Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars & More!

(Includes Atlantic Forest and Chapada Extensions)

July 13 – 30, 2022 | Species List



Naturalist Journeys Tour Leader: Bob Meinke **Birding Guide and Local Expert:** Demis Bucci **With 10 Participants:** Mary, Laurie, Scott, Nancy, Kerri, Kristin, Dana, Ann, Cindy, and Mike

-Text and Photos by Bob Meinke-

Summary: Brazil's Pantanal, Itatiaia National Park, and the Chapada area (with its Cerrado grasslands) offer opportunities for birding, wildlife viewing, and photography in a combination unparalleled elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere.

The July 2022 tour involved three general areas: **(1)** a 4-day, 3-night Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension to Itatiaia National Park, in the Mantiqueira Mountains (primarily in Rio de Janeiro state), where we were based at Hotel do Ypê; **(2)** the 10-day, 9-night main tour in the Pantanal, where we initially visited Pousada Aguape, an ecolodge/fazenda in the southern Pantanal outside Campo Grande, before flying north to Cuiabá to travel the Transpantaneira, the unpaved road extending south from Poconé through the northern Pantanal to Porto Jofre on the Rio Cuiabá—along the way (going and coming) we stopped and stayed at two fazendas (former ranches that today focus on ecotourism and conservation), i.e., Pousada Piuval and Santa Tereza (now called SouthWild), and also stayed two nights in an enormous houseboat that serves as a floating lodge (i.e., Barco Jaguar do Pantanal) for excursions on the Rio Cuiabá/Rio Piquiri river system, in a wilderness wildlife preserve east of Porto Jofre, and finally **(3)** we experienced a 4-day, 3-night post-tour extension to the scenic area surrounding Chapada do Guimarães, north of Cuiabá. In addition, a few of the group opted for an afternoon of birding the day we arrived in São Paulo, at the nearby Parque da Cantareira, and we had a similar outing our last morning of the tour, in Cuiabá, at the beautiful Parque Mae Bonifacia.

During this trip we spotted 29 mammals, including several Jaguars (five encounters), an amazing seven Giant Anteaters (including young), Southern Tamandua (or Collared Anteater), Giant Otter, Crab-eating Fox and Crab-eating Racoon, two armadillos, five deer species, five primate species (including howlers, capuchins, and marmosets), South American Coati, Tayra, and countless Capybara. Our 12 reptile and amphibian taxa included tree frogs, a toad, several lizard species (including the bizarre Paraguay Caiman Lizard), two snakes, and innumerable Yacaré Caimans (from tiny hatchlings to adults exceeding three meters).

We also tallied a very respectable 422 species of birds, including six cracids, 13 pigeons and doves, seven cuckoos, 22 species of large waders, 27 raptors (with seven owls), 16 woodpeckers, 23 parrots, all 5 five tropical kingfishers, 20 hummingbirds, six toucans, 21 antbirds, 32 ovenbirds, 51 tyrant flycatchers, and 47 tanagers and their allies, among others.

Endemics and other bird species of note recorded on the tour include White-shouldered Fire-Eye, Rufous Gnateater, Slaty Bristlefront, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Greater Rhea, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Southern Screamer, Jabiru, Capped Heron, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Rufous-capped Motmot, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Blue- and Red-throated Piping-Guans, Star-throated Antwren, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Little Cuckoo, Tawny-browed Owl, Scaled Woodcreeper, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Araucaria Tit-

Spinetail, Pallid Spinetail, Itatiaia Spinetail, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Blue-billed Black-Tyrant, Dusky-throated Hermit, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Brazilian Ruby, Surucua Trogon, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Red-billed Scythebill, White-wedged Piculet, Red-legged Seriema, Hyacinth Macaw, Blue-winged Macaw, Red-and-Green Macaw, Large-tailed Antshrike, Blaze-winged Parakeet, Nanday Parakeet, Mato Grosso Antbird, White-bibbed Antbird, Eared Pygmy-Tyrant, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Black-and-gold Cotinga, Swallow-tailed Manakin, Curl-crested Jay, Blonde-crested Woodpecker, White-naped Xenopsaris, Thick-billed Saltator, Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Brown Tanager, Brazilian Tanager, Brassy-breasted Tanager, Green-headed Tanager, Gilt-edged Tanager, Buff-throated Warbling-Finch, and Blue-naped Chlorophonia, among many others.

Of the 422 bird species we recorded, 88 (or 21%) are endemics (with restricted geographic ranges), limited to either the Atlantic Forest biome or Pantanal/Cerrado areas, with 39 of these being Brazilian endemics (E) (mostly found only in the Atlantic Forest). The remaining 49 are regional endemics (RE), with ranges largely restricted to Brazil, but which also creep over the border into neighboring Uruguay, Argentina, or Paraguay. Nineteen species on the bird list (HO) were not definitively seen, but were heard well enough to confirm their presence, and eight birds (GO) were not seen or heard by anyone in the group other than one or both of the guides.

This list reflects the collective number of species seen by the tour guides and participants, from our first afternoon in São Paulo to our last morning in Cuiabá. Species comments often include examples of locations where species were seen, but are not a comprehensive review of every sighting. For convenience, the arrangement of species reflects the ordering in our tour checklist, which we reviewed nightly while in the field, and also (for birds) follows the arrangement of taxa in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology birding apps (i.e., eBird and Birds of the World).

- **(E)** = Species is *endemic to Brazil*: these are Atlantic Forest endemics, found primarily in the extreme southeast part of the country
- **(RE)** = Species is a *regional endemic*: species with limited geographic ranges, mostly in Brazil and often in the southeast, but which also overlap the edges of neighboring countries where there is appropriate habitat
- (HO) = Heard only: species not seen, but its vocalization heard and confirmed by guides or participant
- **(GO)** = Occasional species that were only seen by one or both guides
- (I)= Introduced species, not native to Brazil

BIRDS (422 Species)

Common and Latin names follow the most current taxonomy as reflected in eBird (as followed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/home).

Rheidae: Rheas (1)

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*—We had close views of this enormous, formidable species on several days, especially at Pousada Aguape and Pousada Piuval (including a male on a nest).

Tinamidae: Tinamous (5)

Brown Tinamou (HO) *Crypturellus obsoletus*—Heard only, way off in the forest near Hotel do Ypê, which is typical for most tinamou encounters.

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*—We heard this species most mornings, but views were hard to come by—only a couple of us managed glimpses near Pousada Aguape and at SouthWild, on the Pantanal. **Small-billed Tinamou** *Crypturellus parvirostric*—We had brilliant views of this species from our lodge vehicles one morning at Pousada Aguape. Credit to Demis for his persistence in luring them from the brush! **Tataupa Tinamou (RE)** *Crypturellus tataupa*—Seen during our morning walk at Jamacá das Araras, on the Chapada post-tour extension. Heard first, then Bob spotted a small flock of this elegant tinamou meandering along a fence row in a clearing—great views for the group of this localized regional endemic.

Red-winged Tinamou (HO) *Rhynchotus rufescens*—Heard only, by some of the group, calling in the distance during our late afternoon visit to the Chapada do Guimarães-Mirante overlook site, on our first day of the Chapada extension.

Anhimidae: Screamers (1)

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata*—A bizarre relative of ducks and geese, first seen calling (not really screaming, but sort of) on our way south to Porto Jofre, along the Transpantaneira. Several more were observed later when we cruised the Rio Cuiabá searching for Jaguars.

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (3)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—A few were seen along the river in the Jaguar preserve east of Porto Jofre, the pinkish-red bills and legs were distinctive. Also spotted at Pousada Piuval. This is a common species from Mexico into South America.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*—We saw a few individuals at several locations on the Pantanal (these birds were from wild populations, and not domesticated escapes).

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*—Seen several times in open water on the Pantanal, also as a flyover above a reservoir at Parque da Cantareira (near São Paulo), during the optional early birding our first day.

Cracidae: Guans and Currasows (6)

Chaco Chachalaca (RE) *Ortalis canicollis*—A common feeder bird at several locations, with excellent views at Pousada Aguape. The early morning chorus of the species was intense.

Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura*—Seen up close in Itatiaia National Park. Common on the grounds of Hotel do Ypê and in the surrounding forest, often allowing close approaches.



Chestnut-bellied Guan (E) *Penelope ochrogaster*—On the Pantanal at Pousada Piuval, seen early in the morning by just a couple people. A now rare, localized endemic species with a limited distribution, endangered by hunting.

Blue-throated Piping-Guan Pipile cumanensis—First seen by the group as we drove south on the Transpantaneira, the stark white head, throat, and belly with contrasting black body readily identifies the species, even at a distance. It was especially common in the riparian forest when we cruised the rivers for Jaguars east of Porto Jofre. Red-throated Piping-Guan Pipile cujubi—Less common that the preceding species, and similar in appearance, we saw a few birds at Pousada Piuval (on our late afternoon drive) and later at SouthWild.

Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata*—Seen most days on the Pantanal, though never particularly common. Both male and female birds visited the feeders at Pousada Aguape (affording us a chance to appreciate the striking sexual dimorphism in the species). As with most cracid species, curassows are threatened by hunting outside protected areas.

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—Spotted far across the reservoir during our optional arrival day birding with Demis, at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo.

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (13)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia*—There were a few flocks in urban areas of São Paulo and Campo Grande. **Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis*—Seen on the Pantanal in the forest canopy, perched as well as flying, often near the rivers while we were searching for Jaguars.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*—Spotted and scoped by Demis, in the hot afternoon sun, at the Parque Municipal da Quineira site in Chapada close to our lodgings. He was excited, it was a bird he'd rarely seen.

Picazuro Pigeon Patagioenas picazuro—Seen daily, both in the Pantanal and during the extensions, a very common species with a broad ecological amplitude. The grounds at SouthWild offered excellent views of this enormous pigeon, which often crowded other species around the feeders.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*—Mostly seen by the group in Itatiaia National Park in the canopy, not far from Hotel do Ypê, during our stay in the Atlantic Forest.



Blue Ground Dove (HO) *Claravis pretiosa*—Not seen, but heard distinctly, as we birded the quiet track at Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção) the afternoon we left the Chapada area.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*—Several small flocks of the species were encountered at Pousada Piuval, SouthWild, and in the Chapada do Guimarães area. Often the most common dove in many areas of the Neotropics, but not so much on our tour, and only occasionally seen at feeders.

Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*—Found only on the Pantanal during the tour, where it was occasionally seen in small numbers around feeders at both Pousada Piuval and SouthWild. A timid little dove that quickly retreats when the feeding flocks get unruly!

Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata*—Most common at SouthWild Lodge, but also recorded along the Transpantaneira on the way south to Porto Jofre, as well as at Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá. An exquisitely patterned species, reminiscent of Inca Dove from Mexico and the American Southwest. **Long-tailed Ground Dove** *Uropelia campestris*—Related to the *Columbina* ground-doves. Only seen by our

group in the southern Pantanal, we had several views of birds around Pousada Aguape, occasionally perched on fence wires.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—Widespread and common on the tour, this species is a cautious ground feeder that stays near cover, seen every day of the tour on the Pantanal and also near São Paulo. **Gray-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla*—Seen infrequently, a few of the group had glimpses of this shy species along the river system east of Porto Jofre.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*—Widespread in all of South America outside the Amazon Basin, we saw birds along the highway towards Itatiaia, around Campo Grande, and at SouthWild. A close relative of our Mourning Dove.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos & Anis (7)

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*—Seen every day on the Pantanal, as well as around Chapada during the post-tour extension, we had particularly close views of this odd cuckoo at Pousada Piuval. A very gregarious species, with a plumage best described as eccentric.

Greater Ani *Crorophaga major*—Seen one time, but very clearly, we found a pair during our first river excursion at SouthWild. The glossy blue-green sheen (on otherwise black plumage) and yellow-white iris are distinctive.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*—Found on several days and very widespread. Most birds were seen flopped (they seldom seem to perch in any sort of conventional manner) in low vegetation most days of the tour, frequently congregating along roadsides and fence rows.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*—Seen and heard at SouthWild along the river, during a hot, late afternoon walk the day we arrived from Porto Jofre.

Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus*—This was a big plus for the tour, when Demis heard and then was able to locate a trio of Pheasant Cuckoos in an overgrown tract (Parque Municipal da Quineira) not far from our lodgings in Chapada do Guimarães, during the post-tour extension. The birds were shy

and fast, but most of us eventually had reasonable looks, and all heard the calls. This would be a life bird for even many seasoned Neotropical birders, so we counted ourselves fortunate!

Little Cuckoo *Coxxcycua minuata*—Most of us managed a decent look at the species, when a single bird (spotted by Demis) crossed near our boat (during a Jaguar spotting morning on the Rio Cuiabá), and then perched in the open long enough for all to see. Essentially a miniature version of the comparatively abundant Squirrel Cuckoo, Little Cuckoos are scarce and difficult to see.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—Not seen every day, but we managed several looks at birds near Itatiaia, Pousada Aguape, SouthWild, and Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá.

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks and Nightjars (4)

Nacunda Nighthawk (GO) *Podager nacunda*—Spotted in a pasture by Demis and Bob along the Transpantaneira, the day we drove south from Pousada Piuval to Porto Jofre.

Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*—Birds were viewed over the water at dawn and dusk, mostly from our floating Jaguar houseboat on the Rio Cuiabá system, east of Porto Jofre.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata*—At least two birds, possibly more, were seen after sunset on a night drive from Pousada Aguape (see Common Pauraque, below). Fluttering away from the vehicle as we approached, a few of us managed to see their plumed tails.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*—Seen or heard at several locations, we had our best views when literally dozens of pauraques skittered up in front of our headlights over the course of a night drive on the open fields near Pousada Aguape.



