



# Bolivian Cat Specialist Tour

## October 2023

### Trip Report

Bolivia is one of the most popular Royle Safaris specialist mammalwatching tour destinations and one of the places where we run at least 1 annual group tour. In October 2023 we were back in the Bolivian wetlands, chaco forest and Amazonian riverways looking for a fantastic range of wildlife including maybe 5 species of cats! Like all of our Bolivian group tours we focus on 3 distinct areas and ecosystems, firstly we visit a very special private farm / reserve which has been given the very appropriate name 'Jagaurland Reserve'. This enormous soy farm has a healthy population of jaguars and other wildlife living on it and the surrounding farms and forests. But unlike many of their neighbours they do not hunt animals on their property and thus have created a small protected haven for lots of very cool animals. Moving on from Jaguarland we head south to the dry forests of the chaco, a unique South American ecosystem which is also home to several cat species (of which we have a great track record in seeing) and also some ecosystem endemics such as chaco peccary, southern three-banded armadillo and chaco titi. The final location we visit is to see Bolivia's own endemic species of dolphin, yes the landlocked country of Bolivia has its own freshwater dolphin species; as well as critically endangered blue-throated macaws and other species in the Beni region near Trinidad in the Amazon.

This particular trip (as with all of our Bolivian tours) was guided by the fantastic Nick McPhee and his team of drivers, spotters and cooks. We had a group of 6 clients with us (Morten Elmeros, Mark Langston, Wendy O'Brien, Mike Robinson, Bonnie Shirley and Mihir Zaveri). We also had some fantastic success and saw a total of 34 mammals seen.

The trip was another 5 cat trip – which is third time in 4 trips we have seen five species of cat (Jaguar, Puma, Ocelot, Jaguarundi and Geoffroy's Cat) on this trip. Below is a little summary of the places visited and the animals seen in each followed by a sightings log. We paid particular attention to the mammals, lesser focus was on birds and we don't have all species seen recorded, just the larger and conspicuous species, the same goes for herps.

#### Curichi Reserve

Before we left Santa Cruz to head to Jaguarland Reserve we spent an hour or so looking for some mammal species in the small Curichi forest, there are several species of primate here including the specialist species for our purposes and we were unsuccessful in seeing here, but we did see **Azara's capuchin** and **Bolivian squirrel monkey**.

#### Jaguarland Reserve

Jaguarland was very successful with several good **jaguar** sightings (including large male and adult female) along with great **ocelot**, multiple close **Brazilian tapirs** (at least 6 sightings), **tayras** and one vehicle also had **puma**, **jaguarundi** and a **giant anteater** (which is very unusual here). Other mammals which we saw here included **South American coati**, **Azara's agouti**, **capybara**, **grey brocket deer**, **marsh deer**, **Southern Amazon red squirrel**, **brown-throated three-toed sloth**, **collared peccary**, **six-banded armadillo**, **crab-eating fox** and a couple of **Bolivian river dolphins**. Dolphins sometimes get trapped in pools and shrinking water ways as the dry season goes on and that is the reason for these dolphins still being here. Along with these mammals we also had 5 species of primate; **Peruvian spider monkey**, **Bolivian red howler**, **Bolivian squirrel monkey**, **black-striped capuchin** and **Azara's night monkey** (amazing sighting of this nocturnal primate). Other sightings including wonderful toco toucans, red-and-green macaws, blue-and-yellow macaws, chestnut-fronted macaw, southern screamers, greater rhea, great-horned owls and as far as herps went a very nice red-snouted treefrogs, Brazilian green racer and hundreds of yacre caiman.

#### Kaa Iya National Park

After leaving Jaguarland Reserve the group went back to Santa Cruz for a night before we left for the second major destination of the trip; Kaa Iya National Park. This is the largest protected area of Gran Chaco forest in the world and whilst the level of protection is not great, there are still huge tracts of intact forest home to much wildlife.

