

Brazil – Aug/Sept 2018

Summary

We visited Brazil in August and September of 2018 with goals of seeing some new primates, new birds, and especially good encounters with a Giant Anteater. This was our 2nd trip to Brazil. In September 2016 we went to see Jaguars and visit the Southern Pantanal. All travel this time was arranged directly with the various lodges and guides. Here was our itinerary:

- Fly USA to Sao Paulo
- 3 nights Fazenda Bacury (private bird guide)
- 1 night Campo Grande
- 4 nights Fazenda Baia das Pedras (private guide)
- 4 nights Barranco Alto (private guide)
- 1 night Campo Grande
- 2 nights Arena Copacabana Hotel, Rio (private bird guide)
- Fly Rio to USA
- Drink many Caipirinhas along the way

The weather this time was much different than two years ago. It varied from hot, to cool, to cold and rainy and back to hot. The mixture of weather probably helped from a wildlife viewing perspective. For some reason, the ticks liked me on this trip and didn't really care for anyone else. I got them on me at all locations except for Rio.

Overall, the trip was exceptional. We saw pretty much everything we wanted to see and had multiple great encounters with a Giant Anteater including one with a pup.

Fazenda Bacury:

We hired Carlos Henrique to be our bird guide for our time at Bacury. He was recommended by Carlos Leoncio the owner at Fazenda Bacury. Carlos was not only an outstanding guide but a great guy to hang out with. He is also a herpetologist and knows his mammals pretty good as well. He is highly recommended for anyone looking for a guide in the Sao Paulo area and can be reached via his website: www.carduelis.bio.br/

The food at Fazenda Bacury was varied and every dish was superb. Carlos Leoncio and his wife were delightful to talk with and were excellent hosts. The grounds were large and filled with bird life. And, of course, the Atlantic Forest was fantastic to hike and drive in. We were a bit disappointed to not see the Southern Muriqui but seeing the Capuchin and Marmosets made up for that.



Fazenda Baia das Pedras:

Our guide for BdP and Barranco Alto was the incomparable Stefan Grol (<http://www.stefangrol.com/>). Stefan is knowledgeable about all the flora and fauna of the Pantanal, is great company (he likes bad puns like me) and is an exceptional artist as well. He is usually booked through the lodges but can be contacted directly as well.

Rita and Carlos have built a thriving fazenda that is very authentic. But, what they have done for wildlife in the Pantanal is truly exceptional. Not only have they protected 13,000+ hectares of land but they have gone above and beyond in their support for the research of Giant Armadillos and Tapir. These two research teams alternate 2 week expeditions to BdP where Rita and Carlos not only have built them a lab for their research but also furnish them with rooms and meals. All free of charge. These two teams are the foremost experts in the world on these two wonderful species. Rita and Carlos are responsible for that. During our stay, Patricia was there with the Tapir team and we got a chance to talk to her a bit about Tapirs which was fantastic. Unfortunately, we didn't see one during our stay but we have seen them before in a previous trip to the Pantanal.