Nyctibidae: Potoos (2)

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*—Demis and the local guides at Pousada Aguape managed to track down a perched Great Potoo the same night we went searching for owls. We had fascinating, otherworldly views of this amazing nocturnal species. Another bird was seen on our afternoon birding drive at Pousada Piuval. **Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus*—Seen in flight the same night we found the Great Potoo at Pousada Aguape, it's eerie orange eye-glow was obvious.

Apodidae: Swifts (1)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*—This species was seen overhead the day we birded at Hotel Donatti on the pre-tour Atlantic Forest extension, just down the road from Hotel do Ypê. Remarkably, these few birds were the only swifts we managed to find on the entire tour.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (20)

Dusky-throated Hermit (E) *Phaethornis squalidus*—Fairly common in Itatiaia National Park, this small endemic hermit was

seen several times over two days at the feeders and on the grounds of Hotel do Ypê.

Planalto Hermit *Phaethornis pretrei*—A fairly large hermit species, seen only during the Chapada extension, visiting flowers at Parque Municipal da Quineira (near the edge of the overgrown secondary forest where we saw the Pheasant Cuckoos).

Scale-throated Hermit (RE) *Phaethornis eurynome*—Another regionally endemic hummer seen in Itatiaia National Park, and common at the feeders at Hotel do Ypê. Also seen briefly at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, during the optional birding afternoon on our first day.

White-vented Violetear *Colibri serrirostris*—The most common (and beautiful) hummingbird seen on the Chapada post-tour extension, we found it several times visiting flowers.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliothryx auritus*—Easily spotted by its black auricular patch and snow-white belly, we only saw this species at Hotel do Ypê, when it came to the feeders.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*—Widespread in South America, we only saw this species high in the trees at Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção), the afternoon we left the Chapada area for Cuiabá. **Frilled Coquette** *Lophornis magnificus*—The smallest bird species seen on our trip. Seldom a feeder visitor, we observed a beautiful male working some flowers at Hotel do Ypê on two different days. **Brazilian Ruby (E)** *Clytolaema rubricauda*—A common species in Itatiaia National Park, and another Atlantic Forest (and Brazilian) endemic, multiple birds were seen each day at Hotel do Ypê and along nearby forest margins.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostric*—Demis pointed out the silhouette of this species, perched high against the sky, when a few of us walked along the dirt road at Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção) on our last stop of the post-tour extension, before leaving the Chapada area.

Blue-tufted Starthroat *Heliomaster furcifer*—The most attractive of the comparatively few Pantanal hummingbirds we found, this striking species was seen well during our lunch stop at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso, by the Rio Pixaim, the day we drove south towards Porto Jofre.

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox lucidus*—Seen a few times on our first day in the Mantiqueira Mountains at Hotel do Ypê feeders, a tiny species with a distinctly forked tail

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*—Found across much of eastern South America, on our tour this little hummingbird was only seen at SouthWild and on the Chapada post-tour extension, in dry scrub.

Green-crowned Plovercrest (E) *Stephanoxis lalandi*—Confined to a small area of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, we had good views of this distinctive, narrow endemic as we birded the mountains along Agulhas Negras Road in Itatiaia National Park (on our last full day of the pre-tour extension).

Violet-capped Woodnymph (RE) *Thalurania glaucopis*—Relatively common at Hotel do Ypê, seen all three days at the feeders. A richly colored, distinctive species, seldom found outside Brazil.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata*—Widespread across tropical South America, seen once at Pousada Piuval (by just a few of the group), and then later on the Chapada extension.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*—Very common in the São Paulo area (we saw several with Demis at Parque da Cantareira, during our optional birding at the start of the tour), as well as

at the lower elevations of Itatiaia National Park. One of the largest hummingbird species.

Versicolored Emerald *Amazilia versicolor*—Another widespread taxon in South America, with six or more subspecies, we saw birds on two days at Hotel do Ypê, at the feeders as well as visiting flowers along the steep entry road to the lodge.

White-throated Hummingbird (RE) Leucochloris albicollis—Common in Itatiaia National Park, and often seen at the Hotel do Ypê feeders, we also had a nice photo op view of a perched bird, next to the little coffee shop and store where we turned off towards the mountains on the Agulhas Negras Road.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*—Seen several times on the Pantanal, during our stays at Pousada Aguape, Pousada Piuval, along the Rio Cuiabá, and at SouthWild. Despite its name, a fairly nondescript species as hummingbirds go. **Gilded Hummingbird** *Hylocharis chrysura*—The most

frequently seen hummingbird on the Pantanal. Although never really abundant, we saw individuals most days of the main tour, but not on either of the extensions.



Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (6)

Gray-cowled (*aka Gray-necked*) **Wood-Rail** *Aramides cajaneus*—Seen regularly on the Pantanal. Less skulking than many wood-rail species, we had several good views.

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail (RE) *Aramides saracura*—An Atlantic Forest specialty, the group saw birds several times, strolling the understory at Hotel do Ypê, and also crossing a side road in Itatiaia township.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*—Seen infrequently on the Pantanal, but we eventually had close-up views (adults and juveniles) on the last day of the trip, when a few of us opted to bird with Demis at Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*—Seen east of São Paulo while enroute to Itatiaia National Park, when we stopped at a roadside truck stop (Graal Alemão) and briefly scanned the wetland below the verandah for birds.

Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*—We spotted this species during our morning river trip at SouthWild. Although often wary, these birds were very vocal and repeatedly moved through openings in the wet brush, offering unexpectedly good views.

Gray-breasted Crake (HO) *Laterallus exilis*—Heard from the boat with Demis during one of our excursions on the Rio Cuiabá, when we were focused on otters and Jaguars.

Heliornithidae: Finfoots and Sungrebe (1)

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*—Seen by Nancy and Scott as they cruised along the Rio Pixaim, after the main tour group departed SouthWild (see Agami Heron for more details).

Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*—This species was seen most days on the Pantanal, with many at Pousada Piuval. And whenever we encountered a group of waders along the Transpantaneira, it usually included one or more Limpkins.

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—Not frequent on the tour, but seen on both the southern and northern Pantanal, at Pousada Aguape and Pousada Piuval, respectively. Brazilian birds comprise a very distinctive subspecies that's been given full species status by some taxonomists (as *Himantopus melanurus*), under the name "White-backed Stilt."

Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers (2)

Pied Lapwing *Vanellus cayanus*—A few birds were seen wandering and standing on beaches and sandbars along the rivers, while we watched for Jaguars, often sharing their open habitat with resting Black Skimmers.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*—An exceedingly common "shorebird," very active and quite vocal in many (usually dry) areas during the tour, seen nearly every day.

<u>Jacanidae: Jacanas</u> (1)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*—Very common on the Pantanal, with adults and young seen well every day on and around wetland vegetation.

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (3)

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*—The smaller of the two terns on the tour, we had good views of this species several times along the Rio Cuiabá and its side channels, flying and resting on sandbars.

Large-billed Tern Phaetusa simplex—Seen every day but one along the above waterways, especially when we were near river junctions (where the birds were often perched along the shoreline or on woody debris).

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*—Common during our stay on the river, mostly along channels east of Porto Jofre where we were



looking for Jaguars. We had very close looks at birds resting, flying right next to us, and skimming the water.

Eurypygidae: Sunbittern (1)

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*—We had great views of two birds at Pousada Piuval, during our late afternoon drive along the dirt tracks that bisect the forest and wetlands east of the lodge. One bird opened its wings as it flushed, displaying its namesake sunburst pattern.

Ciconidae: Storks (3)

Maguari Stork Ciconia maguari—Far less common on the tour than Jabiru or Wood Stork, we only saw a single bird on the open Pantanal, a few miles north of Porto Jofre.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*—We expected Jabirus (just under two meters tall when mature) every day while on the Pantanal, and they didn't disappoint. We had many sightings of this remarkable species, including some face-to-face encounters with a (mostly) tame bird at the SouthWild boat launch, as well as some wonderful views of nesting pairs with young high in the trees.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—A regular sight along the Transpantaneira as we drove past marshy fields and winding tributaries, Wood Storks were often seen stepping gingerly among the basking caimans.

Anhingidae: Darters (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*—Superficially similar to Neotropic Cormorant, this species was also a daily occurrence on the Pantanal, though fairly infrequent.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—This widespread species was seen every day on the Pantanal, though seldom in large numbers.



Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (12)

Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*—Seen most days on the Pantanal, but not abundant, we saw the beautiful rusty-necked adults, as well as the striped juveniles that are the namesake for this genus. We had great views of a perched immature bird by the Transpantaneira gate, on our drive in to Pousada Piuval.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*—South America's answer to North America's Great Blue and Europe's Grey Heron, the common Cocoi Heron (seen most days) similarly wanders open fields and marshes searching for rodents, herps, and fish.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—An old friend from home, and one of the most widespread bird species in the world, scattered Great Egrets were evident in almost every open marsh and impoundment we passed.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—Another common species on the Pantanal, tending to frequent the water's edge more than open fields.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—Also widespread on the Pantanal—we had a few views around Pousada Piuval and later along the river at SouthWild.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Large flocks were present in several wet pastures we passed near Campo Grande, and again on the northern Pantanal, invariably associating with livestock herds.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*—Another species that was recorded every day on the Pantanal, with birds mostly seen as scattered individuals perched in (or flying from) riparian brush along the rivers.

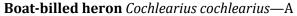
Agami Heron *Agamia agami*—Seen by Nancy and Scott Findholt along the Rio Pixaim at SouthWild, the morning the rest of the group departed north while they stayed behind for a few extra days. The main tour

ended later that afternoon (before the start of the Chapada extension), so we're including this species on our list! One of the most exquisite heron species in the world.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*—Uncommon on this particular trip, we only saw a couple birds perched in the wet savannah at Pousada Aguape on the southern Pantanal.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*—A stunning species among Neotropical waders, only eclipsed by Agami Heron in terms of color and beauty. We were rewarded with close-in views of a few birds along a shaded riverbank, as we cruised in search of Jaguars and otters along the Rio Cuiabá.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—Among many sightings, perhaps most memorable was a bird fishing in the shadows along the Rio Cuiabá, spotted on one of our morning Jaguar runs. Undeterred, it sat motionless for 20 minutes while we floated quietly nearby (birding the riparian canopy), only snagging a fish just as we left (see last page for a pic).



curious, secretive species, birds were seen deep in the brush or among overhanging trees, mostly along the rivers east of Porto Jofre and at SouthWild. They were largely uncooperative with our photographers.

Threskiornithiae: Ibises & Spoonbills (6)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Seen as a lone flyover by Bob (and one or two others) at the Airport Marriott Hotel, the day we arrived in São Paulo.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*—Fairly common at Pousada Piuval and around SouthWild, a somewhat retiring species, easily spooked.

Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus*—Another common Pantanal species at Pousada Piuval and along the Transpantaneira.

Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens*—The least common ibis on the Pantanal (though not particularly rare), the ragged crest of this lumbering, dull-colored species made it easy to identify as it wandered the marshlands.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*—The most widespread ibis in South America, we saw this species most days. It was especially common at Pousada Aguape, where birds often sauntered by just a few feet from photographers.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*—Impossible to miss, this beautiful pink relative of the ibises was seen most days on the Pantanal, usually as small flocks in flight.

Carthartidae: American Vultures (3)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—Widespread, and seen throughout the trip at virtually all locations. If you looked up at any given time, other than early morning, you were almost certain to see a Black Vulture within your field of vision.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Less frequent than the preceding species, although seen almost daily and by no means uncommon. The subspecies here had strikingly pink heads, more colorful than TV's occurring in North America.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*—A close relative of the preceding species, and also seen daily, we had good views of perched birds as well as many in flight.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (11)

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*—A striking, compact little raptor, and seldom reported, we spotted it just

once, at our stop along the Transpantaneira a bit north of Porto Jofre (near the grove of trees with the derelict building and numerous bee hives).

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*—Very common on the Pantanal and recorded daily, this crisply-plumaged raptor was perched along all the rivers we visited. An elegant species.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*—Even more abundant than the preceding taxon, with both adults and juveniles commonly seen, often hunting Apple Snails in the wetlands. Quite possibly the most abundant raptor on the Pantanal.

Plumbeous Kite (GO) *Ictinia plumbea*—Spotted briefly by Bob during a snack and restroom break along the Transpantaneira, on our way north from Porto Jofre to SouthWild.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*—A single bird, seen well by the group, was located at the Pousada Aguape campground site on our last morning on the southern Pantanal. An unusual raptor with long, red legs, which it uses to probe into crevices, bromeliads, etc., to snag prey items.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*—Another common, large predator of the open Pantanal, somewhat less tied to water than Black-collared Hawk and Snail Kite. Seen most days perched in trees above dry grassland and near marsh edges.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*—Also seen most days, often along the Rio Cuiabá and tributaries when we cruised in search of Jaguars and otters, commonly sharing the same trees as Snail Kites, Black-collared Hawks, and Black Vultures.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*—Very common and widespread, and seen daily, often perched kestrel-like on utility wires, fences, and exposed branches. One of most widespread hawks of the Neotropics, occurring from Mexico to Argentina.

Mantled Hawk *Psuedastur polionotus*—Pointed out by Demis after breakfast, up above Hotel do Ypê, the morning we were loading up to return to São Paulo. The bird was fairly high up, but circling slowly and was reasonably distinctive.

White-tailed Hawk (GO) *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*—Seen (by Demis and Bob) off the highway east of São Paulo, while driving to Itatiaia National Park.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*—Only recorded at Parque da Cantareira, by some of those on the optional birding trip the day the group arrived in São Paulo.

Tytonidae: Barn Owls (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*—A very active and vocal pair was seen and heard (shrieking incessantly) on the roof near the screened-in dining hall at SouthWild.