The time here was remarkably successful with 5 species of cat being seen in 24 hours! These were **jaguar** (multiple were seen including a female and with a young cub), **puma** (including very good sightings of a subadult in the road), numerous **ocelots**, **jaguarundi** and a nice posing **Geoffroy's cat**.

Other species of mammals seen when in Kaa Iya included **black-tailed marmoset**, **Brazilian tapeti**, **Brazilian tapir** (including a nice stripy baby), **Chaco titi**, **crab-eating fox**, **southern tamandua**, **gray-brocket deer**, **red-brocket deer** and **southern three-banded armadillos**. Then non mammal highlights included short-eared owls, fork-tailed flycatchers, four-toed tegu, red-footed tortoise glittering-bellied emerald and neotropical rattlesnake.

### Gran Morras / Trinidad

Following on from Kaa Iya National Park we went back to Sant Cruz again for another overnight and then we fly to Trinidad further north in Bolivia than we had travelled so far. Here we went for a cruise along the Mamore River and found a nice pod of **Bolivian river dolphins**. We then headed to a special private reserve which is possibly the best place in the world to see the critically endangered endemic blue-throated macaw (which we had great sightings of) as well as some **black howlers** and another **tayra**.

For anyone interesting in visiting Bolivia for wildlife and in particular mammals we have spaces available on our second group tour for October 2024 (17-29 October 2024), our first tour is now full. We have also started taking bookings for our 2025 tour also. You just need to contact us at [info@royle-safaris.co.uk](mailto:info@royle-safaris.co.uk) and we will happily provide information and answer any questions you may wish.

# Species List

## *Mammals*

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Black red howler	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>
2	Bolivian red howler	<i>Alouatta sara</i>
3	Azara's night monkey	<i>Aotus azarae</i>
4	Peruvian spider monkey	<i>Ateles chamek</i>
5	Marsh deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>
6	Brown-throated three-toed sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
7	Crab-eating fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>
8	Azara's agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>
9	Collared peccary	<i>Dicotyles tajacu</i>
10	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>
11	Diminutive serotine	<i>Eptesicus diminutus</i>
12	Six-banded armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>
13	Jaguarundi	<i>Herpailurus yaguarondi</i>
14	Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
15	Bolivian river dolphin	<i>Inia boliviensis</i>
16	Geoffroy's cat	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>
17	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>
18	Red brocket deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>
19	Gray brocket deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>

Curichi	Jaguarland	Kaa Iya	Trinidad
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20	Black-tailed marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>
21	Giant anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>
22	South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>
23	Greater bulldog bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>
24	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>
25	Chaco titi	<i>Plecturocebus pallescens</i>
26	Puma	<i>Puma concolor</i>
27	Bolivian squirrel monkey	<i>Saimiri boliviensis</i>
28	Azara's capuchin	<i>Sapajus cay</i>
29	Black-striped capuchin	<i>Sapajus libidinosus</i>
30	Southern Amazon red squirrel	<i>Sciurus spadiceus</i>
31	Brazilian rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>
32	Brazilian tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>
33	Southern tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>
34	Southern three-banded armadillo	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>

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**Note:** Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded as a sighting), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

## Birds

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Turquoise-fronted amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>
2	Brazilian teal	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>
3	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
4	Rufous nightjar	<i>Antrostomus rufus</i>
5	Blue-and-yellow macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>
6	Red-and-green macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>
7	Blue-throated macaw	<i>Ara glaucogularis</i>
8	Chestnut-fronted macaw	<i>Ara severus</i>
9	Grey-cowled woodrail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>
10	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
11	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
12	Cocoi heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
13	White-headed marsh tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
14	Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>

