

# Central Chaco - Paraguay

15 July – 18 July 2019

## Introduction

My main mission for visiting Paraguay was to see Geoffroy's cat. I had pinpointed Central chaco as probably the best area to have a sighting of this fairly common feline and started my research of where to go. Central chaco is a big area...

I contacted Alberto Esquivel who is running <https://www.wildlife.com.py> and I got fast and great response. His suggestion was to try an area in a private land called Estancia Montania. As far as I know no one have done mammalwatching here before but WWF have a long term study in this area with 100's of camera traps and those cameras had revealed some interesting stuff. A lot of Geoffroy's cats in the area and also a lot of Pumas.

Alberto often guide by himself but this time he was busy and put me together with one of the WWF researchers in the area – Andrea Weiler. She is a researcher and not a guide, therefore I was the first client she ever guided but we had a great time during 3 days.



Some nice camera traps from Estancia Montania private land.

It's a long drive from Asuncion to Estancia Montania who is north of Filadelfia. Additionally some unusual rain had made the road to a mud bath. We went off the slippery road two times. The second time a tractor from the Estancia needed to drag us up again 😊



I had a lovely house to stay in with private room and private bathroom. Good WiFi and we had a lovely barbeque one of the evenings made by the staff from Estancia. This is a big private land with thousands of cattle but also 20% forest left and a good amount of wildlife around.



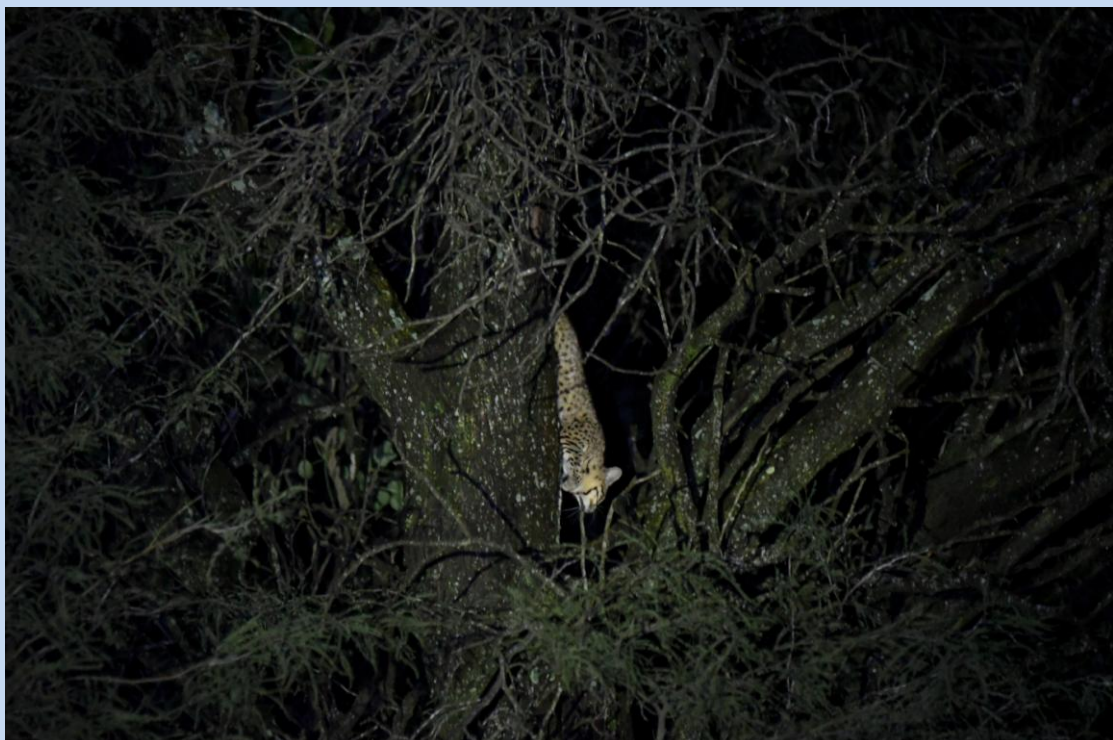
Typical environment in this part of Central chaco.





### My species list

**1. Geoffroy's cat** --- It took us 15 minutes on the first evening to find a Geoffroy's cat, how lucky! In fact the very first animal we saw in Estancia. Alberto was obviously right when he suggested this place for this feline. I saw another one the second night as well but only very distant eyeshine.





**2. Pampas fox** --- The most common mammal in this land. At least 15 were seen both daytime and night. Unfortunately some of them have a disease. Unclear what it is but it appeared about a year ago according to my guide Andrea. Around 20% of the ones we saw was sick.

Healthy Pampas fox.



Sick Pampas fox.





**3. Crab-eating fox** --- Unlike the cousin above, only one were seen. By far outnumbered by Pampas fox in this area.



**4. Capybara** --- The always present Capybara ☺ Where there is water, you are likely to find them.





**5. Southern three-banded armadillo** --- Very common. At least 6 individuals seen.



**6. Large hairy armadillo** --- Look under the cattle bowl. They use to have a burrow underneath. Free food for them. Two were seen the last day. Common.



**7. Unknown mouse** --- During a daytour to Laguna Salada some 100km from Estancia Montania this unknown mouse inhabit the bird watching tower. Have tried to ID this rodent but too hard. Around 15 cm and the tail equal or longer than body.



**8. Molinas hog-nosed skunk**--- Three individuals seen. Common but a bit shy and they always went away quickly.

**9. Screaming hairy armadillo**--- One seen when spotlighting. Quickly ran away.

**10. Six banded armadillo**--- One seen when spotlighting. Quickly ran away.

**11. Grey brocket deer**--- One seen crossing the road when driving back from Laguna Salada at night.

**12. Neotropical otter**--- One crossing the main road between Asuncion and Filadelfia.

**13. Giant anteater**--- One seen in the middle of day along the main road between Asuncion and Filadelfia.

### **Stuff I missed**

Nothing really as I was here for Geoffroy's cat. But if I missed something it will be the Puma. There is a very healthy population in this private land but they did not show up this time.