Strigidae: Typical Owls (7)

Tropical Screech Owl (HO) *Meascops choliba*— This species was a "heard only," once at Pousada Aguape and again at SouthWild.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*—Buoyed by our great success with the Black-banded Owl (see below), we headed to the nearby Pousada Aguape campground site, and quickly located a pair of Spectacled Owls in the trees near the river. Aided by a spotlight, we had brief but clear looks at this impressive species They were obviously unhappy with our intrusion, and we soon left them to their business.

Tawny-Browed Owl (RE) Pulsatrix

koeniswaldiana—Closely related to the somewhat more common Spectacled Owl, this Atlantic Forest endemic woofed its song every night at Hotel do



Ypê, keeping just out of view. We eventually tracked it down early one morning, before breakfast, and finally had clear looks.



Great Horned Owl Bubo virginianus—A sleepy Great Horned Owl was spotted by Bob nestled in the canopy during a stop along the Transpantaneira, just a few miles north of Porto Jofre (at the shaded site with the abandoned building and numerous bee hives).

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Glaucidium brasilianum—Best views (very close) were had at Pousada Aguape the day we arrived, in trees on the lodge compound. Also heard at several other sites. Burrowing Owl Athene cunicularis—We had great morning views of a pair of birds perched on a ranch fence at Pousada Aguape, as we drove out for a morning of birding on the savannah.

Black-banded Owl *Ciccaba huhula*—Band-banded Owl was a rare target bird for Demis on the southern Pantanal, and accordingly, we found ourselves careening in safari rigs one evening, through heavy brush, to a recent GPS location for

the species (near Pousada Aguape). After several tries, and a lot of crisscrossing in the dark, we eventually tracked down a bird—and most of us ended up with good views. Although widespread (albeit very scattered) across much of tropical South America, the species is nonetheless quite rare. Nice find!

Trogonidae: Trogons (2)

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui*—We had nice views of this species sitting upright in patchy forest at Pousada Aguape, during a morning drive on the savannah, and again later from the Jaguar spotting boats along the Rio Cuiabá.

Surucua Trogon (RE) *Trogon surrucura*—Seen only in Itatiaia National Park, birds were observed in the canopy during morning walks from Hotel do Ypê. A near-Brazilian regional endemic.

Momotidae: Motmots (2)

Amazonian Motmot (HO) *Momotus momota*—This species was "heard only," its call picked out by Demis amongst the bird chatter one morning, as we searched for Jaguars on the Rio Cuiabá.

Rufous-capped Motmot (RE) *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*—Mostly endemic to the Atlantic Forest biome, some of us had views of a colorful male in forested scrub, during one of our morning walks along the road from the Hotel do Ypê (on the pre-tour extension).

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (5)

Ringed Kingfisher *M*ega*ceryle torquata*—Very common, seen daily in most areas with open water—the largest of the New World kingfishers and very active.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*—The second most common kingfisher of the tour, with dozens of birds observed most days during the main tour on the Pantanal.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—Another kingfisher restricted to the Pantanal on the tour, but scarcer than the preceding species (i.e., Ringed and Amazon), which was puzzling, since Green Kingfisher is often very common. Only spotted by us a couple times, on the Rio Cuiabá and later at SouthWild.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*—Seen only at SouthWild, this is the least common and generally shyest of the New World kingfishers. We managed excellent views of this rarity in shaded woods along the Rio Pixaim, thanks to keen observations by Demis and skillful maneuvering by our boat pilots. This is a miss on most tours.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—Another reclusive bird, this sparrow-sized species was the last of the kingfishers we spotted, also along the Rio Pixaim near SouthWild. This sighting completed a five-kingfisher day here, all seen within a couple hours and in close proximity!

Bucconidae: Puffbirds (5)

White-eared Puffbird Nystalus chacuru—Demis located a pair of birds late in the afternoon on our first day of the Chapada post-tour extension, perched in a leafless tree at the scenic overlook site we visited east of town.

Spot-backed Puffbird *Nystalus maculatus*—We had two sightings of this species. The first was on our initial day in the southern Pantanal, along the road into Pousada Aguape. This bird belonged to a distinct subspecies, called "Chaco Puffbird," and is sometimes considered a full species by some authorities. The second bird was seen on the Chapada extension, at Véu da Noiva Falls. This is the nominate subspecies. **Black-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa nigrifrons*—We had our best views of the species at Pousada Piuval, where we watched several noisy birds perched in the dry forest, the afternoon we birded late along the wetland roads east of the main lodge.

Swallow-winged Puffbird Chelidoptera tenebrosa—A nice last-minute find, spotted in the canopy along the dirt road at Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção), the afternoon we left the Chapada area for our final night in Cuiabá. The few of us willing to venture out into the heat ended up with wonderful views of this species, flycatching from bare branches.

Crescent-chested Puffbird (E) *Malacoptila striata*—Another Atlantic Forest specialty and Brazilian endemic, a male was spotted just off the trail at Parque da Cantareira (during our optional afternoon hike for early arrivals to São Paulo). In typical puffbird fashion, the bird simply sat and stared at us.

Galbulidae: Jacamars (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar Galbula ruficauda—Seen on several days, mostly on the northern Pantanal in forested habitat near rivers. We had great views of perched birds along the Rio Cuiabá and the Rio Pixaim at SouthWild.

Ramphastidae: Toucans (6)

Saffron Toucanet (RE) Pteroglossus bailloni—This was a

target bird for our group at Hotel do Ypê during the pre-tour extension, we saw the species several times, including six birds together on the trees immediately below the lower chalets. The deep yellow plumage of this species is striking and unique among the toucans.

Lettered Aracari *Pteroglossus inscriptus*—We found several birds perched and flying between trees during our morning walk at Jamacá das Araras, on the Chapada extension. Although found here and there across much of northern South America, the distribution of the species reaches its southern terminus at Chapada, where it's considered rare. Exquisitely patterned, we were fortunate to see it.

Chestnut-eared Aracari Pteroglossus castanotis—A fairly common species, our limited views were restricted to the southern Pantanal, including good photo ops during a rest stop along the MS-170 highway, the morning we drove out from Campo Grande to Pousada Aguape. A striking species.

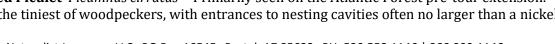
Toco Toucan Ramphastos toco—Beautiful colors, this species seems to know it's a crowd pleaser when it's at the feeders—the most common toucan of the tour and seen regularly, we had good looks at all three of our Pantanal lodges, with our best close-ups at Pousada Aguape.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*—Seen just once, the morning we walked through the forest during our morning walk along the road at Jamacá das Araras, on the Chapada extension. The species has variable coloration across its range in South America—our birds had orange-buff throats.

Red-breasted Toucan (RE) Ramphastos dicolorus—Extending further south than any other toucan, and the smallest member of the genus Ramphastos, several of us had good looks at this regional endemic near Hotel do Ypê. Another stunning species in an iconic group.

Picidae: Woodpeckers and Piculets (16)

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*—Primarily seen on the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension. Piculets are the tiniest of woodpeckers, with entrances to nesting cavities often no larger than a nickel.



White-wedged Piculet Picumnus albosquamatus—We had several encounters with this species during the tour, including birds at Pousada Aguape, Pousada Piuval, SouthWild, and in the Chapada area. The few of us who birded the last day at Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá had the best views and photo ops. White Woodpecker Melanerpes candidus—We saw this species primarily in the southern Pantanal, around Pousada Aguape, although we also saw a bird briefly on the Chapada post-tour extension. A beautiful and distinctive woodpecker.

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker (RE) *Melanerpes flavifrons*—Like a technicolor version of our Acorn Woodpecker, we saw this species only on our first day at Hotel do Ypê, on the Atlantic Forest extension. **White-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes cactorum*—We spotted four birds in the trees at the Pousada Aguape campground site, on our last morning on the southern Pantanal. Populations of White-fronted Woodpeckers in Brazil are rare outliers, and are considerably disjunct from the main range of the species further west in Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina.

White-spotted Woodpecker (RE) *Dryobates spilogaster*—Seen several times on the Atlantic Forest extension, mainly during walks outside Hotel do Ypê. Restricted to mostly montane areas of Brazil's Atlantic Forest and adjacent Uruguay.

Little Woodpecker *Dryobates passerinus*—A widespread and variable species across much of South America, we saw birds several times on the northern Pantanal, i.e., at Pousada Piuval, along the Rio Cuiabá, and at SouthWild. A few of us later had especially good morning views of a bird at Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá, the day we flew home.

Robust Woodpecker *Campephilus robustus*—A stunning, enormous woodpecker, spotted several times during the Atlantic Forest extension. Best views were had at Hotel Donatti, not far from Hotel do Ypê. **Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos*—Comparable to the preceding species in size and coloration, our views of this amazing bird were limited to the Pantanal, i.e., near Pousada Aguape, Pousada Piuval, and during a stop along the Transpantaneira on our drive north to Cuiabá.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—Another large, crested woodpecker, we spotted this species around Pousada Aguape, and then again later on the Chapada extension (during our morning road walk at Jamacá das Araras).

Pale-crested Woodpecker *Celeus lugubris*—One of the more common woodpeckers on the tour, we found birds at Pousada Aguape (at the campground), on our drives at Pousada Piuval, from the Jaguar boats on the Rio Cuiabá, and during a forest walk on the Chapada extension.

Blonde-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens*—One of the more memorable species along the trail at



Parque da Cantareira (seen during our optional afternoon hike for early arrivals to São Paulo), the gaudy pattern of this species is utterly unique.

Golden-green Woodpecker *Piculus chrysochloros*—A beautiful, dark olive-brown species with a blood-red crest. We had excellent views at the Pousada Aguape campground.

White-browed (*aka Yellow-browed*) **Woodpecker (RE)** *Piculus aurulentus*—This is a striking regional endemic with a beautifully striped head. Seen in the trees at Hotel Donatti, just down the road from Hotel do Ypê.

Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*—A widespread species across eastern South America, we spotted several birds at different locations on the Pantanal and in Cuiabá. Related to the next species, this woodpecker might similarly be best described as a flicker, what with its diet of mostly ants and tendency to forage on the ground.

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*—One of the first birds we saw upon arrival at Pousada Aguape, the species was later spotted near our lodgings in Chapada do Guimarães. Similar to our North American flickers, this colorful species was mostly seen on the ground, searching for its favorite food—ants.

Cariamidae: Seriemas (1)

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*—First seen at Pousada Aguape, on the southern Pantanal, we also had multiple close-up views of this species (which stands upright at nearly a meter tall) during our stay at Pousada Piuval. With powerful legs, sharp talons, and a nasty beak, not a bird to be trifled with.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (6)

Barred Forest Falcon (HO) *Micrastur ruficollis*—Actually a common species, and vocal, but very seldom seen. Heard calling at dawn around Hotel do Ypê.

Crested Caraçara *Caraçara plancus*—This species was only missed on a couple of days, and was common during the main trip and Atlantic Forest extension. Birds were seen perched on the upper deck of our floating hotel during our stay on the river looking for Jaguars.

Yellow-headed Caraçara Milvago chimachima— Infrequent, seen enroute to Itatiaia National Park when we left São Paulo, perched along the highway and flying over pastures. Also seen flying over downtown in Campo Grande, from the deck at Hotel Mohave.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Seen during our drive out from Campo Grande, after our flight from São Paulo, sitting on utility lines and hovering over open farmland. Also spotted on the southern Pantanal around Pousada Aguape.



Aplomado Falcon (GO) *Falco femoralis*—Seen soaring overhead in vacant fields near the Airport Marriott Hotel on the last day of the tour, after Bob flew back from Cuiabá.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*—We spotted this small falcon several times, including at the Hotel Simon in Itatiaia National Park, Pousada Aguape on the southern Pantanal, near Pousada Piuval south of Poconé, and flying over cliffs during our visit to Cidade de Pedra (Stone Town) on the Chapada extension.

Psittacidae: Parrots (23)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*—Common, seen most days of the tour on the Pantanal, often peering down from enormous, colonial nests as we walked by (or drifted by, when on the river).

Plain Parakeet (E) *Brotogeris tirica*—Most frequent in Itatiaia National Park, seen several times during the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension. Fairly common as flyovers, or occasionally perched—seen near Hotel do Ypê and also once in São Paulo. Endemic to Brazil's Atlantic Forest.

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*—The most common parakeet on the Pantanal, seen primarily at Pousada Piuval, SouthWild, and along the Transpantaneira heading south to Porto Jofre. Also common on the Chapada post-tour extension.

Pileated Parrot (RE) *Pionopsitta plieata*—We had a single, raucous flyover at Hotel do Ypê, on our first day in the field on the Atlantic Forest extension.

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*—Most birds were seen in the Atlantic Forest, with our first at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo (on our outing for early arrivals), followed by several sightings during our stay at Hotel do Ypê. We also saw birds along the Rio Aquidauana at Pousada Aguape.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*—We had to wait until late in the Chapada post-tour extension to finally pick up this bird, and even then we only had a glimpse as they sped by overhead, during our morning walk at Jamacá das Araras east of Chapada do Guimarães.

Yellow-faced Parrot *Alipiopsitta xanthops*—Uncommon, and mostly restricted to the Cerrado in Brazil (the species barely crosses into Bolivia and Paraguay), we saw birds flying over open areas at Chapada do

Guimarães, on the post-tour extension. The species is considered threatened by widespread destruction of its savannah habitat.

Turquoise-fronted Parrot Amazona aestiva—Never common, but once we made it to the Pantanal we saw the species every day, often as flyovers in the early morning. We also had extended looks at perched birds at the Pousada Aguape campground.

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*—Another large Amazon, but less common than Turquoisefronted. Our best views were had at Pousada Piuval the day we arrived in the northern Pantanal.

