

Brazil Pantanal & Iguazu Falls (with Atlantic Forest extension)

Naturetrek Tour Report

3rd – 22nd July 2023



Jaguar



Hyacinth Macaw

Tour report and images kindly compiled by tour participant Paul Hanks



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Atlantic Forest pre-extension

Tour participants: Jorge Luna (Leader) with two Naturetrek clients

Summary

Extending the main Brazilian Pantanal and Iguazu Falls holiday proved to be a highly successful way to recover from the fatigue of the outbound flight. This section describes one option to consider close to Sao Paulo. Please note that the standard offering by Naturetrek stays by default in different (and possibly more accessible) accommodation, but the wildlife is likely to be similar in both locations. Within its three days, this extension offers many species not seen on the main tour.

Day 1

Tuesday 4th July

Sao Paulo – Legado das Aguas

We quickly met our guide Jorge in the terminal concourse and having loaded the SUV, dived into the Sao Paulo traffic. Despite a district named after Ayrton Senna, the city is known for its slow traffic and a jack-knifed lorry made us crawl round the ring road. A breakfast snack was taken en route and then, a sudden turn off the few miles of unhindered tarmac gave way to a rough track.

Entering hill country with mostly woodland cover, we stopped in an area of open farmland where there was a disappointing stillness for a short while. It quickly burst into life with a Neotropical River Warbler, Brazilian Tanager, Spix's Spinetail and White-eared Puffbird appearing around us. The most entertaining were a pair of Masked Water Tyrants that danced through the trees with a vigorous wing-flapping display.

We proceeded to the lodge, with a diversion to a Bat Falcon perch, for a late lunch. Not beating about the bush, the room was small but for a short stay, it was manageable given that the important thing was the environment of the location. The pleasant patio had views across to the dam that had given rise to the reserve but more to the point, it was a bird feeding station. Within minutes of fruit being proffered, Azure-shouldered, Olive-Green, Green-headed, Ruby-crowned and Red-necked Tanagers were tussling for food.

Going to the SUV, we noticed a Cliff Flycatcher on the buildings and after a short drive, the walk produced Crescent-chested Puffbird, Golden-crowned Warbler, Long-tailed Tyrant and Yellow-Olive Flycatcher for the checklist after the evening meal.

Day 2

Wednesday 5th July

Legado das Aguas

With breakfast not ready at the appointed 7am, we took a stroll around the grounds and turned up a Long-billed Gnatwren. A feeding session (firstly for us and then the birds) enticed the tanagers to come back with their Black-goggled and Golden-chevroned cousins, together with a flock of Plain Parakeet gatecrashers. White-necked and

Pale-breasted Thrushes got in on the act and surprisingly, a Rufous-capped Motmot, seen yesterday in poor light, flew in to investigate.

It was a hot and sunny day and away from the lodge, we followed the previous short-drive-and-walk format in both the morning and afternoon. The main sightings were Green-backed Trogon, Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, Spot-breasted Antvireo and Streak-capped Antwren. The butterflies included Orange Mapwing, Dero Clearwing and at least two species of Glasswings and Tiger-Mimics in addition to the beautiful *Enagra azurea* moth.

In the early evening, we went out searching for owls. The bird call lure went unanswered but away from light pollution, the stars of the southern skies came out in all their glory.

Day 3

Thursday 6th July

Legado das Aguas

The breakfast delay was filled by a foray to the horticultural area of the compound. Here, native rainforest species are propagated to be given a flying start when regenerating land lost to the more robust farmland grasses. It also boasted a Channel-billed Toucan.

The morning drive to the sensory garden took us to the start of a 300-metre boardwalk. It was essentially flat, but it ascended into the trees as the ground fell away beneath us. On the forest floor, there was a skulking Black-cheeked Gnateater, but it was generally too gloomy for well-matured eyes. Jorge had to play his trump card lure and for a few minutes, the woods were full of life. Many birds were familiar from the lodge feeders but Swallow-tailed (aka Blue) and Pin-tailed Manakins, Black-throated Grosbeak and Flame-crested Tanager were colourful additions. A second boardwalk 2.1km in length, went through trees with interesting fungi but was generally “silencioso” when Jorge reported back to the other guides.

A slightly longer drive after lunch had a single purpose – to see a Spot-billed Toucanet and this was achieved as the last rays of daylight were fading. On the way, we also recorded Yellow-legged Thrush, Eared Dove and White-throated Woodcreeper amongst others. Tonight's owl prowls produced a nearby response but no action.

Day 4

Friday 7th July

Legado das Aguas - Trilha dos Toucanos - Sao Paulo

The breakfast support act was a Short-crested Flycatcher, but the few minutes delay was insignificant relative to the two-hour drive to Trilha dos Toucanos. This popular destination had a garden in which you could position chairs less than 10 metres from the feeders and watch the birds arrive. Magpie Tanagers, Maroon-bellied Parakeets, Blue Dacnis and the flamboyant Blond-crested and Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers interspersed the tanagers before we moved on to the next area.

A gazebo protected us from the sun as we watched the hummingbirds feed. The headliner was the Frilled Coquette but from the commoner species, Scale-throated Hermit and Sombre Hummingbird stood out. A flying Mantled

Hawk brought an end to this session and a pleasant lunch in the restaurant would have been the finale to this extension until a Saffron Toucanet perched outside.

The drive into Sao Paulo was a tedious affair with long rush-hour queues making a precautionary pitstop a good idea before entering the city. The overnight hotel was comfortable, offered a reasonably-priced meal but without pre-booking, its complimentary shuttle was already fully booked at times suitable for our flight. We booked a taxi for 6-15am for the following morning which would take us back to the airport 15 minutes away when we would join the main tour.



Saffron Toucanet and Red-necked Tanager



Euagra azurea and Dero Clearwing

Main tour

Tour participants: Lailson Marques (leader), Martín (Local Guide in Argentina) with 11 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This varied trip visits the Pantanal, one of the world's wildlife hotspots and uses truck and boat transport to see the best of it. Highlights include close-ups of Jaguar, regular sightings of Giant Otter and an impressive range of birds, many within easy range of modest camera lenses. Three sightseeing days at Iguazu Falls form the magnificent finale.

