











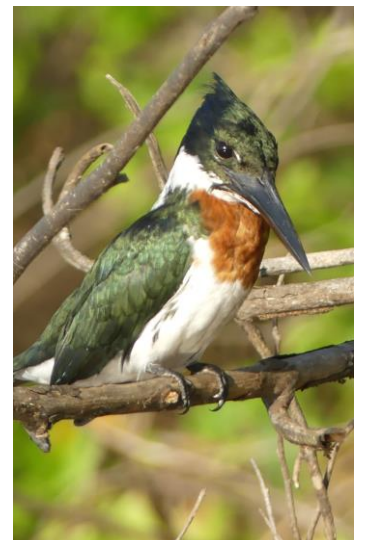
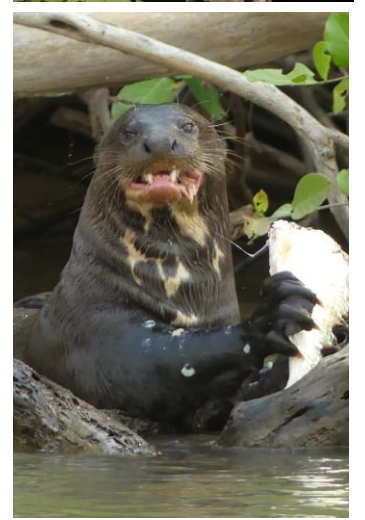
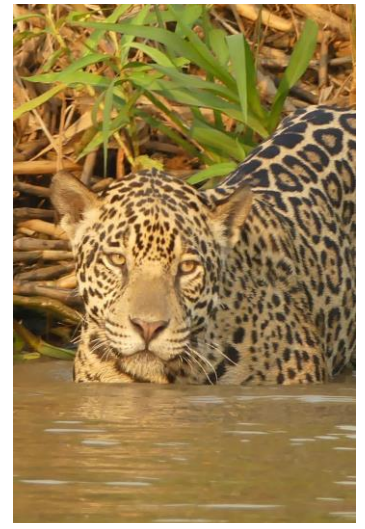


ROYLE SAFARIS

Pantanal Exploration

Destination: Pantanal, Brazil **Duration:** 18 Days **Dates:** 10th Sept – 27th Sept

-  Having a total of 15 jaguar sightings and at least 12 different jaguars on the trip
-  Having a close up sighting of the rare and elusive Yellow Anaconda
-  Watching a wild group of Giant Otters with a young kit feeding and playing
-  Finding no less than 15 Hyacinth Macaws all roosting in the same manduvi tree.
-  Finding a mother and pup Maned Wolf on a night drive in Fazenda San Francisco
-  190+ species of birds including 5 species of Macaws & 2 species of Tinamou
-  Rare mammals such as 3 Tayras and 2 Maned Wolf spotted among 34 species
-  Spending some time with an orphaned and rescued Giant Otter kit in Porto Jofre
-  Watching a mother Jaguar and her female cub imitate mating behaviour
-  Enjoying a spectacular private flight over the southern Pantanal



Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Ailton (Guide / Naturalist & Panthera Researcher)
 Edilson (Jaguar Camp Guide)
 Nickao (Jaguar Camp Boat man)
 Stefan (Southern Pantanal Guide)
 Michael, Luiz, Armando, Jonas, Gigi, 'Capybara', Fernando, Claudia
 Rita, Donasez, Carlos & Nigual (Fazenda Guides)
 Juan & Adao, Amadao, Fava, Jefferson & Cleber (Cuiaba & Campo
 Grande airport transfer drivers)
 Flavio & Daevid (Pilots of Air Taxi)

Participants

Ms. Elisabeth Battagel
 Mrs. Marie King
 Mr. Roger Dillworth
 Ms. Alison Webster

Ms. Lesley Cupitt
 Mr. Tom King
 Mrs. Theresa Salmon-Dillworth

Overview

- Day 1:** Cuiaba
- Days 2-6:** N. Pantanal
- Day 7:** Campo Grande
- Days 8-9:** F. San Francisco
- Days 10-12:** F. Barranco Alto
- Day 13-16:** F. Bahia das Pedras
- Day 17:** Cuiaba
- Day 16:** Home



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

For a long time a forest enigma, a shadowy presence rarely seen and seldom understood the jaguar remained one of the last big cat species to be encountered with any regularity. But as research continues in Brazil's huge wetland area (known as the Pantanal) this big cat is beginning to reveal itself to the world. Despite this, few people are aware of the frequency that jaguars are seen here and as a result by joining this tour you could witness wonderful interactions between different jaguars, jaguars and giant otters or even a hunt and kill in the presence of just a dozen or so people and a few hundred yacre caiman. This big cat specialist trip aimed to bring you closer to a species which is so elusive elsewhere in its vast range through South and Central America; and there is no better place to do this than in the species' last stronghold; the northern Pantanal. With the expert help of a local guide (Ailton) and his team (currently based on the Jaguar do Pantanal houseboat as their camp is refurbished) we were in excellent hands as they guided us through the land of the jaguar. Whilst here in the north of the Pantanal we were immersed into a world dominated by fast flowing waterways that intersect a burgeoning cattle ranching industry that suppresses all other agriculture in the area. This is the number one beef producing area in Brazil, which in turn is the world's number one beef exporting nation. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that in an area full of valuable cattle that the world's highest density of jaguars hangs on a knife edge. Only by continued eco-tourism and invaluable research will this remain the jaguars' last stronghold. And as the Pantanal receives more and more international acclaim and visitors the wealth of life here will flourish (with sustainable and controlled eco-tourism; both of these philosophies will be pushed to the limits with the upcoming FIFA World Cup and Olympics) and show itself to a wider audience. From playful giant otters and the more elusive neotropical otters and stunning hyacinth macaws or toco toucans, to rare cats such as the ocelot, jaguarondi, oncilla and puma as well as thousands of capybara and millions of caiman, all the species will benefit. But alongside the jaguars there is one group of animals that brightens up the Pantanal from sunrise to twilight and they are the birds. It is possible to rack up a huge number of species and seeing thousands of individuals every day is a given. Kingfishers, terns, toucans, hyacinth macaws, storks, jacamars, parrots, egrets, darters, herons, donacobias, kisadees and dozens more groups of birds. All of these species help to make this the jewel in South America's wildlife watching crown (and I am taking into account the mighty Amazon) and a place that should be at the top of every wildlife enthusiasts wish lists.

In addition to the tracking down jaguars in the north of the Pantanal we also took a flight south to the capital of Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande and from there headed into the heart of the cattle ranches to three very special private ranches / lodges / fazendas; San Francisco, Barranco Alto and Bahia das Pedras; to experience a very different side of the Pantanal. Here there are fewer large rivers and far less 'swamp' habitat but instead a more dry savanna (cerrado) and scrub forest which is home to a whole different array of wildlife; including tapir, giant anteaters, southern tamandua, pampas deer, red-and-green macaws, golden-collared macaws, burrowing owls and boa constrictors to name a few. By staying at these locations we experienced a great variety of wildlife that the Pantanal has to offer, seeing many species of birds and mammals that are very difficult or impossible to see in the north from the boats. Whilst here we will be also able to experience the Pantanal in a variety of ways; via 4x4 open jeeps, horseback, boat or on foot. All in the expert hands of the local guides and ranch staff, this is a little piece of wildlife heaven and must be the closest thing to a private national park in the world. So which ever mode of transport used to explore the fields, forests, rivers and lakes of the southern Pantanal, these very different fazendas will not disappoint.

All in all this is a true exploration of many of the Pantanal's different habitats and as you can see by reading further we had some excellent sightings and spotted a great range of species inhabiting this fantastic wildlife hotspot.



Day 1 **Cuiaba**

Arrival

Most of the group arrived yesterday (ahead of the trip starting) but today we welcomed Lesley at breakfast and then Elisabeth at lunch time. We spent the day around the hotel and some of the group went for a walk around to a local square and cathedral. But in general it was a laid back day as we were all recovering from our long flights and preparing for a long drive along the stunning Transpantaneiro highway tomorrow. We met at 19:00 in reception and then headed to Choppao for dinner. Tomorrow we would be departing from the hotel at 07:00 and so we wanted to be fresh and ready for this.



Day 2 Transpantaneira

Travel & Wildlife Watching

The Transpantaneira highway was originally planned to span the 350km between Pocone in the north and Corumba in the south and construction started in 1976. However after reaching Porto Jofre (148km from Pocone) the work was abandoned and it was too difficult and not cost effective to carry on; mostly due to the fact that when the road was proposed and construction started the whole of the Pantanal was contained in one state, Mato Grosso. However during the building of the road the state was split into two and the southern state, Mato Grosso do Sul decided that their budget would not cover the construction of their half of the road so that it now stops at Porto Jofre on the banks of the Rio Cuiaba and the border of the two states. As a consequence of this the road has never been completed and remains unpaved and with no thoroughfare to the other side the heavy traffic bypasses the Pantanal. This has resulted in the highway becoming one of the best wildlife watching roads anywhere in the world. In order to get to 'Jaguar Central' in the heart of the Pantanal we spent most of the day travelling the road and stopped many times to take in the plentiful bird, mammal and reptile life along the way.

The plethora of life here is comparable to anywhere outside of Eastern Africa. We clocked up around to 100 species of birds on our first day including peach-fronted parakeets, black-headed water-tyrants, fork-tailed flycatchers, plumbeous ibis, savanna hawks, lesser kiskadees, wood storks, greater rhea and toco toucans to name a few.

Another highlight was trying to count the throngs of Yacre caiman which congregated in every pool, stream, pond, lake, brook and puddle! This is a fruitless task as there are literally millions throughout the Pantanal. Estimates of their population range from 2 or 3 million to 10 to 35 million, either way there is no shortage of the jaguars favourite food (especially during the wet season).

But undoubtedly the stars of the Transpantaneira are the birds; there are thousands of passerine birds and waterfowl here as well as a few species of truly monstrous birds. One being the official bird of the Pantanal the mighty jabiru stork and another being the largest bird in the Americas the flightless greater rhea. Whilst the rheas nest on the ground in large communal crèches which the male incubates and then cares for the young the jabirus mate for life and nest high in old manduvi palms. Their huge, mountainous nests are clearly visible and we saw several very close to the road which had either one of both adults and their (usually) two chicks inside. These nests are so large that they are also used by another bird species; this is the monk parakeet. A very noisy and communal nester that uses the underside of the jabirus nest to build little tunnels and chambers for themselves. This symbiotic relationship works as the parakeets provide an efficient guard duty and defend the nest as well as the jabiru eggs/chicks whilst the monk parakeets spend less energy on the construction of their nest.

Today our wildlife viewing actually started just before we officially reached the Transpantaneira with a few sporadic birds crossing the road, toco toucans, black vultures, blue-crowned Amazons, savannah hawks etc all before we arrived at the official start of the Pantanal.

Before we entered we had the obligatory group shot underneath the Transpantaneira gateway and it was here we had nice views of the migratory fork-tailed flycatcher and adult rufescent tiger heron and plumbeous ibis all close to the road. We then went entered the Pantanal proper and the wonderful bird watching continued in earnest. Regular sightings included the many caiman and wetland birds including snail kites, southern lapwings, cattle egrets, snowy egrets, great egrets, black-bellied whistling ducks, great black hawks, rufescent tiger herons, cocoi herons, limpkins and green ibis which made up the majority of the first couple of hours.

The sheer abundance of birds and caiman being hard to take in; highlights early on included a pair of southern screamers and several small families of capybara on the shore of small water bodies and of course nice sightings of a few different marsh deer, including a large male with an impressive rack just off the side of the road and feeding in the thick aquatic vegetation. Around 5km either side of the Mato Grosso Hotel where marsh deer are seen nearly every time we come down the road. Presumably due to their preferred food plants being found here and closer to the road than elsewhere along the Transpantaneira.

We stopped briefly at the hotel, on the banks of the Paraguay River for a toilet stop and then carried on towards Porto Jofre and the Jaguar Camp.

We didn't see anything new on the remainder of the drive and arrived at around 12:30 and had lunch straight away, we waited a short while after lunch for our rooms to be finished cleaned and then checked in before heading out onto the river at 14:15 to see if we could find our first jaguars straight away.

With Nickao and Edilson guiding us we heading to the river systems of the northern Pantanal. Our camp is on the Cuiaba River and we took this main river upstream for a couple of kilometres before turning to the Piquiri River and exploring this major tributary for a while. Almost immediately we found an adult female jaguar on a grassy bank, she was laying down in the open and allowed for great views. After around 5 minutes she got up and walked into the bushes and out of sight. Not a bad first 30 minutes on the river though. We then went back to the Cuiaba River and continued towards the Three Brothers River and Black Bay River, we had heard of a jaguar being seen here and so went to see if we could find it. We came across a giant otter at the surface but we carried on towards the jaguar, we would focus on the giant otters another day. We arrived at the right spot an after a short wait a female jaguar came and walked out of the vegetation and a little way along the shore before sitting down and then laying down (being mostly obscured under a bush. We then left and went a little way down the river and spent some time with a family of capybara on a sand bank. There was one male, 2 adult females and several young just chilling out on the sandbank. We were within view of where the other boats were watching the jaguar and knew when she got up and moved, we were hoping for her to move towards us. However this didn't happen and we moved back and spent a



little more time around where she was. But she didn't come back out and give us good views. She did walk along the bank and short way, looking for caiman in the undergrowth as she went, but she was never in good view again. We did see a yellow-billed tern hovering and hunting for small fish above the river however. Before leaving we did have views of a pair of tropical kingbirds on a nest.