Cobalt-rumped (aka Blue-winged) **Parrotlet** Forpus xanthopteryajus—Mainly seen on the Atlantic Forest extension, but only as birds in flight, with small flocks hurtling by and then gone in a flash. We had better looks at a couple birds along cliffs at the Mirante Morro dos Ventos overlook, where we went for lunch to

enjoy the panoramic view towards Cuiabá (in Chapada do

Guimarães).

Blaze-winged Parakeet (RE) Pyrrhura devillei—Endemic to a narrow zone in extreme western Brazil and northern Paraguay, this is another parrot severely threatened by habitat loss. Fortunately, it is still locally abundant in the area around Pousada Aguape, and we saw flocks there every day. This striking species is closely related to Maroon-bellied Parakeet, and they are said to occasionally hybridize in Paraguay.

Maroon-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*—Noisy birds, this was the most abundant parakeet species we saw in the Atlantic Forest. A beautiful species, occasionally observed perched in trees near Hotel do Ypê, but most sightings were just flybys.

Hvacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*—Our first views of this iconic species were at Pousada Aguape, where it was common around the lodge compound. Later we saw the species again, both at SouthWild and Pousada Piuval. The largest parrot in the world, with astonishing color, the Hyacinth Macaw is emblematic of the Pantanal.

Peach-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula aurea*—A relatively common parakeet on the open Pantanal, and widespread in Brazil, we saw the species at Pousada Aguape, Pousada Piuval, near Porto Jofre, and also SouthWild, as well as on the Cerrado during the Chapada posttour extension.



Nanday (aka Black-hooded) **Parakeet (RE)** Aratinga nenday—Another stunning parrot seen by the group on the southern Pantanal, this gregarious species occurred daily on the savannah surrounding Pousada Aguape, and was common on the lodge grounds. Endemic to a narrow strip extending from extreme southeast Brazil into very limited areas in adjacent Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina.

Red-bellied Macaw Orthopsittaca manilatus—Not common, seen by most of the group during our excursion on the Rio Aquidauana at Pousada Aguape, with a flyover later at Pousada Piuval.

Blue-winged Macaw Primolius maracana—Not found on the Pantanal, we had aerial views of small flocks from the Hotel do Ypê on our second and third days there, during our morning walks. We also spotted the species overhead during our last full field day on the post-tour extension, in Chapada do Guimarães.

Yellow-collared Macaw Primolius auricollis—We picked up this species (three overhead flocks on two different days) in the southern Pantanal, yet another of the parrots seen at Pousada Aguape.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw Ara ararauna— Quite common on the Pantanal, we had fabulous views every day on the palms and in the riverine forest at Pousada Aguape, and in the savannah and gallery forests around Pousada Piuval. We even had a flyover in downtown Campo Grande at the Hotel Mohave!

Red-and-green Macaw Ara chloropterus—A gorgeous macaw limited to the post-tour extension, we had several good views of the species, perched on cliffs or in flight, at a windy overlook in Chapada do Guimarães, at Véu da Noiva Falls, and during morning birding around town.

Blue-crowned Parakeet Thectocercus acuticaudatus—Seen in a palm during our lunch stop at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso, after we left Pousada Piuval (on our bumpy drive south to Porto Jofre). Populations of Blue-crowned Parakeet are in decline, primarily from ongoing habitat loss and the international parrot trade.

Red-shouldered Macaw *Diuopsittaca nobilis*—Restricted to the Pousada Aguape area on our tour, we saw several flocks (of up to 28 birds) over two days, flyin above the open savannah, near the lodge, and while boating on the Rio Aquidauana.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*—The most reliably spotted parakeet of the trip, seen on 12 different days. It was common around São Paulo, on the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension (around Hotel do Ypê and other nearby lodges), at Pousada Aguape, along the Rio Cuiabá, in Chapada do Guimarães (on the post-tour extension), and even in Cuiabá city.

Thamnophilidae: Typical Antbirds (21)

Spot-backed Antshrike (RE) (HO) *Hypoedaleus guttatus*—One of the special endemics we tried hard to see in the shaded understory at Parque da Cantareira in São Paulo, but could only hear, during our optional birding walk with Demis the day most of the group flew in.

Tufted Antshrike (RE) (HO) *Mackenziaena severa*—Another of the many Atlantic Forest endemics we hoped to see near Hotel do Ypê, this species was difficult to spot in the mid-canopy due to its uniformly dark plumage. We finally heard it our last full day of the pre-tour extension, before heading back to São Paulo. **Great Antshrike** *Taraba major*—A single bird was seen the afternoon we drove the back roads at Pousada Piuval, a skulker that largely stayed within the roadside brush. A pair was later seen by a few of us at Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá, the last day of the tour.



Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*—The characteristic, nasal call of this species was heard well before we finally observed a few birds from the Jaguar boats along the Rio Cuiabá. A pair was also seen at SouthWild—the marked sexual dimorphism of the species was evident.

Planalto Slaty-Antshrike (E) Thamnophilus pelzelni—One of the first birds we spotted on the optional morning birding at Parque da Cantareira in Cuiabá, on the final day of the tour before our flights, it perched near the trail and posed for pictures. A Brazilian endemic, restricted to the interior of the country.

Variable Antshrike Thamnophilus caerulescens—Heard on our second day at Hotel do Ypê, and then seen later as we birded below the lodge. The name is appropriate, since Variable Antshrike has eight subspecies, none of which look much alike!

Star-throated Antwren (E) *Rhopias gularis*—One of several Brazilian Atlantic Forest endemics in the Antbird family, we ran across this shy species our first morning of the pre-tour extension, as we walked the main road uphill from Hotel do Ypê.

Spot-breasted Antvireo (RE) *Dysithamnus stictothorax*—This regional endemic was seen on the last day of the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension, as we birded the forest margin on the grounds of Hotel Donatti. **Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis*—Occurring from Mexico to southern Brazil and Argentina, as many as 18 subspecies have been described for this common, highly variable species. We saw several birds over two days in the vicinity of Hotel do Ypê, and again later at the Jamacá das Araras site at Chapada. **Rufous-backed Antvireo (E)** *Dysithamnus xanthopterus*—A narrow endemic from the coastal mountains of southeast Brazil, we were fortunate to locate three birds in the shaded understory as we ascended the mountains on the Agulhas Negras Road, on the pre-tour extension in Itatiaia National Park. **Large-billed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus longirostris*—One of the relatively few antbirds seen in the open Pantanal, we had good looks at this species at Pousada Piuval, and we spotted it again on the post-tour extension, along the dirt road at the Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção) site (the afternoon we departed the Chapada area).

Rufous-margined Antwren *Herpsilochmus*

rufimarginatus—Very colorful as antwrens go, a few of us saw nine birds scattered in the forest understory during our optional bird walk at Parque da Cantareira in São Paulo, the day the tour began.

Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa*—A Pantanal species, we picked up pairs of birds on several days, in low scrub at Pousada Aguape, and along the sandy roads very close to the SouthWild compound.

Ferruginous Antbird (E) *Drymophila ferruginea*—Only seen once, a single bird was teased out of the brush by Demis, on our second day of pre-tour birding along the roads near Hotel do Ypê. This is another species endemic to the forests of southeast Brazil, with striking colors (especially for an antbird!).



Rufous-tailed Antbird (E) (HO) *Drymophila genei*—Another Brazilian endemic, and another one-day wonder for the tour, this is yet another striking antbird confined to the Atlantic Forest region. Not hard to hear, but often difficult to spot, we managed to see three birds along the Agulhas Negras mountain road during the pre-tour extension.

Streak-capped Antwren (RE) *Terenura maculata*—Another skulker, we also spotted this antwren just once, during one of our birding walks near Hotel do Ypê. An Atlantic Forest regional endemic that barely crosses the border into Paraguay and Argentina.

Mato Grosso Antbird (RE) *Cercomacra melanaria*—Demis cued us into the vocalizations of this sought-after regional endemic, when we had extended views of two birds during our lunch stop at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso, on our drive south to Porto Jofre. Also seen at Pousada Aguape and SouthWild.

Western Fire-Eye *Pyriglena leucoptera*—Only seen during the post-tour Chapada extension, in the dark understory during our morning stroll at the Jamacá das Araras site, the same location where we saw Tataupa Tinamou and Lettered Aracari.

White-shouldered Fire-Eye (RE) *Pyriglena leucoptera*—Only seen by the group on the optional birding walk at Parque da Cantareira, the day we flew in to São Paulo. We watched several males and females as they foraged among swarms of insects on the edge of an open slope, largely unfazed by our presence. White-bibbed Antbird (E) *Myrmoderus loricatus*—We located this species (another Brazilian endemic) twice in Itatiaia National Park, once in brush around the abandoned Hotel Simon, and then again near Hotel Donatti (on the last day of the pre-tour extension). Beautiful patterning on the male bird. Squamate Antbird (E) *Myrmoderus squamosus*—We found a pair of birds during our optional hike at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, on our pre-tour outing for early arrivals. They were deep in the shadows of the forest, but we eventually spotted them.

Conopophagidae: Gnateaters (1)

Rufous Gnateater (RE) *Conopophaga lineata*—A curious bird in a curious family, we saw this regional endemic once, a female perched quietly in the understory, during our long morning road walk on our second pre-tour extension day at Hotel do Ypê.

Grallariidae: Antpittas (1)

Speckle-breasted Antpitta (RE) (HO) *Hylopezus nattereri*—This was another regional endemic, but only heard, on our third morning in the Atlantic Forest on our mountain drive (along the Agulhas Negras Road) in Itatiaia National Park.

Rhinocryptidae: Tapaculos (2)

Slaty Bristlefront (E) *Merulaxis ater*—Although these birds would call repeatedly (as tapaculos frequently

do), bristlefronts are often reluctant to appear. But this is a special endemic for Brazil, and Demis was determined. We ended up seeing the species on three days, during our optional hike at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, as well as along the roads near Hotel do Ypê on the pre-tour extension.

Mouse-colored Tapaculo (E) Scytalopus speluncae—Another Atlantic Forest endemic, and another bird that takes its skulking seriously. We managed to get glimpses of the species in the mountains along the Agulhas Road, on the second-to-last day of the pre-tour extension.

Formicariidae: Antthrushes (1)

Such's (*aka Cryptic*) **Antthrush (E) (HO)** *Chamaeza meruloides*—Heard distinctively, and maddeningly close by (right along the road below Hotel do Ypê), they remained hidden. Very frustrating.

Furnaridae: Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers (32)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*—Only seen in Itatiaia National Park, our best views of this widespread, diminutive woodcreeper were had on the grounds of Hotel do Ypê, and later in montane forest along Agulhas Negras Road.

Plain-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes turdina*—There was a single bird with several other species in the lower canopy along the Agulhas Negras mountain road during the pre-tour extension.

Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*—We saw a single bird near Hotel do Ypê during the Atlantic Forest extension, and then a pair at the Pousada Aguape campground site on the southern Pantanal. **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*—Three active birds, flying back and forth across the road, were spotted in the trees during a stop on our late afternoon birding drive at Pousada Piuval, the day we arrived.

Great Rufous Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes major*—An enormous wood creeper, one of the largest species. We found four birds and had good views at the Pousada Aguape campground site, methodically working

trees not far from where we parked our van.

Lesser Woodcreeper (RE) *Xiphorhynchus fuscus*—
Initially seen by the early arrivals who birded with
Demis and Bob at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo,
and again later during the pre-tour extension near
Hotel do Ypê. An Atlantic Forest specialty.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper Dendroplex picus—We had quick views of this species near the Rio Aquidauana at Pousada Aguape, and again later on the Chapada extension (Jamacá das Araras) as well as at Parque da Cantareira in Cuiabá, on the final day of the tour.

Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*—A species with an extraordinary profile, its red-tinged, highly curved bill unmistakable on the Pantanal—we watched a bird for several minutes while we walked the dirt roads outside Pousada Aguape one morning. Hard to believe the scythebills are actually woodcreepers, they seem so different.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes angustirostris—A fairly common species on the Pantanal, especially at Pousada Piuval and SouthWild. A smaller woodcreeper, often out on the ends of exposed branches.

Scaled Woodcreeper (E) *Lepidocolaptes squamatus*— Another comparatively small woodcreeper, our views



were limited to our time in Itatiaia National Park, during the Atlantic Forest extension. We spotted birds in the trees as we walked the lower road below Hotel do Ypê, and also at the nearby Hotel Donatti and Hotel Simon. A Brazilian endemic.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*—A few of us saw a single bird at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, during our optional walk with Demis for early arrivals.

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*—Heard and briefly seen in a mixed flock during a walk at Hotel do Ypê, and again later on the Chapada post-tour extension. Often maneuvering upside down while foraging, both this and the preceding species are remarkable acrobats.

Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus*—This was the hornero most often seen along the shoreline while we searched for Jaguars (east of Porto Jofre), and on boat rides at Pousada Piuval and SouthWild. **Rufous Hornero** *Furnarius rufus*—A widespread and exceedingly common species, seen every day of the tour after the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension. Their earthen nests that resembled small pizza ovens were a common sight.

White-collared Foliage-Gleaner (E) *Anabazenops fuscus*—A Brazilian endemic and Atlantic Forest specialty, we found birds in the undergrowth along the roads near Hotel do Ypê on the pre-tour extension. **Sharp-billed Treehunter (RE)** *Heliobletus contaminatus*—We spotted this regional endemic during a quick stop at a bridge (where a group of bicyclists had gathered) along the Agulhas Negras mountain road, on the pre-tour extension in Itatiaia National Park. Demis got the scope out for this one.

Buff-browed Foliage-Gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*—A single individual was pointed out by Demis at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, during our optional walk for early arrivals. It was difficult to see well in the gloomy understory.

Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner *Philydor rufum*—Only seen during our pre-tour extension in Itatiaia National Park, this species was observed once during a walk near Hotel do Ypê, and also during our visit to the abandoned Hotel Simon.

Araucaria Tit- (aka Paraná Pine-) **Spinetail (RE)** Leptasthenura setaria—A near Brazilian endemic (the species barely makes it into northeast Argentina), Demis spotted birds for us (at a distance) in a patch of *Araucaria angustifolia*, a rare southern hemisphere conifer that the tit-spinetail is closely linked to. We passed through several *Araucaria* stands during our last full day in the national park, on our pre-tour extension, as we drove high into the Mantiqueira Mountains.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons*—After spotting their unkempt nests at several sites earlier in the Pantanal, we finally had good views of several Rufous-fronted Thornbirds in open trees at SouthWild.

Greater Thornbird Phacellodomus ruber—Also constructing large, messy nests with intertwined masses of sticks and leaves, this was the most common thornbird on the tour, seen several times along the Transpantaneira, near Porto Jofre, at Pousada Piuval, and especially at SouthWild.

Orange-eyed Thornbird (E)

Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus— Unlike the preceding two species, this thornbird is a very narrow endemic, found only in the Atlantic Forest of southeast Brazil. We saw a pair of birds madly building their stick nest as we birded the forest near Hotel Simon, and one more along the road below Hotel do Ypê.

Itatiaia Spinetail (E) *Asthenes moreirae*—Yet another Brazilian



endemic, this species is mostly restricted to a small area in Itatiaia National Park at high elevation, and found nowhere else in the world. We had good views of this special bird during our drive in the Mantiqueira Mountains, our second-to-last day of the pre-tour extension.

Rusty-backed Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpina*—Restricted to riparian forests, we spotted this species twice along the Rio Cuiabá during our Jaguar excursions, and again along the river at SouthWild.

Pallid Spinetail (E) *Cranioleuca pallida*—Another endemic of montane forest and woodlands in southeastern Brazil, we saw this species on three separate days during our Atlantic Forest extension.

Rufous (*aka Gray-crested*) **Cacholote** *Pseudoseisura unirufa*—Very common on the Pantanal, and especially abundant at Pousada Aguape. Also seen at Pousada Piuval and along the Rio Pixaim.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*—Seen several times on the Pantanal, usually spotted in lush marsh vegetation, and occasionally sitting in the open (a few of us had great views of singing birds at Parque da Cantareira in Cuiabá, on the final day of the tour).

Chotoy Spinetail *Schoeniophylax phryganophilius*—Seen on the southern Pantanal, we had our best views of the species at Pousada Aguape. More colorful than many spinetails.

White-lored Spinetail (RE) *Synallaxis albilora*—A localized species, individuals were seen on three days (in swampy sites at Pousada Aguape, along the Rio Cuiabá, and at Pousada Piuval)—largely endemic to the Pantanal and adjacent Cerrado of southeastern Brazil and adjacent Paraguay and Bolivia.

Rufous-capped Spinetail (RE) *Synallaxis ruficapilla*—Initially seen at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo (on the early arrivals optional bird walk), and later in Itatiaia National Park near Hotel do Ypê and on the grounds of Hotel Simon. Found throughout the Atlantic Forest in southeast Brazil.

Spix's Spinetail (RE) *Synallaxis spixi*—Another regional endemic, we had our best looks at this species in a brush pile near the enormous, squalid swimming pool at the abandoned Hotel Simon, when several birds responded enthusiastically to Demis' playback.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis*—Demis pointed out a single bird in the brush, at a site not far from our lodgings in Chapada do Guimarães (where we also spotted the Pheasant Cuckoos), on the post-tour extension.

Pipridae: Manakins (5)

Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin (E) *Neopelma chrysolophum*—A Brazilian endemic of very limited distribution in the Atlantic Forest, we spotted one bird flitting in the lower canopy along the Agulhas Negras mountain road during the pre-tour extension.

Helmeted Manakin *Antilophia galeata*—Comparatively large for a manakin, we saw the jet-black males with their vibrant red crowns, as well as the drab, greenish females (a sexual dimorphism typical of



manakins). We also had sightings at Pousada Piuval, SouthWild, and during walks on the Chapada post-tour extension.

Swallow-tailed (aka Blue) Manakin (RE) Chiroxiphia caudata—Another Atlantic Forest species, the red, black, and blue males are among the most vibrant of the manakins—we had excellent views as we walked quiet roads near Hotel do Ypê.

Pin-tailed Manakin (E) Ilicura militaris—We had good views of this Brazilian endemic on our optional early arrivals birding walk at Parque da Cantareira, near São Paulo, and again later on the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension, at Hotel Donatti and Hotel Simon (where we had photo ops and extended looks at a cooperative male).

Band-tailed Manakin *Pipra fasciicauda*—This species was seen three times on the Chapada post-tour extension, including a brilliantly colored male flitting in the understory in full view at Parque Municipal da Quineira, a few blocks from our small hotel in Chapada do Guimarães.

Cotingidae: Cotingas (3)

Swallow-tailed Cotinga (RE) *Phibalura flavirostris*—While photographing distant Long-tailed Tyrants at Hotel Donatti, on the pre-tour extension, Bob noticed something else in his viewfinder—a Swallow-tailed Cotinga! A spectacular and bizarre bird, we got excellent views after Demis went running for a scope. A taxonomic oddity, this species is considered "vulnerable" throughout much of its limited range.

Black-and-gold Cotinga (E) (HO) *Tijuca atra*—A major target for us, but we were limited to a "heard only" near the *Araucaria* forest, where we ate lunch during our trip into the Mantiqueira Mountains on the pre-tour extension. One of the most restricted of the Brazilian endemics, found only in a small strip of the Atlantic Forest coast range.

Bare-throated Bellbird (RE) (GO) (HO) *Procnias nudicollis*—Also a "heard only" that was pointed out by Demis (in the forest near Hotel do Ypê). With an explosive, far-carrying call, the bird was probably well down the valley. Another regional endemic.

Tityridae: Tityras and Becards (5)

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*—Seen several times during the Chapada post-tour extension, we had our best and prolonged views at Mirante Morro dos Ventos (the vista overlook lunch stop), when we saw three birds in the open canopy near the edge of the cliffs.

Greenish Schiffornis (RE) *Schiffornis virescens*—Mostly confined to the Atlantic Forest, we spotted (and heard) this secretive species on four successive days, starting at Parque da Cantareira, near São Paulo, followed by three sightings in Itatiaia National Park on the pre-tour extension.

White-naped Xenopsaris Xenopsaris albinucha—A few of us saw this species perched in full view for a minute or more, during our optional morning of birding at Parque da Cantareira in Cuiabá, before our flights home. Despite its broad distribution (from Venezuela to Argentina), the species is rarely reported. Green-backed Becard Pachyrhamphus viridis—A few of the group spotted a single bird with Demis, the hot afternoon we arrived at SouthWild after our road trip north from Porto Jofre.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyrhampus castaneus*—An unobtrusive species, which sits quietly in the canopy, most of our observations were in Itatiaia National Park—birds were picked up during our

morning walks at Hotel do Ypê, as well as at Hotel Donatti and Hotel Simon.

Oxyruncidae: Sharpbill and Allies (1)

Sharpbill Oxyruncus cristatus—After hearing the peculiar whistle of a distant Sharpbill at Hotel Simon, and straining our eyes without success, we were pleasantly surprised when, two days later, this poorly known species appeared right over our heads in the parking lot at the nearby Hotel Donatti. A very hard bird to locate, seeing it perched so close was a highlight of the Atlantic Forest extension.

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (51)

White-throated Spadebill Platyrinchus mystaceus—Seen during the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension, we also heard the excited chatter of this tiny species several times in the forest near Hotel do Ypê, and actually managed to get some photos! Also seen at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, during our optional walk with Demis for early arrivals.



Gray-hooded Flycatcher (RE) *Mionectes rufiventris*—We spotted this distinctive regional endemic just once, perched at Hotel Simon during the Atlantic Forest extension.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*—Our best views were of a single bird sitting quietly in the forest adjacent to Hotel Simon. A few of us also saw a pair later in the woodland at Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá, the day we caught our flights back to the states.

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*—One of several small flycatchers darting among the trees along the Agulhas Negras Road on our mountain drive (on our last full field day of the Atlantic Forest extension). Hard to spot, we depended on the trained ear of Demis to see (or hear) us through. **Serra do Mar Tyrannulet (E)** *Phylloscartes difficilis*—A sought-after endemic, and now considered near threatened. Only believed to be common in the higher reaches of the Mantiqueira Mountains, where we had clear views of at least one bird on the same stretch of road as the preceding species.

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant (RE) *Myiornis auricularis*—Briefly glimpsed (mostly heard) on our first morning hike at Hotel do Ypê—it was difficult to locate, and unfortunately few of us actually spotted the bird. Also "heard only" at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, on our optional first day walk.

Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant (RE) *Hemitriccus orbitatus*—Glimpsed by the group that birded with Demis and Bob at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, during our optional walk on our first day of the tour. Another Atlantic Forest regional endemic.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*—Seen on the Pantanal, we had our best views of this very active species in low trees at Pousada Aguape, during a morning drive on the savannah. It was also seen by several of the group at SouthWild.

Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (E) (HO) *Hemitriccus furcatus*—Not seen, the high-pitched vocals of this tiny endemic were our only clue to its presence during our walk at Hotel Donatti, on the last morning of the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension.

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus latirostris*—Seen in the early morning and at dusk at SouthWild, we had decent looks at birds perched on low shrubs along the dusty entry road at sunset, and also during our boat trip on the Rio Pixaim.



Gray-headed (aka Yellow-lored) **Tody-Flycatcher (E)** *Todirostrum poliocephalum*—We located this Brazilian endemic on three occasions while in the Atlantic Forest, twice near Hotel do Ypê (along the lower access road) and later at Hotel Simon.

Common Tody-Flycatcher Todirostrum cinereum—Seen regularly throughout much of the Neotropics (from Mexico to Brazil), we found the species during a rest stop on the main highway to Itatiaia, along the Transpantaneira, at Porto Jofre, and at sites on the Chapada post-tour extension.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher Tolmomyias sulphurescens—A highly polymorphic species (comprised of 16 subspecies!) in a

genus that's already a taxonomic mess, we saw Yellow-olive Flycatcher just once, on the grounds of the Hotel Donatti during the pre-tour extension.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*—A beautiful, rich rufous color, Cliff Flycatchers are as equally drawn to human structures (i.e., buildings, walls, and bridges) as they are cliffs! We saw foraging birds around the Hotel do Ypê compound every day, mostly on roofs over by the pool area.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*—Seen on six days, i.e., twice in Itatiaia National Park, at Pousada Aguape, on the Pantanal around Pousada Piuval, and at SouthWild Lodge. A very widespread species in the Neotropics.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii*—Very common in central and northern South America, birds were spotted from the Jaguar boats on the Rio Cuiabá, and at the Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção) site the afternoon we left the Chapada area, the last day of the post-tour extension.

Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cista*ta—We saw four birds scattered at the Estrada da Caixa d'Água site, i.e., the dry, sandy road we walked on our first morning on the Chapada post-tour extension. They were cooperative and posed for pictures in the low brush.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*—Another widely distributed flycatcher, ranging from Mexico to Uruguay, we only saw the species once, at the vista overlook we visited our first afternoon after arriving in Chapada do Guimarães.

Rough-legged Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*—Seen on our first day of the Atlantic Forest extension, at least one bird was observed in trees along the steep entry road to Hotel do Ypê.

Greenish Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias virescens*—Another very small flycatcher that requires canopy habitats, this species was spotted briefly along the Agulhas Negras Road (on our last day of the Atlantic Forest extension during our mountain drive).

Planalto Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias fasciatus*—Widespread in western Brazil, this nondescript flycatcher also prefers fairly dense cover. We spotted it a couple of times along the forest roads near Hotel do Ypê during the pre-tour extension.

Gray-capped Tyrannulet (E) *Phyllomyias griseocapilla*—We saw a single bird on the grounds of Hotel do Ypê the day we first arrived, along the steep entrance road that led up to the main lodge building. Another Atlantic Forest and Brazilian endemic.

Rufous-crowned (*aka Tawny-crowned*) **Pygmy-Tyrant** *Euscarthmus meloryphus*—Not seen by everyone, Demis pointed the species out in dense shrubbery along the Rio Cuiabá after a morning of Jaguar spotting. **Plain Tyrannulet** *Inezia inornata*—Certainly plain, but not necessarily plainer than most tyrannulets, we saw pairs of birds twice along the Rio Cuiabá shoreline during our Jaguar searches, and again at the beautiful Parque Mae Bonifacia in Cuiabá city, on our last morning before flying back to São Paulo.

Tropical Pewee (HO) *Contopus cinereus*—"Heard only," near the steep entry road to Hotel do Ypê on our first afternoon of the pre-tour extension.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*—Only seen on the Pantanal, at Pousada Aguape in the south, as well as at SouthWild and Parque Mae Bonifacia (near Cuiabá) in the north.

Chapada Flycatcher *Guyramemua affine*—This rare species has a very spotty distribution across the central (Cerrado) portion of Brazil, and is threatened by loss of habitat due to grazing and agriculture. We were fortunate to see three birds at the same site as Plain-crested Elaenia, above.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—An old favorite from the U.S. Southwest, this brilliantly-colored species actually occurs all the way south to Argentina (with 13 subspecies!). We saw it most every day on the Pantanal.

Crested Black-Tyrant *Knipolegus lophotes*—A bit reminiscent of the North American Phainopepla, we finally found this species during the Chapada post-tour extension, at scattered sites around Chapada do Guimarães.