Day 1

Friday 7th July

London - Sao Paulo

Let's start with simple sum. Take eleven hours. Subtract one for an airline meal and a few more for fitful snoozing. What do you get? An uneventful flight from London to Sao Paulo. Or so it was for those who opted for a tour extension. The rest of the group on the standard Friday departure were treated to an altogether more adventurous journey...

Day 2

Saturday 8th July

Sao Paulo – Cuiabá – Pouso Alegre

It may be the tropics, but July is midwinter in the southern hemisphere and at 5am, the 10oC temperature came as a refreshing surprise. All passengers needed to clear immigration controls, reclaim baggage and there were long queues at both. Travellers of a certain age should acquaint themselves with the enlightened attitude in Brazil which affords them priority and allows them to jump ahead with the formalities. Even so, it took around 90 minutes to reach the decision point – the exit (for extensions from Sao Paulo) or “domestic departures” for the onward flight to Cuiabá.

More queues were by-passed thanks to being *Prioridades*, but in the airport lounge, there were just two of us because an email from Naturetrek HQ brought the unwelcome news that the flight bringing the bulk of the group had been delayed and arrangements were being made for them to catch up.

The internal flight passed quickly with a very light snack and with only 15 minutes needed to retrieve bags, we soon met leader Lailson and in the minibus, Roger and Dave who had flown out the previous day and recuperated overnight in Cuiabá. Lunchtime was approaching and the depleted group visited a nearby restaurant with a sumptuous and varied buffet supplemented by barbecued meats carved to order at the table and a digestif served with a flourish.

Hitting the road – at first tarmac before changing to the Transpantaneira dirt track - we headed for Pousada Piuval to collect the next member of the growing throng, Hilary. She had spent two nights there to enjoy a private version of the Giant Anteater extension. We also made the transfer to an open-sided vehicle which would allow wildlife

viewing from an elevated position. And the birds obliged aplenty. Red-legged Seriamas strutted around the pousada compound and diverted us even before rejoining the main carriageway, a Black-throated Saltator sat on a parallel wire, and many were to become almost daily companions including the raucous Chaco Chachalaca, Bare-faced Ibis, Neotropic Cormorant and Snail Kite

Two hours of the route remained but as darkness approached, the truck stopped, and we descended for a sundowner – a cool beer beside the roadside surrounded at a safe distance by Yacare Caiman. With the sun gone, the air temperature dropped to form a low-lying mist as we turned off the highway, and in the spotlight, we saw many Band-tailed Nighthawks and to general delight, a Great Horned Owl. We were more than ready on arrival for the checklist, meal and retiring to our rooms, somewhat basic singles but pleasant, large doubles.

Day 3

Sunday 9th July

Pouso Alegre

The day started with what can only be described as a feeding frenzy (not by us!). Birds descended from the garden trees en masse for the food put out across a branch and scattered on the floor. We watched from a distance of three metres as Purplish Jays contested with Giant and Shiny Cowbirds, Red-crested and Yellow-billed Cardinals hopped around among the Greyish Baywings and Rufous-bellied Thrushes until chased off by a belligerent Chestnut-eared Aracari.

After breakfast, we left on foot passing a pair of nesting Rufous Horneros and small ponds with perching Greater and Lesser Kiskadees. The objective was to return and see the Great Horned Owl in daylight which we achieved after some expert searching by Lailson. The truck drove out to pick us up and we continued into caiman country. Lailson was able to point out the difference between Black-necked and White-backed Stilts and there was a great range of marshland birds – Wattled Jacana, Cattle and Snowy Egrets etc.

Either side of lunch was time free either for a siesta in the heat of the day or to potter around the lodge. Although nominally a quieter period, it was possible to have a face-to-face encounter with a Toco Toucan, blunder into a passing troop of Tufted Capuchins or see the deceptively ponderous gait of a Black-and-White Tegu as it retreated into the adjacent copse.

The afternoon was spent in an unsuccessful stake-out of a pond where Tapir were expected to drink at dusk. We did see a Red-footed Tortoise at some distance, a Sunbittern, a Great Black Hawk and Bare-faced Curassow before returning to the lodge. There, the original five were joined by four of the late arrivals who had the stamina to join the night safari after their ordeal and able to tell their tale.

“After passing Lisbon and heading over the Atlantic Ocean, a medical emergency arose and a doctor on board advised immediate hospital treatment. The plane returned to the otherwise closed Lisbon Airport landing at 1:30am and the matter dealt with out of sight. However, everyone was kept on board until 5:30am while purported negotiations took place over a night departure but also, conveniently, passing the need to provide hotel accommodation. The plane eventually took off at 11pm after a very tedious 22 hours at the airport. The connection at Sao Paulo was not until late morning and much of the drive to Pouso Alegre was in the dark.” That said, they still managed to tick Roseate Spoonbill, Blue-and-Yellow Macaw and a co-operative Southern Crested Caracara en route!

The night drive threw up two Crab-eating Foxes, three Lowland Tapirs, a Brazilian Rabbit, Nacunda Nighthawk and several Pauraque. It was a good haul to reward the effort and at dinner, the group finally mustered its full complement.

Day 4

Monday 10th July

Pouso Alegre

Today was to repeat the format of yesterday for the benefit of the latecomers. Feeding time was just as chaotic with a Chaco Chachalaca joining the fray and bossing the three aracarís. The stroll after breakfast did change the species list. Firstly, with a Greater Thornbird and after our fill of Great Horned Owl, we moved on to photograph a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. The marshes beyond produced a Large-billed Tern, Little Blue Heron and Plumbeous Ibis and by now, we were accustomed to seeing Cocoi Heron and Wood Stork.

In the noontide rest period, a pair of Hyacinth Macaws gave close views and a family of South American Coatis wandered around the buildings. It was soon time to go in search of the Tapirs but it was to be another no-show compensated by a nearby Red-throated Piping Guan.