On leaving this sighting we headed back in the general direction of the camp and towards the Piquiri River again, where we found a third jaguar. This was an adult female in the open on a grassy verge. She was giving exceptional views and the best we had had so far. We watched as a fourth jaguar (and her 18 month old female cub) came out of the vegetation nearby. They didn't really do much at first, both of them just sat or lying down, allowing us nice views but not obvious behaviour at first. There were many birds around here including black vultures, sun bitterns, chaco chachalacas and southern screamers. Then the female started to roll around on her back and the cub walked back and forth along the shoreline, trying to get her mother to follow her (or at least acknowledge her movement). This didn't work and the mother just lay in the same place and largely ignored the cub. The cub came down the river bank and drank a little before moving off and away. Along the way the cub nuzzled the mother and a little while later the mother followed her out and away out of sight.

The sun was setting fast and we headed back, seeing many nacunda nighthawks around and they were followed by dozens of lesser and greater bulldog bats. It is easy to see the different species as the sizes were obvious as they swooped and skimmed next to and just above the boat all the way back to the camp. We arrived back at camp and were illuminated the way back through the small forest by many fireflies, we had dinner and a celebratory caiparinha before retiring to our rooms for the night.

4 different jaguars was not a bad first 3 hours on the river here and we hoped for more of the same tomorrow.

Day 3 North Pantanal

Wildlife Watching

Today we had breakfast at 6am and headed to the river at around 6:45am, even before getting to the river we had great views of toco toucans, white-throated woodcreeper and a troop of Azara's capuchins feeding in the trees around the camp. Also around the camp was a pair of hyacinth macaws perched on one of the phone signal masts. Not a bad start to the day, we then walked to the boat and set off through the smoky air towards the Piquiri River first, the smoke was from bush fires. At this time of year it is very common for fires to start (both naturally and on purpose) and they can cause problems, but luckily this one was not close to us. We tried to find the mother and cub first but with no success first thing, we did have a fleeting glimpse of 6 giant otters in the confluence of the Cuiaba and Piquiri Rivers as we drove to the last known place of the jaguars. We couldn't find them and so explored further along the Piquiri and had nice views of a roadside hawk on the river bank getting mobbed by a pair of southern rough-winged swallows. We then found (with Eddie's help) a great potoo in a tall tree, the potoo resembles a broken off stump or dead branch so well that even its eyelids are textured and allow it to look out with its eyes closed. In a tree next to the potoo were two beautiful chestnut-eared aracaris feeding on small red berries. We had great views of this smaller cousin of the toco toucan.

Back along the Cuiaba River we found the group of giant otters again, they were travelling close to the bank and occasionally diving underneath the vegetation fishing. One came up carrying up a small cascudo catfish and ate it with vigour and the typical whirring like call of a giant otter with a fish. The others were playing around, chasing each other and moving along the river at a good speed. We followed them for a while before leaving them to find other wildlife. We next stopped at a small beach where some black skimmers were nesting, alongside them was an impressive cocoi heron. One of the many wonderful species that are all too easily ignored as they are so common, but elsewhere would constitute a great sighting of a wonderful bird. The cocoi heron was getting mobbed by a pair of small yellow-billed terns, presumably the heron was too close to their nest and with a bill the size of the herons tern chicks are necessarily safe from one.

From here we entered the Three Brothers River and continued looking for another jaguar. There were loads of birds around today and we had nice views of a flock of yellow-rumped caciques on their pendulous nests, then out of the blue Lesley spotted a jaguar. A large male jaguar sat up on the river bank, framed by a small tree and its tangle of branches, looking out over the river and down towards us. We quickly anchored up and being the first boat there we had the jaguar to ourselves for a while. He sat up and looked at us for a little while before moving back a few inches until there was something in between him and us (a few branches and vines), they feel more comfortable when there is something between them. He then lay down and largely disappeared out of view. The 5th different jaguar of the trip so far and the first one we had found on our own. We then carried on as the other boats arrived and strained to see the now very hard to see jaguar lying down in the bush. We came to some capybaras in the water and watched them swimming around for a while before going back to see if the male had moved, he had moved around 100m down the bank and was now right on the edge of the water on the cool sand laying down under a tangle of vines. We stayed a while and enjoyed some great views before deciding to see if we could find yet another jaguar on our own. We didn't see another this morning instead we did have a couple of rare bird sightings, a black-chested buzzard eagle soaring above us and then a distant but distinct king vulture.

Back out after lunch we headed to the Piquiri River straight away and found the family of giant otters around one of their holts. We got right up to the bank and stayed there for a while, they were as curious about us as we were about them and played around and swam back and forth and in between the submerged trees and branches. Then one of the breeding adults in the group came right up to the boat, had a good look at us and then went back to the



holt, it then came out with a young baby. Only around 1-2 months old, a very similar age to the orphaned giant otter we have back at the camp then Ailton is looking after and will hopefully be reintroduced to her family at some point. Clearly the adult was showing the kit what boats and people are and that they can be approached etc. It is fascinating to watch the giant otters, they are so vocal, energetic and engaging they never stop and you can see their learning processes clearly when the young are around and experiencing things for the first time.

When we left them we carried on our search for more jaguars, from the Cuiaba River we went to the Piquiri to check on the mother and cub. There were apparently 2 cubs that some people had seen and so we were keen to see the third cub as well. They were not out on the grassy bank when we passed so we carried on and found a green iguana on a beach and then nice views of several blue-throated piping guans on a small beach and in the surrounding trees feeding. On yet another beach we found 6 pairs of black skimmers, 1 large-billed tern and 4 pairs of yellow-billed terns all on their nests, at this time of year they have eggs but they should be hatching any day now. Returning down the river we found the female out in the open, almost in the same place as we found her yesterday. Nearby her female cub was also out of the vegetation. They walked around and settled, the cub coming over to the mother and nuzzling and then strangely mounted her mother. Not only is it unusual for young to mount and practise mating behaviours on their mother it is really weird to see a young female assume the role of the male! This happened a few times before the mother had had enough and rolled over and with a flash of her canines and a little growl the playtime was over and they just lay next to each other watching the river go by. On the other side of the river we could here black howler monkeys with their monotonous alarm calls. There were close but we couldn't pin point them and had no hope in knowing what they were alarm calling about. But with howlers it could be a snake, a cat or even a raptor that makes them nervous. The light was fading fast now and before we left we checked out another opening in the riverside bushes around 150m away from the jaguars and low and behold the male cub was lying there right on the edge of the water in the open. By now the light had dropped to the point of strain on even the best of cameras and so we turned around and headed back to the camp. Jaguar number 6 seen well and final the third of this small family group was seen.

Along the way the usual collection of night shift animals came out, the nacunda nighthawks first and staying pretty high over the river, then the Brazilian brown bats moving in straight lines catching largish insects on the wing above the river and of course the hundreds of lesser and greater bulldog bats skimming over the water, seemingly about to crash into the boats but swerving away just at the last. Another fantastic day and after dinner and a couple of beers or caiparinhas we were all keen to get back out on the boat tomorrow and find more wildlife. Ailton had also mentioned to us that we could come with him first thing when he takes the otter kit to a nearby beach to learn to swim and have a fishing lesson. Of course we agreed to join him as this sounded wonderful and what an experience to see.



Day 4 North Pantanal

Wildlife Watching

This morning the capuchins were feeding in the trees around the camp once again and a white-throated woodcreeper also came along and joined in feeding on the palm fronds. This morning we accepted Ailton's invitation to watch the baby giant otter on the river learning how to swim and hunt. It was a little way from camp and on the way we saw a fruiting fig tree full of birds including no less than 7 hyacinth macaws. Then at the beach we watched the kit get into the water and splashing around, Ailton gave it a small fish to kill. The otter knew instinctively to grab the head but was not sure how to kill the fish completely. But the next fish was much bigger and she was only interested in the one she had killed. But she wasn't eating it and Ailton wanted to take it from her so she could try killing the next fish. The possessive whirring sound she was making and the movements away from him showed that she has the instinct to look after herself and her kills. But with distraction he managed to take the dead fish away from her and show her the new alive fish. The fish flapped around and splashed and with that she instinctively got interested, went ahead, grabbed it and went straight for the head again. It was a quicker kill this time, but again she didn't know what to do with the larger fish, but she had picked up killing pretty quickly. By now she was quite tired and ready for some bite sized food, so we left her and headed along the Cuiaba River and Ailton fed her and took her back to camp. A very successful first days lesson.

Nearby we spotted a female black howler monkey in a tree, we had ok views as she moved through the trees before carrying on to look for our first jaguar of the day. Around the *Panthera* farm we had a large group of capybara on the beach and some nice birds such as common tody flycatchers, southern lapwings, shiny cowbirds and lesser kiskadees. A little further on we spotted a juvenile great black hawk in the same tree as a green iguana,



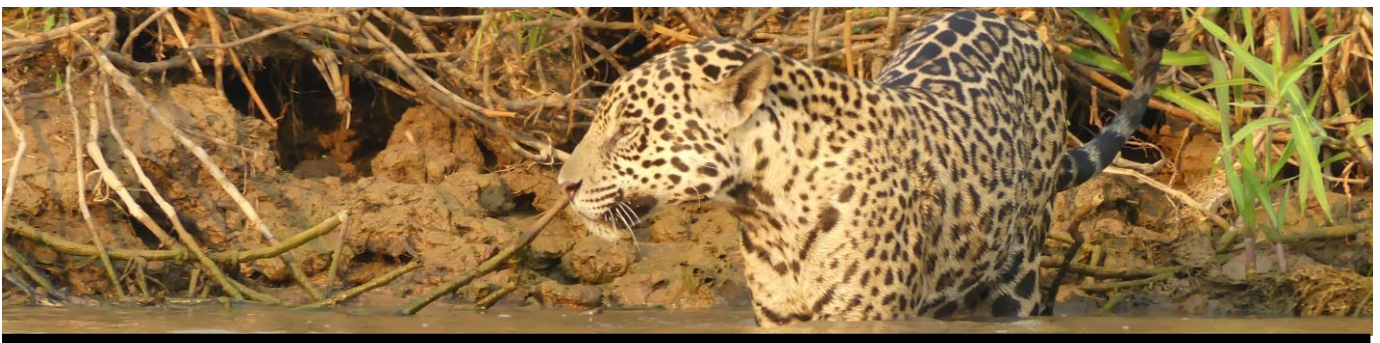
when the hawk moved towards the iguana (oblivious to the iguana) the iguana took no chances and bolted from the tree and ran – fell away to safety.

We went down the Three Brothers River and found a yellow anaconda, mostly hidden in a hole near the top of the river bank, only its tail and some of its lower body visible. It slowly disappeared into the hole and away out of sight. There were to be no jaguar sightings today and in fact no one had seen one this morning, we did have very nice rufescent tiger heron and rufous-tailed jacamar sightings as well as finding a young caiman sunning itself on the muddy bank and a small colony of wonderfully camouflaged proboscis bats on the underside of a tree next to the river, before turning back to camp for lunch and a break during the blistering heat of the day.

After lunch we headed straight out and to the Black Bay River, where we found a pair of domestic water buffalo on the shore, they slowly entered the water to cool off as we spent some time around there. A female jaguar (the same pale one we had seen on the first afternoon) had been seen around here and we hoped to see her again. Then we found her walking along the shady river bank, she then climbed onto a half fallen over tree, rested and looked down onto the reeds and water below. This particular female had learnt to hunt caiman from the trees. She would jump down from the tree onto the caiman and so it was maybe not that unusual to see her up a tree and even jump from one branch to another as she quite nimbly (for a large cat) moved around the tree. She then came down and continued her hunting, they tend to patrol the riverbanks looking down from the small cliffs to find caiman holed up against the bank or capybara sleeping in the vegetation. They also go down to water level to check out thicker vegetation. This is very typical jaguar hunting for the Pantanal and she showed us all of this behaviour this afternoon. She would come out in the open and the melt into the shade and tangle of roots before being visible again, we followed her as she check out the entire bank, travelling inland away from us when she had to cross a large area of aquatic vegetation. She then went inland a long way, she may have been cutting a corner to get to the other side of the river, but it looked like she was walking away from the river to us as we watched her walk away and into the pasture. Other boats were heading to see if she was heading back out to the river, but we didn't think she was and also the river further along narrows to a fine point and gets very shallow and so we decided against jostling with the other boats there and instead went to check out the Piquiri and Cuiaba Rivers.

Along the way we spotted a ringed kingfisher eating a fish and then a magnificent male marsh deer on the river bank. This is unusual to see marsh deer from the main rivers here and we had incredible views as it fed on aquatic grasses, staring at us and slowly moving away.

