
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>										
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>										
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>										
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>										
Buff-bellied Puffbird	<i>Notharchus swainsoni</i>										
Caatinga Puffbird - E	<i>Nystalus maculatus</i>										
Chaco Puffbird	<i>Nystalus striatipectus</i>										
Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>										
Chestnut-eared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>										
Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>										
White-wedged Piculet	<i>Picumnus albosquamatus</i>										
White Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>										
Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>										
Green-barred Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes melanochloros</i>										
Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>										
Pale-crested Woodpecker	<i>Celeus lugubris</i>										
Blond-crested Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavescens</i>										
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>										
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>										
Red-legged Seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>										
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>										
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>										
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>										
Barred Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>										
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>										
Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>										
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>										
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>										
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>										
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotopteryx chiriri</i>										
Scaly-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>										
Turquoise-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>										
Hyacinth Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>										
Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula aurea</i>										
Nanday Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nenday</i>										
Golden-collared Macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>										
Blue-and-yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>										
Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>										

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Blue-crowned Parakeet	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudatus</i>										
White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>										
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>										
Planalto Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes platyrostris</i>										
White-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes albicollis</i>										
Great Rufous Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes major</i>										
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>										
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>										
Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilirostris</i>										
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>										
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>										
Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>										
Pale-legged Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>										
Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>										
Rufous-fronted Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons</i>										
Greater Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus ruber</i>										
Rusty-backed Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca vulpina</i>										
Grey-crested Cacholote	<i>Pseudoseisura unirufa</i>										
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>										
Chotoy Spinetail	<i>Schoeniophylax phryganophilus</i>										
White-lored Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albilora</i>										
Rusty-backed Antwren	<i>Formicivora rufa</i>										
Bahia Antwren - E	<i>Herpsilochmus pileatus</i>										
Large-billed Antwren - N	<i>Herpsilochmus longirostris</i>										
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>										
Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>										
Planalto Slaty Antshrike - E	<i>Thamnophilus pelzelni</i>										
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>										
Mato Grosso Antbird	<i>Cercomacra melanaria</i>										
Band-tailed Antbird	<i>Hypocnemoides maculicauda</i>										
Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>										
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>										
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>										
Large Elaenia	<i>Elaenia spectabilis</i>										
Small-billed Elaenia	<i>Elaenia parvirostris</i>										
Lesser Elaenia	<i>Elaenia chiriquensis</i>										
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camplostoma obsoletum</i>										
Suiri Flycatcher	<i>Suiri suiri</i>										
Sooty Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga nigricans</i>										
White-crested Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga subcristata</i>										
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>										
Plain Inezia	<i>Inezia inornata</i>										
Bran-coloured Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>										
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>										
Eared Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Myiornis auricularis</i>										
Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilatriccus latirostris</i>										
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>										
Yellow-olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphureus</i>										
Fuscon Flycatcher	<i>Cnemotriccus fuscatus</i>										
Scarlet Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>										
Yellow-browed Tyrant	<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>										
White-rumped Monjita	<i>Xolmis velatus</i>										
Black-backed Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>										
White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>										
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>										
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>										
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>										
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>										
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>										
Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>										
Three-striped Flycatcher	<i>Conopias trivirgatus</i>										
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>										
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>										
Variegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>										
Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus</i>										
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>										
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>										
Sibilant Sirystes	<i>Sirystes sibilator</i>										
Rufous Casiomis	<i>Casiomis rufus</i>										
Swainson's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus swainsoni</i>										
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>										
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>										
Helmeted Manakin	<i>Antilophia galeata</i>										
Whiskered Myiobius	<i>Myiobius barbatus</i>										
Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>										
Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>										
Green-backed Becard	<i>Pachyramphus viridis</i>										
White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychropterus</i>										