Velvety Black-Tyrant (E) *Knipolegus nigerrimus*—A fairly common species in Itatiaia National Park, and another Brazilian endemic, we saw both males (all black) and females (with the red throat patch) at several locations around the park, including the grounds of Hotel do Ypê, Hotel Simon, and Hotel Donatti.

Blue-billed Black-Tyrant (RE) Knipolegus cyanirostris— The whitish-blue beak immediately set this species apart from the preceding two—we saw several birds over two days, with the best views at Hotel Simon and in the mountains along the Agulhas Negras Road (during the Atlantic Forest extension).

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velatus*—Pantanal. Nearly pure white except for the black wings, this easily recognized flycatcher was seen on exposed perches every day during our stay at Pousada Aguape.

Gray Monjita *Nengetus cinereus*—Much different than the preceding species, with gray and black plumage and bloodred eyes—we saw perched birds at Pousada Aguape, as well as near the first overlook we visited on the Chapada extension, just east of Chapada do Guimarães.



White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*—We saw several birds as we drove south along the Transpantaneira towards Porto Jofre. Common across South America, the male's white head and entirely black body are unique among local flycatchers, and the species was easily spotted in the marshes, even from the van.

Black-backed Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola albiventer*—Recorded every day on the Pantanal, a fairly common species in marshy areas.

Masked Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*—The stark black-and-white plumage of this species was easily spotted as we drove the Transpantaneira, passing marsh after marsh, but we had our best views along the Rio Cuiabá from the Jaguar boats.

Sheer-tailed Gray Tyrant (RE) *Muscipipra vetula*—With the colors of a mockingbird, this large flycatcher was seen just once, hunting insects from the tops of trees along the Agulhas Negras Road (the day we explored the mountains on the Atlantic Forest extension).

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*—Usually seen perched in the open, and typically high up, we saw birds on two days, with our best views through a canopy gap as we walked forested roads near Hotel do Ypê. An unmistakable species, even at a distance.

Dull-capped Atilla (HO) *Attila bolivianus*—Only heard by the few of us who were up ahead with Demis, during a walk at SouthWild. We visited the site again later without success.



Sibilant Sirystes *Sirystes sibilator*—Similar to an Eastern Kingbird in appearance, this species was seen twice along the steep entry road into Hotel do Ypê, with another glimpse several days later on the Chapada extension.

Rufous Casiornis *Casiornis rufus*—Fairly common on the tour, we spotted birds perched in low trees during drives at Pousada Aguape and Pousada Piuval, and on the post-tour Chapada extension at Jamacá das Araras.

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsonii*—We had good looks at a confiding bird during a rest break along the Transpantaneira (on our way north to SouthWild), and saw one again on our last day, when a few of us on the optional walk at Parque Mae Bonifacia spotted the species (before flying back to São Paulo).

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*—A widely distributed species of South American lowlands—seen fairly frequently on the tour, we had good views at Hotel do Ypê, Hotel Simon, Pousada Piuval, Porto Jofre, and SouthWild. **Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—Another

widespread *Myiarchus* flycatcher, occurring from the Arizona to Argentina, we saw the species three times, twice on the Chapada extension, and a final time during the optional trip to Parque Mae Bonifacia before we flew out from Cuiabá.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*—Not a day passed on the Pantanal without views of this tame, kingbird-like species, often perched on the backs of livestock, or even Capybaras!

Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor*—With closer ties to open water than the next species, Lesser Kiskadees were infrequent during the tour, usually seen perched low to the ground. We spotted a few birds at Pousada Piuval, along the rivers east of Porto Jofre, and around SouthWild.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—An abundant, omnipresent species on the tour, we saw and heard Great Kiskadees daily. Certainly one of the most common species on the trip.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*—Similar-appearing to the previous species, but not nearly as common, we nonetheless saw scattered (mostly single) birds at many locations, from São Paulo to Chapada.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*—Common on the tour, recorded nearly every day on the Pantanal. Not as bold (and less apt to tolerate human habitation) as the very similar-appearing Social Flycatcher, we saw this species mostly near forest edges and out in the palm savannah.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*—Although very common in much of Latin America, our views were limited to a few low-elevation sightings in Itatiaia National Park, during the pre-tour extension. **Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*—Extremely common in much of the Neotropics, we saw countless Tropical kingbirds, but only on the Pantanal and during the post-tour Chapada extension.

Vireonidae: Vireos (4)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike Cyclarhis gujanensis—Seen in Itatiaia National Park at Hotel do Ypê, Hotel Simon, and Hotel Donatti, always in the canopy and usually quite vocal, the species was also spotted on the post-tour Chapada extension. Widespread in the Neotropics, occurring as far north as Mexico.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet (RE) Hylophilus poicilotis—Spotted by Demis on our initial morning walk at Hotel do Ypê on the pre-tour extension, its piercing song giving away the location of a small mixed flock, we also had good looks at Hotel Simon and Hotel Donatti. An Atlantic Forest regional endemic.

Ashy-headed Greenlet Hylophilus pectoralis—We had prolonged looks at a single bird perched along the riverbank during our morning cruise at SouthWild. Chivi Vireo Vireo chivi—Only seen on our last day of the tour, during our optional morning bird walk at Parque Mae Bonifacia (near Cuiabá), before we boarded our flights home. A widespread species.



Corvidae: Crows and Jays (3)

Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*—Our most common jay, and seen repeatedly on the Pantanal and during the Chapada extension. The species seemed equally comfortable in the open forest, along roads, or foraging in farms and villages. It was especially dominant at the SouthWild feeders.

Curl-crested Jay *Cyanocorax cristatellus*—We watched several noisy birds in the palms during a stop in Itatiaia township, before getting on the highway to drive south to the mountains (on the pre-tour extension). We also spotted this species during our dusty drive into Stone Town, on the post-tour Chapada extension. **Plush-crested Jay** *Cyanocorax chrysops*—Limited to the southern Pantanal on this tour. While the species was definitely not abundant, it was easy to spot due to its large size and distinctive plumage. We located birds all three days during our stay at Pousada Aguape, and had good looks during one of our morning safari drives.

Donacobiidae: Donacobius (1)

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus*—Common on the Pantanal, we saw birds clinging to reeds or low branches in the marshes along the rivers east of Porto Jofre, and at SouthWild. A unique species in its own family, the bright yellow eye on a jet-black face was striking.

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (6)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—Flocks were seen daily during the Atlantic Forest extension, at multiple locations around our base at Hotel do Ypê.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*—Not seen every day, though the species was generally common on the Pantanal much of the time, especially in the north, along the Rio Pixaim near the SouthWild property and along the Transpantaneira.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—Another very common swallow on the Pantanal as well as during the Chapada post-tour extension, seen almost daily overhead and sitting on wires and fences.



Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*—Seen just once, by the small group that opted for a final morning of birding at Parque Mae Bonifacia (near Cuiabá) before our flights. Brown-chested Martin populations in southern South America (from Brazil south) are migratory, and the birds we saw had spotted breasts, a characteristic of austral migrants. White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*—The most

White-winged Swallow Tachycineta albiventer—The most common swallow of the tour, seen every day on the Pantanal, as well as once during the Atlantic Forest extension (along Hwy 116).

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*—Infrequent, first seen on the tarmac at the Campo Grande Airport, and later over marshes along the Transpantaneira, sometimes mixed with the previous species.

Poliopyilidae: Gnatcatchers (2)

Long-billed Gnatwren Rhamphocaenus melanurus—We had a very brief glimpse of this secretive species flitting along the forest edge, during our morning walk around Hotel Donatti on the last morning of the pre-tour Atlantic Forest extension.

Masked Gnatcatcher Polioptila dumicola—This species was seen a few times from the boats in busy mixed-species flocks, mostly high in the trees, as we cruised quiet side channels during our Jaguar searches along the Rio Cuiabá.

Troglodytidae: Wrens (4)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—Spotted in the landscaping around the grounds of the Airport Marriott Hotel the day we arrived, the species was also seen later at several sites during the Atlantic Forest extension. Often called "Southern" House Wren, this subspecies has a distinctly darker and richer brown plumage than populations in the U.S.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*—Another Pantanal species that was not abundant, yet showed up frequently in small numbers, we saw birds at Pousada Aguape, Pousada Piuval, Porto Jofre, and in Cuiabá. We had our best views during our lunch stop at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso, of several noisy, active birds in low trees, the day we left Pousada Piuval on our drive south to Porto Jofre.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis*—An understory species only seen during the Chapada extension, its song often gave away its presence. Best looks were at Parque Mae Bonifacia (near Cuiabá) during our optional final morning of birding, before our flights home.

Fawn-breasted Wren (RE) *Cantorchilus guarayanus*—Related to the previous species but typically in wetter habitats, we had our only views at Pousada Aguape, on our final morning drive on the savannah. An infrequently seen regional endemic from the Pantanal and nearby Bolivian/Paraguayan lowlands.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (2)

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*—Quite common on the tour, seen every day and at every location other than the Atlantic Forest extension. One of the first species we saw on the tour, hanging around the lawns and pool area at the Airport Marriott Hotel in São Paulo.

White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus*—We saw the species just once, on the savannah at Pousada Aguape, when four birds appeared next to a drying pond when we drove out one morning in the open lodge vehicles.

Turdidae: Thrushes (5)

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*—A rather plain species, we saw several birds near or on the grounds of Hotel do Ypê during the Atlantic Forest extension, as well as during the Chapada post-tour extension. Not seen on the Pantanal.

Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes*—Just about everywhere you go in Latin America there's at least one black *Turdus* species, and this is the representative for Brazil's Atlantic Forest. Yellow-legged Thrushes were frequently seen near Hotel do Ypê, Hotel Donatti, and Hotel Simon on the pre-tour extension.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*—A regularly spotted species, if not overwhelmingly abundant, this American Robin look-alike was seen every day on the Pantanal and during both tour extensions, as well as around São Paulo (i.e., at the Airport Marriott Hotel and Parque da Cantareira).

Blacksmith Thrush (GO) *Turdus subalaris*—Rare on the tour, Bob had a brief glimpse of the species on the Atlantic Forest extension, in the deep forest along the road below Hotel do Ypê.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*—Less frequent than the previous three taxa, this species was nonetheless sighted at several locations, including Itatiaia National Park, the Pousada Aguape campground, Pousada Piuval, and Chapada do Guimarães (during the post-tour extension).

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—Not common, but scattered small flocks were seen in urban settings, in São Paulo as well as around the Hotel Mohave in Campo Grande.

Motacillidae: Pipits (1)

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens*—The species was briefly seen over two days on overgrazed pasture around Pousada Aguape. Like many pipits, these are extraordinary plain, quiet, nondescript birds, and were almost invisible on the parched landscape, gingerly picking their way through grass clumps and cattle dung.

Fringilidae: Finches and Euphonias (5)

Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea*—Mostly heard (briefly) by Demis and the group during a morning walk near Hotel do Ypê, on the Atlantic Forest extension—a couple of us later had a brief glimpse of the species in the understory below the hotel pool area.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*—Heard first near Hotel do Ypê, we later had a good (if brief) look at a single bird perched in dense shrubbery at (the Parque Municipal da Quineira site) just down the road from our lodgings during the Chapada post-tour extension.

Violaceous Euphonia Euphonia violacea—Seen at the same Chapada location as the previous species, but

recognized by its yellow instead of dark, purple throat.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia Euphonia pectoralis—A distinctly marked Euphonia, this species was a daily visitor at Hotel do Ypê, where we had the opportunity to compare the sexually dimorphic males and females. The birds were so intent on getting their share at the feeders they seemed almost tame.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*—Seen during a roadside forest walk up the main road below Hotel do Ypê, we spotted a single bird in a mixed species flock just past the bridge (over the rushing river).



Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (5)

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*—On the same dry, overused pasture at Pousada Aguape where we saw the Yellowish Pipit (above), this species was more common than the latter, and was actually perched in view at times. Also seen during the Chapada post-tour extension at the first overlook we visited. **Pectoral Sparrow** *Arremon taciturnis*—A great last-minute addition to our list, a few of us spotted the species (a close relative of Half-collared, below) in the understory as we birded the Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção) site, the afternoon we left the Chapada area to head back to Cuiabá.

Half-collared Sparrow (E) Arremon semitorquatus—Another of the many Brazilian endemics we recorded during the Atlantic Forest extension, this species, typical of most Arremon sparrows, generally stays hidden—we had good views of a single bird along the forest fringe, as we birded the main road below Hotel do Ypê. Saffron-billed Sparrow Arremon flavirostris—Another sparrow seen only on the post-tour Chapada extension, we saw the species twice around Chapada do Guimarães, i.e., at the Parque Municipal da Quineira site (near our lodgings) as well as at the same location as the preceding species.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*—The most common sparrow across the Neotropics, we saw scattered flocks every day as we birded the Atlantic Forest and the Chapada area, but then missed the species in the Pantanal.

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (15)

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*—Our only oropendola, we saw the species several times at Pousada Aguape—additional birds (along with their long, pendulous nests) were spotted at Pousada Piuval, along the Transpantaneira, and above the river channels east of Porto Jofre.

Solitary Black Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*—Seen from the water (on two days), while we cruised the Rio Cuiabá looking for Jaguars, the prominent, ivory-colored beak easily distinguishes this otherwise all-black icterid from blackbirds.