We carried on and a few minutes later Martin and Edilson spotted another female jaguar walking along the river bank. Another hunting jaguar, this one was on the larger Cuiaba River and more in the open. She was also spotted by us and so were the only boat there as we followed her as she hunted. Once again looking into the water and thick vegetation, going down to the water level to search out for caiman and capybara. The same behaviour the paler female had shown, but we were able to see it much more clearer as she was in the open with no trees and vines and branches in the way. This female even scent marked for us, crouching on her haunches and spraying urine whilst scraping her hind legs back and forth rhythmically to advertise her presence. She will be passing on information about her reproductive condition to males in the area and also to other females that she is here and healthy and occupying this particular area so stay away. The exact information stored and shared in big cat scent marking is not fully known but we have a good idea that these messages of passed on. She even came right down to the water and swam a little way in between thick patches of vegetation. But then she went into deeper cover and the number of boats increased to the point where we decided we had had the best of the sighting, also the amount of boats arriving told us that the other jaguar had not come back out and we had made the right decision to leave. So we headed back, the sunset was bright red and quite spectacular as the nacunda nighthawks and bulldog bats once again took the skies and started their nightly feeding over the river.



Day 5 North Pantanal

Wildlife Watching

This morning seemed hotter than the previous days and it was the general consensus throughout the day that it was the hottest day so far (which was saying something). Walking to the boat we heard a very outraged howler monkey and found the male and his females in a tree that was being 'invaded' by a troop of capuchins, the capuchins probably rudely waking up the howlers and hence the angry alarm calls from the dominate male of the group.

Once on the river we headed to the Three Brothers River and around the small channel of the Caxia River where we had heard a jaguar has made a kill overnight. There were many black vultures in the trees around the kill site



and we could smell the carcass on the wind. There was also a stunning black-collared hawk in the tree, focusing on fish in the river as opposed to the carrion that the vultures were interested in. We couldn't see this jaguar and we waited for around 30 minutes but it didn't seem likely the jaguar was going to come out so we went to explore the Black Bay River and quickly found the same pale female we had seen yesterday and also on the first afternoon. She was on the opposite side of the river and once again on a tree. She was straddling a tree with head resting on it. Sat in the shade surrounded by a curtain of vines she was visible but didn't make for good photographs. Again we waited and were rewarded when she got up and moved up the bank, but she didn't come into the open and again disappeared. We then went back to check out the other jaguar on the kill and this time we found her on the banks and in the open. Lying down and looking out at the river. She was our 8th different jaguar of the trip. It would be amazing to get to double figures for different individuals seen and with 1.5 days left we were confident of anything happening. She got up and moved a little, coming out into the open for a little bit, before laying down again half behind a tree trunk. We waited for most of the rest of the morning with her and she rolled over once or twice, groomed herself a little and then got up, picked up a stick or something like that and walked off into the forest and away from view.

At this point we left also and headed a little down the Caxia channel and found a rufous-tailed jacamar, some other interesting birds and caiman, including a large 2m caiman with its head fully lifted out of the water. Then on our way back for lunch we found a couple of green iguanas on the beaches but that was it.

After lunch we left it a little later today and headed out at around 2:30pm as it was still so hot, but almost straight away (on the Piquiri) we found a family of giant otters, all six of them again. They were swimming close to the shore and very purposefully, possibly back to their holt. They looked like that they had just finished hunting, in fact one of them was holding half a large fish in its mouth. We followed them, waiting for it to stop and start feeding on it. As they moved along the river they passed several caimans, the caiman all being too quick and seeing them approach and moving out of the way. One caiman wasn't that quick and got a nip on the tail (under the water) we just saw the splash and the wake of the speeding caiman as it swam away. It was around now when they stopped nearby a large fallen and half submerged tree and played around a little. It was here that the one with the fish started to feed. We had great views of the otter demolishing the fish, chewing and breaking through the scales and bony fish with loud crunches and very sharp teeth. Holding the fish tight with its large webbed front feet and moving the fish from one side of its mouth to the other grinding the fish smaller and smaller. Once it was down the tail (which didn't take long at all) the otter grabbed it and took off the water again and went to catch up with the rest of its group which had carried on a few minutes earlier.

We also carried on and found a fruiting fig tree, in the tree was a small flock of blue-throated piping gauns and some toco toucans all feeding together. We watched the toucans using their enormous beaks to feed on the small fruit and also use them to navigate through the dense tangle of branches as they searched for more and more figs. The rest of the afternoon was quiet, we didn't see any more jaguars today and the highlights of the rest of the day was a nice perched black-collared hawk, a fluttering around common tody-flycatcher and Ailton piloting a boat with the *Panthera* team including the legend Alan Rabinowitz. Also today we spotted a film crew with the most impressive heligimble camera mounted to the boat, a camera worth over a million pounds and possibly belonging to the *Planet Earth 3* film makers as they have started their filming for the third instalment of this incredible show. So no celebrities of the feline world this afternoon, just stars of the conservation world.

We then headed back at sunset and had dinner before our last full day here and hopefully more jaguars tomorrow.



Day 6 North Pantanal

Wildlife Watching

This morning started with hyacinth macaws, southern crested caracas, black vultures and the noisy chaco chachalaca giving the dawn chorus as we walked to the boat and climbed aboard. It is our last full day around here and we hoped to get some more great jaguar and giant otter sightings before heading back up the Transpatatiero tomorrow and to start the second half of our journey around the Pantanal. The first sighting on the river was of a new species for the trip and an unusual one for the river banks here, a red brocket deer was stood there grazing and quite relaxed. It was then as if the deer realised he was far too relaxed for a brocket deer (which are usually a little on edge) and he bolted into the vegetation. Further on and whilst cruising the Piquiri River Martin spotted a small head bob up and then a round and not flattened tail slink beneath our wake. It was a neotropical otter, a nice animal and another new mammal species for the trip. We stopped and turned around, we found the otter a few more times, but this specie is far less cooperative that the giant otters. We typically got views of it coming up for air and the divig



back underneath. We had several views and then decided to leave it in peace and head back up the Piquiri and towards the Cuiaba River.

Our next sighting was a pair of southern crested caracas stealing food from a juvenile great black hawk on the river bank. Carrying a little way on we found the same group of giant otters as we had been seeing over the last few days. But this time they were out on the shore and socialising. We could see their full bodies, short stubby limbs, huge paddle like feet and their incredible long and flattened tail. It is easy to see why their Latin name translates to Brazilian paddle-tail. We watched as they lay together, all of them loving physical contact with one another, then they started to scent mark. Scent marking for giant otters is rather dirty, they defecate (a very liquid stool) and urinate on the sand or mud and then slide their feet through it and all over the place, this is repeated by each individual until every otter is covered with the smells of all of the other otters (reinforcing bonds between them all) and also making sure that any other otters in the area know this is their patch. They have several latrines like this that they regularly scent mark at throughout their home range and in the morning usually do this behaviour as they warm up in the sun. They then all entered the river and started to swim off, a day of fishing lay ahead for them and for us we left them and headed to the Black Bay River and to a female jaguar, a new one for us, and our 9th individual jaguar of the trip. She was an adult female and had some of her tail missing. She was walking along the river bank hunting, looking for caiman or capybara as we had seen several jaguars do this. She then double backed on herself, still patrolling the shoreline, it then became quite obvious that she wanted to cross over the river. She double backed again, which is unusual and she kept looking over at the other bank. We stopped our boat and gave her space, shouting at the other boats to do the same and the all listened and understood. The boat drivers and local guides are usually very good at this kind of thing (sometimes they need reminding first) but all the boats listened. That was all but one, a film crew, with a heligimble. There are only a handful of companies in the world who can afford such equipment and it was quite likely this was the BBC. They positioned themselves right in the middle of the opening the other boats had given her and even at the request of other boats they didn't move. Needless to say with the boat there the jaguar didn't come out and instead stayed hidden in the thick bushes. We left and several other boats also did. It was getting very hot and we wouldn't have too much longer this morning anyway. So we went to check out the kill site on the Cuaiba and Caxia River confluence. The smell was there, the vultures still in the tree (a sure sign the jaguar was still feeding on the kill or sleeping nearby), but the jaguar was not in view. However we did have great views of a beautifully coloured blue-crowned trogon perched in the open and quite low down. We made a quick turn around at the proboscis bats roost and sped off for lunch at the camp.

In the afternoon we headed to Cuiaba River and then to the Three Brothers, however this afternoon there was no more jaguar sightings and in fact no more giant otter sightings. The afternoon was quite quiet on the mammal front. There were some nice other sightings including a wonderfully vibrant red vermillion flycatcher and some migratory fork-tailed flycatchers. They are arriving from the north at this time of year to nest. The only other sighting of note was a quacking tree-frog on the jetty where we get the boat from. So we returned to the camp for an earlier dinner than usual as we would be heading out for a night drive along some of the Transpantaneiro after dark.

In the meantime Martin collected his two camera traps that had been set up around the camp and nearby forest for the last few days. There was a nice video of a large male tapir walking along and then a female tapir following him. It is always fascinating to know what has been active in and around our camps and we would set camera traps up at all of the places we are visiting to see what is going on when no one is watching.

Then after dinner we headed out as the wind really began to pick up, it was bringing a cold front with it, possibly rain but we didn't suffer any rain whilst in the northern Pantanal. But we wonder if the wind and drop of temperature had affected our chances of seeing wildlife as the night drive was nearly as quiet as the afternoon on the boat. We did have some sightings including a few black-crowned night herons (taking over from the myriad of herons and egrets in the day), a great-horned owl which flew low over the road and away into the gloom, a small tarantula crossed the road and a female marsh deer fed on the side of the road and then moved away from view. The last sighting was a boat-billed heron in a small pool near the camp. The other interesting thing we noticed was the night flowering water lilies that dotted the small pools either side of the road. These plants only flower at night and rely on bats and moths for pollination, they add a dash of colour to the green of the aquatic vegetation that we get so used to seeing in the daytime.

But there were no mammals and in general a quiet second half of the day, we all went straight to bed after our return as we would be up at around 3am tomorrow to have a long journey to the south.

Day 7 **Campo Grande**

Travelling

Due to a change in the flight schedules we were unable to travel from Cuiaba direct to Campo Grande today and had to go there via Sao Paulo, this meant we had to get to Cuiaba airport for 11:30am and that required setting off at 4am. We duly obliged and along the way we spotted a couple of crab-eating foxes as they ended their night time foraging and we also had a big-headed Pantanal swamp turtle on the road, that Martin moved to the side of the road and away from danger. Another non avian sighting of the drive was a Brazilian guinea pig that Lesley spotted just on the side of the road feeding. Other than that it was the usual birds that live alongside the fantastic Transpantaneiro Highway. We made very good time, stopping for coffee and a toilet along the way and getting to the airport with time to sit and have some breakfast before boarding and flying to Sao Paulo. The flight there and the subsequent flight to Campo Grande were on time and uneventful.



We then arrived in Campo Grande and met Stefan who took us to the hotel for the night. We were all pretty shattered and after some food we headed to bed. We would have the relative lie in of an 8am departure tomorrow and we all took full advantage to recharge batteries ahead the second section of our Pantanal Exploration.



Day 8 **Fazenda San Francisco**

Travel & Wildlife Watching

This morning we left the hotel and drove along the main road through the city to the edges of Campo Grande. The city fell away to agriculture pretty quickly and Stefan gave us a brief history of the place and the importance of agriculture here, in the raised areas around the town the main crops being soy, sugar cane and corn. These farms give way to cattle ranches (mostly for meat) in the Pantanal and some rice farms. Fazenda San Francisco is a rice farm and also our first destination in the southern Pantanal.

Along the way Stefan also introduced us to some of the trees and palms including the purple flowering taduma tree and the pink / white flowering formugeuro tree which has a symbiotic relationship with red ants. The tree's branches have holes and tunnels in them which the ants use as their colony and in return for this home the ants aggressively defend their colony and thus the tree from any other animals that come to eat the ants or tree. Continuing we came through the sandstone mountains of the Sierra do Mararajo and crossed the Miranda River before entering the 15,000 hectare farm. The farm is split into around 7,000 hectares of reserve, 4,500 hectares of rice plantation and the remainder a mosaic of corn and cattle farming.

Once we arrived we went straight for lunch and then checked into our rooms and at 2:30pm we went to an inlet of the Miranda River for a slow and relaxing cruise. We saw many species of birds, many of which we had already seen in the northern Pantanal but some new ones including the purplish jay, Martin spotted the elusive American pygmy kingfisher dart across the water and into the dense tangle of roots and vines that they love. We were followed around by a black-collared hawk and a great black hawk. The reason being that half way around we moored up to the shore and did some piranha fishing, the fishing is very easy (not that Martin or Tom managed to get any) as the piranha bite most things of a small size in the water and there are thousands and thousands of them throughout all of the waterways in the Pantanal. 3 different species of piranha were caught (not by our group) all together, the most common being the concave headed Catarina piranha, then some of the more famous red-bellied piranha (with the convex shaped forehead) were caught and right at the end a much larger (40cm long) pacu was caught. We had seen small pacu in the north and this mostly vegetarian relation to the predatory piranhas was a good catch. So after we had caught some, the reason that the hawks had followed us was evident as the piranha was quickly dispatched and then thrown to the hawks, we could watch their fish catching abilities at close hand. It was interesting to the more fluid and the ease at which the black-collared hawk worked compared to the slightly more cumbersome great black hawk. The black-collared hawk is a fish hunting specialist whilst the great-black hawk is more of terrestrial hunter and had just learnt that easy food is available by following the boats around here. A little further on we attracted a large caiman (around 2.8m and about as big as this species gets) to the boat and watched him feed on the last piranha. Seeing the sideways swipe and grab that is so typical of crocodilians when grabbing food. It was great to see these things up close and then we departed the inlet and went back to the main lodge for a little break and then dinner.