Curichi	Jaguarland	Kaa Iya	Trinidad
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15	Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
16	Yellow-chevroned parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>
17	Great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
18	Cattle egret	<i>Bulbucus ibis</i>
19	Black-collared hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>
20	Great black hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>
21	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
22	Yellow-rumped cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
23	Muscovy duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
24	Crested caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
25	Red-legged seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
26	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
27	Lesser yellow-headed vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
28	Southern screamer	<i>Chauna torquata</i>
29	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
30	Glittering-bellied emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>
31	Maguari stork	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>
32	Campo flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>
33	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
34	Picui ground dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>
35	Ruddy ground dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
36	Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
37	Bare-faced curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>
38	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
39	Purplish jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>
40	White-faced whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
41	Lineated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
42	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
43	Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
44	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>
45	Pale-legged hornero	<i>Furnarius cristatus</i>
46	Rufous hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
47	Rufous-tailed jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
48	Chopi blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
49	Guira cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>
50	Pearly-vented tody-tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>
51	Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
52	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
53	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>

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54	Wattled jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
55	White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
56	Cattle tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
57	Ringed kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>
58	Green ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>
59	Yellow-headed caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
60	Shiny cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
61	Giant cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
62	Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
63	Streaked flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
64	Monk parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
65	Neotropical cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>
66	Great potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>
67	Common potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
68	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
69	Common pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
70	Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>
71	Chaco chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>
71	Red-crested cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>
72	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
73	Pale-vented dove	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
74	Picazuro pigeon	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
75	Capped heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
76	Blue-throated piping guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>
77	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
78	Roseate spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
79	Golden-collared macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>
80	Chestnut-eared aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>
81	Vermillion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>
82	Toco toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
83	Greater rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>
84	Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
85	Roadside hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
86	Saffron finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
87	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
88	Yellow-billed tern	<i>Sternula supercilialis</i>
89	Whistling heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
90	Plumbeous ibis	<i>Theristicus caerulescens</i>
91	Buff-necked ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>

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92	Rufescent tiger heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
93	Creamy-bellied thrush	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>
94	Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
95	Fork-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
96	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>

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## Reptiles

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Spix's whiptail	<i>Ameivula ocellifera</i>
2	Yacre caiman	<i>Caiman yacare</i>
3	Red-footed tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis carbonarius</i>
4	Common ameiva	<i>Pholidoscelis chrysolemus</i>
5	Yellow-spotted Amazon river turtle	<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>
6	Argentine black-and-white tegu	<i>Salvator merianae</i>
7	Brazilian green racer	<i>Philodryas olfersii</i>
8	Four-toed tegu	<i>Teius teyou</i>
9	Neotropical rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus durissus</i>

Curichi	Jaguarland	Kaa Iya	Trinidad
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## Amphibians

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Common snouted treefrog	<i>Scinax ruber</i>

Curichi	Jaguarland	Kaa Iya	Trinidad
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Geoffroy's Cat



