

Brazil's Pantanal Species List | October 10 – 24, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Greg Butcher with local guide extraordinaire Xavier Munoz. Our clients included Becky, Bill, Emily, Janet, Kathy, Lynn, Nancy, Ray, and Sue.

On October 10 or 11, 2025, we all arrived in Campo Grande, the capital city of Mato Grosso do Sul, to begin our Pantanal tour with an extension to Jardim da Amazonia. After short visits to a city park and aquarium, we drove off to Aguape Lodge for two days of birding, with Hyacinth and Blue-and-yellow Macaws and Giant Anteaters. On October 14, we all flew to Cuiaba, the capital of Mato Grosso. We visited a city park there before driving off to the Transpantaneira and Aymara Lodge where we enjoyed Tapirs, Collared Peccaries, Marsh Deer, a pair of Sunbitterns, a nest box with American Barn Owls, and our first American Pygmy Kingfisher. On October 17, we drove to the heart of the Pantanal. On our first boat ride to the houseboat where we would stay two nights, we saw the first of the 11 jaguars we would see. We added great views of Giant Otters, a caiman catching an anaconda the same size he was, Southern Screamers, Sungrebes, Yellow- and Large-billed Terns, Black Skimmers, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, and Black-capped Donacobius. On our way back to Cuiaba, we stayed two nights at SouthWild Pantanal, where a couple of evenings of work produced Crab-eating Fox, Nacunda and Short-tailed Nighthawks, and Spot-tailed Nightjar. Then it was off to Jardim da Amazonia for the extension. We added almost 100 new birds, including Speckled Chachalaca, Razor-billed Curassow, Ocellated Poorwill, Black-bellied Thorntail (hummingbird), Black-tailed and Green-backed Trogons, Blue-cheeked and Brown Jacamars, Red-necked Aracari, Cryptic Forest-Falcon, Blue-winged and Red-bellied Macaws, Amazonian Umbrellabird, and the Critically Endangered Cone-billed Tanager. After driving through corn and cotton fields (with Greater Rheas!) back to Cuiaba, we all flew home on October 25 having seen the Big 5 mammals of the Pantanal: Jaguar, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, Tapir, and the nearly ubiquitous Capybara.

BIRDS

The eBird link below details the **319** species of birds our group observed during the tour. 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's Pantanal | October 10-24, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

Family or Species Common Name *Scientific Name* —

MAMMALS: — (21)

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* — We saw several of these at our first lodge, Aguape, including a mother carrying a baby on her back who wanted to adopt us. We also had a great presentation from a couple of the people helping with the local Giant Anteater reintroduction program.

Six-banded Armadillo *Euphractus sexcinctus* — This species was particularly common the first couple of days in the southern Pantanal, but we also saw at least one in the northern Pantanal and at the edge of the Amazon on the extension.

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* — We're not sure they were all Proboscis Bats, but we had small roosting bats on the Pixaim River near SouthWild Pantanal and on the Rio Claro near Jardim da Amazonia.

Black-tailed Marmoset *Micro melanurus* — We made a special stop at Parque Bernardo Berneck near Cuiaba for this species, the smallest of the monkeys we saw.

Black-and-gold Howler Monkey *Alouatta caraya* — We saw one on the first official day of the tour, then every day once we started on the Transpantaneira into the heart of the Pantanal, and again at Jardim da Amazonia, where we got to hear them as well.

Azara's Capuchin *Sapajus cay* — These capuchins were seen in the southern Pantanal near Pousada (Lodge) Aguape, near Aymara Lodge in the northern Pantanal, and again at Jardim da Amazonia.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua* — The coatis were absolutely abundant the first few days both near Campo Grande and at Pousada Aguape. We saw them along the Transpantaneira, but not from the boat in the heart of the Pantanal.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* — We wondered if we would ever see one, then we saw 4 in two days near SouthWild Pantanal.

Jaguar *Panthera onca* — What can I say? We saw 11, and almost all of our views were good ones. We found our own, and we took advantage of boat-driver communication to join dozens of other observers for others. The jaguars seemed to ignore us and go about their lives despite us.

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* — Perhaps these are the second-most mammals that we wanted to see. The otters are in family groups, and our boat driver did a good job of staying close to the groups as they swam along the rivers. We saw a couple of otters devour large fish close by.

Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis* — We didn't expect this huge animal, but Water Buffalos have been introduced into many warm wetland areas. We saw just one, in the heart of the Pantanal.

South American Tapir *Tapirus terrestris* — For me, the biggest surprise was how many tapirs we saw and how close and long-lasting most of the sightings were. Tapirs are odd-toed ungulates, related to horses and rhinoceroses, so it's just my imagination that their snout looks like the beginning of an elephant's trunk. We will never forget the over-active tapir near Jardim da Amazonia.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* — We had a Collared Peccary along the Transpantaneira near Aymara Lodge and a small group near SouthWild Pantanal.

White-lipped Peccary *Tayassu pecari* — Our first peccary was the larger, rarer White-lipped that we saw in the southern Pantanal at Pousada Aguape. The fur near the lip was pale, not really white.

Gray Brocket *Mazama gouazoubira* — Brockets are very small deer. We saw this species on the Transpantaneira en route to Porto Jofre.

Red Brocket *Mazama americana* — We saw this species on the Transpantaneira near Aymara Lodge.

Pampas Deer *Ozotoceros bezoarticus* — Bigger than a brocket, but smaller than a Marsh Deer, we found Pampas Deer on the first two days near Campo Grande and at Pousada Aguape.

Marsh Deer *Blastocerus dichotomus* — Once we flew north, we encountered many of the large Marsh Deer on five different days, including males with fresh antlers.

Brazilian Guinea Pig *Cavia aperea* — We didn't get great looks, but we did encounter a wild guinea pig along the Transpantaneira en route to Porto Jofre.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae* — They were dwarfed by the related Capybaras, but we did see a number of big-rumped agoutis, first in Campo Grande, then at Aymara Lodge, and finally at SouthWild Pantanal.

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* — They are big, and they were everywhere! I'm still surprised that jaguars don't specialize on Capybaras, but if they did, I suppose we wouldn't have seen as many. I think we all have smart-phone photos of mamas and babies.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (10)

Red-footed Tortoise *Chelonoidis carbonarius* — We had one at Pousada Aguape.

Amazon Lava Lizard *Tropidurus torquatus* — We had several of these on seven different days throughout the trip.

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* — We had one at Pousada Aguape.

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae* — Tegus were the second largest lizards we saw, after the iguanas. The black and white pattern was quite dramatic.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* — We saw Green Iguanas of various sizes, including a couple very large ones.

Yellow Anaconda *Eunectes notaeus* — The only anaconda I saw was in the mouth of a caiman. See next entry.

False Water Cobra *Hydrodynastes gigas* — These mildly venomous snakes can be as long as 10 feet, but I don't remember seeing any that big. We had a couple early in the trip.

Yacare Caiman *Caiman yacare* — Caimans of all sizes were our constant companions until the extension. One of the most dramatic moments I've ever experienced was when a very close, large caiman attacked a very large, close Yellow Anaconda and held on for as long as we could see. It all happened so fast, and it took us a while to figure out what we were seeing, but I don't think we'll ever forget it!

Chaco Tree Frog *Boana raniceps* — I had at least 3 of these sharing my room at Aymara Lodge, including one in my sink and one in my shower. They were all small.

Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* (I) — I didn't write down Cane Toad until the next-to-last day, but I'm pretty sure we had more than one. This is a non-native species that unfortunately eats a lot of the smaller frogs and toads. We had smaller toads too, but didn't identify them to species.