After dinner we headed out on a night drive, the night drives here are famous for their ocelots. The rice farm attracts many rodents and in turn the rodents attract high densities of ocelot, jagaurundi, oncilla, tayra, owls, hawks, snakes, crab-eating foxes and maned wolves to the farm. Whilst many of these species are hard to see (even here) the ocelot is the main reason for us being here.

The drive started well with a pair of crab-eating foxes close by the lodge, we watched as they walked by ignoring us and then doubled back and stared into the opposite field. Then one of them got down in a stalking position and we spotted another pair of foxes walking past. The first pair was obviously the territory holders as they were ready to fight and defend their patch. As soon as the interlopers detected the resident foxes they bolted away, clearly knowing they were in the wrong. It was great to see this interaction between the two pairs. We then stopped at a small lake and turned all of the lights off and as it got darker and darker a huge number of fireflies started to sparkle around the lake, first a few, then a dozen or so and then more, until hundreds were shining on and off as they did their best to attract mates to each other.

A little further on after leaving the foxes we turned the lights off and as well as the stars being impressive the lake next to us started to flicker and flash into life. First a handful, then a few dozen and as we waited a couple of



minutes in the dark, hundreds and hundreds of fireflies lit up the lake in their magical display, all signalling and looking for a mate with their variety of flashes emitted.

Carrying along and driving between the large rice paddies, some being used and some not and also going through several large fields that had corn here until it was harvested. We found a nine-banded armadillo, the armadillo was noisily foraging in the long grass near a fence line. We could see him in small sections, but it remained largely out of view and we carried on and found giant anteater also busy foraging for ants and termites next to the road, but in thick vegetation. We waited to see if it was going to come out but it moved away and into the field away from us. Further on we found a second nine-banded armadillo. Similarly feeding on ants with its head down and all senses occupied in the pursuit of dinner. We had similar views of this individual and after we realised it wasn't going to come out into the open we left. We then entered the field where the giant anteater had been and as we approached a Brazilian rabbit (or tapeti) darted in front of us and away out of sight. We then found the giant anteater but it was aware of us and bolted away. Often they are very sensory blind to our presence when they are busy foraging, but this one had noticed us and didn't hang around. We did have some good views before we moved away though. We then stayed in the field and carried on around and as well as some sleeping greater rhea we found an adult female maned wolf. We knew it was an adult female because a little later we found one of her pups too. To see a maned wolf in the wild is special and to see 2 is amazing. We watched as she walked around the field, her large satellite dish like ears scanning for the sound of rodents moving around in the grass. She walked along for a while and then lay down and seemed to settle for a period of time. We then moved on and that is when we found her pup, much smaller and all legs and ears the pup was very cute. It was a little less confident around us and bolted away. We left them and tried to approach from a different angle. In between seeing the wolves for the first time and finding the pup again we spotted a female marsh deer. It was amazing to see the similarity of the two species, their sizes, colourations (even the black stockings) head posture, large ears and even their gait were remarkably similar. From a distance it was only the tail and relative size of the ears to the head (wolves are much larger) that was the distinguishing factors. Could it be that the marsh deer has evolved this mimicking so that predators (jaguars and pumas) think twice about an attack? It is an interesting hypothesis and one that made perfect sense when seeing both species right after each other at night and seeing how similar they were.

We did find the pup again but we were worried we were going to split the mother and pup up too much and so left them in peace and to find each other and carried on with our night drive. Next up for us was an incredible barn owl sighting. Around 5m off the ground and very close to the vehicle we had excellent views as it perched there and stared at us, before taking off and flying to a branch a few meters away into the forest. The night was such a success we could barely hope for more but then we had a Brazilian guinea pig dart across the road as we started to drive in between the rice paddies and the canals that line the fields. But better it did get as we saw our first ocelot, a large male walking in the open around 30m away from us on the other side of a canal. We watched the cat walk confidently along the field's border and then out of sight behind an irrigation dam and we headed back towards the lodge. Along the final stretch the road was lined with sleepy capybara and many caiman coming out to move between water bodies in the cooler night time air and then a second ocelot. This was much smaller and maybe a subadult or a female. We watched as it disappeared into a tree next to the road and could see the ocelot in the tree around 1.5m and staring at us. We didn't stay too long as the animal seemed quite stressed as it was surrounded by water on one side and our vehicle on the other. So we left and returned to the lodge and to bed. But what a very successful day and night! A great start to the southern Pantanal.



Day 9 **Fazenda San Francisco**

Wildlife Watching

This morning we had some wonderful birds around the feeders near the main lodge buildings. Toco toucans, chaco chachalacas, blue-fronted amazons, blue-and-yellow macaws, bay-winged cowbirds, piqui doves, shiny cowbirds, rufous horneros and nanday parakeets to name but a few that we had great views of. After breakfast we left for a drive through some of the rice fields and then for a walk through a riverine forest along the banks of the Miranda River. Along the way out of the main lodge complex we spotted a burrowing owl on a bridge and the sheer abundance of some of the bird species hit us. Various pigeons and doves, cowbirds, parakeets, egrets and ibises in their dozens and hundreds, all profiting from the rice grains. Some of the particular highlights of the drive through the paddies was a great pair of white-rumped mojitás. These are migratory flycatchers that are just arriving here from the north in preparation for the winter. There were also many raptors and we had great views of a savanna hawk and then a snail hawk perched close by each other but both in their preferred habitats. The savanna hawk in tree on the edge of a small forest looking out over the grassland and the snail kite along the vegetated banks of an irrigation canal. These canals channel water from the Miranda River and irrigate the paddies in a



sustainable way throughout the year. Another nice raptor we spotted as a roadside hawk flying into a small eucalyptus plantation (used here as timber for fence posts and also for charcoal) with a small lizard in its talons.

Driving around the numbers of picazuo pigeons, white-tipped doves, piqui doves, ruddy-ground doves, blue-ground doves, grey-breasted pigeons and pale-vented pigeons was mind boggling. Every tree was full of them and the roads ahead of the vehicle had many of the smaller doves picking seeds and other edible items from the ground. The smaller bushes were full of Chopi blackbirds and shiny cowbirds and the fields themselves contained dozens of cattle, snowy and great egrets, whistling herons, magauri storks, greater rheas, bear-faced, plumbeous and buff-necked ibises and there were good numbers of the usually solitary Marsh deer around.

The marsh deer here being found in groups of 7-10 because the abundance of food is so much greater than wild areas. Along the edge of one of the irrigation canals we found a *Hydrodynastes gigas* or the false water cobra (so called because of its ability to expand its neck ribs to mimic the hood of a cobra when threatened). The snake was largely hidden with just the tail visible at first and then as we waited the head became visible. It peered out from the thick vegetation to have a look at us and then slithered off and away keeping mostly undercover. Also around the canals and attached to nearly every clump of aquatic vegetation are blobs of bright pink balls. These are the eggs of the very prolific apple snail.

Further on we had nice views of a pair of burrowing owls, both perched on a rusty and old piece of farm equipment. They are such a nice owl, very small and with piercing yellow eyes they are often found perched in the open and watching over their burrow and small territory. They seem to be watching for any intruders as much as they are for any small animals that come to close and end up as food. Nearby these burrowing owls we found an owl on the opposite end of the size spectrum. The largest in the Americas and sat on a large nest, was a great-horned owl. Their nests are usually hidden away in the middle of trees or at least underneath some leaves to offer shade. But this was near the very top of a quite sparsely leafed tree. At least this made seeing it easier, we couldn't see any chicks, so maybe there are still unhatched eggs in there. We then had a very rare sighting, a Harris's hawk came flying past us and away into the same small patch of forest as the great-horned owl nest was. This hawk is most commonly found in Central America and the southern USA, but is also found in arid areas of South America. But it is very rarely seen in the Pantanal and we were very lucky to see this pack hunting raptor (although we only saw one). As we approached the boardwalk trail we stopped to look at one of the flowering jinnypapo trees, their berries can dye your skin and it is used for temporary tattoos. This particular tree was also the chosen nesting site of a rufous-crested thornbird. The large stick nest with many chambers was not being occupied but still impressive, considering its size and the small size of the bird. The last sighting of note before we left the vehicle for the walk was a couple of giant tegus on the road, the second having most of its large tail missing. It had started to regrow, but clearly a large predator (maybe a raptor, puma, caiman etc) had tried to take the tegu.

On the walk we were once again shown the symbiotic relationship between the formiguero tree and the red ants, the tree has hollow branches, which the ants use to make their nests in. In return for this free home, the ants aggressively defend their home against all intruders. As their home is the tree itself, they provide the tree with a very good defensive against its own predators. As Stefan knocked on the branches and trunk the red ants poured out of the holes to see what the danger was and defend the tree. Walking through the canopy of the low lying riverine forest was a great way to see yet another part of the Pantanal ecosystem. We crossed over a small tributary of the Miranda River and spotted a freshwater stringray (*Potamotrygon falkneri*) feeding in the sandy shallows. They pump sediment into their mouths and then back out of their gills whilst retaining anything edible, they find their food (usually bivalves and crustaceans) by detecting their faint electrical output. Rays have the same electro-sensory organs (the Ampullae of Lorenzini) as sharks do.

Walking along the boardwalk we found a male great antshrike, we could hear his calling and found the bird in a nearby tree. Then a brightly coloured Amazon ameiva ran along the dried leaves and away under the boardwalk. Walking along we found tracks from tapir and jaguars and even old jaguar scats in the watch tower, showing that they will sometimes climb up here and even shelter under the roof. Walking back we spotted some other nice birds such as orange-backed troupial, silver-beaked tanager and many species of butterflies, of which are many feeding on the fragrant flowers of the pombera barranco flower which was all around here. The drive back through the rice paddies was much shorter and we didn't see any new species of have any sightings of note, we then had some time off and then lunch.

After lunch we took to the vehicle again and drove a shorter distance and went for a longer walk through some of the non flood adapted forest. The first animals we encountered was a large troop of capuchins, they were moving through the trees and crossing the trail. Some over the ground, bounding as they went and most of them climbing and jumping along the branches. We could watch some of them feeding on the flowers and leaves of the trees and looking for invertebrates too. One female as carrying her baby on her back and we had nice views also of an adult male, his large head obviously donating his alpha status.

The rest of the sightings along this trail were mostly birds and we had some fantastic sightings including a female blue-crowned trogon, very hot and panting on an exposed branch, after she flew the previously unseen male flew out and joined her on the other side of the trail in the deep forest. Further on we had great views of a ferruginous pygmy owl, this is one of the most common but smallest owls in the forests here and a prolific predator of small birds. In fact by mimicking the ferruginous pygmy owl is very possible to attract other birds out of hiding as they want to find the owl and mob it away. Further new birds for the trip included squirrel cuckoos, rusty-margined



flycatcher and red-rumped caciques (making their pendulum nests). We also had great sightings of a male and female great antshrike and a pair of rufous-tailed jacamars. The jacamars were hunting and we watched them feeding on a butterfly and the a dragonfly. On the way back we had a large crested-forest falcon fly low across the pathway and out of sight, this is one of the largest bird eating forest raptors in the world and rivals buzzards in size. It is strange to see a bird of this size so agilely moving through the dense forest in pursuit of smaller birds. As well as being told about the sticky but also cleansing 'soap-of-the-monkey' tree we had nice views of a pair of golden-winged caciques, before the stunning sunset brought us back to the lodge in time for a little rest before dinner.

Then once again after dinner we headed out for another night safari. Our first sighting was a yellow armadillo nearby the main building, it was just moving along, minding its own business, they are mostly diurnal and it was probably on its way back to its burrow for the night. The yellow is also called the six banded and it's a little shorter than the nine-banded, but around the same length. They are also more hairy and omnivorous. We tried a different part of the farm tonight and quickly spotted a beautiful striped owl, perched in the open just near the road. We had several minutes with the owl before it took off and we carried on, where we quickly spotted an ocelot. The ocelot was barely seen and moved into thick brush and we carried on after a waiting a while in vain for it to come out. But we were in more luck as around 200m further on a male and female jaguars were on the side of the road. By the time we got to the place the male had gone into the long grass and the female looked at us over her shoulder and then disappeared over a ridge and away. We waited a while and followed the movement of the vegetation and then heard some deep purring, followed by a growl. This is the typical noise made by a male big cat after copulation as he is dismounting and it was pretty obvious that they had just mated in the dense grasses out of sight.

This was not the end of the excitement as a few minutes later we had another male jaguar. It was hard to see again but the jaguar was in the dense vegetation, peering over the top at us. We could then follow its movements back and into the forest by the movement of the grasses and bushes. We had had better views of jaguars in the north but these were just as amazing as we were not expecting to see jaguars here, especially 3 of them. From the jaguar we left the paddy fields and headed into some of the old corn fields again and straight away found a giant anteater feeding, close by was a second. They were so engrossed in feeding that they didn't seem to notice and we got very close before they got spooked and ran off. From here we headed back to the lodge and found another nine-banded armadillo. This sighting was very good, in the open and foraging in an open field. By far the best armadillo sighting so far and a real appreciation for the unusual appearance of this animal. This was the last sighting of the night and we headed to bed after another very successful day's wildlife viewing in the Pantanal. Tomorrow we would cross several farms and head to a small lodge and experience another part of the Pantanal again.

