

# Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars! and More...

## Species List | October 7 – 17, 2024

### with Atlantic Forest extension October 3 – 7, 2024

#### with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Dave Mehlman with local guides Demis Bucci and Bianca. Our clients included Doug, Ed, Jennie, Julia, Ken, Richard, Susan, and Teri.**

This tour was an epic journey across two of Brazil's most diverse ecosystems: the Atlantic Rainforest and the Pantanal. From the first moment to the last, it was filled with an amazing variety of birds, mammals, and many more. Our local guides Demis (with us for all but the last day) and Bianca (on the last day) kept finding new and exciting things to see on almost every outing of every day. The Atlantic Forest part, which started the tour, explored the unique Itatiaia National Park, Brazil's first national park, from our base at the Hotel do Ypê. Though cloudy at the elevation of the hotel, the feeders were full of activity as well as the numerous nearby areas of the park we explored on foot and by van. We made one extended trip to the higher elevations of the park, where the weather was bright, sunny, and dry, and reached around 8,000 ft. By the end of our several days in the Atlantic Forest, we already had a bird list of over 220 species!

Our Pantanal adventure was split into two parts. The first part, in the southern Pantanal, was at the lovely Pousada Aguapé near the town of Aquidauana in the heart of the Pantanal in Mato Grosso do Sul state. The feeders here, too, were full of birds and animals, including the hard-to-believe Hyacinth Macaw and the cutest-ever Six-banded Armadillos sometimes running around under our dining tables. Several safaris yielded multiple Giant Anteaters along with lots of great other birds. The second part of our tour in the Pantanal was reached by flying to Cuiabá in Mato Grosso state and then spending a week at three different lodges (including one houseboat) in the true core of the northern Pantanal. Aymara Lodge was beautiful with the dry forests surrounding it yielding an unending stream of birds and mammals, mostly thanks to Demis' ability to extract birds out of seemingly nowhere. Our floating hotel, the houseboat Panorámico, was quite comfortable and provided the perfect base for many boat trips up and down the Río São Lourenço and its tributaries. An outstanding highlight here were the sightings of six different Jaguars at various times, but we also found South American Tapir and too many birds to even remember. This was truly an adventure safari to treasure and remember for a long time.

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

The eBird link below details 399 of the 400 species of birds our group observed during the tour (of which 5 were heard only and 3 were seen by the guides only). Additional species not recorded on the eBird lists, those species which were "write-ins" on our printed checklist, species heard (H) or seen by guides (G) only, and some species requiring taxonomic untangling are detailed below. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Brazil: Pantanal: Jaguars! And More | October 3-17, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

**BIRDS:(400)** Total species were recorded. Details are included below on species not on the eBird lists, species that we had to write in on our written checklist, or species requiring additional information.

### **GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae**

Note on Piping-Guan (genus *Pipile*) taxonomy: The taxonomy of this genus is very complicated, with there being from one to five species considered valid. Following the eBird taxonomy in use at the time of our tour in October 2024, we saw the White-throated Piping-Guan (*P. grayi*) and individuals presumed to be Red-throated Piping-Guan (*P. cujubi*). In the eBird treatment, the Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*P. cumanensis*) only occurs in northern and western Brazil in Amazonia and in the adjacent, Amazonian, portions of neighboring countries. As we noted in the field, the throat color varies quite a bit, even among individuals at the same location, with many individuals showing mixed white and red or red and blue throat wattles. We saw the following 2 species on the tour:

**White-throated Piping-Guan** *Pipile grayi*—Recorded on 8 days of the tour pretty much on every day in the Pantanal, both south and north.

**Red-throated Piping-Guan** *Pipile cujubi*—Recorded on 3 days of the tour when at Aymara Lodge.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Blue Ground Dove** *Claravis pretiosa*—Write-in; seen at Aymara Lodge.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae**

**Rufous Nightjar** *Antrostomus rufus*—(H) Write-in; Heard at dusk on our afternoon/evening safari at Aymara Lodge

### **RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**Rufous-sided Crake** *Laterallus melanophaius*—Write-in; 2 birds attracted with playback on the final birding trip of the tour at Parque Mãe Bonifácia

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*—(H) Write-in; Heard by the entire group in the “Valley of the Great Snipe” on our late afternoon outing when at Itatiaia

**Pantanal Snipe** *Gallinago paraguaiæ*— Write-in; Recorded on 3 days at 4 locations

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**Bicolored Hawk** *Astur bicolor*—Write-in; remarkable views of one individual sitting on a sandbar from the boat during a trip on the Rio São Lourenço/Rio Piquiri; was formerly in the genus *Accipiter*

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Striped Owl** *Asio clamator*—Write-in; great views of one perched in a bush on the night safari at Aymara Lodge