The night drive seemed to be equally disappointing but as we turned to retrace our steps, the spotlight caught a Southern Tamandua. The three Lowland Tapirs, obscured by reeds, were more shy and trotted away, probably due to one being of a tender age. A photograph later identified the snake crossing the road as a venomous Mato Grosso Lancehead.

Day 5

Tuesday 11th July

Pouso Alegre – Porto Jofre - Jaguar Flotel, Rio Piquiri

After an early breakfast at 5:30am and departure 30 minutes later, it was a day for travel. Nevertheless, the driveway leaving the lodge was still full of interest with a Limpkin marshalling five chicks and an Undulated Tinamou sighting as a parting gift. The road was extremely dusty when vehicles passed, necessitating a cover for camera equipment and wearing a face mask. Our early start meant little traffic at first and wildlife came thick and fast – Guira Cuckoos on the road fence, Maguari Stork at a distance, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Nanday Parakeet and the very smart Scarlet-headed Blackbird. Nor were animals outdone as we saw Collared Peccary, Marsh Deer and a Yellow Anaconda.

A pitstop at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel after about two hours gave us the opportunity to encounter Green Kingfisher and Grey-cowled Wood Rail at close quarters. Thankfully, by late morning, we reached the wharf at Porto Jofre and after a short diversion to a Hyacinth Macaw nest and the discovery of Grey Cracker butterflies on the tree trunks, we boarded a boat for a 25-minute ride to the flotel. Here, met by naturalist-in-residence Xavier, we were given a briefing on the facilities of the boat, mealtimes and importantly, that complimentary sweets and a bottle of liqueur were available in the restaurant. He described how individual Jaguars could be identified and he encouraged submitting photographs for census purposes. If we were extremely lucky and the animal was new to the database, we should have the task of naming it!

After lunch and marvelling at the luxurious suites, a boat outing was scheduled for 3pm. The drama was provided by the Giant Otters in a contest of three against one. Two (presumed younger) bellowed loudly from the side lines, while the other two reared out of the water in close and violent combat, jostling and biting. The fight lasted several minutes until the intruder (though it may have been the ejection of an overstaying juvenile) was chased off and the youngsters swam away. We watched them munching fish from only a few feet away until they were recalled and a second bout of splashing and scrapping ensued.

Oh! There was other wildlife as well... ranging from Pied Plover to Green Iguana and Proboscis Bats. There was buzz of excited conversation as we returned to the mother ship for dinner, the checklist and an entertaining short talk by Xavier on Jaguar biology and conservation.

Day 6

Wednesday 12th July

Jaguar Flotel, Rio Piquiri

Breakfast was at 6:00am and departure 30 minutes later. Our first call was the Black Channel which had recently proved productive for Jaguar sightings, but it was the birds that first attracted our attention. A Southern Screamer looked down from the trees and while we were admiring a Black-fronted Nunbird and straining a little to find a Pale-legged Hornero in adjacent trees, the call came in by walkie-talkie. A Jaguar had been located by another boat and we set off on an exhilarating ride touching 50km/hr to reach the spot in time.

It was easy to see the place because four boats had already congregated and over time, this grew to a disconcertingly large flotilla. We had found “Ryan”, surprisingly a female, who was hunting along the riverbank. We followed her for over an hour – it passed quickly! - with various glimpses of her peeping through the undergrowth, appearing in gaps in full splendour and to everyone's delight, swimming across the river through the boats which had parted in anticipation. There she clambered on a fallen, bare tree and satiated the cravings of the surrounding photographers. We had ticked a Jaguar!

Our outing on this sunny morning was coming to an end and we were making our homeward way at a leisurely pace when the engine roared again. Another sighting had been reported nearby and a short chase brought two animals into view. They groomed each other for 10 minutes before sauntering into the greenery. The female had been “Jeni” but who was the cub?

The afternoon again centred on the birds; Capped Heron, Anhinga, Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Great Black Hawk headed the cast list. Eventually, the light started to fade and with the boat stationary apart from the gentle lapping of the backwater, we diligently emptied the ice box of its sundowner contents before starting back.

As we rounded a river bend, there he was. “Nels” was lying exposed on the sandy riverbank only metres away. He had been badly injured in a wildfire in 2020 and had required medical attention. He was now collared for monitoring purposes, and it was heartening to hear he had been seen mating this year indicating that a female considered him to be in good physical condition. Totally unconcerned, he hardly stirred as we manoeuvred closer and after 10 minutes, we had to leave him to the darkness. Who had seen him? No crowd, no jostling boats, just us!

During the return trip, the horizon was ablaze with the sunset and around our heads were a swarm of swooping Band-tailed Nighthawks and Greater Bulldog Bats. After dinner, Xavier gave another talk (Giant Otters this time), confirmed that Jeni's cub was indeed new to the database, and he would collect naming suggestions the following morning. What a day!

Day 7

Thursday 13th July

Jaguar Flotel, Rio Piquiri

With a similarly early start, the boat potted across the river to see an Orange-winged Amazon and during the morning, we added Common Tody-Flycatcher, White Woodpecker and Epaulet Oriole amongst many others. There was a lengthy stake-out for another Jaguar, but “Vespa” was content to lie amongst the trees, only occasionally lifting his head and yawning. We left the scene for a call of nature. Lailson chose a location, declared it safe and by good luck, it was opposite the haunt of the Giant Otter family. The pitstop enabled us to observe the latrine spreading behaviour that we had learned about the evening before. A quick return to Vespa found him on the prowl and his head above the riverside vegetation showed what a large, impressive male he was.

Back on the boat for lunch, we generally had a couple of hours for rest or amusement on board. Without access to the shore and restricted to the confines of the flotel, we could observe passing butterflies such as Starry Night Cracker, get close to basking caiman or be entertained by the courtship display of a pair of Rufescent Tiger Heron. At other times of day, there were marvellous sunrises and sunsets and after dark on a balmy evening, a sweep of the superstructure would reveal a range of interesting moths.