Day 10 **Fazenda Barranco Alto**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we had breakfast and left San Francisco at around 8:30am, we got into 3 different vehicles driven by Amadao, Jefferson and Fava and headed off back to the main road. Very close to the lodge the 3rd vehicle (Fave, Martin, Marie and Tom) found a giant anteater feeding next to the road, half hidden by bushes but when we stopped and got out and walked to the fence, we had great views of the animal feeding. After a couple of minutes it must have got wind of our scent or heard us as it looked up and moved off quickly in the other direction. Onwards we carried on and met up with everyone in the town of Aquidauana and had a quick toilet and coffee stop before heading back into the Pantanal.

Once back into the farmland we headed for around 100km over pasture, fields, forests, cattle drive roads and flood plain. Through private reserves and cattle ranches and through no less than 42 gates. Along the way we all saw a myriad of wildlife including yellow armadillos, caiman, pampas deer, hyacinth macaws, greater rhea, rosette spoonbills, a false water cobra, giant tegus and the usual awesome collection of birds in the Pantanal. As we approached our fazenda (Barranco Alto) we crossed the largest bridge in the area as it spanned the Rio Negro, getting closer the number of freshwater and salt lakes increased. Barranco Alto is famous for its large number of lakes, of both fresh and salt water. The saltwater lakes forming when bacterial growth in the soil stops the water in the lake from reaching the water-table and diluting the salt and minerals from the lake. So the lake leaches out the salts from the soil and then the water evaporates off as it cannot be replenished from the ground water it becomes saltier and saltier. You can tell the salinas from the lack of vegetation around their edge and also the lack of aquatic vegetation living inside the lake itself. They still have life in them and often caiman, wading birds, skimmers and capybara use the salinas.

On arrival we met some of the staff including Claudia, Satchi, Lydia (a giant anteater researcher), Fernando (who would be our driver and boatman) and later that day Ben who runs the ranch and his two little children. We checked into the rooms, relaxed a little after the long drive and had lunch and cold drink. Then as the temperature began to drop we headed out for an evening drive with some spotlighting on the way back.

The first thing we noticed is that hyacinth macaws do not appear to be very rare here, we spotted several pairs quickly as we visited some of the freshwater lakes and a few salinas. The most commonly seen mammal (other than then ubiquitous capybara) around here are the pampas deer, we had a nice view of a few animals moving along the field and then a young fawn suckling before both it and its mother followed the rest and away. A little way along the same track we found a jabiru nest with a colony of monk parakeets living underneath. This symbiotic existence is due to the protection from larger animals like raptors and coatis that the jabirus provide for the monk



parakeets and the parakeets are a very good early warning system for snakes and smaller predators but are also very fastidious when it comes to ants and other insects that can invade nests. Also in this particular nest was a thrush-like-wren making its home too.

We then arrived at a salina with many neotropical cormorants around the outskirts all panting in the heat, we got out of the vehicle and walked a little along the shore. Finding various prints including some crab-eating fox, crab-eating raccoon and some puma too. From the salina we walked a little way through a non-flood adapted forest, here we found a pair of red and green macaws and some crested orependulas in the same tree, before we got back into the vehicle and began spotlighting once the sun had set.

As well as the usual abundance of common parouques around we found a crab-eating raccoon and had great views of the raccoon foraging along the shore of a freshwater lake. Nose to the ground and hands feeling around for food, we watched it for around 10 minutes as it moved between the reeds, back and forth. It was completely comfortable with us being there and at one point stood up and looked away from us. It possibly heard something or smelt something in the forest beyond, but evidently decided it was nothing to worry about as it carried on feeding and watched until it had gone from view.

This was the highlight of the drive with the only other sightings of note being brief views of a pair of crab-eating foxes following each other and then a nice sighting of a perched great potoo before it took off to carry on its night of feeding on insects. Then back at the lodge we had another crab-eating fox in the grounds, before we departed to our rooms for a well deserved rest after a long day.



Day 11 **Fazenda Barranco Alto**

Wildlife Watching

This morning we started at 05:30 and during breakfast we had a male and female bare-faced curassow displaying and calling, a great interaction close up and then after breakfast took two small boats along the Rio Negro. Our first sighting was a neotropical otter fishing right next to the boats. We went a little way into the river and around the rocky shore which is the holt site of this otter and watched as he fished around. Catching small fish and returning the surface to quickly eat it, sometimes going into the rocks and climbing on them quickly. This particular individual has a couple of chunks missing out of his flesh. One just behind is left ear and one on the tip of his tail. These circular pink wounds were from a piranha. They had pretty much healed but went to show that sometimes the fish eating otter doesn't always get his way over his prey.

We would follow each other along the river for most of this morning's cruise and had continued views of his swimming and fishing. Also along the way we had nice ringed kingfisher, Amazon kingfisher and green kingfisher sightings. In fact these kingfishers were the best sightings we had had so far of these species. Also we had some wonderful sightings of a pair of rufous-bellied jacamars on the river banks. A little further on we had fantastic views of the whole otter as he had climbed fully out of the water and onto a fallen tree against the shore and started to rub himself free from parasites and also scent mark. For around five minutes we had views of this usually elusive species out in the open and around 3m away from us.

We then had good but brief sighting of a sungrebe foraging for small insects along the banks of the river. Then on the other side of the river on a grassy bank was a large herd of white-lipped peccaries. We went over to that side of the river and watched as they mover along the bank foraging with their cartilaginous disc on their snout. There must have been around 30 that we could see in this group, including a youngster who stopped to suckle a little. Several of them noticed us and we must have spooked them as their hackles were raised, also releasing a very pungent odour into the air, and their clacked their teeth together in a loud display. These two behaviours are very typical of white-lipped peccaries when they have noticed a potential threat. They are both used to get the rest of the herd aware of the problem and so they are all in touch with each other even if the group (sometimes several hundred strong) can be spread out over a large area.

We carried on to a large sand island in the river, the river was very shallow here and the large-billed terns, yellow-billed terns and black skimmers were all were taking advantage of the sandy shore and had their nests in a pretty large colony.

On the way back we stopped for a little walk into the forest, the site is often a good place to look for the wonderfully coloured blue-crowned motmot. We walked along a white-lipped peccary trail, this species makes most of the wild game trails and Stefan played the recording of the motmot. We didn't have any luck with the motmot but we did



find some nice birds including excellent views of a great potoo in the day and not hiding right up against a branch. We got back into the boats and continued the short way to the curve in the river we would leave the boats and head back to the lodge. We had very nice rosette spoonbills at the end and also a lone male giant otter bounding over the sandy beach and into the river, looking back at us before he was in the river and swimming away. To see him on the land and moving quickly was a new thing for us to see and gave us an idea of just how speedy they can be out of the water. There was also a great interaction between a rufescent tiger heron trying to catch a 2m long parrot snake, but the snake was very fast and moved over the beach to safety before the heron could launch a second attack. This was the last sighting of the morning and we headed to the lodge for a cool drink and a little rest before lunch.

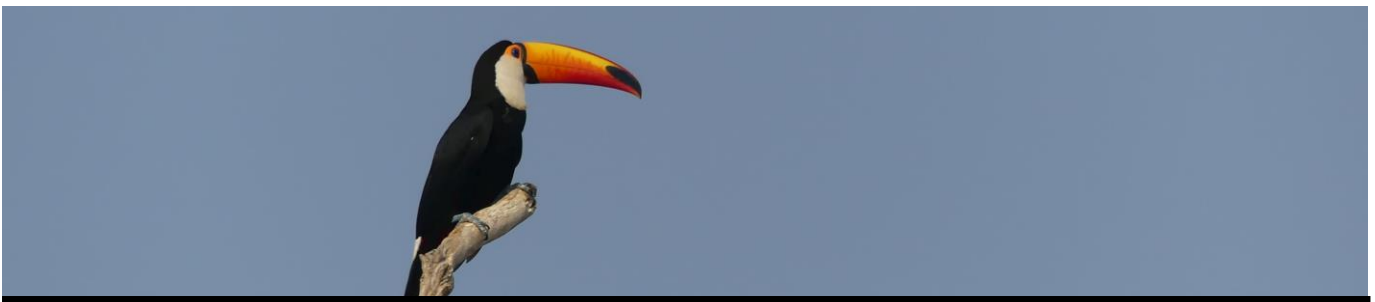
We chilled out at the lodge for a little while, Elisabeth chose to have a kayak around the river on her own for a little way before lunch, but it was not until 3:30pm that we went back out together and had a jeep safari around the fields, forests and lakes again. The bird life never ceases to amaze in the Pantanal and we had nice saffron finches, nanday parakeets feeding as well as a large group of white-lipped peccary feeding on the aquatic vegetation on the far side of a lake. There was a dead peccary (2 days old) on the other side, being picked over by a mob of black vultures. Martin went and set one of his camera traps up here, and amongst the 9,499 pictures of black vultures over the next 24 hours we also had a young crab-eating fox arrive and investigate the carcass, but there was not much meat left at all.

Carrying on we found a troop of black howlers climbing along the canopy to their roosting tree. There was the adult male and a couple of females, one of which was carrying a young baby on her back. It didn't seem to bother her as she launched herself from one tree to another. We then found another family of howlers a little further on, not too far and we watched for several minutes as the group moved between the leafed trees and the bare ones. There was another female with another baby and we had more great views. But then in the distance we spotted a tayra. These large mustelids are not commonly seen in the open and are often quite skittish when they notice the vehicle. So we stayed where we were (around 70m away), through the binoculars we all had great views as the tayra loped along with its typical mustelid gait. It approached a small lake in between us and it. But it was quite nervous and didn't get close enough for a drink. But instead wandered around the edge of the lake for a while. Then one of the farm tractors came along and the tractor scared the tayra into the thick grass and away from sight.

We carried on the drive and other than; some nice views of the black skimmers skimming over the perfectly flat salina, a pair of red-and-green macaws feeding on acari palms (we watched as they used leaves in their feet to help grip the nuts as they cracked them open with their powerful beak), and finally a whistling heron on its nest; we didn't have any other sightings of note until after dark. Spotlighting along the way back to the lodge we first found a beautiful red brocket in the long grass and then along the shoreline of a salina. Walking in the open and quite close to the vehicle allowed us great views of this usually very cryptic and elusive deer species.

We found the white-lipped peccaries again and then the real highlight came when we found a male and female Brazilian tapir. The male was following the female in an open field and we watched as they wandered through the open field towards the forest. Almost certainly a mating pair, the males will follow the females for a long time and then mate, similar but not as aggressive as their relatively close relatives the rhinos. Our first tapirs of the trip and it is always great to see the largest terrestrial mammal in South America and to get two is special.

We didn't see anything else after the tapirs, in fact the tapirs were seen only a couple of minutes from the lodge anyway, so we didn't have for to head back for dinner.



Day 12 **Fazenda Barranco Alto**

Wildlife Watching

This morning we split into three groups, with Elisabeth and Marie wanting to go horse riding through the Pantanal with Paulo, Lesly deciding to take one of the kayaks and go silently down the river and the rest of us on the boat again along the river. We would go upstream today and see what we could find. The first sighting of interest actually occurred before we left the main lodge building as another red brocket was seen close to the rooms.

The wildlife viewing continued quickly once we got onto the boat, the same scarred neotropical otter was in the river again, this time we came upstream as well. Whether he thought we were following him for the second day in a row or he was following us we will never know. But we had some great views as we watched him fishing, eating the small fish he caught at the surface and then going to every submerged tree and branch that broke the surface. Climbing on many of them and scent marking them, for around 300m we travelled level with the otter as it patrolled its territory and caught the occasional fish. Then he stopped and abruptly turned around. We didn't know why, but it may have had something to do with the distant sight and sound of a family of giant otters moving this way. They



were still distant and they eventually turned back themselves a long way before reaching us, but maybe they were the reason the smaller neotropical otter turned around and headed back downstream.

Along the bank there were many black vultures in a tree, we also got the faint smell of death and it was likely a kill had been made just in from the river bank. We couldn't see any evidence of the kill or the predator that made it and we carried on upstream. We had more good birds with another sungrebe, this one seen much better and for longer, as well as a rusty-backed spinetail on its nest. We watched it come back and forth as it fed its unseen chicks. We then came to a very busy tree, a large fruiting fig tree had many toco toucans in it as well as purplish jays, chac chachalacas, blue-throated piping guans and chestnut-eared aracaris all feeding side by side. Then they were joined by a male coati, the coati climbed the tree with ease and walked along the branches, reaching up on his back legs and picking off figs with his front paws. His presence caused the purplish jays to alarm call and this scared away many of the birds. So he had the tree largely to himself for a while, until the birds came back, obviously realising he was not a threat to them. It was not just in the tree that the figs were being eaten, anything that the birds and coatis were dropping to the ground were being picked up by a couple of bare-faced curassow.

We then noticed the giant otters were getting closer again, they never did come very close to us, but we did have some nice views from a distance. But we once again had some wonderful bird sightings including a very nice male blue-crowned trogon, some very nice rufous-tailed jacamars along the banks and a pale-legged hornero lifting up dried leaves to look underneath them for insects as he walked up and down the river bank.

It was also interesting to see the two different forests here, where the banks are steep and the river rarely floods them the dry forests dominated by palms and large trees and then the shallow low-lying beaches lined with smaller trees, bushes and plants that are well adapted to a flooded existence.

