

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

BRAZIL: PANTANAL PHOTO SAFARI

August 15-27, 2014



Leaders: David Ascanio and Jose Antonio Padilla
Compiled by David Ascanio

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VENT photo safari album:

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/2697911@N20/>

David Ascanio's flickr album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157646567497615/>

I find difficult to start a paragraph that would compile the wonderful birds, mammals and experiences during the Pantanal Photo Safari, and that's because there were so many highlights!

Every day we were awaked with the cacophony of notes of the gray-necked wood-rails, the limpkins and the chaco chachalacas. These were indeed our alarm clock! Then, there was the golden sunrise, a fresh breeze of the morning, the suit notes of the Sunbittern and with the first hint of light we experienced a massive explosion of life: toco toucans came to the bird feeder, orange-backed troupials found the way to leak the suit water of the hummingbird feeders, bay-winged cowbirds came in large numbers, kingfishers delivered their descending rattle voice and for hours we spent time inspecting the lodges surroundings were tanagers, blackbirds, cacholotes, parakeets, horneros, cardinals, doves and pigeons offered great photo opportunities.

Once our appetite of open areas photography was satiated we explored other habitats, namely, the gallery forest, the marshes and swamps, and the capao forest islands. In each locations we worked with the light and habitat conditions to provide with the best possible photo opportunity of the species. Sometimes this task was an easy one, and other times not so easy (as in the case of the Large-billed Antwren). In certain opportunities the long wait paid well (as for the case of the Helmeted Manakin) and in other circumstances we had to drive or take a boat ride for certain target species (as for the giant anteater, the jaguar, the agami heron and the Scarlet-hooded Blackbird).

I am sure that you would agree that there was something remarkable to remember every day of this tour. Think about the amazing Hyacinth Macaw, or the huge Southern Rhea as well as the elegant Red-legged Seriema giving its dramatic vocalization. But there was more than birds. In the *Three Brothers river* and the *black channel* we had the opportunity to see jaguars as I have never experienced before: I two full days we saw six individuals (four females, two males) and during our first encounter with this species we saw it hunting a cayman! We also had a couple of flash views of jaguarondi, made incredible studies of giant river otters (including a family group *periscoping* after the presence of a jaguar and another family group munching fishes), marsh deer (male and females), capybaras and a very close encounter with a giant anteater.

During the drives from one lodge to the other, the transpantaneira road worked as a Pandora box. Any time we came across each of the 120+ wooden bridges we were searching for wildlife at both sides of it. Some common friends occurred in almost all of the bridges, including Black-collared Hawk, Cocoi Heron, Wattled Jacana and Paraguayan Yacare Cayman (we were told that there is an estimate of 10 million individuals in the Pantanal). But, there were surprises on these bridges as well. One gave us an excellent view of American Pygmy Kingfisher and in another we saw Purple Gallinule. In some of the longer bridges roseate spoonbills were probing the shallow water and the majestic Jabiru was searching with its enormous and powerful bill the muddy ground. The road itself was also a good source for wildlife photography (remember the big-headed Pantanal swamp turtle!) which accompanied with great sense of humor, funny stories and a lot of laughing made every day a special one. By the way, I am sure the expression *para, para, para!* (stop, stop, stop!) will remain in your memory for a while!

Now that you got the bite for wildlife photography I want to invite you to join us in other great destinations such as the New Year in the Llanos tour (Dec. 26-Jan 4) and the *relaxed and easy* tour to Casa Maria and Hato (ranch) Piñero. You can see some of the photos of these tours in the following links:

Casa Maria & Hato Piñero,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157640844149105/>

New Year in the Llanos,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157632394911683/>

In closing, I want to thank you for joining us in this photo safari. I know that vivid memories will float any time you scroll along the enormous amount of photos that were taken during this photo safari. I need not say that two ideas pop-out of my brain when I was leading the tour. The first is a fact: This is the only location in this continent where you're likely to see more jaguars than bananaquits. The second is more ethereal: If there was heaven in Earth it ought to be here, in Pantanal.

Have a happy flight back home!