Jaguar



Jaguar



Jaguar



Jaguarundi



Ocelot



Puma

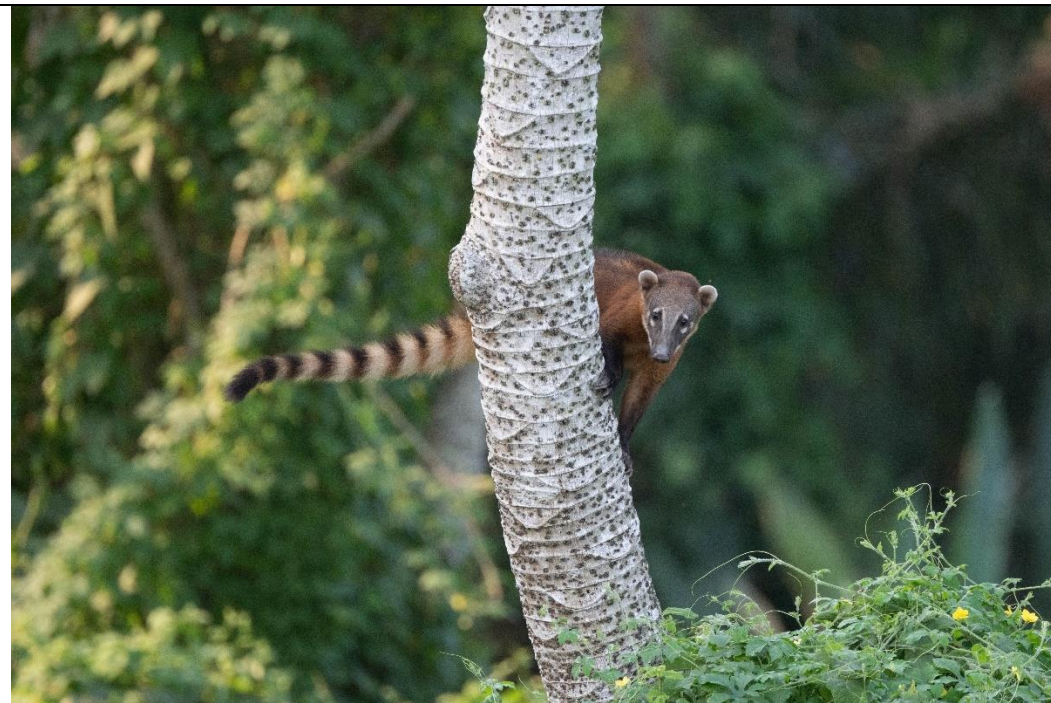


Pumas





Crab-eating Fox



South American Coati



Tayra



Tayra



Azara's Night Monkey



Bolivian Squirrel Monkey



Black-tailed Marmoset



Black-striped Capuchin



Bolivian Red Howler



Chaco Titi



Peruvian Spider Monkey



Azara's Agouti



Capybara



Bolivian River Dolphin



Brazilian Rabbit



Brazilian Tapir



Collared Peccary



Gray Brocket Deer



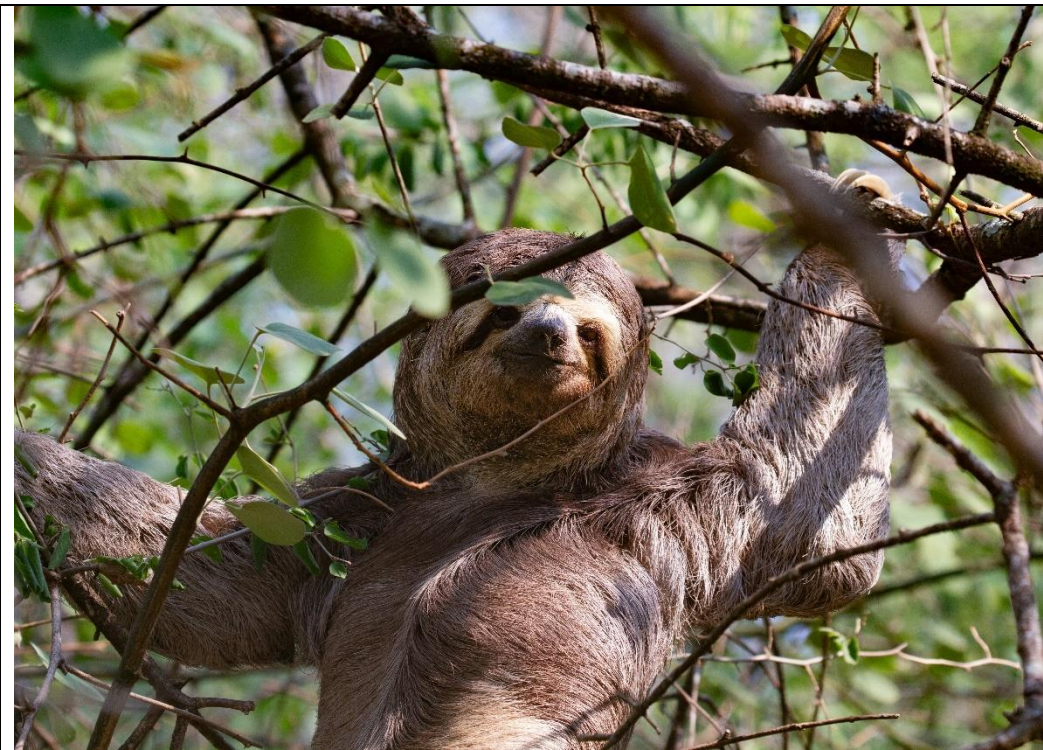
Marsh Deer



Red Brocket Deer



Southern Three-banded Armadillo



Brown Throated Three-toed Sloth



Bare-faced Curassow



Blue-throated Piping Guan



Black-collared Hawk



Great Black Hawk



Roadside Hawk



Swallow-tailed Kite



Southern Crested Caraca



Chestnut-fronted Macaw



Red-and-green Macaw



Blue-and-yellow Macaw





Blue-throated Macaw