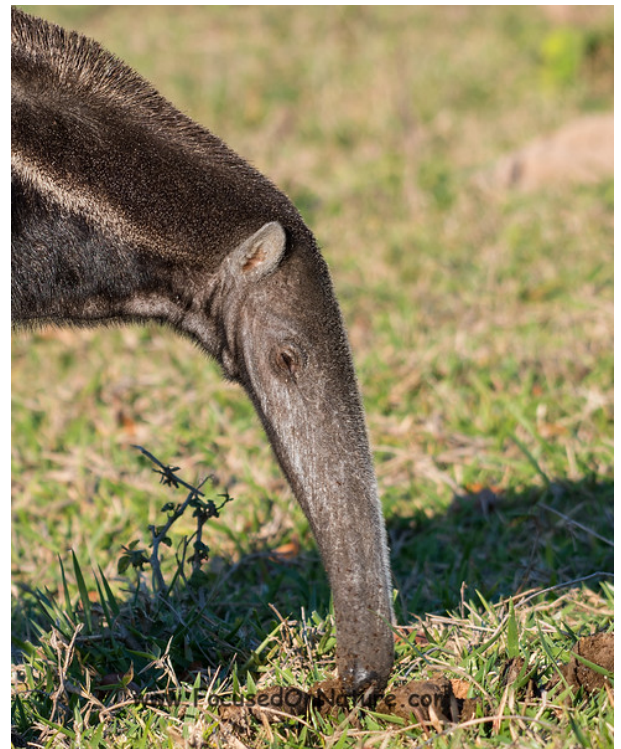


Fazenda Barranco Alto

The wildlife at BA was once again tremendous. We saw no Tapirs this time but so many Giant Anteaters and the experience with “Clawdia” was one of our best wildlife encounters ever. The many Six-banded Armadillos were also a highlight as were all the spectacular birds. It really is an amazing place.

The staff (Stefan, Claudia, and Lydia) were tremendous as always. There is nothing they won't try to do for you if you asked and they are all fascinating to talk with.

The new managers Ben and Corrine were nice but we only met Corrine briefly. Ben was around a little but they do have two young kids so they can't be with the guests at all times. The best thing is that they really haven't changed anything in the two years since our last visit. It is mostly all top notch and I would recommend a visit in a heartbeat to any nature lover.



Rio de Janeiro

For our two days in Rio, we booked Ricardo Barbosa from Pica-Pau Tours (ricbrazil@hotmail.com). Ricardo is a birding guide but grew up in Rio and knows the city like the back of his hand. So, he took us to a couple can't miss tourist sites including Tijuca National Park and we hired him to take us to the Golden Lion Tamarin reserve outside of Rio.

Details on visiting the Golden Lion Tamarins is [here](#).



Highlights

- Buffy-tufted Marmoset at Bacury
- Multiple close Giant Anteaters in the Pantanal
- Many Six-banded Armadillos in the Pantanal
- Southern Tamandua at BdP
- Golden Lion Tamarins
- The food and Caipirinhas everywhere
- The guides

Lowlights

- Ticks, ticks, and more ticks
- No Southern Muriqui at Bacury

Detailed Trip Report

<http://focusedonnature.blogspot.com/>

Full Photo Gallery

<https://www.focusedonnature.com/Trips/Brazil-2018/>

Mammals – (28 species with 10 lifers in **bold**)

Name	Location	Comments
Hoary Fox	Bacury	1 Seen clearly at dusk on last night
Buffy-tufted Marmoset	Bacury	1 Seen through branches on first drive in forest
Black-horned Capuchin	Bacury	1 Seen, barely, on last day in forest
Capybara	Everywhere in the Pantanal	Never tire of seeing these
Azore Agouti	Campo Grande	1 seen in Parque das Nações Indígenas
Giant Anteater	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Many seen well during the trip
Southern Tamandua	Baia das Pedras	1 Seen in rain
Crab-eating Fox	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Common at both locations
Crab-eating Raccoon	Baia das Pedras	2 Seen separately, 1 in daytime
Pampas Deer	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Common at both locations
Gray Brocket Deer	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Relatively Common at both locations
Six-banded Armadillo	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Common at both locations
South American Coati	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Saw multiple at both Fazendas
White-lipped Peccary	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Common at both locations
Collared Peccary	Baia das Pedras and Barranco Alto	Saw a few individuals at both locations
Big Brown Bat	Baia das Pedras	Flying around BdP at night. Id'd by guide
Greater Fishing Bat	Barranco Alto	Flying over lakes at dusk. Id'd by guide
Giant Otter	Barranco Alto	2 individuals seen multiple times on Rio Negro
Neotropical Otter	Barranco Alto	Multiple individuals seen on Rio Negro
Proboscis Bat	Barranco Alto	Small group flying/roosting on bank of Rio Negro
Howler Monkey	Barranco Alto	4 Individuals seen at great distance
Red Brocket Deer	Barranco Alto	1 seen on game drive
Leaf-nosed Bat	Barranco Alto	Exact species unknown. Trapped in building
Brazilian Rabbit	Barranco Alto	1 seen on night drive
Brown Capuchin	Rio de Janeiro	1 seen in Tijuca National Park
Brazilian Squirrel	Rio de Janeiro	1 seen in Tijuca National Park
Golden Lion Tamarin	Outside Rio de Janeiro	Multiple seen, habituated to people
Common Marmoset	Outside Rio de Janeiro	Multiple seen, habituated to people