Golden-winged Cacique *Cacicus chrysopterus*—This was the most common cacique at the feeders at Hotel do Ypê, we saw the species here all four days of the pre-tour extension. Beautiful colors.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*—This was the common cacique at our lodges on the Pantanal, spotted at Pousada Piuval, near Porto Jofre, and later at SouthWild. We also saw this species on morning walks during the Chapada post-tour extension.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*—Seen on both the Atlantic Forest extension and the Pantanal. The species was scarce in the Pantanal, with limited sightings at Pousada Aguape and SouthWild. It was much more common in the Atlantic Forest, and co-occurred daily with Golden-winged Cacique at Hotel do Ypê. **Variable Oriole** *Icterus pyrrhopterus*—Looking more like a blackbird than an oriole, we had clear views of birds flying along the Rio Aquidauana during our stay at Pousada Aguape, and later at SouthWild. We also spotted the species at Parque Municipal da Quineira (when we birded near our hotel on the Chapada extension), as well as at Parque Mae Bonifacia, in Cuiabá, the day we flew home.

Orange-backed Troupial Icterus croconotus—More reminiscent of certain orioles in North America, we saw this species at Pousada Aguape, along the Rio Cuiabá east of Porto Jofre, and again at SouthWild.

Screaming Cowbird Molothrus rufoaxillaris—Quite common on the Pantanal, we spotted flocks in the fields and around feeders at Pousada Aguape, Pousada Piuval, near Porto Jofre, and at SouthWild. Despite the name, the birds didn't seem any noisier than other species. (Also see Grayish Baywing, below.)

Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis—Very abundant, we saw this species mostly on the Pantanal, where at times it overwhelmed the feeders fields at Pousada Aguape and Pousada Piuval. A notorious and non-



discriminating brood parasite, Shiny Cowbirds are not particular, and will lay their eggs in the nests of many other species (thereby relieving themselves of any follow-up responsibility for their own eggs or chicks).

Giant Cowbird Molothrus oryzivorus— Quite common at Pousada Aguape, Giant Cowbirds (like the previous species) are also brood parasites, though perhaps due to their size, they only utilize the nests of Oropendolas, who then feed and raise the newly hatched cowbirds (often to the detriment of their own young). Evolutionary adaptations are not always kind. **Scarlet-headed Blackbird** *Amblyramphus holosericeus*—This is a stunning species and close relative of Chopi Blackbird, but with a vivid orange-red head and neck to go with its all-black body. We saw a pair of birds in the reeds on our late afternoon drive through the back roads of Pousada Piuval, in an open marsh. **Chopi Blackbird** *Gnorimopsar chopi*—Scattered flocks of this common, entirely black (including the beak and eyes) icterid were seen most days on the Pantanal. An unusual species in that it's typically a cavity nester (most blackbirds build stand-alone nests).

Grayish Baywing *Agelaioides badius*—Very common on the Pantanal, often seen at lodge feeders where opportunistic flocks would congregate on the ground, competing with doves for spilled seed. Considered (evolutionarily) a primitive cowbird, Grayish Baywings rarely exhibit the brood parasitism of other "true" cowbirds, and are, in fact, themselves (ironically) parasitized by the Screaming Cowbird.

Unicolored Blackbird *Agelasticus cyanopus*—Males are all black, including the beak and eyes, essentially identical to Chopi Blackbird. The females of the two species differ, however, with Unicolored brown and yellow and Chopi dull black. We saw this marsh species along river channels east of Porto Jofre, but had our best looks during the optional morning birding at Parque Mae Bonifacia (in Cuiabá), the day we flew home. **Chestnut-capped Blackbird** *Chrysomus ruficapillus*—Nowhere near as common as the other blackbirds on the tour, most of the group missed this distinctive species when it made a quick appearance at the Pousada Aguape feeders, our first afternoon on the Pantanal.

Parulidae: New World Warblers (5)

Masked Yellowthroat Geothlypis aequinoctialis— Quickly recognized as a yellowthroat by most of us, we saw a pair of this species in the brush at Parque Municipal da Quineira, near our hotel on the Chapada extension (the same place we saw the Pheasant Cuckoos).

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*—Seen several times on the tour, typically in the canopy with mixed flocks. We spotted birds during our early birding session at Parque da Cantareira near São Paulo, and later on the Pantanal at Pousada Aguape and SouthWild.

$\textbf{Golden-crowned Warbler} \ \textit{Basileuterus}$

culicivorus—We had our best views during the optional birding afternoon at Parque da Cantareira (São Paulo), by the parking lot, on our first day of the



tour. We also saw the species with a mixed flock along the Agulhas Negras Road in the Mantiqueira Mountains (on our last full day of the Atlantic Forest extension).

Flavescent Warbler *Myiothlypis flaveola*—We mostly heard (but also had very fleeting looks at) a single, fidgety bird when we stopped in the dry forests on the back roads at Pousada Piuval, on our only afternoon there (the same place we saw the Black-fronted Nunbirds).

White-browed Warbler *Myiothlypis leucoblephara*—Difficult to see well, at least three birds were in the canopy along with Mottle-cheeked and Serra do Mar Tyrannulets, as we negotiated the Agulhas Negras Road (during our last full day on the Atlantic Forest extension in the Mantiqueira Mountains).

Mitrospingidae: Mitrospingid Tanagers (1)

Olive-green Tanager (E) *Orthogonys chloricterus*—A large, bulky tanager, and a daily visitor at Hotel do Ypê during our pre-tour extension, Olive-green Tanagers often badgered other birds at the feeders. Aggressive and competitive behavior is a common trait of widespread, abundant species, yet Olive-green Tanager is one of Brazil's more narrow endemics. Interesting.

Thraupidae: Tanagers (47)

Brown Tanager (E) *Orchesticus abeillei*—Considered uncommon and near threatened, we were lucky to see this endemic twice while at Hotel do Ypê, with our best sighting for the group just as we were loading

up to depart the hotel on our last morning, with several birds spotted in trees right next to the van! **Red-crested Cardinal** *Paroaria abeillei*—This easily recognized species was seen multiple times on the Pantanal, at all of our lodges, although not as common as the next species.

Yellow-billed Cardinal *Paroaria capitata*—Seen every day and a regular at most feeders, and also prone to loitering around roadside cafés, markets, fruit stands, etc. A striking species despite its penchant for occasionally seeking handouts.

Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopsis*—Reminiscent of saltators, we saw this species twice during the post-tour extension. Our best view was of a mixed-gender flock (the species is sexually dimorphic) at Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção), on our last, hot afternoon before returning to Cuiabá. **Cinnamon Tanager** *Schistochlamys ruficapillus*—Only a couple of the group had the chance to see this



interesting, open-country tanager, when a pair of birds flushed from the dry brush during our walk out from Cidade de Pedra (Stone Town), on the Chapada extension.

Magpie Tanager Cissopis leverianus—One of the largest tanagers, and aptly named, the magpie-like plumage is very distinctive—we saw this species at least twice while birding in the forest around Hotel do Ypê (on our pre-tour Atlantic Forest extension), and then several times at the lodge feeders.

White-banded Tanager Neothraupis fasciata—Distinctly shrike-like in appearance, we saw this species on our post-tour extension during a morning visit to Estrada da Caixa d'Água, i.e., the dry, sandy road we walked during our first morning on the Chapada extension. This species is threatened by habitat loss.

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*—Seen by a few of us, on our last morning of the post-tour extension (at Parque Mae Bonifacia, in Cuiabá), the day we flew out. We had good, close looks at both males and females along the trail.

Orange-headed Tanager Thlypopsis sordida—

First seen by the group when we stopped at a highway truck stop (Graal Alemão) and birded the wetland below the café verandah, on our way to Itatiaia for the pre-tour extension. The species appeared again later on the grounds of Hotel do Ypê.

Buff-throated Warbling-Finch (E) *Microspingus lateralis*—By far our best views of this species were on fencing around the dilapidated tennis courts at the abandoned Hotel Simon, on the pre-tour extension. A unique and interesting species, having one of the most restricted ranges of any of Brazil's endemics. **Black-goggled Tanager** *Trichothraupis melanops*—Common in Itatiaia National Park, seen every day at the Hotel do Ypê feeders during the pre-tour extension. We spotted mostly male birds, with their characteristic facial mask.

Ruby-crowned Tanager (RE) *Tachyphonus coronatus*—This regional endemic, including the black males and rufous females, was another of the many range-restricted tanager species encountered daily at the feeders at Hotel do Ypê. Only seen in the Atlantic Forest during the tour.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*—A species with a bit of a misleading name, the white line is rarely more than a thread-thin smudge on the otherwise black male bird (females were rufous). It was very common on the grounds and at the feeders at Hotel do Ypê.

Brazilian Tanager (RE) *Ramphocelus bresilius*—Not as common as the preceding three species, we nonetheless saw the gorgeous, nearly all-scarlet males and rusty-brown females most days in the Atlantic Forest, usually at the Hotel do Ypê feeders. For all intents and purposes this is a Brazilian endemic, with only a handful of disjunct populations occurring in Argentina near Iguazu Falls.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*—A close (but more widespread) relative of the previous species, with plumage that's nearly as spectacular, Silver-beaked Tanagers prefer dry savannah habitats. We saw the species almost every day in the Pantanal (and at every lodge).

Diadamed Tanager (RE) *Stephanophorus diadematus*—The chalky-blue body plumage, with the black face, white crown, and crimson forehead spot are a unique combination. Bob initially saw a bird on the grounds at Hotel do Ypê, and the group saw the species again (probably the same individual) the next day.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*—One of the species only seen by the group that opted for the afternoon of birding at Parque da Cantareira (São Paulo) the day we arrived. We had nice views of five birds in a mixed-species flock.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*—Frequent and widespread, this species was seen every day in the Atlantic Forest and most days on the Pantanal, as well as around São Paulo. Overall, the most common tanager of the trip.

Golden-chevroned Tanager (E) *Thraupis ornata*—Another Brazilian endemic species, Golden-chevroned was not as common as other tanagers at the Hotel do Ypê feeders, yet we still saw several birds each full day of the Atlantic Forest extension. Adult birds feature a beautiful, softly muted combination of colors. **Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum*—Seen most days of the trip, often at feeders but also in the forests as well. A widespread species in much of the Neotropics, it was less frequent at the Hotel do Ypê feeders than most other tanagers. The species was also seen on the Pantanal and Chapada post-tour extension. **Burnished-buff Tanager** *Stilpnia cayana*—Our views were limited to a few scattered birds seen near Hotel do Ypê, mostly in the canopy, as well as at the nearby Hotel Simon. Not a feeder bird.

Green-headed Tanager (RE) Tangara seledon—Despite its limited range (found only in southeast Brazil, as well as a sliver of adjacent Paraguay and Argentina), the species is easy to find, and we saw dozens swarming the feeders at Hotel do Ypê every day we were there. It rivals the Red-necked and Paradise Tanagers as one of the most colorful songbirds in the Neotropics.

Brassy-breasted Tanager (E) *Tangara desmaresti*—Another striking tanager and another

Brazilian endemic, seen only during the Atlantic Forest extension. We found the species daily in the canopy near Hotel do Ypê, and also along the Agulhas Negras Road in the Mantiqueira Mountains, where we finally had some photo ops.

Gilt-edged Tanager (E) Tangara cyanoventris—Yet another gorgeous Brazilian endemic species, we recorded seven birds in mixed flocks in trees below Hotel do Ypê, on our second day of the

ries again that afternoon at Hotel Simon. Not seen at feeders

Atlantic Forest extension, and found the species again that afternoon at Hotel Simon. Not seen at feeders. **Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis*—Initially found during a morning walk near Hotel do Ypê, on the pretour extension, and later at Hotel Donatti just down the road. We then came across the species again during the Chapada post-tour extension. An interesting tanager that frequently nests in burrows. **Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana*—Especially common in Itatiaia National Park, and a regular visitor at the Hotel Do Ypê feeders during our stay, we were able to closely study both male and female birds. We later had several sightings further north during the post-tour Chapada extension.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*—Widespread in South America but rare on the tour, we saw a single bird at Parque Municipal da Quineira (the area by the gated homes that we birded on the Chapada extension), and then spotted a pair the next day at Chapada Aventura (Vale da Benção) on the hot afternoon we left the Chapada area.

Rufous-headed Tanager (E) Hemithraupis ruficapilla—Another brightly-colored endemic tanager, a few of us had arm's length views of three birds at Parque da Cantareira (São Paulo) the day we arrived, followed by another more fleeting look with the group near Hotel do Ypê, on the pre-tour extension. **Chestnut-vented Conebill** Conirostrum speciosum—An unusual tanager with a very thin bill, we saw two birds by the river at the Pousada Aguape campground site, with another pair picked up later on the northern Pantanal, during our late afternoon drive at Pousada Piuval.

Uniform Finch (RE) *Haplospiza unicolor*—A small, finch-like tanager endemic to the Atlantic Forest, we spotted a single male near the forest edge as we drove the Agulhas Negras Road into the Mantiqueira Mountains during the pre-tour extension. A species closely linked to bamboo mass seeding events.



Blue Finch (HO) (GO) Rhopospina caerulescens—A special bird, now rare on the Cerrado due to habitat loss, Demis was hoping to spot one for us on our visit to Cidade de Pedra (Stone Town), during the Chapada extension. Although he was up ahead and using playback at the time, Bob was convinced he'd heard the species minutes earlier, and thought he had a glimpse as it flew. Demis wasn't entirely convinced, so we decided to compromise and say "heard only."

White-rumped Tanager Cypsnagra hirundinacea—Not commonly seen, we saw a bird during our afternoon drive at Pousada Aguape (on the Giant Anteater evening), and another at the Estrada da Caixa d'Água site, i.e., the dry, sandy road we walked on our first morning on the Chapada posttour extension.

Bay-chested Warbling-Finch (E) Castanozoster thoracicus—A narrow, montane endemic occurring only in southeast Brazil, we had reasonable looks at this species (a group of three) in the Mantiqueira Mountains, along the Agulhas Negras Road on our second-to-last day on the Atlantic Forest Extension.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*—A very widespread species, first seen at the Airport Marriott Hotel in São Paulo. It was also common on the Pantanal, and we saw dozens of birds each morning at many of the feeders we visited.