### **PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae**

**Spot-backed/Chaco Puffbird** *Nystalus maculatus/striatipectus*: This taxon is treated differently by different references. In eBird, the Chaco Puffbird is considered a subspecies of Spot-backed (*N. maculatus*) and listed as Spot-backed Puffbird (Chaco); Brazilian ornithologists and the International Ornithological Committee consider it a full species, *N. striatipectus*.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Robust Woodpecker** *Campephilus robustus*—Write-in; seen one morning at Hotel do Ypê

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**Collared Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus*—(H) Heard by Demis on our first boat outing from the Panoramico

**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis*—(G) Not in eBird; seen by Demis while driving back to Campo Grande from Aguapé

#### **PARROTS: Psittacidae**

**Blue-crowned Parakeet** *Thectocercus acuticaudatus*—(G) seen by Demis and Dave on our brief “pit stop” at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel on our way to the houseboat

#### **OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae**

**Buff-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*—This taxon is treated differently by various authorities; the birds we saw at Aymara Lodge were the Lafresnaye’s Woodcreeper, *X. dorbignyanus*, which is currently considered by eBird (and others) as a subspecies of Buff-throated and called Buff-throated Woodcreeper (Lafresnaye’s)

**Wing-banded Hornero** *Furnarius figulus*—Write-in; one seen on our final side trip to the Giant Snipe Valley after returning from the high elevations of Itatiaia

#### **MANAKINS: Pipridae**

**White-bearded Manakin** *Manacus manacus*—Write-in; an immature male was seen at the Itatiaia entrance gate on our departure back to São Paulo

#### **COTINGAS: Cotingidae**

**Bare-throated Bellbird** *Procnias nudicollis*—(H) Heard by some in the group one day at Hotel do Ypê

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*—In older literature, this species (as well as some others in the same genus) are called Flycatcher; however, recent English name changes have standardized the names of all species in *Tolmomyias* to Flatbill

**Large Elaenia** *Elaenia spectabilis*—Write-in; found on 2 days at Aguapé, along the Transpantaneira, and at the Hotel Mato Grosso

**White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps*—(G) seen by guides only at Pousada Aguape

**Bran-colored Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus*—Write-in; found on our trip to the high elevations of Itatiaia

**Crowned Slaty Flycatcher** *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*—Write-in; seen on one day at Aguapé

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—Write-in; at least two seen with other swallows over a wetland on the Transpantaneira as we drove from Campo Grande to Aymara Lodge

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Southern House Wren** *Troglodytes musculus*—Until 2024, this species was part of the larger House Wren (*T. aedon*) complex

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**White-necked Thrush** *Turdus albicollis*—(H) Heard singing at Cantareira

**Blacksmith Thrush** *Turdus subalaris*—Write-in; found at Hotel Donatti in Itatiaia

#### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**Hellmayr’s Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri*—Write-in; several seen (and chased on foot) at the very highest elevations of Itatiaia near our picnic spot

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Epaulet Oriole** *Icterus cayanensis*—Write-in; seen on one of the boat trips on the Rio São Lourenço from the houseboat

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Southern Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis velata*—Was until recently considered a subspecies of Masked Yellowthroat, *G. aequinoctialis*

### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae**

**Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch** *Sicalis citrina*—Write-in; seen near the picnic area at the high elevations of Itatiaia

**Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola*—Write-in; found at Pousada Aguapé

**Tawny-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila hypoxantha*—Write-in; several seen mixed in with other seedeaters on the final morning driving safari at Aguapé

**Temminck's Seedeater** *Sporophila falcirostris*—Write-in; this bamboo specialist was seen on one of our trips at Itatiaia when we stopped for the Robust Woodpecker nest hotel on the way to the Hotel Donatti

### **MAMMALS: (21)**

**Giant Anteater** *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*—A fantastic total of 5 individuals were seen on one day; 4 on a morning safari at Pousada Aguapé (after a bit of rain) and the fifth from the highway while driving back to Camp Grande

**Six-banded Armadillo** *Euphractus sexcinctus*—Very numerous at Aguapé Lodge, where they were at the feeders, running around on the grounds, and sometimes on the porch under the dining tables!

**Black-tailed Marmoset** *Micro melanurus*—Several seen at the feeder at Parque Mãe Bonifácia in Cuiabá

**Black-and-gold Howler Monkey** *Alouatta caraya*—Seen on one of the boat outings on the Rios São Lourenço and Piquiri from the houseboat

**Black Capuchin** *Sapajus nigritus*—Seen at Cantareira and on one day at Hotel do Ypê

**Azara's Capuchin** *Sapajus cay*—Seen on 4 days at Aguapé and Aymara Lodge

**Crab-eating Raccoon** *Procyon cancrivorus*—Seen by some at Aymara Lodge one evening

**South American Coati** *Nasua nasua*—Encountered on 4 days at Aguapé and Aymara Lodge

**Crab-eating Fox** *Cerdocyon thous*—A very inquisitive one came up to the porch at Aguapé; also seen once at Aymara

**Jaguar** *Panthera onca*—One of the top highlights of the tour, we saw this magnificent top predator on 2 days when on the houseboat with at 6 different individuals being seen; some individuals were seen multiple times