Herps – (8 species with 1 lifer in **bold**)

Name	Location	Name	Location
Cane Toad	Baia da Pedras	Giant Ameiva	Barranco Alto
Chaco Frog	Baia da Pedras	Guarani Spiny Lizard	Barranco Alto
Lesser Snouted Tree Frog	Baia da Pedras	Spix's Whiptail	Barranco Alto
Warty Snouted Tree Frog	Barranco Alto	Amazon Lava Lizard	Rio de Janeiro

Birds – (Only 129 lifers listed)

Name	Name	Name	Name
Swallow-tailed Hummingbird	Orange-headed Tanager	Nacunda Nighthawk	Green-headed Tanager
Surucua Trogon	Ruby-crowned Tanager	Little Nightjar	Blue Manakin
Masked Water Tyrant	Red-crested Finch	Great Rufous Woodcreeper	Red-necked Tanager
Flavescent Warbler	Black-goggled Tanager	Red-winged Tinamou	Sooretama Slaty Antshrike
Violaceous Euphonia	Purple-throated Euphonia	Red-crested Cardinal	Long-billed Wren
White-wedged Piculet	Rosy-billed Pochard	Peach-fronted Parakeet	Black-cheeked Gnateater
White-eyed Parakeet	Curl-crested Jay	White-tailed Hawk	Eared Pygmy Tyrant
Rufous-headed Tanager	Helmeted Manakin	Planalto Woodcreeper	Chestnut-bellied Euphonia
Crescent-chested Puffbird	Whitefaced-Whistling Duck	Cream-bellied Thrush	Spot-breasted Antvireo
Rufous-capped Motmot	Silver Teal	Red Pileated Finch	Rufous-winged Antwren
Streamer-tailed Tyrant	Masked Duck	Planalto Hermit	Sharp-tailed streamcreeper
Tawny-browed Owl	Rufous-sided Crake	Gilded Sapphire	Maroon-bellied Parakeet
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Spotted Rail	White-lored Spinetail	Yellow-legged Thrush
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	Plumbeous Rail	Rusty-backed Spinetail	Yellow-backed Tanager
Eared Dove	Yellow-breasted Crake	Rufous-fronted Thornbird	Red-crowned Ant Tanager
Scissor-tailed Nightjar	Common Gallinule	Great Antshrike	Lesser Woodcreeper
Robust Woodpecker	Violaceous Quail Dove	Pearly-vented Tody Tyrant	Star-throated Antwren
Variable Antshrike	Sick's Swift	Lesser Kiskadee	Plain-winged Woodcreeper
Ferruginous Antbird	Glittering-bellied Emerald	Creamy-bellied Thrush	Plain Parakeet
White-shouldered Fire-eye	Sapphire-spangled Emerald	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	Tropical Parula
Rufous Gnateater	Aplomado Falcon	Chestnut-vented Conebill	White-collared Swift
Rufous-capped Spinetail	Blue-winged Parrotlet	Grayish Saltator	Violet-capped Woodnymph
Sooty-fronted Spinetail	White-crested Tyrannulet	Rufous-collared Sparrow	White-barred Piculet
White-bearded Manakin	Euler's Flycatcher	Rusty-backed Antwren	Black-capped Foliage Gleaner
Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant	Grey-breasted Martin	Least Grebe	Gray-headed Tody Flycatcher
Long-tailed Tyrant	Southern House Wren	Tawny-bellied Seedeater	Pin-tailed Manakin
Bran-colored Flycatcher	Pale-breasted Thrush	Red-shouldered Macaw	Chivi Vireo
White-rumped Swallow	Yellowish Pipit	Brazilian Tanager	Orange-bellied Euphonia
Grassland Sparrow	Masked Yellowthroat	Red-rumped Cacique	Chestnut-bellied Euphonia
Golden-crowned Warbler	Chestnut-capped Blackbird	Yellow-lored Tody-flycatcher	Flame-crested Tanager
Variable Oriole	Yellow-faced Parrot	Cliff Flycatcher	
Yellow-rumped Marshbird	Maguari Stork	Rusty-margined Guan	
Black-throated Grosbeak	Crowned Solitary Eagle	Scaled Antbird	

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