This lunchtime, however, had an added bonus. We had to name the Jaguar cub and a ballot was taken of the proposals Xavier had gathered at breakfast. One female and male name was required to avoid potential problems from assuming an incorrect gender. As returning officer for the election, Xavier declared Phoebe and Zeus as winners, but we departed before the acceptance speech by the winning cat.

The first sign of life on final afternoon from the flotel was a pair of Black Vultures pecking at a caiman carcass floating down the river. Two Crane Hawks disturbed juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons from their roost and we had our last reminder of the Giant Otters and, up a narrow creek, a Jaguar – this one “Ernest”. Under unaccustomed cloudy skies, we returned and in the failing light, had the Capybara sightings requested to complete a successful day. The large male and female were swimming easily, but the four babies were finding it difficult and one clambered onto its mother's back. Now too dark, we sped home but with a nip in the air and the windchill caused by the motion of the boat, we needed suitable clothes and were grateful for the warmth of the evening meal. Thereafter, we went through the checklist and enjoyed Xavier's bedtime story on Yacare Caiman.

Day 8

Friday 14th July

Jaguar Flotel – Porto Jofre – Southwild Pantanal Lodge, Pixaim

Saying goodbye to the flotel, we returned by boat to Porto Jofre spotting Yellow-billed Terns and Black Skimmers en route. It was to be a 3-hour drive to Southwild Pantanal Lodge in the open-topped truck but a slight breeze and light traffic due to our 6:45am start, kept down the dust levels for much of the journey. Star sightings included a

small troop of Black-and-Gold Howler Monkeys and a confiding Savanna Hawk whilst stopping near the numerous ponds and streams crossed by wooden bridges revealed two similar species, the Black-backed Water Tyrant and White-headed Marsh Tyrant.

Welcome with a refreshing juice preceded lunch, and in the afternoon, we split into two boats for a trip on the Rio Pixaim. After barely moving from the water's edge, we saw a stalking Sunbittern and later, there was a Whistling Heron and a Striated Heron in fine plumage. The main event was feeding the kingfishers and fish tossed from the boat drew Ringed and Amazon species diving after the lure in the blink of an eye (and frequently faster than the snap of a shutter). A plaintive Black-collared Hawk mewed to get in on the act but led us a merry dance by flying back and forth across the river while, for good photography, we steered likewise but out of phase.

The sundowner was taken at the lodge. Fortified, we made the short walk at dusk to the Ocelot feeding station. En route, we encountered fluttering Giant Owl butterflies but sadly, this was to be the extent of our wildlife sightings for the evening.

Day 9

Saturday 15th July

Southwild Pantanal Lodge

There is a garden area around the Lodge and each morning, the birds are fed at 6:15am. We assembled beforehand and saw a Streaked Flycatcher in the low trees, but it was a mass flurry when the food appeared. Picazuro Pigeons jostled with Scaled, White-Tipped, Picui and Ruddy Ground Doves amidst a flock of Saffron Finches.

After breakfast, the group strolled into the woods beyond the grounds. Passing first through the adjacent ranch buildings with Buff-necked Ibis and palms hosting some squabbling Yellow-rumped Caciques, we searched the canopy finding Brown-crested Flycatcher, Masked Gnatcatcher and in a Pink Îpe tree, a Little Woodpecker. A Rufous-fronted Thornbird hopped amongst a tangle of vines, but with the sun growing hotter (and the threat of neckache), we returned to the lodge. Here, the more intrepid members of the group could climb the spiral stairs to a viewing platform which overlooked a Jabiru nest.

The afternoon boat trip gave us another opportunity to test our camera technique by tempting the kingfishers and hawk but this time, we added a Great Egret. This, however, was obviously unnatural feeding behaviour and it diffidently declined a second helping. Other notable birds from this outing were our last Orange-backed Troupial, a fleeting Squirrel Cuckoo and Flavescent Warbler.

The twilight trip to see ocelot was unsuccessful but a Great Antshrike had to be discouraged from stealing the bait. With eyes partly adapted to the dark, it is worth looking upwards on the return walk. What stars!

After dinner, there was a night safari aboard the truck lasting one hour. Travelling around the lodge grounds, we spotted a Red Brocket in the distance and then, we retired to bed after a long day.

Day 10

Sunday 16th July

Southwild Pantanal Lodge

Before breakfast, there was time for a stroll in the opposite direction to yesterday. Beyond the small amphitheatre where we had sat so silently for the past two evenings (and another tonight), we entered more woods and after seeing a Pale-crested Woodpecker, somehow spotted a Common Potoo despite its static pose and perfect camouflage.

Later, on the morning boat trip, we ventured further down the river than previously and added shy Sungrebes, a Chestnut-eared Aracari and overhead, Scaly-headed Parrot to our growing checklist. The target was to visit the concrete bridge where the Transpantaneira crosses the river and after a short search, the roosting Proboscis Bats were found.

In the afternoon, it was back on the truck again for a safari drive on the Transpantaneira. The Long-tailed Ground Dove was easy to see at the edge of the marsh; the Chotoy Spinetail was more difficult and possibly only our guide managed the Rusty-collared Seedeater. The mammals were thankfully more obvious, and we saw Red Brocket Deer and Crab-eating Fox in daylight for the only time.

We returned and as our time at the Lodge was nearing its end, we were treated to a Caipirinha cocktail and canapés on the lawn by the pool.

Day 11

Monday 17th July

Southwild Pantanal Lodge – Cuiabá - Sao Paulo

The next two days were mostly devoted to travelling but not without a final taste of the Pantanal. A pre-breakfast saunter as yesterday disturbed an Azara's Agouti at the tapir feeding station, now unproductive following recent wildfires; the plains beyond the lodge were visited by a number of Greater Rhea and a short boat trip surprised us with the overflight of a Western Osprey. One boat saw an American Pygmy Kingfisher, but a Green Ibis was in the open, showing its vivid plumage in good light.

