

Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars and more!

Species List | August 15 – 25, 2026

with Naturalist Journeys

Including the Amazonia extension



Compiled by host guide James P. Smith and local leader Xavier Munoz. Our wonderful participants were Dave & Jan, Bill & Denise, Woody & Lori, John & Joan, Colin & Ann-Maria.

A spectacular wildlife odyssey kicking off in the relatively modern setting of the Hotel DeVille in Campo Grande, though our exploration of the Southern Pantanal really started in earnest at the beautiful Pousada Aguape. A few days later we flew north to Cuiaba which provided a launch pad for the northern portions of the tour including a multi-night river adventure on a 'floatel' on the Rio Cuiaba and our first, unforgettable experiences with Jaguars! The three night Amazonia extension was an avian treat not to be missed as, remarkably, we added a further 100 or so species to an already impressive bird list.

Overall, the tour logged more than 320 bird species (seen and heard) with a handful of leader-only observations generally noted in the comments within each checklist. The mammal sightings on this tour were truly outstanding. In addition to 10 individual Jaguars we found 25 species in all with Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, Ocelot and Brazilian Tapir among the highlights....and we had great views of all of them! Moreover, we enjoyed immaculate weather throughout the tour with cool, crisp mornings and pleasantly warm to hot, sunny afternoons.

Aside from the fantastic birds and mammals, and the wonderful food, this trip was especially enjoyable for its group camaraderie, warm, friendly atmosphere and the many laughs we had along the way!

If you're new to e-bird click on the "Show All Details" on the right side of the e-bird list you will see the details of each sighting;

[Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars and more! | August 15 – 25, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Other fauna noted on the tour included;

MAMMALS: (25)

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* – we enjoyed close up views of this bizarre mammal, the largest of the World's four anteater species, on the first two days of the tour at Pousada Aguape,

Six-banded armadillo *Euphractus sexcinctus* – a perky little mammal full of character, found daily around the lodge at Pousada Aguape often joining us at the dinner table!

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* – Jonathan pointed out a small group roosting on the underside of a tree above the Rio Claro on the 26th.

Greater Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus* – Xavier mentioned he could see a couple of these with other bats hawking over the water by the large heron and kite roost at Piuval on the 20th. Also known as Greater Fishing Bat.

Lesser Bulldog Bat *Noctilio albiventris* – at least half a dozen hawking over the water by the large heron roost at Piuval on the 20th.

Black-tailed Marmoset *Mico melanurus* – great looks at this range-restricted little monkey at Bernado Berneck Park near Cuiaba on the 19th and in the dry forest around Piuval on the 20th.

Black-and-gold Howler Monkey *Alouatta caraya* – first sighted by the river at Aguape on the 18th and great views of a troop including babies in the dry forest at Piuval on the 20th, plus several heard at Santa Terasa on the 24th.

Black-striped Capuchin *Sapajus libidinosus* – a chance encounter with a small troop by the river at Aguape on the 18th.

Azara's or Hooded Capuchin *Sapajus cay* – the most frequently encountered primate on the tour, we found them regularly in the Cerrado and gallery forests of the north Pantanal and in the Amazonia area.

White-cheeked Spider Monkey – two or three shy individuals seen all-too-briefly in the canopy along the entrance road to Jardim De Amazonia on the 28th. Endemic to Central-West Brazil.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua* – a couple of well-watched individuals around the lodge at Aguape seemed quite accustomed to lodge guests! Surprisingly though, we didn't see any after our time at Aguape.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* – a small dark canine, very much at home in the Cerrado and seen well at Aguape, Piuval and Santa Teresa, usually at dusk.

Ocelot *Leopardus pardalis* – extraordinary views of a well fed individual from the blind at Santa Terasa.

Jaguar *Panthera onca* – a truly mesmerizing experience, 10 individual jaguars over the course of three days in the Porto Jofre area. The views were often outstanding and watching a family (mom and two cubs swim across river between the lined up boats left most of us speechless!

Tayra *Eira Barbara* – a fine male 'trotting' down a farm track at Aguape on the 17th. True to its inquisitive nature, this large mustelid turned around, paused and had a good look at us looking at him before disappearing into the understory.

Neotropical River Otter *Lontra longicaudis* – one appeared all too briefly between the boats as we set off upriver for rare manikins on the Rio Aquidauana, Aguape on the 18th.

Giant River Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* – fortune certainly came our way as we watched two families of this playful, social species, the largest otter in the World on the Rio Cuiaba on the 21st, and the Rio Piquiri on the 22nd.

Brazilian Tapir *Tapirus terrestris* – three encounters with this extraordinary beast, all of them offering fantastic views; two together on our first wildlife drive at Puival on the 19th, a completely random, lone individual in a featureless arable field by the side of Rt 010 north of Diamantino on the 25th, and two swimming across the Rio Claro at Jardim de Amazonia on the 26th.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae* – quite scarce with just a few singles seen at Piuval though very good views of one around a feeding station at Santa Terasa on the 24th.

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* – the world's largest rodent was prolific on this tour and seen daily, though it was always close to water, even in the heart of urban Campo Grande! An easy mammal to watch as they exude inner calm.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* – a couple of large groups around Pousada Aguapé, and a smaller number at Piuval. Also known as Javelina, its range extends into the southern USA.

Red Brocket *Mazama Americana* – we had our best views of this furtive little deer at Piuval with another along the Transpantaneira Highway on the 25th.

Gray Brocket *Mazama gouazoubira* – two seen in one day along the Transpantaneira as we headed back towards Cuiabá.

Pampas Deer *Ozotoceros bezoarticus* – fairly common around Pousada Aguapé though not seen thereafter.

Marsh Deer *Blastocerus dichotomus* – nice views of one along the Transpantaneira as we headed towards Porto Jofre. The Pantanal is a stronghold for this species, the largest species of South American deer.

Tapeti *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* – Lori was fortunate enough to see this rabbit species on our first evening at Piuval,

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (7)

Amazon Lava Lizard *Tropidurus torquatus*— a ‘fence lizard’ type, we had just one sighting early in the tour at Aguapé.

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* — this large, greenish lizard was seen well at Aguapé and Jardim De Amazonia.

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae*— a heavy, brutish reptile and the largest lizard species in the Americas, showed well around the lodges at Piuval and Santa Terasa.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*— just the one seen on the tour, at Park Berneck in Cuiaba.

Yacaré Caiman *Caiman yacare*— abundant in the Pantanal, and prolific around pools and lagoons including one spot on the Transpantaneira that appeared to be flush with hundreds of individuals with similar numbers on another pool at Aguape.

Chaco Tree Frog *Boana raniceps*— heard and seen at Santa Terasa Lodge on the 23rd.

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* – ‘Rocky’ the toad turned up as a doorstep outside several of the guestrooms during our stay at Jardim De Amazonia.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS (6): Thanks go to Lori Cohen for this compilation;

Black-patch Bluemark *Lasaia agestis*

Wallace's longwing *Heliconius wallacei*

Julia Helliconian *Dryas iulia alcionea*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*

Aoede Longwing *Heliconius aoede*

Xanthyrus flaveolata

Gracious to everyone on this tour, the leaders and participants alike. It was a truly exceptional trip.

James P. Smith
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