Stefan took us to some overhanging trees which is usually a good boat-billed heron roost site, to do this he walked in the shallow water and pulled the boat along. It was interesting to see him walking among the caiman, we had good visibility and could clearly see the caiman underneath the water and they kept a weary eye on him as he pulled us along. We didn't see the boat-billed herons, but some black-crowned night herons took to the air as we passed underneath them. Then as we turned around and started to head back we watched a breeding pair of solitary caciques attending to their newly finished pendulum nest hanging over the river and also next to (presumably) their nest from last year.

We then turned around and slowly cruised along the river with its current the way back, we spotted a group of giant otters in the distance but they didn't come our way and a little later we had a lone one on the sandy bank, bounding along and diving to the water and hastily swam after the rest of the group and caught up with them. When we all got back to the lodge and all met up again for lunch we exchanged stories and it was interesting to hear Lesley's encounters with the giant otters. She had met the first group in a narrow section of the river and their reaction was quite aggressive. Threatening and bouncing up and down in the water making many loud and aggressive vocalisations. Lesley stayed calm and kept a distance and they eventually swam off. The giant otter is the king of the river and they do not have to worry about anything, so coming to a solitary person in a small kayak in a narrow section of the river (with restricts the otters movement and possible escape routes) is a likely situation which makes them get a little antsy. A while later she encountered the same group or a different one (it is hard to know) and they reacted very differently. Of course Lesley now knew what to expect and so she controlled the kayak accordingly and also the river here was much wider and the combination of both of these factors meant that this encounter was much more peaceful and they carried on and so did Lesley.

Elisabeth and Marie explored the fields and patches of forest on horseback, a great way to experience the Pantanal in the company of the Pantaneiro cowboys. They saw many of the common birds we had seen on our drives and had nice views of a yellow armadillo and a pair of red-and-green macaws near a nest.

This afternoon we took the vehicle and went for another night drive, our last here, and had very nice burrowing owls on the fence posts quickly. The birds are so prolific here it is hard to portray how many different species and how many individuals we were seeing every time we went out. We also found a southern crested caracara nest with a chick, however the chick was nearly at fledging age and was not in the nest but perched above it and getting some perching practise. This afternoon we were heading to visit the old farm house here, a now disused set of buildings in which one of them has been taken over by a colony of common vampire bats. Along the way we found a hyacinth macaw feeding on the very hard bociuva palm nuts. It is a good job the hyacinth macaw has the strongest bite force of any bird in the world then. Another sighting before getting to the bats was a lone male coati running away from a small lake and into the forest.

As we approached the door of the old house the first thing that hit you was the sound, the whooshing of air as the 200 hundred or so bats inside flew around, then it was the smell. Quite a stench, but the views once we opened the door and went inside little were amazing. It is not often that people see and experience bats and on as many Royle Safaris tours as possible we visit bat colonies and spend time looking for new ones. It is also very cool to see the common vampire bat, it is a species that is very infamous and largely misunderstood. Looking inside it is easy to see them moving around in the walls, rafters, flying around and on the ground. They are very agile on the ground, this is how they sneak up on their victims. They land a few metres away and then hop, crawl and even run along the ground to their prey, they then make a small nick in the skin with their razor sharp teeth, then with the anticoagulant in their saliva they lap up the blood that doesn't clot on the wound. So seeing some of them on the ground and hopping around was amazing. Also sharing the room was a much smaller colony of the much smaller common long-tongued bat.



Just outside of the house we had the best sighting so far of a ferruginous pygmy owl in a large manduvi tree and calling away. We then left and did some spotlighting on the way back, it was very quiet tonight. The highlight of the drive back was a wonderful manduvi tree which had a huge jabiru stork nest, the two adults were in their and clicking their beaks together in their annoyance at our presence. Also in the nest was a colony of monk parakeets but the stars of the tree were a huge number of hyacinth macaws. There must have been close to 7 pairs or more in the tree, the more we looked the more we saw. A busy tree and a nice way to end the afternoon drive.

Tomorrow we would be leaving this farm and heading north and to a larger farm in a much drier place with more savanna (or cerrado) type habitat and less lakes.

Day 13 **Fazenda Baia das Pedras**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we took the opportunity to have one last morning game drive before we had to leave at around 8:30am. So at 6:15am we headed out with Fernando and Claudia one last time. The morning drive was once again full of birds but we also had good views of a crab-eating fox walking in the grass ahead of us. It lay down in the grass and curled up, we got closer and it got up and walked to another spot and once again curled up and started to sleep. It was amazing how quickly and easily the fox disappeared into the grass (which wasn't very long) when he lay down.

Around one of the salinas we found many caiman, most of which were displaying. Their heads and tails raised out of the water, they were males and they were facing off with each other. There was some posturing and then a few head slaps as they dove into the water in front of the other caiman to intimidate it. We did see one of the males go through the full display where he vibrated his back, when he does this the water on the surface dances, rising up and down with the vibrations. This is followed by some deep guttural bellows or roars and then the caiman slunk beneath the surface. Also around this salinas were a couple of black skimmers feeding low over the water, using their extended lower mandible to feel for fish or crustaceans and then snapping its beak shut to catch whatever it was.

A little further on and in a wooded area we found a male rhea with his chicks from last year still following him, around here we had great views of a pair of cream-backed woodpeckers, blue-fronted amazons, yellow-chevroned parakeets, great-rufous woodcreeper all feeding and foraging around the same clump of trees. Not far away we had views of a breeding pair of red-and-green macaws, they actually mated in front of us and we watched the subtle (if not quiet) courtship behaviour just above us on the road. This was next to a large fruiting fig tree that was attracting various species such as toco toucans, blue-throated piping guans, plush-crested jays and offered amazing views of the stunning blue-crowned motmot. A pair of the motmots in the tree and in relatively exposed branches and then they flew over the road, showing us their racket tails that streamed behind them.

We started to turn around and head back towards the lodge, we could hear howler monkeys in the distance and then spotted an aplomado falcon flying off away from us.

When we arrived back at the lodge we met up with Tom, who had stayed behind. He told us how he had gone down to the river and watched the neotropical otter (with the piranha bites) and his mate and kit fishing and feeding right in front of him. He sat on the rocks on the shore and watched as a rufous tiger heron came along and watched as the kit was fed bits of fish. The heron then took full advantage of snatched a piece of fish that the kit had lost. Scavenging the food of the otter was something known in the tiger heron, but it is nice to see first hand this almost parasitic behaviour.

Our vehicles had arrived now and we loaded up, we would be split into two vehicles for the 3 hours journey across to Baia das Pedras, Rita (the owner of the farm) would be one driver and Donazec would be the other driver. Shortly after leaving we spotted a group of 5 giant otters entering a very shallow lake, the otters were unable to swim for most of the lake, they bounded and struggled to get through the dense aquatic vegetation until they reached the far side of the lake and then they disappeared to start fishing. It must be a fishes worst nightmare, they are already trapped in a rapidly shrinking pool of water, oxygen is running out, they are surrounded by fish eating birds and then there are piranha also trapped with them along with the occasional yellow anaconda and hundreds of caiman; and then the kings of the river show up!

We were keeping an eye out for interesting and new species we had not seen yet on the trip, but we headed at a good pace to get to the lodge for lunch. So we were not stopping for everything, however we did have a brown brocket deer near the road and then many pampas deer, the pampas deer increased in number as we entered the flood plain. Another interesting sighting was a male greater rhea with his crèche of youngsters. They were a fraction of his size and still had their chick feathers, marked with stripes for protection. There must have been around 20 chicks, so they were quite young and he had done a good job in rearing them so far, as they get picked off quite easily and so it is unlikely to see a male with around 20 older chicks, usually 4-6 survive to that age and then set off on their own to find their own mates.

Around a freshwater lake in a neighbouring farm we found a dead yellow anaconda and a dead caiman, the anaconda had been trying to kill the caiman and had succeeded in the end but the snake also suffered injuries from the caiman and died itself.

We arrived at around 12:15pm, had lunch and settled in to the last of our farms for this trip. We then headed out with Stefan and Nigual for a walk into the nearby floodplain around the main farm house. The first thing that you noticed here is the large numbers of hyacinth macaws that live around the farm, there must be 6-7 breeding pairs



nearby and their squawking is a near constant sound around here. Also an ever present sound is the high pitched warning call of the very excitable southern lapwings. Among the birds were also many chopi blackbirds, shiny & giant cowbirds, a jabiru stork nest, blue-crowned & peach-fronted parakeets, red-crested & yellow-billed cardinals, burrowing owls, guirara cuckoos, toco toucans (which are always feeding in the large fig tree just outside the main building) and we also found an American kestrel nest too. Walking along we found a drinking group of hyacinth macaws, we had not seen them on the ground before, it was very interesting to see them take off and fly low towards us, veering off well before they would hit us, but they seemed to enjoy this game of chicken before they returned to their nesting holes of the bociuva palms for feeding.

Carrying on our walk we saw some fork-tailed flycatchers taking to the air and then some distant coatis coming for a drink. Then we spotted something unusual on the other side of a narrow section of water. Stefan went into the water and found a dead egret being dragged just underneath the water (we could see the wing break the surface every now and again) but he couldn't see what was dragging it. We hoped for an anaconda. He grabbed the egret and lifted it up, the head of a caiman rose up to look at him and then snatch it back below the water, ok that was close enough, trying to steal the food from out of the mouth of a caiman is not a good idea. After here we walked around a little more, but didn't see anything else of note. We headed back and had dinner and prepared for more exploration of the farm tomorrow.



Day 14 **Fazenda Baia das Pedras**

Wildlife Watching

This morning Elisabeth choose to go out with some of the cowboys as they rounded up some horses and cattle and the rest of us went for a morning drive after breakfast. In the trees at the front of the main building the fig tree was full of toco toucans once again, their croaking a sure sign of contentment as they fed on the ripe figs. Driving out through the farm land around the farm buildings we had more good views of the hyacinth macaws and American kestrel and then stopped at one of the first small lakes. They were jumping up out of the water and diving down in a sideways action to catch fish. We watched for a few minutes as several of the caiman were hunting in this way. It appeared that they were herding the fish towards the vegetation to trap them, or it may have just been that there were so many fish in the small water that they caiman were just hunting wherever they were and they were all around the aquatic vegetation anyway.

We carried on around the floodplain and found so many capybara, we also had views of a foraging group of South American coatis in the lush grass as four red-legged seriemas ran away along the edge of the forest. There were also some very nice birds around including several species of flycatchers and some very young capybara that must have been around a week or so old. We also watched as a savanna hawk swooped down and stole the food just caught by a rufescent tiger heron. We then went into the forest a little way to see a tapir trap, there is a long term study of the tapirs here and they use these large crate traps with a sliding door that is triggered when the tapir walks into the trap (attracted by salt).

All around the floodplain there were many drying up bodies of water and they were attracting such concentrations of life, dozens of birds or several species and so many caiman in each one. All profiting from the fish that were getting easier and easier to catch as the water shrinks away. We then had a brief view of a crab-eating fox in the open before investigating one of the ranches salt stores for bats. Even before the door was opened we could hear the flying and clicks of the bats inside. Once we opened it we revealed a small colony of around 20 lesser bulldog bats making a home for themselves in between the bags of salt. Seeing them in the day and watching as some of them took off and flew around the field in the daylight was a nice way of seeing the rich red colouration. We didn't stay too long with them and left so they could settle down again. Further nice sightings we had was a pair of campo flickers in the open and then another woodpecker the green-barred woodpecker nearby a narrow-billed woodcreeper. These were the last sightings of significance before we returned to the lodge for our rest through the heat of the day and also lunch.

Elisabeth arrived back after lunch after a wonderful morning with the cowboys, they had first rounded up some horses and brought them to the floodplain. We had actually seen these horses so we knew that they had been collected. After the horses they went to round up some cattle from one field and move them to another, these cattle were all close to giving birth and Elisabeth had one that was visibly cramping up and on the verge of dropping her calf as they walked along.

Then in the evening at around 4pm we went for another drive, as always in the Pantanal the birdlife was spectacular and we also had good views of some pampas deer including one with a very young fawn nearby. We then saw the first of two different species of the usually elusive tinamous in this farm. A beautiful red-winged tinamou came out of the grass in front of us and walked along the road and then away from us, seemingly



oblivious to our presence. We then spotted a brown brocket running across the road and behind some bromeliads, we could see him for a while but the view was not great and then he turned and walked deeper into the forest. After this sighting we waited in the floodplain until nightfall and then did some spotlighting along the way back to the farm. It was quite quiet and we only saw a common potoo perched on a dead tree just inside the forest, various pampas deer and a common paroquet hunting for insects on the wing. We did however come back out after dinner for an hour, it was a little more productive with five crab-eating foxes (two pairs and one lone individual) and a stunning sphinx moth of some sort hanging upside down from the frond of a palm. Not a bad first day here, we felt like there was more here and we would have to get out more and more over the coming days to see what other wildlife lives here, but all together a good first day and some very nice sightings.

Day 15 **Fazenda Baia das Pedras**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning followed the same pattern as yesterday morning, with us heading out for a drive after breakfast (all of us this time) as we got into the vehicle the toucans made their presence known as they fed on the figs and we watched a flock of guirara cuckoos spread their wings a little and exposed the soft downy feathers on their backs to the sun. They were warming up in the early morning sun, it looked very strange to see 4 rows of birds on the palm fronds all in this strange position.