Packed and prepared for an overnight stay with only hand luggage, we readied ourselves for departure after an earlyish lunch but were distracted by a False Water Cobra in the gardens. A little delayed, we set off by minibus for Cuiabá airport, protected from the dust but still able to notice Brazilian Teal by the roadside. The check-in process seemed interminable and Lailson, who was travelling by a different airline, failed to reach the head of the queue in time and had to settle for an even later flight.

At Sao Paulo, we were able to make a quick exit and were met by Southwild's local agent. A 15-minute minibus ride took us to our hotel but our late arrival (and another slow check-in) took us beyond the opening time of the restaurant. The option then was to use room service for our evening meal. The menu had a reasonable range of choice but partaking for two is interesting in a room with only one chair! And so to bed ... well after midnight.

Day 12

Tuesday 18th July

Sao Paulo – Foz do Iguaçu – Puerto Iguazú

After a nice shower, we could take a leisurely breakfast at the buffet and still have plenty of time before our return to the airport terminal at 10am. Having already checked our bags through to the destination, the party could proceed directly through security to the departure gate - apart from Lailson who after his travails of yesterday, needed to check in and (you must have guessed!) missed the flight again.

After landing at Foz do Iguaçu, collecting luggage was fairly easy and we were soon shaking hands with Martín, our local guide. Fortunately, tourist minibuses can bypass the long queues of cars at the border and with Martín collecting passports and dealing with the formalities to enter Argentina, we were able to concentrate on the Burrowing Owls resident near the crossing point while being berated by a Southern Lapwing guarding its nest with three eggs.

La Reserva's chalet-style apartments are situated in dense trees and with a fair slice of the remaining daylight taken with room allocation, we had an impromptu picnic of empanadas to save time and went for a brief walk along the approach roads. The birdwatching ticked several species including Pale-breasted Thrush, Thrush-like Wren and Eared Pygmy Tyrant but within an hour, bad light stopped play. We returned to the resort restaurant to pre-order and facilitate our evening meals but as the selection was only available via QR code, the procedure proved quite fraught especially for those who had not come equipped with a smartphone. Nevertheless, from 8:00pm onwards, meals were served without confusion, wine and conversation flowed and Lailson arrived to a round of applause at 9pm.

Day 13

Wednesday 19th July

Iguazú National Park

After a buffet breakfast, we left our accommodation at 7:5am and parked on a stretch of mud road in the forest. With Martín's help, we found an obliging Surucua Trogon, Yellow Tyrannulet and Ochre-collared Piculet. Further on, we reached a screened platform looking out over a more open area where we caught sight of a Red-breasted Toucan and after previous flypasts, perching Lineated Woodpeckers.

The remainder of the day was given over to sightseeing around Iguazú Falls. This iconic landmark must surely appear on everyone's list of natural wonders of the world and a visit would be a top lifetime experience but for the overcrowding. Put bluntly, this leg of the tour should not run when it coincides with periods of national holiday in Brazil and Argentina. The morning route was along the upper trail which ran for nearly 2km of metal grill walkway elevated above the surging river. After passing many magnificent cascades, we returned to the National Park restaurant for lunch with a buffet and barbecue servery.

During a short break, we saw more Plush-crested Jays and butterflies were in evidence with a Hydaspes Eighty-Eight landing on Sophie's hat and being much photographed. This happened while waiting for the miniature train which in 15 minutes, whisked us to a station which led via another walkway across a series of islets to the Devil's

Throat. This is the apex of the vee-shaped waterfall where the rushing water drops 80 metres from all sides into a chasm in an unimaginable display of noise, spray and ferocious power.

After the return trip to the park facility complex, the evening mirrored the previous day – pre-order the meal, dining, checklist... Andy decided to spice it up by getting locked in his bathroom but to spare him embarrassment, we dare not give it a mention.

Day 14

Thursday 20th July

Iguazú National Park

With a 7:45am departure, we arrived in the National Park much earlier and were able to snatch a few minutes birdwatching around the old hotel with Chopi Blackbird, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia and, in the low trees, another Burrowing Owl on show. Setting off on the lower trail, it was much less crowded and the 2.5km walkway with occasional steps seemed shorter thanks to another succession of spectacular views.

Moving into Puerto Iguazú town for a swift lunch, we continued to the nearby Jardin de los Picaflors, a privately-run hummingbird garden. It was a compact area with feeders distributed at intervals so that birds often perched in a natural setting. The predominant species included Versicoloured Emerald, Violet-capped Woodnymph, White-throated Hummingbird and Gilded Sapphire whilst Black Jacobin, Planalto Hermit and Swallow-tailed Hummingbird made sporadic appearances. In a nook, fruit attracted Sayaca and Ruby-crowned Tanagers. Photographers were in their element provided they had a lens with a close focus point of two metres or less.

The 90 minutes passed quickly, and we continued to a viewpoint where the river borders of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay meet. More of a symbolic place, it was interesting and saddening to see the clear waters of the Parana mixing with the muddy-coloured Iguazú – one due to sedimentation at the upstream Itaipú dam, the other from soil erosion run-off caused by de-forestation.

Day 15

Friday 21st July

Iguaçu National Park – Foz do Iguaçu - Sao Paulo

Back into Brazil this morning and with it, the change of spelling for the National Park. Having our own transport (rather than the shuttle buses) enabled us to stop on the roadway between the entrance and the trailhead. An immediate sighting was an Olivaceous Woodcreeper but with more sunshine than the previous two days, the butterflies came out in profusion.

Re-mounting, we drove to the Copperpod Trail and stupendous hardly does justice to the views. The crowd caused an initial bottleneck on the zigzag path such was the stunning impact at the first look-out point. Being further from the water gives a much greater sense of the scale and grandeur of the spectacle and although the flow evened out, it took almost two hours to negotiate the 1.2km. Close to the end is a decision point. Do you want to dogleg out into the basin of the waterfall to experience near white-out conditions? Suffice it say, the group's erstwhile unanimity faltered. Whether dry or soaked, there was a further choice of path or lift back up to the promontory beside the falls.

