

Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars & More! | Species List

September 9-16, 2023 with Atlantic Forest Pre-Extension



**With Wes Larson, Marco Silva, and eleven participants:
Chuck, Dianne, Barbara, Laura, Joyce, Jan, Stacy, Sandy, Tom, Rita, Mike**

Compiled by Wes Larson

Summary: We saw an incredible array of birds, mammals, and reptiles on our once-in-a-lifetime trip to Brazil. Avian highlights included, Green-Headed Tanager, Chestnut-Eared Aracari, Band-Tailed Manakin, Hyacinth Macaw, Red-Legged Seriema, Jabiru, Capped Heron, King Vulture, Red-Crested Finch, and many many more. However, the bird voted most memorable and impressive by our group was the Frilled Coquette (bird of the trip). It wasn't an easy decision though and we had a lot of candidates for bird of the trip as we truly saw such an amazing amount of beautiful and charismatic birds.

We had simply incredible luck with mammals on our trip, particularly with jaguar sightings and we had fantastic luck with jaguars hunting along the river, as well as a couple really special sightings away from the river. We had TWENTY Giant Anteater sightings, which has to be a new record, and some of our group got a great look at the smaller Southern Tamandua as well. Mammals were a true highlight throughout the trip though, and we also had multiple Brazilian tapir sightings as well as great looks at various species of primates, armadillos, deer, fox and of course, capybara. And we also had some great success with herps on this tour, including a couple great yellow anaconda sightings, and various frog, lizard and snake species throughout the Pantanal. Brazil never fails to impress and it is a birdwatcher's paradise and a naturalist's dream. Join us next year.

BIRDS (272 species recorded):

This species report Ebird link below details the 272 species of birds our group either observed during the tour. If you're new to Ebird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen and how many.

[Brazilian Pantanal With Atlantic Rainforest Naturalist Journeys Trip, September 2023-eBird species list](#)

MAMMALS (24 species recorded):

Southern Tamandua *Tamandua tetradactyla*—A few participants from our group got an amazing up-close look

at a southern tamandua as it passed through the grounds at Aguapé lodge

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*—We had absolutely insane luck with this unique and charismatic mammal around Aguapé, and we could hardly turn a corner on the drive to the pousada without seeing giant anteaters looking for feeding opportunities. We counted 20 giant anteaters while in the southern part of the Pantanal

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

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

Greater Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus*—seen feeding over the Cuiabá River in the evenings from the Panoramico houseboat

Pallas's Long-tongued Bat *Glossophaga soricina*—Regular visitors to the feeders at Hotel do Ypê during the evening hours

Black-tailed Marmoset *Mico melanurus*—A brief sighting of this small primate at Pousada Piuval

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

Black Capuchin *Sapajus Cay*—A family of these cheeky monkeys has made Hotel do Ypê their home, and we even watched as one youngster threw tiles from the roof of the hotel in protest!

Azara's Capuchin *Sapajus cay*—Several observations throughout the northern Pantanal

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

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous*—Frequent observations over multiple days of the trip, particularly on night safaris at Hotel Mato Grosso. Genetic studies show that these 'foxes' are more closely related to South American 'wolves' such as the Maned Wolf than to true foxes.

Ocelot *Leopardus pardalis*—Ocelot are not easy to find, but we were fortunate to have some brief looks at these elusive cats while on night safari at Hotel Mato Grosso

Jaguar *Panthera onca*—Fantastic views of this majestic feline along the Cuiabá River including a really beautiful individual (Patricia) hunting caiman high in trees. We also got very lucky to see jaguars from safari vehicles at both Pousada Piuval and while on night safari at Hotel Mato Grosso. This species is the world's third largest big cat after the lion and tiger and the Brazilian Pantanal is the only place where they can be seen with any regularity

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*—Amazing experiences observing these incredible mammals hunting and feeding along the edge of the Cuiabá River on our boat safaris as well as on the Pixiam river

South American Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*—We had a great trip when it came to tapir. We saw one individual in the southern Pantanal during a night safari at Aguapé, as well as multiple tapir by the mango trees at Hotel Mato Grosso

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

Red Brocket *Mazama americana*—seen at Pousada Aguapé

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

Marsh Deer *Blastocerus dichotomus*—Seen both along the Transpantaneira and at Hotel Mato Grosso. The Pantanal is the stronghold of this largest South American deer species and we saw some especially impressive males

Guianan Squirrel *Sciurus aestuans*—The only squirrel species in Brazil. We saw multiple individuals during our pre-extension in the Atlantic Forest

Brazilian Guinea Pig *Cavia aperea*—Seen once in the Atlantic Forest

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae*—Common throughout the Pantanal and seen many times on our trip

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

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (12 species recorded):

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia*—Common on walls at lodges throughout the Pantanal

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

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

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae*—We saw this large, predatory lizard at different locations throughout our trip— the largest species of lizard in the Americas!

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—Observed along the Pixaim river and Cuiabá river

Yellow Anaconda *Eunectes notaeus*—We had an up-close look at an anaconda that was crossing the Transpantaneira, as well as a quick look at one at Hotel Mato Grosso

Parrot Snake *Leptophis ahaetulla*—We found one of these snakes in the grass at Hotel Mato Grosso

Yacaré Caiman *Caiman yacare*—The most abundant reptile (terrestrial vertebrate!) in the Pantanal, where it was ubiquitous. We saw hundreds if not thousands of these crocodilians, including one that was being eaten by a jaguar!

Cururu Toad *Rhinella diptycha*—A few of these beautiful toads near rooms at Aguapé

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

Mato Grosso Snouted Tree Frog *Scinax acuminatus*—Great look at one of these unique frogs at Aguapé

Miranda's White-lipped Frog *Leptodactylus macrosternum*—Common around the grounds at Pousada Aguapé