Then quickly into the drive we found an American kestrel just next to the road perched, we had amazing views of this small falcon. They are mostly insect eaters and we could watch as it looked around for grasshoppers, dragonflies and other insects for it to catch. Birds were the main attraction again this morning with a pair of red-winged tinamous on the ground in the short grass and great views of a pair of orange-backed troupials before a mixed foraging area of a small pond. We watched as a sunbittern hunted for small insects along the shore and black-crowned night herons roosted, grey-necked woodrails patrolled the grass around the water and greater kiskadees sallied for insects over the water. In the distance we spotted a large male marsh deer, with an impressive set of antlers, having a drink. Closer by to us was a young male pampas deer, even at this distance the size differences between the two species is marked. The marsh deer was in an area with many capybara and also a nearby was a small pool with some very young caiman, born this year (only 6 months old) and still with their mother close by for protection. As we watched the caiman and just scanned the flood plain for wildlife and watched the bounty of life here we spotted a tyra in the open. It was very brief, it came out into the open and bounded along the edge of the forest and grassland for a short way and then disappeared back into the forest. Although fleeting it was a nice sighting, to see a second tayra is wonderful and unusual.

We then left the floodplain and drove through the dry savanna habitat, very similar to the unique South American ecosystem of the cerrado in central Brazil. Here we found some new species of birds that are adapted to this drier grassland such as grassland sparrow, wedge-tailed grass-finch, yellow-bellied elania and black-throated saltator. We also had views of a group of all male greater rhea, a young male marsh deer and campo flickers nearby a pair of great rufous woodcreepers. Then next to the lodge we found another of the breeding pair of American kestrels, this one was feeding on an insect, it looked like a grasshopper or a species of katyid, but it was hard to tell as we could only see bits of the body being pulled apart and eaten. After eating the kestrel flew straight from its perched direct into its nesting hole in a nearby tree. This showed that it was a different pair from what we had seen previously as we know their nesting hole is on the other side of the main farm building and around 200m away.

We then arrived back and rested for a few hours, having lunch in the middle of the day and then as it got slightly cooler we headed out again. The first sighting of note was a southern lapwing with wings stretched out and curled around as it gave a warning display over 2 mottled and very well camouflaged eggs. The display was directed towards a cow which was walking too close by for the mother lapwing's liking. We then spent some time watching the hyacinth macaws mating and squabbling on their nesting tree, as this was going on we had a small flock of red-shouldered macaws fly overhead. This is the fifth species of macaw for the trip and also the hardest to see here. We then spotted three species of mammals in quick succession, firstly a male crab-eating fox moving through the grass and scent marking as it went along, then a yellow armadillo walking beneath a palm in which five hyacinth macaws were feeding in. The armadillo was feeding on the fallen seeds and nuts that the macaws dropped as they broke them open to feed on the hard bociuva palm nuts. Then we had our closest sighting yet of a group of coatis. They crossed the road in front of us and allowed for some nice views as they walked from the forest down to the floodplain and a small pool for a drink and also probably to forage around for frogs and other animals.

We left this feeding party and went to the floodplain again, here we found a group of coati crossing the road, they gave us nice views. This was the closest we had gotten to a group of coati so far, they seemed oblivious to our presence as they left the forest and walked on the short grass and into the papyrus. In a dead tree nearby here we spotted a laughing falcon. Whilst the sun was behind the bird we still had good views and could see the dark hood over its eyes, making it look like it is wearing a natural falconers hood. Further sightings as we watched the huge red sun begin to set over the floodplain were a red-winged tinamou and then a pair of great rufous woodcreepers. Then as the last of the sun hit the horizon we spotted a young male tapir. He didn't hang around, being much more nervous of us than the adult pair we had seen at Barranco Alto, but we watched as he walked away and then nimbly got underneath the fence and away into the thicker forest.



We then got the spotlight on and watched a couple of nacunda nighthawks and some lesser bulldog bats having a drink in a small manmade waterhole before embarking on a night of hunting. The night was quiet again, it was still so hot and the temperature remained hot well into the night and it was likely that this was having an effect on the wildlife's movements after dark. With them presumably preferring to remain hidden until it was much cooler. But despite it being quiet we did see 2 pairs of crab-eating foxes, both foraging and one very close to the vehicle and we also found several common paroques lying around catching insects and then perching to near invisibility on the ground or in a tree.



Day 16 **Fazenda Baia das Pedras**

Wildlife Watching

At breakfast this morning we were told by Lesley about a disturbance in the night, around 4am there was a lot of commotion coming from where the sheep are kept (around 50m away from the main farm), Lesley went to investigate just outside the main building and spotted a small, long animal bounding away across the runway. It is impossible to know for sure what it was but from the description it would appear a jaguarondi or tayra (both not usually nocturnal, but it was close to dawn) that it was. These animals are also unlikely to create the reaction from the sheep and so it could have been another animal that caused the commotion. Yesterday the cowboys did spot a female puma and her two 12 month old cubs not too far away from the main house. But alas we will never know 100%, but it is exciting none the less.

After breakfast Elisabeth went out with the cowboys again, to spend the morning with them as they carried out their duties and the rest of us went out in the vehicle for a safari drive. As normal here the birds were abundant and many were carrying nesting material back to start or finish the construction of their nests. They birds are busy breeding in the build up to the rains and so nest building is at the forefront of the minds of most species now. Early on this morning we had a tayra come bolting out of the palms and across the road and to the other side as we passed through a small area of forest. Like most tayra sightings the animal didn't hang around too long and kept running all of the way across the road and away out of sight. It went to show how lucky we were with the amazing prolonged sighting we had back in Barranco Alto. It also went some way to confirming to Lesley that it wasn't some of the other species which could fit the general size bracket (for the mystery animal spotted early this morning) such as southern tamandua and nine-banded armadillo as the movement was very similar to the tayra and not the most shuffling and slow gait of the armadillo and tamandua.

Also making a rare appearance on the road and out cover where they spend most of their time was an undulated tinamou, just next to the road. Arriving at an area of varzea (floodplain) we could see many of the common species of birds including the various herons, egrets, ducks, ibises, rosette spoonbills as well as many capybara, cattle, horses, some sheep and a large male marsh deer (sporting a very impressive set of antlers). Whilst we stopped here and watched the animals in the vast plain, we had another (or possibly the same) tayra come out of the forest and start foraging for food in the grass. We were around 80m away and like the other great sighting we had, we stopped and remained at this distance to get prolonged views. We could see the tayra come in and out of view as it went into the grass to look for food. It spend a long time in one particular area, we couldn't see exactly what it was doing but we suspect it had found something to eat. It could have been the same tayra as it came out in the same general direction to where we saw the other one running, it was around 5km away from where we saw the first one, as they move over large distances and rarely stop moving throughout the day it is possibly the same one. However we will never know unfortunately.

When the tayra returned to the forest we carried on and came to a young male capuchin moving through the trees of a small section of forest on the edge of the floodplain. We left the vehicle and went into the forest and watched the capuchin moving through the trees, watching us and seeming to be unsure of where it was. This could be a straggler from a larger troop who is looking to find them or a young male who has left his natal troop and is looking for females or to join another troop for mating opportunities. Capuchins are very rare on this farm, in fact it was only the 3rd time ever that Rita the owner and our driver had ever seen one here.

The mammal sightings this morning continued with distant views of a group of coatis coming to the water to drink and then a lone male coati crossing the road in front of us and then a small group of 9 white-lipped peccaries, they left the forest and went to a small pool, wallowed and drank and then walked back to the forest and after noticing us and then ran away (clacking their teeth and erecting their hackles in alarm). Another coati came out and crossed the road as it left the shade of the forest for a drink, we lost him as soon as it entered the long grass on the floodplain. We then stopped to have a look at an impressive communal spider's web spanning a few nearby trees and watched as the peccaries came out of the forest and then away from us. But we were not done with mammals this morning, as we sat here a giant anteater came out of the forest and walked in front of us, sniffing and foraging, it went down to a small pool, had a drink and then came back, we watched as this strange animal



moved in front of us, entered the forest, then came out and walked parallel to us. We then noticed it lift its nose up, sniff and all of a sudden its whole demeanour changed as it smelt us for the first time and moved quickly into the forest. What a sighting, we saw it well enough to notice it was not quite fully grown and a subadult, it was by far our best giant anteater sighting so far and just perfect for a very mammal rich morning safari. We had one more lone male coati sighting as we headed back to the farm as the sun got higher in the sky and the temperature began to rise too.

Elisabeth came back around lunch time and explained that they had been sorting the cattle out today, one of the fields of cattle had to be separated into age and sex groups. The cattle are corralled into a small pen and then using a gate system moved individually based on their sex into one pen or another, they also corralled the horses that they had moved into the flood plain a couple of days earlier. These horses having their manes cut and their tails trimmed and also checked out for any medical problems. They had some close up crab-eating fox sightings as well as many pampas deer, some of which were running along with the horses as they corralled them together.

This afternoon there was some rain falling, we could see showers falling around the farm and there was the distant rumble of thunder. There were many pampas deer around in the fields we explored this afternoon, we also watched a red-legged seriema perched on a fence post and calling its loud piercing call for a few minutes. Driving past some small wild pineapples with their red and white flowers we had nice views of campo flickers and then spotted a yellow armadillo moving along around 20m off the road. We watched as it sniffed around the ground and then disappeared into a burrow. They often go deep into burrows to look for ants and termites, and we watched as sand was thrown out of the burrow. We waited a few minutes and then the yellow armadillo came back out, carried on searching for food, crossed the road in front of us and then caught wind of our scent and ran to the nearest burrow and out of sight. It was quite quiet this afternoon and we didn't have many other sightings until we had a coati up a tree, but it was a dense tree and we couldn't see the coati very well, our last sighting before sunset was a young brown brocket out in the open.

We were then taken to a nice little spot on the banks of a small lake where Rita had set a table and brought some drinks and snacks. We watched the beautiful sunset with some wine and nibbles. Enjoying a drink as the sunset and the lesser bulldog bats and nighthawks came out and started to feed over the water. We also had nice but brief sighting of a bat falcon coming out and chasing bats over the water, it didn't stay around and so it likely caught a bat and took it off to feed on it.

We then returned to the lodge for dinner and afterwards headed out again for an hour night drive. This was a very productive night drive as we had a great crab-eating fox sighting as well as two crab-eating racoons. We had nice sightings of them both as they foraged with their hands in the aquatic vegetation looking for crabs, frogs and small edible items in the floodplain. But then the highlight of the day came along with a stunning southern tamandua sighting, we found it walking along close to the road and watched for a few minutes. Whilst not that engrossed in feeding the tamandua didn't seem to have noticed us and we watched as it casually moved along the ground looking for ant and termite nests. From here we headed back to the farm house, what a last full day of wildlife watching, both anteater species, 2 tayras and many other species of mammals all in one day.



Days 17-18

Campo Grande

Travelling & Departure

This morning we had one final morning drive at around 6:30am, it was much cooler this morning than the other days, it had actually rained here last night and the sand was still wet. We had some very nice bird sightings this morning with an undulated tinamou crossing the road as well as watching a crested orependula making a nest in the presence of a giant cowbird, the giant cowbirds often piratise the nests of orependulas and it was interesting to see the cowbird so blatantly watching and waiting for the orependula to finish building it. We had great views of a beautiful orange-backed troupial and a young yellow-headed caracara around the same area too. Other sighting as we headed back to the lodge included some white-lipped peccaries, maguari storks, rosette spoonbills, some very young caiman still being guarded by their mother in a small manmade pool and then a few black, lesser yellow-headed and turkey vultures feeding on something, by the time we drove to where they were feeding there was just some blood and some feathers on the ground and nothing major left at all. Our last sighting of the morning was a yellow armadillo foraging around in the open but a little distant.

We then had lunch we met our pilots Daevid and Flavio, loaded up the planes and then departing in the afternoon. We had Stefan, Martin, Lesley, Elisabeth and Alison in one plane with Daevid and then Tom, Marie, Theresa and



Roger with Flavio in the second plane. As it was Tom's birthday today, he was handed the controls for a little bit of the flight. Luckily we all made it back to Campo Grande municipal airport just before sunset.

We set off and flew south-east over the Pantanal towards the distant hills and the city of Campo Grande. The views out over the different lodges are a reminder that whilst many of the farm owners around Embiara are environmentally minded and keep their forests intact not all do. There are many intensive cattle ranches between Embiara and Campo Grande the difference in vegetation cover was stark. One of the main problems being that the Brazilian government gives tax breaks for more productive ranches, meaning that if you don't have lots of cattle and run your farm solely as a cattle ranch the taxation can be too much to keep a small farm and lodge operational. Another problem is the initiative of only keeping 20% of your land as original vegetation. There were no stipulations that this had to be prime forest or even continuous forest and you see large fields mostly cleared for pasture with narrow bands of forest running parallel to each other. This is an example of a farmer getting around the 20% rule by using a tractor or another piece of heavy machinery to clear 4 lines and leave the fifth one free, so keeping 20% forested but in a way that is easy and cheap to manage, allows maximum grazing for cattle and provides the wildlife with a very small amount of forest that is not continuous with other forested areas. For now the Pantanal is still mostly wild, remote and home to huge numbers of animals (including an estimated 6,000 jaguars) but the future could well see a change in this if development and bad agricultural practices are allowed to continue unabated and in many cases promoted by the national and local governments.