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Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>											
Ashy-headed Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus pectoralis</i>											
Chivi Vireo	<i>Vireo chivi</i>											
Purplish Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>		●	●			●	●	●	●	●	
White-rumped Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>											
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>					●	●					
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>					●						
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>					●	●	●			●	
Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>				●	●			●	●	●	
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>		●									
Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>		●		●		●		●		●	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>											
Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>							●	●			
Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>			●		●						
Moustached Wren	<i>Pheugopedius genibarbis</i>											
Buff-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus leucotis</i>											
Fawn-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus guarayanus</i>											
Grey Wren - E	<i>Cantorchilus griseus</i>											
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>											
Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila dumicola</i>										●	
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>											
White-banded Mockingbird	<i>Mimus triurus</i>											
Blacksmith Thrush	<i>Turdus subalaris</i>											
Creamy-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>											
Pale-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>											
Rufous-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>		●	●			●		●	●	●	
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		●							●	●	
Yellowish Pipit	<i>Anthus chii</i>											
Purple-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>											
Grassland Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>											
Saffron-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon flavirostris</i>											
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>											
White-browed Blackbird	<i>Leistes supercilii</i>											
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>			●	●		●			●		
Solitary Cacique	<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>		●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>				●	●		●	●	●	●	
Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>								●	●	●	
Epaulet Oriole	<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>											
Screaming Cowbird	<i>Molothrus rufoaxillaris</i>											
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>			●			●		●	●		
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>			●	●							
Scarlet-headed Blackbird	<i>Amblyramphus holosericeus</i>											
Chopi Blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>			●					●	●	●	
Greyish Baywing	<i>Agelaioides badius</i>			●	●							
Unicoloured Blackbird	<i>Agelasticus cyanopus</i>		●					●	●			
Masked Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>											
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>											
Flavescent Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis flaveola</i>											
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>											
Red Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>											
Hooded Tanager	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>											
Black-throated Saltator	<i>Saltatricula atricollis</i>											
Bluish-grey Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>			●						●		
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>											
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>						●					
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>											
Grey-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>											
Red Pileated Finch	<i>Coryphospingus cucullatus</i>											
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>						●			●	●	
Double-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>											
Plumbeous Seedeater	<i>Sporophila plumbea</i>											
Rusty-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila collaris</i>											
White-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila leucoptera</i>											
Orange-headed Tanager	<i>Thlypopsis sordida</i>											
Chestnut-vented Conebill	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>											
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>			●	●				●	●	●	●
Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>			●								
Yellow-billed Cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>						●		●			
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>			●					●			
GLITERING BELLED EME				●								
GILDED HUMMINGBIRD				●								
RED SHOULDER HAWK							●					
GILDED HUMMINGBIRD										●		
PLAIN TO SIXTY ANTSHRINK										●		

Mammals												
White-eared Opossum	<i>Didelphis albiventris</i>											
Common Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>											
Giant Anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>											
Southern Tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>											
Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>											
Jaguarundi	<i>Herpailurus yagouaroundi</i>											
Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>											
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>											
Puma	<i>Puma concolor</i>											
Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>											
Bush Dog	<i>Speothos venaticus</i>											
South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>											
Crab-eating Raccoon	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i>											
Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>											
Neotropical Otter	<i>Lontra longicaudis</i>											
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Giant Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>											
Lowland Tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>											
Collared Peccary	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>											
White-lipped Peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>											
Feral Pig - I	<i>Sus scrofa</i>											
Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>											
Red Brocket	<i>Mazama americana</i>											
Grey Brocket	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>											
Amazonian Brown Brocket	<i>Mazama nemorivaga</i>											
Greater Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>											
Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>											
Tufted Capuchin	<i>Sapajus apella</i>											
Black-tailed Marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>											
Black Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>											
Azara's Agouti	<i>Dasypsecta azarae</i>											
Brazilian Guinea Pig	<i>Cavia aperea</i>											
Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>											
Brazilian Porcupine	<i>Coendou prehensilis</i>											
Amazon Bamboo Rat	<i>Dactylomys dactylinus</i>											
BRAZILIAN RABBIT												
Pampas Deer												
Reptiles & Amphibians												
Cane Toad	<i>Rhinella marina</i>											
Cururu Toad	<i>Rhinella diptycha</i>											
CHACO TREE FROG												
Yacare Caiman	<i>Caiman yacare</i>											
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>											
Yellow-footed Tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis denticulata</i>											
Red-footed Tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis carbonarius</i>											
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>											
Gold Tegu	<i>Tupinambis teguixin</i>											
Amazon Race-runner	<i>Ameiva ameiva</i>											
Yellow Anaconda	<i>Eunectes notatus</i>											
Green Anaconda	<i>Eunectes murinus</i>											
Giant Parrot Snake	<i>Leptophis ahaetulla</i>											
AMAZON LAVA LIZARD												
Black and white Tegu												
NEOTROPICAL RACER												