

Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars & More!

Species List | September 5-15, 2025

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Wes Larson, with local guide Adolfo, and Ten Participants: Karen, Jill, Pat, Vince, Dick, Tracy, Ed, Diane, Jenny, and Andrew

Summary: We saw an incredible array of birds, mammals, and reptiles on our once-in-a-lifetime trip to the biggest wetland in the world! Avian highlights included Toco Toucan, Band-Tailed Manakin, Hyacinth Macaw, Red-Legged Seriema, Jabiru, Capped Heron, Sunbittern, Great Potoo, All of the Kingfisher species! And many, many more. However, the bird voted most memorable and impressive by our group was the rarely seen Green and Rufous Kingfisher (bird of the trip). It wasn't an easy decision though and almost everyone on the trip had a different answer when it came to their most memorable bird.

We had some of the best luck possible with mammals on our trip and we had no shortage of views of some of the most famous residents of the Pantanal, the jaguar, the giant anteater, the giant otter and the ocelot. We had really great luck with jaguars hunting and resting along the river (Jaguars were voted mammals of the trip) as well as a few sightings of jaguars where our boat was the only group watching the cat. Giant anteaters were plentiful and we ended up getting some great looks at multiple different individuals, including a mother with young on her back. We also got some nice up close and personal looks at the smaller Southern Tamandua! Mammals were a true highlight throughout the trip and we also saw Tapir, Neotropical River Otter and many others. We also had great looks at various species of primates, armadillos, deer, fox and of course, capybara. This part of Brazil never fails to impress and it is a birdwatcher's paradise and a naturalist's dream. Join us next year!

BIRDS (173 species recorded):

This species report eBird link below details the 173 species of birds our group either observed during the Pantanal portion of the tour, but does not include the birds from the Amazon extension.

If you're new to Ebird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen.

[Brazilian Pantanal Naturalist Journeys Trip, September 2025-eBird species list](#)

MAMMALS (22 species recorded):

Southern Tamandua *Tamandua tetradactyla*—We had a nice up-close look at a southern tamandua as it climbed a tree and looked for termites on the ground on the ranch at Aguapé lodge, as well as another right near the road as it was

getting dark

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*—We had amazing views of this unique and charismatic mammal around Aguapé, including a quick view of a mother with young

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—Seen once while at Aguapé, the most widespread and one of the largest armadillo species, but not as common around the lodge as the smaller six-banded species

Six-banded Armadillo *Euphractus sexcinctus*—Very common around the rooms and restaurant at Pousada Aguapé

Greater Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus*—seen throughout the Pantanal, especially feeding over the Cuiabá River in the evenings from the Panorámico houseboat (ALSO KNOWN AS THE GREATER FISHING BAT)

Lesser Bulldog Bat *Noctilio albiventris*—Seen near riverways in both the southern and northern Pantanal (ALSO KNOWN AS THE LESSER FISHING BAT)

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*—We saw a couple groups of these charismatic bats on both the Pixaim and Cuiabá rivers

Black-and-gold Howler Monkey *Alouatta caraya*—We saw these large New World primates along the Aquidua river, the Rio Claro, the Cuiabá river and the Pixaim river. Both sexes start as the golden color and then males get darker and turn black as they age

Azara's Capuchin *Sapajus cay*—Several great observations throughout the northern Pantanal especially at the hotel Rio Claro

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*—Really nice looks at these curious mammals at Pousada Aguapé and along the Transpantaneira

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous*—Frequent observations over multiple days of the trip, particularly at night or in the early morning and a particularly great sighting right at sunset. Genetic studies show that these 'foxes' are more closely related to South American 'wolves' such as the Maned Wolf than to true foxes

Ocelot *Leopardus pardalis*—We were treated to an extended and up-close view of a food-conditioned but still very wild ocelot at SouthWild Lodge. We also managed to spot one at a distance high up in a tree while on night safari.

Jaguar *Panthera onca*—We had absolutely fantastic views of this majestic feline along the Cuiabá River including a family group on a water buffalo carcass and many individuals patrolling the shore looking for caiman. We saw 12 different jaguars on this trip! This species is the world's third largest big cat after the lion and tiger and the Pantanal is the only place where they can be seen with any regularity

Neotropical River Otter *Lontra longicaudis*—Brief sightings while on river safari on the Aquidua and Rio Claro rivers

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*—Amazing experiences observing these incredible mammals hunting and feeding along the edge of the Rio Claro, the Cuiabá river and the Pixaim river on our boat safaris

South American Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*—We quickly saw two individuals in the Rio Claro during an afternoon boat safari. And then we had a longer look at a individual at SouthWild that was eating fallen fruit near the lodge (with a purplish jay on it's back)

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*—Large groups at Pousada Aguapé

Gray Brocket *Mazama gouazoubira*—We saw this small deer species swimming across the Cuiabá river

Pampas Deer *Ozotoceros bezoarticus*—Common at Pousada Aguapé. Due to habitat loss and hunting, this deer has a highly fragmented distribution

Marsh Deer *Blastocerus dichotomus*—Seen both along the Transpantaneira and a nice male on the Cuiabá river. The Pantanal is the stronghold of this largest South American deer species and we saw a number of nice individuals

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*—Extremely common in the Pantanal. It is the largest rodent species in the world and large groups of capybara can be found in most places where there is standing water

Tapeti *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*—We had a very brief sighting of this rabbit species while on night safari at Aguapé

REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS and SCORPIONS (11 species recorded):

Amazon Lava Lizard *Tropidurus torquatus*—A regularly seen "fence lizard"

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva*—We had fleeting looks at the beautiful green lizard, especially at Aguapé and along the

Transpantaneira

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae*—We had a really nice view of a big tegu that had just shed at Aguapé– the largest species of lizard in the Americas!

Golden Tegu *Tupinambis teguixin*—A second tegu species, often referred to as the Colombian tegu, that we saw in the Northern Pantanal

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—Observed many times along the different waterways

False Water Cobra *Hydrodynastes gigas*—We briefly saw this large “anaconda-looking” snake near a body of water on the transpantaneira where we stopped to do some birding

Yacaré Caiman *Caiman yacare*—The most abundant reptile (terrestrial vertebrate!) in the Pantanal, where it was ubiquitous. We saw hundreds if not thousands of these crocodilians, including one pool at Aguapé that easily had over 100 individuals

Chaco Tree Frog *Boana raniceps*—Common around lodges in the Pantanal

Veined Tree Frog *Trachycephalus typhonius*—Big tree frog seen on the walls around SouthWild in the late evenings and night

Hay’s Snouted Tree Frog *Scinax hayii*—Common tree frogs observed throughout the trip

Brazilian Yellow Scorpion *Tityus serrulatus*—We decided to include this species in our list after we had an up-close look at one during our time in the southern Pantanal!