THE BIRDLIST

Species photographed are highlighted with an asterisk (*).

Photo albums:

VENT photo safari album,

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/2697911@N20/>

David Ascanio's flickr album,

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Rheas / Rheidae

* Greater Rhea. *Rhea americana*. Various small groups were observed near Piuval lodge.

Tinamous / Tinamidae

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*. This one goes as only Heard species.

Screamers / Anhimidae

* Southern Screamer. *Chauna torquata*. There are three species of screamers and this one is the southernmost one. Various pairs were seen in marshes along the way to Porto Jofre.

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl / Anatidae

* Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. A couple of groups were observed.

* Muscovy Duck. *Cairina moschata*. Scattered records of small groups or pairs.

* Brazilian Teal. *Amazonetta brasiliensis*. We observed only a pair in Piuval ranch.

Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows / Cracidae

* Chaco Chachalaca. *Ortalis canicollis*. A common species. Seen in all locations.

* Chestnut-bellied Guan (E). *Penelope ochrogaster*. We found this species in the Pixaim river, Piuval lodge, South Wild and near Cuiabá.

* Blue-throated Piping-Guan. *Pipile cumanensis*. We enjoyed views of pairs (mostly) along the gallery forest of the Pixaim and Piquirí rivers.

* Bare-faced Curassow. *Crax fasciolata*. Curassows are dummy birds thus extensively hunted. I was surprised to see how many pairs we saw either along the transpantaneira road and in both river trips. That speaks very good about the pristine conditions in the Pantanal!

Storks / Ciconiidae

Maguari Stork. *Ciconia maguari*. Only one individual was observed flying near Porto Jofre.

* Jabiru. *Jabiru mycteria*. This was one of the tour favorite species. It is remarkably common in the Pantanal. It was seen every day.

* Wood Stork. *Mycteria americana*. We saw several groups in wetlands near Porto Jofre.

Cormorants & Shags / Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. A common species. Seen every day.

Anhingas / Anhingidae

Anhinga. *Anhinga anhinga*. A common species. Seen every day although not numerous as the previous species.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns / Ardeidae

* Rufescent Tiger-Heron. *Tigrisoma lineatum*. Among the members of the family, this is one of the commonest in the Pantanal. It was seen every day.

* Cocoi Heron. *Ardea cocoi*. A fairly common species in the Pantanal although not a numerous one.

* Great Egret. *Ardea (Egretta) alba*. We saw this species almost every day. It was found mainly along the transpantaneira road.

* Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula*. A fairly common species in marshes and ponds along the transpantaneira road.

* Little Blue Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. We saw this species only in two occasions. In both times it was only along the transpantaneira road.

* Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis*. Common and numerous along the transpantaneira road.

* Striated Heron. *Butorides striata*. This species was very common. We saw along gallery forest and in open wetlands.

* Agami Heron. *Agamia agami*. We owe a big thank you to Alexio, our boat man, for showing this species to us. We were able to get some potos although it remained well hidden behind limbs and branches inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

* Whistling Heron. *Syrigma sibilatrix*. This heron prefers drier areas in comparison with most other members of the family. We saw a pair in Piuval and another pair near the entrance of Santa teresa-South Wild lodge.

* Capped Heron. *Pilherodius pileatus*. This beautiful heron prefers wetlands with shallow water, usually near some kind of arboreal formation, either scrubby vegetation or gallery forest. We saw two individuals along the transpantaneira road.

* Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax*. A fairly common species in the Pixaim river.

* Boat-billed Heron. *Cochlearius cochlearius*. We were able to compare juvenile from adult plumage in the night outins at the Pixaim river.

Ibises & Spoonbills/ Threskiornithidae

* Green Ibis. *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*. This is the least common ibis in the pantanal. It has short legs and beautiful green cast. Additionally, the neck is adorned with glittering-green feathers. We saw few individuals in small ponds or at edge of gallery forest.

* Bare-faced Ibis. *Phimosus infuscatus*. We saw this species mainly in the Pixaim river when flying in flocks to the roosting site.

* Plumbeous Ibis. *Theristicus caerulescens*. Few pairs of this ancient-looking ibis were observed in the northern and drier Pantanal.