Lunch was taken at the Cataratas restaurant with views past a plunging wall of water across to the Devil's Throat vortex. The drive to the airport permitted a brief stop for final sightings at the same spot as in the morning and the list grew by a Lesser Woodcreeper and Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner and many butterflies, some vibrant such as the Immaculate and Agathina Emperors and others more dowdy like the Small-eyed Sailor, Ithra Crescent and Bentwing Skipper.

At the airport, check-in was speedy and Lailson actually made the flight in time. This enabled us to complete a last sightings checklist in the departure lounge before flying to Sao Paulo. After such an enjoyable trip, we bade a sad farewell to our leader before parting to our onward connection.

Day 16

Saturday 22nd July

London

Take eleven hours and subtract four time zones. The group had interacted well and there was more sorrow as the good friends parted at Heathrow. For us, however, the holiday is not yet over with exchanged email addresses and photos to share. Besides, we shall scan future trip reports for news of Phoebe/Zeus...



Southern Tamandua and Versicoloured Emerald

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Species lists

The following species identifications follow those given by the Tour Leader for birds, mammals and reptiles. For butterflies and other insects, the situation is more tentative, but a list is offered to assist future visitors as a starting point for identification.

Birds – Pre-extension

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023				
		4	5	6	7	Not seen on main tour
Azure-shouldered Tanager	<i>Thraupis cyanoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓		*
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>				✓	
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	✓	✓			
Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>		✓			*
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓				
Black-capped Foliage-Gleaner	<i>Philydor atricapillus</i>		✓			*
Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher	<i>Conopophaga melanops</i>			✓		*
Black-goggled Tanager	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Black-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius atricaudus</i>			✓	✓	*
Black-throated Grosbeak	<i>Saltator fuliginosus</i>			✓		*
Blond-crested Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavescens</i>				✓	*
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Blue-and-White Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	✓			✓	*
Brazilian Ruby	<i>Clytolaema rubricauda</i>				✓	*
Brazilian Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>	✓				*
Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>	✓				
Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>			✓		*
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>		✓			
Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>	✓		✓		*
Crescent-chested Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila striata</i>	✓		✓		*
Dusky-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis squalidus</i>	✓				*
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>		✓			

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023				
		4	5	6	7	Not seen on main tour
Eared Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Myiornis auricularis</i>	✓				
Flame-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>		✓			*
Friilled Coquette	<i>Lophornis magnificus</i>				✓	*
Golden-chevroned Tanager	<i>Thraupis ornata</i>		✓			*
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	✓				
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	✓			✓	
Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>		✓			*
Green-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara seledon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum poliocephalum</i>	✓				*
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>		✓			*
Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	✓	✓	✓		*
Magpie Tanager	<i>Cissopis leverianus</i>				✓	*
Mantled Hawk	<i>Pseudastur polionotus</i>				✓	*
Maroon-bellied Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>	✓			✓	*
Masked Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>	✓				*
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	✓				
Neotropical River Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis rivularis</i>	✓				*
Ochre-collared Piculet	<i>Picumnus temminckii</i>		✓			
Olive-Green Tanager	<i>Orthogonys chloricterus</i>	✓			✓	*
Pale-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>		✓			
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>		✓	✓		
Pin-tailed Manakin	<i>Ilicura militaris</i>			✓		*
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>			✓		
Plain Parakeet	<i>Brotoyeris tirica</i>		✓	✓	✓	*
Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>	✓				*
Red-breasted Toucan	<i>Ramphastos dicolorus</i>	✓		✓		
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>				✓	*

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023				
		4	5	6	7	Not seen on main tour
Red-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
Red-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>				✓	
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>	✓				
Ruby-crowned Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	✓				
Rufous-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Rufous-capped Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus ruficapillus</i>	✓	✓			*
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	✓	✓			*
Rufous-headed Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis ruficapilla</i>		✓			*
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	✓			✓	
Saffron Toucanet	<i>Pteroglossus bailloni</i>				✓	*
Sao Paulo Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes paulista</i>		✓	✓		*
Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>				✓	
Scaled Antbird	<i>Drymophila squamata</i>			✓		*
Scale-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis eurynome</i>				✓	*
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>			✓		*
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>				✓	
Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides saracura</i>			✓	✓	*
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	✓				
Sombre Hummingbird	<i>Aphantochroa cirrochloris</i>				✓	*
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	✓				
Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	✓				
Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	✓				
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	✓				
Southern Rufous-winged Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>		✓			
Spix's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis spixi</i>	✓				*
Spot-billed Toucanet	<i>Selenidera maculirostris</i>			✓		*

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023				
		4	5	6	7	Not seen on main tour
Spot-breasted Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus stictothorax</i>		✓			*
Star-throated Antwren	<i>Rhopias gularis</i>			✓		*
Streak-capped Antwren	<i>Terenura maculata</i>		✓			*
Swallow-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia caudata</i>			✓		*
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>	✓				
Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	✓				*
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓				
Unicolored Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula unicolor</i>			✓		*
Versicolored Emerald	<i>Amazilia versicolor</i>				✓	
Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	✓	✓			
Violet-capped Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania glaucopis</i>		✓		✓	
White-collared Foliage-Gleaner	<i>Anabazenops fuscus</i>		✓			*
White-eared Puffbird	<i>Nystalus chacuru</i>	✓				*
White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner	<i>Automolus leucophthalmus</i>			✓		*
White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>		✓	✓		*
White-thighed Swallow	<i>Atticora tibialis</i>			✓		*
White-throated Hummingbird	<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>				✓	
White-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes albicollis</i>			✓		*
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>	✓			✓	
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>		✓			
Yellow-legged Thrush	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>			✓		*
Yellow-Olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	✓				