**Tayra** *Eira barbara*—One ran across the road as we drove into Aguapé Lodge

**Giant Otter** *Pteronura brasiliensis*—We had great luck with this species, recording them on 4 days, including every day when on the houseboat and once at the Hotel Mato Grosso; probably the most memorable sighting was a pair of adults aggressively confronting a Jaguar on one of the boat trips, presumably to defend their cub

**South American Tapir** *Tapirus terrestris*—Incredible luck with this species on our tour; we saw 4 different individuals on 3 different days

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu*—Seen on one day when on a safari at Aguapé

**Gray Brocket** *Mazama gouazoubira*—Recorded on 4 days at various sites in both north and south Pantanal

**Pampas Deer** *Ozotoceros bezoarticus*—Seen on 3 days at Aguapé

**Marsh Deer** *Blastocerus dichotomus*—The largest South American deer, we saw these on 4 days in the northern Pantanal, not infrequently while driving on the Transpantaneira

**Guianan Squirrel** *Sciurus aestuans*—Recorded twice at Hotel do Ypê and at Aymara Lodge

**Azara's Agouti** *Dasyprocta azarae*—Commonly encountered around various lodges in the northern Pantanal

**Capybara** *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*—Easily the most frequently encountered mammal species of the tour, we found one the first day at Cantareira State Park and then again daily when in the Pantanal

**Tapeti/Brazilian Rabbit** *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*—Seen on 2 days at Aymara Lodge

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (10)**

**Tropical House Gecko (I)** *Hemidactylus mabouia*—Geckos presumably of this species were found in some of our rooms at various lodges

**Chaco Spiny Lizard** *Tropidurus lagunablanca*—Very common on the grounds at Aymara Lode

**Giant Ameiva** *Ameiva ameiva*—Several seen on the grounds at Hotel Mato Grosso

**Argentine Black-and-white Tegu** *Salvator merianae*—This very large lizard was recorded on 4 days of the tour, both in the Atlantic Forest and in the Pantanal

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*—seen on one of the boat outings from the houseboat

**Yacaré Caiman** *Caiman yacare*—Recorded on 7 days of the tour, sometimes in staggeringly large numbers in areas with limited water such as the Rio Pixaim and the few pools remaining along the Transpantaneira

**Yellow Cururu Toad** *Rhinella icterica*—One found dead on the road in Itatiaia National Park

**Laurent's Sipo** *Chironius laurenti*—This dramatically long and colorful snake with large, black eyes was seen on 2 days, once at Aymara Lodge and again on one of the boat outings from the houseboat

**Hays's Snouted Tree Frog** *Scinax hayii*—Recorded on one day of the tour

**Black False Boa** *Pseudoboa nigra*—One found dead on the trail the last morning at Hotel Mato Grosso

#### **LOCATIONS AND NOTES:**

Day 1: Thursday, October 3, 2024; Marriot São Paulo Airport, Parque Estadual Cantareira

Day 2: Friday, October 4, 2024; Marriot São Paulo Airport, Frango Assado on the highway, Graal in Alemão, Hotel do Ypê

Day 3: Saturday, October 5, 2024; Hotel do Ypê, Parque Nacional do Itatiaia, Hotel Simon

Day 4: Sunday, October 6, 2024; Parque Nacional do Itatiaia highlands, "Valley of the Giant Snipe"

Day 5: Monday, October 7, 2024; Hotel do Ypê, Hotel Donnati, Itatiaia Visitor Center, Entrance Gate, and Mirante

Day 6: Tuesday, October 8, 2024; São Paulo, Campo Grande, Aquidauana, Pousada Aguapé and entrance road

Day 7: Wednesday, October 9, 2024; Pousada Aguapé

Day 8: Thursday, October 10, 2024; Pousada Aguapé, drive to Camp Grande

Day 9: Friday, October 11, 2024; flight, Campo Grande to Cuiabá; drive to Poconé, Transpantaneira, Aymara Lodge

Day 10: Saturday, October 12, 2024; Aymara Lodge

Day 11: Sunday, October 13, 2024; Aymara Lodge, Transpantaneira to Porto Jofre, Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, Rio São Lourenço, houseboat Panoramico

Day 12: Monday, October 14, 2024; Rio São Lourenço, Rio Piquiri

Day 13: Tuesday, October 15, 2024; Rio São Lourenço, Jaguar Project, Transpantaneira, Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, Rio Pixaim

Day 14: Wednesday, October 16, 2024; Rio Pixaim, Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel

Day 15: Thursday, October 17, 2024; Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, Transpantaneira, São Francisco lake, Parque Mãe Bonifácia