Brazilian Teal



Wood Stork



Jabiru



Burrowing Owl



Great-horned Owl



Short-eared Owl



Hoatzin



Toco Toucan



White-headed Marsh-tyrant



Vermillion Flycatcher



Saffron Finch



Red-crested Cardinal & Cattle Tyrant



Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant



Pale-vented Hornero



Fork-tailed Flycatcher



Campo Flicker



Lined Woodpecker



Cocoi Heron



Yellow-billed Tern



Correndera Pipit



Glittering-bellied Emerald



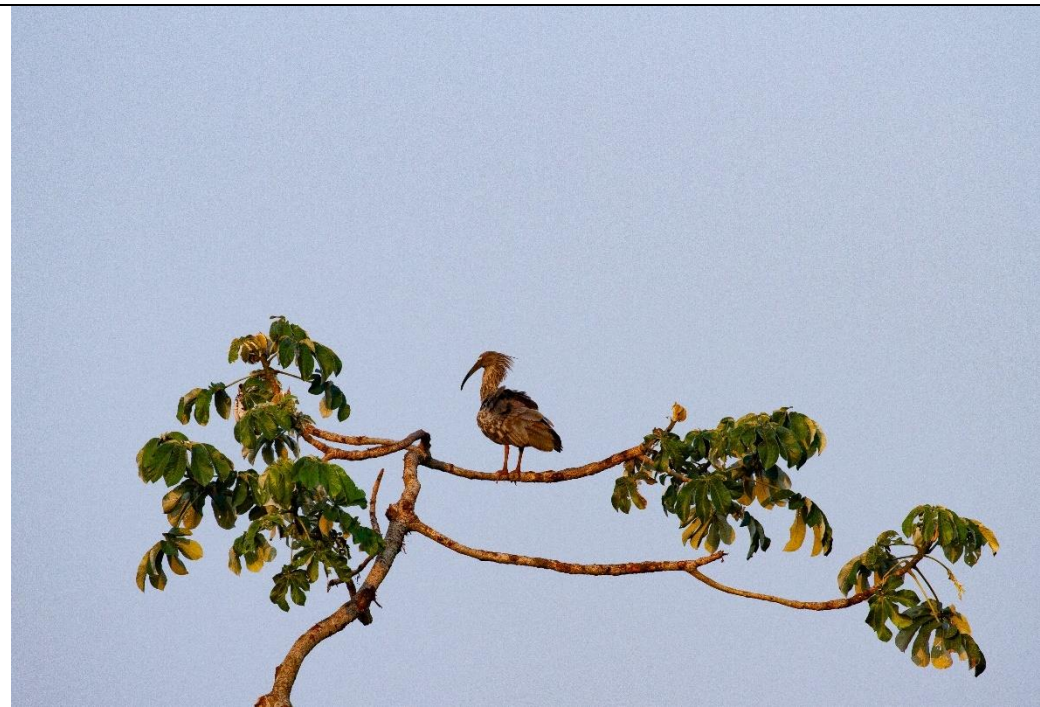
Greater Rhea



Guira Cuckoo



Picazuro Pigeon



Plumbeous Ibis



Wattled Jacana



Southern Rough-winged Swallow



Rufous-tailed Jacamar



Great Potoo



Brazilian Green Racer



Neotropical Rattlesnake





Argentine Black-and-white Tegu



Four-eyed Tegu



Spix's Whiptail



Red-footed Tortoise



Yacre Caiman



Red-snouted Treefrog



Vine Sphinx Moth



Phancoles Species.