Other species seen on pre-extension

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023				
		4	5	6	7	Not on main tour
Crab-Eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>			✓		
Brazilian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aestuans</i>				✓	*
(Greater) Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>				✓	
Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>		✓			
Claudina Crescent	<i>Tegosa claudina</i>		✓			
Banded Lady	<i>Vanessa myrina</i>			✓		*
Ethra Tiger-Mimic	<i>Melinaea ethra</i>	✓	✓			*
<i>Melinaea ludovica</i>	<i>Melinaea ludovica</i>		✓			*
Orcus Chequered Skipper	<i>Burnsius orcus</i>		✓			*
Orange Mapwing	<i>Hypnartia lethe</i>		✓			*
Dimpled Banded-Skipper	<i>Autochton longipennis</i>		✓			*
Itatiaia Glasswing	<i>Hypoleria adasa</i>	✓	✓			
Agnosia Glasswing	<i>Ithomia agnosia</i>		✓			*
Dero Clearwing	<i>Dircenna dero</i>		✓			*
Syma Sister	<i>Adelpha syma</i>		✓			*
Red/Small Postman	<i>Heliconius erato</i>			✓		
Red Peacock	<i>Anartia amathea</i>		✓	✓		
Ghost Yellow	<i>Eurema albula</i>			✓		*
Cramer's Eighty-Eight	<i>Diaethria clymena</i>		✓			
Statira Sulphur	<i>Phoebis statira</i>		✓			*
	<i>Euagra azurea</i>		✓			*
Red-Faced Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplex fusca</i>		✓			*
Carmin Skimmer	<i>Orthemis discolor</i>		✓	✓		
	<i>Alagoasa areata</i>		✓			*
Reddish Spittlebug	<i>Sphenorhina rubra</i>		✓			*

Bird seen on main tour

The following species identifications follow those given by the Tour Leader for birds, mammals and reptiles. For butterflies and other insects, the situation is more tentative, but a list is offered to assist future visitors as a starting point for identification.

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓				
Undulated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus undulatus</i>		✓		✓	✓									
Southern Screamer	<i>Chauna torquata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓				
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>			✓	✓			✓							
Brazilian Teal	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>										✓				
Chaco Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Chestnut-bellied Guan	<i>Penelope ochrogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓						
Red-throated Piping Guan	<i>Pipile cujubi</i>		✓	✓											
Blue-throated Piping Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Nacunda Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles nacunda</i>		✓	✓											
Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓								
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓						
Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>									✓	✓				
Great Dusky Swift	<i>Cypseloides senex</i>													✓	
Black Jacobin	<i>Florisuge fusca</i>													✓	
Planalto Hermit	<i>Phaethornis pretrei</i>													✓	
Violet-capped Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania glaucopis</i>													✓	✓
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>													✓	
Versicoloured Emerald	<i>Amazilia versicolor</i>													✓	
White-throated Hummingbird	<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>													✓	
Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>		✓					✓		✓	✓				
Gilded Sapphire	<i>Hylocharis chrysura</i>								✓		✓			✓	

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>	✓			✓										
Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>						✓								
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</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 Dove	<i>Columbina picui</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	✓			✓			✓							
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							
Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sterna superciliosa</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>				✓										

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				
Bare-faced Ibis	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓							
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓							
Rufescent Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</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>Pilherodius pileatus</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓					
Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>		✓					✓	✓						
Little Blue Egret	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>			✓				✓							
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								✓		✓				
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>											✓		✓	✓
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>		✓	✓							✓				
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	✓	✓	✓											
Surucua Trogon	<i>Trogon surrucura</i>												✓		✓
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
American Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>										✓				
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓					
Chestnut-eared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓			✓		
Red-breasted Toucan	<i>Ramphastos dicolorus</i>												✓		
Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓				✓	✓	
Ochre-collared Piculet	<i>Picumnus temminckii</i>												✓		
White-wedged Piculet	<i>Picumnus albosquamatus</i>										✓				
White Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>						✓								
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes flavifrons</i>												✓		
Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓					
Golden-Green Woodpecker	<i>Piculus chrysochloros</i>				✓	✓									
Green-barred Woodpecker	<i>Chrysotilus melanochloros</i>		✓												
Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>													✓	
Pale-crested Woodpecker	<i>Celeus lugubris</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓					
Cream-coloured Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus</i>						✓								
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>												✓		
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>				✓										
Red-legged Seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>	✓									✓				
Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>													✓	
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>								✓		✓				
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Scaly-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>									✓			✓	✓	
Turquoise-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>						✓								
Hyacinth Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓				
Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓					
Nanday Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nenday</i>				✓										
Golden-collared Macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>		✓						✓						
Blue-and-Yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>		✓								✓				
Blue-crowned Parakeet	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudatus</i>								✓						
White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>								✓						✓
Great Rufous Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes major</i>		✓	✓											
Lesser Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus fuscus</i>														✓
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>					✓									
Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilrostris</i>						✓				✓				
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓					
Pale-legged Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>					✓	✓			✓	✓				
Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner	<i>Philydor lichtensteini</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Chotoy Spinetail	<i>Schoeniophylax phryganophilus</i>									✓					
White-lored Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albilora</i>			✓					✓						
Rufous-margined Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>											✓	✓		
Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>												✓		
Planalto Slaty Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus pelzelni</i>										✓				
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓					
Mato Grosso Antbird	<i>Cercomacra melanaria</i>								✓						
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>								✓	✓	✓		✓		
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>												✓		
Plain Inezia	<i>Inezia inornata</i>								✓		✓				
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>										✓				
Eared Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis auricularis</i>											✓			
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>						✓								
Yellow-Olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>										✓				
Scarlet Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					
Grey Monjita	<i>Xolmis cinereus</i>	✓													
Black-backed Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>							✓			✓				
White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>							✓							
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>								✓						
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>								✓	✓	✓				
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sibilant Sirystes	<i>Sirystes sibilator</i>										✓		✓		
Rufous Casiornis	<i>Casiornis rufus</i>								✓						