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch *Emberizoides herbicola*—We had great looks at two birds during a morning drive on the savannah at Pousada Aguape, and then saw another pair much further north, at the overlook site we visited the afternoon we arrived at Chapada do Guimarães (during the post-tour extension). **Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*—Seen in open habitat at SouthWild, and then later during the Chapada post-tour extension (during our sandy birding walk at Estrada da Caixa d'Água).

White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera*—Only seen by the small group that opted for some last-minute birding at Parque Mae Bonifacia, in Cuiabá, before we headed to the airport to fly home. **Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila caerulescens*—Limited to the Chapada post-tour extension, we

Yellow-bellied Seedeater Sporophila caerulescens—Limited to the Chapada post-tour extension, we had our best, unobstructed views during our morning walk along the sandy road at the Estrada da Caixa d'Água site. This site was a seedeater haven.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*—Sometimes at feeders, but most abundant (during the pre-tour extension) at Hotel do Ypê on the lawns and near the parking lot, as well as at Hotel Donatti and Hotel Simon. Also seen along the river near SouthWild.

Plumbeous Seedeater *Sporophila plumbea*—Seen at the same location as Yellow-bellied Seedeater (above), we found three birds perched in the open on fenceposts and bare branches. In Brazil the

species is sporadic in the dry Cerrado, and not often reported, possibly due to population declines associated with habitat loss.

Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris*—We found the species on the southern Pantanal in the pastures and dry fields near Pousada Aguape—the birds hugged the ground, and may have been more abundant than our observations suggest. The chestnut, black, and white males were beautifully patterned. **Red-crested Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus*—Adorned with a brightly colored crest, Red-crested Finch is most abundant in dry scrub habitat. It co-occurred with Plumbeous and Yellow-bellied Seedeaters (see

above), where we had our best views. Like most seedeaters and their relatives, this species is at risk due to ongoing habitat conversion (from native grassland to livestock pasture) on the Cerrado.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveloa*—Common and seen nearly every day at the feeders and in the landscaping of most lodges, from Hotel do Ypê and Pousada Piuval to the Airport Marriott Hotel in São Paulo.

Black-throated Saltator *Saltator atricollis*—We saw several birds on different days around Pousada Aguape, during our birding drives on the savannah, but mostly at a distance. We later had close views of the species directly above us on a utility line at the Chapada extension "seedeater" site (see Yellow-bellied, Plumbeous, and Redcrested Finch, above).

Blue-gray Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*—Relatively common, seen on several days in the Pantanal as well as during the Chapada posttour extension. We had our best views of the species in low scrub or open forest at SouthWild and Pousada Aguape, and in riparian brush along the Rio Cuiabá (from the Jaguar boats).

Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*—Only spotted during the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension, we found birds at Hotel Donatti (on our last morning of the extension), and at Hotel Simon. Targeted by collectors (the species is prized as a cagebird for its song), Greenwinged Saltator is declining in the wild.



Thick-billed Saltator (RE) Saltator maxillosus—With patience, the group finally had reasonably clear looks (if less than satisfactory photos) at this Atlantic Forest endemic, as we travelled the Agulhas Negras Road into the Mantiqueira Mountains on our second-to-last day of the pre-tour extension.

MAMMALS (29 Species)

Southern Tamandua (*aka Collared Anteater*) *Tamandua tetradactyla*—Demis got word that this species was being seen in the open during our evening drive at Pousada Aguape, and we made it there in time to see it well. Almost dark, some of the group still managed photos.

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*—Seeing Giant Anteater is never guaranteed, even on an extended trip to the Pantanal, so we were extremely fortunate to find seven during the tour, including two babies on their mother's backs. One of the most rewarding experiences of the tour, we were on foot when we quietly watched a large adult approach very close, allowing several minutes for photos before it got wise and lumbered off. All but one of our sightings were in the southern Pantanal, in the Pousada Aguape area. **Six-banded Armadillo** *Euphractus sexcinctus*—Who knew that armadillos could happily settle in around human habitation, and even scrounge for scraps under the tables? This species was an everyday sight at Pousada Aguape, digging holes and literally scurrying underfoot during our three-day visit.

Nine-banded Armadillo (GO)—This was the second armadillo species at Pousada Aguape, but seen only by Demis who was up working one evening. Too late to rouse the group (most were already in bed), we had to content ourselves with his photos.

Greater Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus*—This was the large bat seen skimming the Rio Cuiabá in the evening and predawn hours near our hotel boat, during the Jaguar segment of the tour.

Pallas's Long-tongued Bat Glossophaga soricina—The only bat we spotted during the Atlantic Forest pretour extension, mostly seen early by those out for some owling (the identification was made by Demis). Proboscis (aka Brazilian Long-Nosed) Bat Rhynchonycteris naso—These were the small bats that were roosting together on a shady tree trunk, seen by the group from the river during one of our Jaguar searches. Black-tailed Marmoset Mico melanurus—We had fabulous looks at a troop of this species, adults and young alike, swinging from the trees at Parque Mae Bonifacia, in Cuiabá. Seen by the group that went on a final, optional birding walk, the last morning before we left for the local airport and our flights home. Black-and-gold Howler Monkey Alouatta caraya—Heard by most of the group and seen by many of us, during our days on the river east of Porto Jofre, searching for Jaguars.

Brown Howler Monkey (HO) (RE) *Alouatta guariba*—This is the howler monkey native to the Atlantic Forest, a few of us heard the species on our optional walk at Parque da Cantareira (São Paulo) the day we arrived. Almost a Brazilian endemic, just slipping into Argentina near Iguazu Falls.

Black (*aka Black-Horned*) **Capuchin** *Sapajus nigritus*—Only found during the Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension, this was the agile monkey spotted several times in the vicinity of Hotel do Ypê, up in the canopy. **Black-striped** (*aka Bearded*) **Capuchin** *Sapajus libidinosus*—A few were seen from the boats on the days we searched for Jaguars. The species is mostly confined to central Brazil.



directly in front of us. A memorable experience in a pristine setting.

Crab-eating Racoon *Procyon cancrivorus*—We had one nocturnal sighting of this species, near a pond, the night we drove out on the savannah at Pousada Aguape.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*—Often common on Pantanal tours, we only spotted this species once, during the post-tour Chapada extension.

Crab-eating (aka Brazilian Forest) **Fox** Cerdocyon thous—We had a number of nice views of this species, i.e., at Pousada Aguape and Pousada Piuval, and again briefly at SouthWild. A beautiful, mostly nocturnal fox with soft, thick fur, seen several times on the Pantanal in the morning or at dusk.

Ocelot *Leopardus pardalis*—SouthWild is known for its Ocelots, so our group was disappointed to miss the species there, despite considerable effort. But Scott and Nancy, who left the tour group here (for some extra days on their own at SouthWild), saw an Ocelot very soon after the rest of us departed north, so it seems fitting to include their sighting on our list. For those who missed out, a good reason to return.

Jaguar *Panthera onca*—No other species is as responsible for conservation and ecotourism in this part of Brazil as the Jaguar. We spent several hours (over parts of three days) floating the river and channels east of Porto Jofre, quietly searching, and were rewarded with multiple Jaguar sightings over three days. We saw both females and males, lounging on the banks, splashing along the shore, and walking the sand bars, and even saw one swimming across the river

Tayra *Eira barbara*—A large adult was seen slinking through the grounds at Hotel do Ypê, disconcertingly indifferent to the presence of people. Related to weasels, martins, and fishers, but well over a meter long including the bushy tail.

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*—Another of the iconic target species of the trip, we had close looks at a family group during our time on the river complex east of Porto Jofre. A stunning species, with chocolate-brown and cream-colored fur, the males are up to two meters long with heads the size of bulldogs. We saw adults and young, and watched them crunching freshly caught fish as they slipped along the shoreline.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*—Seen by a few of the group from the vehicles during our drives at Pousada Aguape. A widespread tropical and subtropical species, extending as far north as Arizona and Texas. **Gray** (*aka Brown*) **Brocket Deer** *Mazama gouazoubira*—This species was identified by Demis, also at Pousada Aguape. Small for a deer, less than a meter at the shoulder. Barely a snack for a Jaguar. **Red Brocket Deer** *Mazama americana*—Spotted in swampy brush at Pousada Piuval, browsing on low

shrubs and forbs. This is the largest of the brocket deer species, adults are still less than a meter tall.

Marsh Deer Blastocerus dichotomus—The largest deer species in South America, with a shoulder height of a meter and a half. We had a good view of a single large male with a full rack, as it casually browsed in roadside vegetation along the Transpantaneira, during our drive south to Porto Jofre.

Pampas Deer Ozotoceros bezoarticus— Largely extinct now in many localities outside Brazil, the original grassland habitat of Pampas Deer in South America is now less than 1% of its extent in 1900. The Pantanal is where this species is



essentially making its last stand, where despite conservation efforts, remaining populations still have to contend with domestic grazing. We saw a few Pampas Deer at Pousada Aguape.

Ingram's Squirrel *Sciurus ingrami*—Our tour checklist only includes Guianan Squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*), also called Brazilian Squirrel, a species that actually occurs well to the north of the Atlantic Forest, where we had our squirrel sightings. With that in mind, our species is probably Ingram's. A typical forest squirrel, it was fairly common in the trees around Hotel do Ypê.

Brazilian Guinea Pig *Cavia aperae*—One was briefly seen scampering across the road near Posada Piuval, it was about the same size as its domesticated cousins.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae*—Seen best at Pousada Aguape and Pousada Piuval, this is the mid-sized rodent with the spindly legs. Very cute.

Capybara *Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*—The world's largest rodent, seen daily on the Pantanal, we watched adults and offspring during their daily routines, loafing around the lodges and by the rivers, often wallowing in the mud. Utterly relaxed, and seemingly unfazed by the presence of potential predators (caimans and Jaguars, for example), no creature on Earth exemplifies sleepy indifference quite like a Capybara! **Tapeti** (*aka Brazilian Cottontail*) *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*—Spotted several times on the southern Pantanal at Pousada Aguape, and later up north at SouthWild. Usually seen early in the morning when they crept out from cover to feed. A typical cottontail.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (12 Species)

Tropical house gecko (I) *Hemidactylus mabouia*—Seen near lights on the lodge walls at Hotel do Ypê and Pousada Piuval (now found worldwide in warm locations, originally introduced from sub-Saharan Africa). **Amazon Lava Lizard** *Tropidurus torquatus*—A medium-sized lizard, spotted on the roof and on the ground at SouthWild.

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva*—Found at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso, after we left Pousada Piuval (on our drive south to Porto Jofre). It had lost its tail, but was still a sizeable (and colorful) lizard. Bob and some others saw it slink under the van when he went back for some water.

Paraguay Caiman Lizard *Dracaena paraguayensis*—Pointed out by Demis in a swamp, when we were driving the back roads at Pousada Piuval, late on the afternoon of our arrival there. A powerful, heavily

built lizard, ours was at least a meter long. It was partly submerged in the reeds, and appeared to be stalking Jacana chicks, although Caiman Lizards are reported to mostly eat snails.

Argentine Black-and-White Tegu *Salvator merianae*—This species was spotted briefly in the dry understory (from the van), the day we headed north along the Transpantaneira to SouthWild.

Green (aka Common) **Iguana** *Iguana iguana*—A few were seen along the Rio Pixaim during our river outings at SouthWild. Like small dinosaurs, very primitive in appearance.

Banded Cat-eyed Snake *Leptodeira annulata*—Spotted near the rooms at Pousada Aguape. Despite having rear-fangs and being slightly venomous to small prey, it's bite is harmless to humans. Mostly a nocturnal snake, with elliptical, cat-like pupils.

Spirit Diminutive Snake *Psomophis genimaculatus*—This is the small snake many of the group saw during our afternoon check-in at SouthWild (the one that made the staff lady jump and squeal when she saw it!). Bob identified it by using the iNaturalist app, and was surprised to learn this species is seldom seen, and had been reported on iNaturalist only 13 times before. A rare, harmless little snake with a strange name. **Yacaré** (aka Paraguay) **Caiman** *Caiman yacare*—Abundant and seen on the Pantanal by the hundreds most days, sunning by the water's edge or leering at us from the rafts of water hyacinth, mouths often agape. The largest specimens were over three meters long, but most were smaller. Previously considered a race of Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*), but now accorded full species status.

Cururu Toad *Rhinella diptycha*—Reported by some in the group from the grounds at SouthWild, not seen by everyone.

Mato Grosso Snouted Treefrog *Scinax acuminatus*—This was the most common of the two treefrogs plastered to the sides of buildings at SouthWild, or occasionally seen in our showers or toilets. **Chaco Treefrog** *Boana raniceps*—Also seen at SouthWild, but not as common. This species is polymorphic, with many color forms (often the case with some treefrogs)—ours tended to be brown or beige.

Photos (from front to rear): Dusky-legged Guan; Picazuro Pigeon; Great Potoo; Brazilian Ruby (female); Largebilled Tern; Rufescent Tiger-Heron (juvenile); Capped Heron; Spectacled Owl; Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl; Crescent-chested Puffbird; Green-barred Woodpecker; Red-legged Seriema; Blaze-winged Parakeet; Planalton Slaty-Antshrike; Rusty-backed Antwren; Red-billed Scythebill; Orange-eyed Thornbird; Pin-tailed Manakin; Sharpbill; Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher; Gray Monjita; Swainson's Flycatcher; Rufous-crowned Greenlet; Brown-chested Martin; Chestnut-bellied Euphonia; Giant Cowbird; Masked Yellowthroat; Magpie Tanager; Green-headed Tanager; Brassy-breasted Tanager; White-rumped Tanager; Black-throated Saltator; Crab-eating Fox; Marsh Deer; Black-crowned Night-Heron