From this airport we met Cleber and Amadao and travelled by vehicle to the major airport in Campo Grande and on the way we stopped at the city park, here we had a few minutes to look for another mammal, the park is very good for the abundant capybara and also around the forest edges we found a couple of Azara's agoutis just before they headed back into the forest for the night. It was now dark and we headed to the airport to make our flight, on arrival we said goodbye to Stefan and then checked in and had some dinner in the airport. Everything was going to plan until our flight was delayed by an hour and half, again this wasn't too bad. The real problem came when we were half way to Cuiaba and then flight turned around, a heavy storm in Cuiaba had somehow short circuited the runway lights and we couldn't land there. So we returned to Campo Grande, at this point we were unsure if the rescheduled flight would get us to Cuiaba in time to catch our return flights home. So some of us worked to rearrange flights from here to Sao Paulo and the rest waited and caught the rearranged flight in the morning. So the group started to disband at Campo Grande and then on arrival in Cuiaba the rest of the group split up to check into our on going flights and in the case of Theresa and Roger go to the hotel in Cuiaba for their final night in Brazil.

Species List

Pantanal Exploration / Sep 2017

Mammals (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Black howler monkey	<i>Alouatta fusca</i>
2	Large fruit-eating bat	<i>Artibeus amplus</i>
3	Marsh deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomous</i>
4	Brazilian guineapig	<i>Cavia aperea</i>
5	Crab-eating fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>
6	Lindbergh's oryzomys	<i>Cerradomys scotti</i>
7	Maned wolf	<i>Chrysocyon brachyurus</i>
8	Azara's agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>
9	Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasybus novemcinctus</i>
10	Common vampire bat	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>
11	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>
12	Brazilian big-brown bat	<i>Eptesicus brasiliensis</i>
13	Yellow armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>
14	Common long-tongued bat	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>
15	Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>
16	Azara's broad-headed rice rat	<i>Hylaeamys megacephalus</i>
17	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>
18	Neotropical otter	<i>Lontra longicaudis</i>
19	Red brocket deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>
21	Brown brocket deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>
21	Black-tailed marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>
22	Black myotis	<i>Myotis nigricans</i>
23	Giant anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>
24	South American coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>
25	Hairy-tailed bolo rat	<i>Necromys lasiurus</i>
26	Lesser bulldog bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>
27	Greater bulldog bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>
28	Pampas deer	<i>Ozotoceros bezoarticus</i>
29	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>
30	Crab-eating raccoon	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i>

SEPTEMBER																	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		*	2							11	4	*					
3		1															
	5		1		1		4	25						2	1		
						1	1	1									
						2	4		4	2		1	6	7	3		
							1	3									
							3										
																2	
							2	1		1							
											~100						
										1				1	2		
		~1 0												5			
								1	2		1			1	1	1	
											~50						
	~310	57	67	44	10	9	~69	~71	~69	~43	42	~107	~213	~81	~176	93	
							1										
							2	1	*								
					1					1	1	3					
					1					2	1						
												1	1		1		
						*											
													~10				
							1	2	1						1		
	1								3		2	7	12	11	9		
						1											
	~15	~130			~30								~20		~30		
	~50	~150			~10	~10					~10						
									9	1	12	14	17	19	13	13	
	4	4	2	2	1			3	*	*							
									1						2		

31	Giant otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>
33	Puma	<i>Puma concolor</i>
34	Proboscis bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>
35	Azara's capuchin	<i>Sapajus cay</i>
36	Feral pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
37	Brazilian rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>
38	Southern tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>
39	Brazilian tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>

	2	6		6	6					1	12	5					
								*				*					
			15		5												
		18	7	4				~10								1	
									~20	1		~88	~96	~25	~10	27	
								1									
																1	
		CT		CT				*		2					1		

Birds (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Blue-throated piping guan	<i>Aburria cumanensis</i>
2	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
3	Bay-winged cowbird	<i>Agelaioides badius</i>
4	Unicoloured blackbird	<i>Agelasticus cyanopus</i>
5	Yellow-winged blackbird	<i>Agelasticus thilius</i>
6	Yellow-faced parrot	<i>Alipiopsitta xanthops</i>
7	Glittering-throated emerald	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
8	Blue-fronted parrot	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>
9	Brazilian teal	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
10	Grassland sparrow	<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>
11	Southern screamer	<i>Anhima cornuta</i>
12	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
13	Hyacinth macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>
14	Yellowish pipit	<i>Anthus lutescens</i>
15	Blue-and-yellow macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>
16	Red-and-green macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>
17	Grey-necked wood-rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>
18	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
19	Blue-crowned parakeet	<i>Aratinga acuticaudata</i>
20	Peach-fronted parakeet	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>
21	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
22	Cocoi heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
23	White-headed marsh-tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
24	Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
25	Yellow-chevroned parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>

SEPTEMBER																	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	2	20	4	4	2		2	11	1	1	12	1	3	2	6	2	
						1			5		1						
		6				~20		16									
		~40	~60	~58									~10				
		1															
												3					
	1																
	2	4	2		4			2	6			10	1	11	4		
									4	11	2	1		13	3	2	
														8		1	
	12	11	16	8	4		2		1	3	2	12	17	4	13	3	
	10	8	8	5	6		5	3		2		1	1		1		
		6	13		2				3	1	14	15	9	17	3	4	
													8	3	6	3	
							2	2									
									6	4	2	3			1	*	
	1		2	1	1	4				4	4	1	10	4	17	2	
	6					~35		~61	3	8	1		1		2		
								6						7	19	12	
	8								~30				2	1	2		
	~190	5	41	4	1	~40			~25	12	2	20	9	6	9	8	
	45	17	19	23		39		8		8	4		13	10			
	4	1	1										1				
								3	2		2	7	11	2	9	7	
	3	4										6	8	1	1	12	

65	Plush-crested jay	<i>Cyanocorax chrysops</i>
66	Purplish jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomedas</i>
67	White-faced whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
68	Black-bellied whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
69	Red-shouldered macaw	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i>
70	Black-capped conacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
71	Lineated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
72	Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
73	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
74	Yellow-bellied elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
75	White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
76	Wedge-tailed grassfinch	<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>
77	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>
78	Aplomado falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>
79	Bat falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>
80	American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
81	Black-backed water-tyrant	<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>
82	Pale-legged hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopous</i>
83	Rufous hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
84	Rufous-tailed jacamar	<i>Gallbula ruficauda</i>
85	Crane hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>
86	Black-chested buzzard eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>
87	Ferruginous pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
88	Chopi blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
89	Guira cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>
90	Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>
91	Laughing flacon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
92	Savanna hawk	<i>Heterospizias meridonalis</i>
93	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
94	Epaulet oriole	<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>
95	Orange-backed troupial	<i>Icterus croconatus</i>
96	Plumbeous kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>
97	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>
98	Wattled jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
99	Narrow-billed woodcrepper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>
100	Grey-fronted dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
101	White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
102	Cattle tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
103	Ringed kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>

							1				5	6		3	1		
							6	7			21	4	4	12	1	7	
										2	3	~30					
	44	~25					~100	2		~157	~20	~103			~20		
														5	~20		
	2	2	12	2	2		1										
														*	*		
											1	1	2		1		
	~1,000	42	~23	3	4	~110	2	~131	~95	6	7	~116	~220	14	~191	~75	
														1			
		1															
														2			
	1	1	1											3	1		
												1					
															1		
							1	2	1			1	1	4		1	
								1			1						
	4	1		4				4			1		1				
	3		3	3	2	1	1	3		4		2	3	3	5	2	
			1	1				3		5	5						
		1	1	1							1				1		
		1															
								2			1						
					1		6	~100	~60			17	48	~28	~30	~20	
			5				3	27	2	6	1	43	~80	17	25	~55	
										1	1						
														1			
	4		2	1	1		1	2	3				7		6	2	
			3							1							
									2					2			
	1	1	2					1						2		1	
											1		1				
	31	12	7	10	2	9		2	6	2	3		7	10	2	1	
	4	5	8	7	2		6	~20	1	16	7	38	31	13	35	18	
													2				
								~10									
		1				3	3	~133	~31	3	1	~10		1		4	
									2		1	4	4	3	3	2	
	5	2	5	3	1	6	4	2	3	2	3		2		1	1	

104	Boat-billed flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
105	White woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>
106	Green ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>
107	Collared forest falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>
108	Yellow-headed caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
109	Chalk-browed mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
110	Shiny cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
111	Giant cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
112	Blue-crowned motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>
113	Black-fronted nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>
114	Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
115	Short-crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
116	Swainson's flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus swainsoni</i>
117	Brown-crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
118	Streaked flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
119	Monk parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
120	Rusty-margined flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
121	Nanday parakeet	<i>Nandayus nenday</i>
122	Great potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>
123	Common potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
124	Black-crowned night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
125	Common pauraque	<i>Nyctidormus albicollis</i>
126	Chaco chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>
127	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
128	Harris's hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
129	Yellow-billed cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>
130	Red-crested cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>
131	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
132	Pale-vented dove	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
133	Picazuro pigeon	<i>Patagioenas picaxuro</i>
134	Rufous-fronted thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons</i>
135	Large-billed tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>
136	Neotropical cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
137	Lesser kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>
138	Bare-faced ibis	<i>Phimosus infiscatus</i>
139	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
140	Capped heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
141	Scaly-headed parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
142	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>

								*											
	3																		
	2	2	2			~10		2		4	*	2	2	2					
								1											
													3	1	1	3			
										2	1		1	1		3			
		4	~15					~330	~50	~30		38	36		23				
		4	2	1				22	5	~11	1	2	5		5	17			
											*	2							
		2		3	2														
	~30	6				44							1						16
																2			
										1									
											4		1						
													1						
		~10		23	12	~20			3		~10			17	~25				
								1											2
								19	~55		9		8			12			
		1							1	1									
											1								
						4		1	1	2	8			3	14	11			
					1		2	5	4	1	2		3	2	1				
	4	17	12	3	3	6		34	~21	13	1	5	5	7	4				
									1										
								1											
	14	10	11	15	1	~20	1	~23		3	7		4		1				
								1								2			
								5											
	3	17	11	11	2		4	~150				~20	1	1	1	3			
								~260	~100		5	18	4	5	12	41			
								*											
	2	3	6	8	1					7			2						
	16	9	28	13	4	4	2	26	~104	4		~80	5		3	8			
	1	2	4	11	8	2		5	3	2	1	2	2	8	3	1			
	2	26		1		4		~101	4	9		14	59		10	9			
								3											
	4		3	4	14		4	1	5	1		8			9	13			
									2		1	2							
	1	2	1	7	3			1	2	1		2	3			1			

143	Roseate spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
144	Nacunda nighthawk	<i>Podager nacunda</i>
145	American purple gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>
146	Golden-collared macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>
147	Solitary-black cacique	<i>Procacicus solitarius</i>
148	Grey-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
149	Brown-chested martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>
150	Crested oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
151	Striped owl	<i>Pseudoscops clamator</i>
152	Grey-crested cackalote	<i>Psuedoseisura unirufa</i>
153	Chestnut-eared aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>
154	Vermillion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
155	Toco toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
156	Silver-beaked tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
157	Greater rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>
158	Red-winged tinamou	<i>Rhynchotus rufescens</i>
159	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
160	Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
161	Roadside hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
162	Black skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
163	Black-throated saltator	<i>Saltator atricollis</i>
164	Greyish saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
165	King vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
166	Chotoy spinetail	<i>Schoeniophylax phryganophilus</i>
167	Saffron finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
168	Double-collared seedeater	<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>
169	Tawny-bellied seedeater	<i>Sporophila hypoxantha</i>
170	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
171	Yellow-billed tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>
172	Whistling heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
173	White-winged swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>
174	Great antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>
175	Plumbeous ibis	<i>Theristicus caerulescens</i>
176	Buff-necked ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>
177	Palm tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
178	Rufescent-tiger heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatus</i>
179	Common tody-flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
180	Solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
181	Blue-crowned trogon	<i>Trogon curucui</i>

	2	10				2			3	10	6	19	11			15	
	~76	~50	1	~30										1	2		
											1						
									17	1	4	3	2				
	1		7								2						
~10	~100	~100	~100	~100	~100				~25	~50		~10					
~20	~100	~100	~100	~100	~100			4	~70	~25	~40	~10	3				
									3	5		6					1
								1									
								1					1				
		2			2	*	2				2	1					
					1												
	2	4	1	7		2	2	4	3	16	5	16	16	16	10		
	10	11			3			14	3	3	3						1
	8					1	5	36	32	7		31	1	17			5
													1	4	8		1
														1	2		
	3		1			2	8	1				1					
	3	6	2	3		1	3		3			2		3	1		4
	5	25	34	14	4				2	34	1	9					
															2		
2	1	2							~10								
		1															
		2	2														
						3			~10	~10	3			16			
								6									
		1															
	~96	~130	~10	~60	~180									3			
	3	10	14	14	1					6							
						2		8	5	4	10	7	20		22		6
	41	~125	~50	~120	~75		1			~80	~15						
								3	1	*							
	4							15	6			7	20	5	39		3
	5	2	2	6		6	12	14			4	8	34	10	23		21
											2	2					
	7		5	1	2	7	3	3		1		2	10	7	7		8
			2	1													
	1	2	2									1	3		3		
						1		2		1	1	1			*		