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓					
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>								✓		✓				
Helmeted Manakin	<i>Antilophia galeata</i>								✓						
White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>													✓	
Band-tailed Manakin	<i>Pipra fasciicauda</i>												✓		✓
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>							✓							
Purplish Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Plush-crested Jay	<i>Cyanocorax chrysops</i>												✓	✓	✓
White-rumped Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>												✓		
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓					
Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓					
Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Thrush-Like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>			✓					✓			✓	✓	✓	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>												✓	✓	✓
Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila dumicola</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓				
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</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>Passer domesticus</i>													✓	
Purple-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>							✓					✓		✓
Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>												✓	✓	✓
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia pectoralis</i>											✓		✓	
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Solitary Cacique	<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓				
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Red-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>													✓	
Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓						
Epaulet Oriole	<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>						✓								
Variable Oriole	<i>Icterus pyrrhopterus</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>				✓										
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiauyumi</i>											✓	✓	✓	
Flavescent Warbler	<i>Basileuterus flaveolus</i>								✓						
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>											✓	✓		✓
Hooded Tanager	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>								✓						
Guira Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>												✓		
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>												✓	✓	✓
Black-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator atricollis</i>	✓													
Blue-Grey Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>		✓	✓	✓										
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>		✓			✓									
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>									✓			✓	✓	✓
Grey-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>										✓				
Black-goggled Tanager	<i>Trichothraupis melanops</i>											✓	✓		✓
Ruby-crowned Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus coronatus</i>													✓	
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Rusty-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila collaris</i>									✓					
Chestnut-vented Conebill	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>								✓						
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Fawn-breasted Tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>												✓		✓

		July 2023													
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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>			✓					✓						
Green-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara seledon</i>													✓	

Mammals seen on main tour

		July 2023													
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Southern Tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>			✓											
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>					✓	✓								
Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>	✓	✓		✓					✓					
South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓
Giant Otter	<i>Pteroneura brasiliensis</i>				✓	✓	✓								
Lowland Tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>		✓	✓											
Collared Peccary	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>				✓										
Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>				✓				✓						
Red Brocket	<i>Mazama americana</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓					
Lesser Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>		✓				✓								
Greater Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>					✓									
Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>				✓		✓			✓					
Tufted Capuchin	<i>Sapajus apella</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓				
Black-horned Capuchin	<i>Sapajus nigritus</i>												✓		
Black-and-Gold Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓					
Azara's Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓				
Brazilian Guinea Pig	<i>Cavia aperea</i>				✓								✓	✓	
(Greater) Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Brazilian Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>		✓	✓	✓										

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Yacare Caiman	<i>Caiman yacare</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Red-Footed Tortoise	<i>Chelonia carbonaria</i>		✓	✓											
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓					
Common Tegu	<i>Tupinambis teguixin</i>							✓							
Yellow Anaconda	<i>Eunectes notaeus</i>				✓										
Giant Amieva	<i>Amieva amieva</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓					
Black-and-White Tegu	<i>Salvator merianae</i>		✓												
Mato Grosso Lancehead	<i>Bothrops matogrossensis</i>		✓												
False Water Cobra	<i>Hydrodynastes gigas</i>										✓				
Amazon Lava Lizard	<i>Tropidurus torquatus</i>														✓
Mato Grosso Tree Frog	<i>Scinax acuminatus</i>									✓					
Veined Tree Frog	<i>Trachycephalus typhonius</i>									✓					

Invertebrates

The following insects did not form part of the nightly checklist meeting and, without the endorsement of the Naturetrek leader, are therefore correspondingly less authoritative. They are offered, however, as they may give future tours some guidance about their sightings.

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Soldier	<i>Danaus eresimus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓							
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>		✓	✓				✓							

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Julia	<i>Dryas iulia</i>			✓						✓			✓		
Grey Cracker	<i>Hamadryas februa</i>				✓										✓
Starry Night Cracker	<i>Hamadryas laodamia</i>						✓								
Lysippus Metalmark	<i>Riodina lysippus</i>						✓								
Giant Owl	<i>Caligo idomeneas</i>							✓	✓						
Immaculate Emperor	<i>Doxocopa laure</i>														✓
Agathina Emperor	<i>Doxocopa agathina</i>														✓
Small-Eyed Sailor	<i>Dynamine artemesia</i>														✓
Cramer's Eighty-Eight	<i>Diaethria clymena</i>														✓
Zebra Hairstreak	<i>Arawacus separata</i>														✓
Hydaspes Eighty-Eight	<i>Callicore hydaspes</i>												✓		✓
White-tailed Longtail	<i>Cecropterus doryssus</i>													✓	
Variegated Skipper	<i>Gorgythion begga</i>														✓
Common Mylon	<i>Mylon maimon</i>														✓
Ithra Crescent	<i>Ortilia ithra</i>														✓
Red/Small Postman	<i>Heliconius erato</i>												✓		
Golden-Washed Skipper	<i>Vinius tryhana?</i>													✓	
Pale Mylon	<i>Mylon pelopidas</i>								✓						
Molpe Metalmark	<i>Juditha caucana</i>								✓						
Hermes Satyr	<i>Hermeuptychia hermes</i>							✓							
Red Peacock	<i>Anartia amathea</i>												✓		
	<i>Trina geometrina</i>														✓
Itatiaia Glasswing	<i>Hypoleria adasa</i>														✓
Sickle-winged Skipper	<i>Eantis mithridates</i>														✓
Harmonia Tigerwing	<i>Tithorea harmonia</i>													✓	
Sister butterfly	<i>Adelpha-sp-(thessalia?)</i>														✓
Blue-Studded Skipper	<i>Sostrata bifasciata</i>														✓
Common Bentwing	<i>Ebrietas anacreon</i>														✓

Common name	Scientific name	July 2023													
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Juliette	<i>Eueides aliphera</i>														✓
Variable Cracker	<i>Hamadryas feronia</i>				✓										✓
	<i>Burnsius orcynoides</i>							✓							
Cassius Blue	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>								✓						
Ocola Skipper	<i>Panoquina ocola</i>								✓						
	<i>Antanassa hermas</i>								✓						
Ethilia Longwing	<i>Heliconius ethilla</i>														✓
Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>							✓	✓						
Claudina Crescent	<i>Tegosa claudina</i>														✓
Striped Firetail	<i>Telebasis filiola</i>								✓						
Black Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis attala</i>								✓						
Pallid Amberwing	<i>Perithemis mooma</i>							✓							
Carmine Skimmer	<i>Orthemis discolor</i>												✓		
Giant Water Bug	<i>Lethocerus maximus</i>	✓													