* Buff-necked Ibis. *Theristicus caudatus*. We came across pairs or small family groups many times along the transpantaneira road.

* Roseate Spoonbill. *Platalea ajaja*. Small groups or individuals were observed along the transpantaneira road.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

* Black Vulture. *Coragyps atratus*. Fairly common in open areas. One photographed in South Wild and another in Porto Jofre.

* Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. We saw few individuals soaring. We discussed the color of the nape as being diagnostic of the resident trace.

* Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture. *Cathartes burrovianus*. This species was commoner towards the southern Pantanal where there are more marshes. We took photos of a distant individual.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites / Accipitridae

* Black-collared Hawk. *Buteo lineatus*. A remarkably common species in Pantanal. In other areas of distribution you don't get to see that many individuals.

* Snail Kite. *Rostrhamus sociabilis*. During day time we saw this species in few locations and the evening return to the lodge at the Pixaim river boat trip allowed us to enjoy a roost of about 25 individuals.

* Crane Hawk. *Geranospiza caerulescens*. I was somehow confused with the individual we saw hunting in the mango tree area near Campo Jofre. I thought it was a subadult given that in northern South America their mantle is smooth. I showed the photo and video to VENT leader Andrew Whittaker and he confirmed that this plumage is indeed the one for the adults in Pantanal. We saw (and photographed) two individuals.

* Savanna Hawk. *Buteogallus meridionalis*. A very common species in open habitats of Pantanal.

* Great Black-Hawk. *Buteogallus urubitinga*. A relatively common species in both rivers visited.

* Roadside Hawk. *Rupornis magnirostris*. Few pairs (or individuals) were observed along the transpantaneira road.

White-tailed Hawk. *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*. Only seen soaring near Campo Jofre.

Sunbittern / Eurypygidae

* Sunbittern. *Eurypyga helias*. A juvenile walking near the parking area in South Wild lodge was our first photo for this species. Late, we saw an adult in Piuval ranch.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots / Rallidae

* Gray-necked Wood-Rail. *Aramides cajaneus*. Several pairs were observed and photographed. Heard at night in some locations.

Finfoots / Heliornithidae

Sungrebe. *Heliornis fulica*. Heard in the Piquiri river. One individual was briefly seen by both leaders.

Limpkin/ Aramidae

* Limpkin. *Aramus guarauna*. We enjoyed the cries of this species during the evening outings.

Plovers & Lapwings / Charadriidae

- * Pied Lapwing. *Vanellus cayanus*. We had a very close encounter with two individual on a Sandy island along the Piquiri river. Great potos!
- * Southern Lapwing. *Vanellus chilensis*. A widespread species in Pantanal.

Jacanas / Jacanidae

- * Wattled Jacana. *Jacana jacana*. Despite that Pantanal is a great wetland we found this species only in pairs, not in large groups. I would have expected to see it in larger groups like the case in the plains of Venezuela.

Sandpipers & Allies / Scolopacidae

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria*. One individual was flushed in Santa Teresa ranch.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers / Laridae

- * Yellow-billed Tern. *Sternula superciliaris*. Seen only in the Piquiri river. Nice photos in the skimmer island.
- * Large-billed Tern. *Phaetusa simplex*. A common species along the Piquiri river and less so in the upper Pantanal. We took nice photos of a group perched on a bare branch of a fallen tree inside the water.
- * Black Skimmer. *Rynchops niger*. Nice study of a breeding colony in a river island in the Piquiri river.

Pigeons & Doves / Columbidae

Pale-vented Pigeon. *Patagioenas cayennensis*. This species prefers more forested areas compared with the next species. We saw only in the Pixaim river and later in the upper Pantanal.

- * Picazuro Pigeon. *Patagioenas picazuro*. A very common species in Pantanal.
- * Eared Dove. *Zenaida auriculata*. We saw this species in Piuval and Santa Teresa ranch.
- * Ruddy Ground-Dove. *Columbina talpacoti*. Few pairs or individuals were observed in Santa Teresa and Piuval.
- * Scaled Dove. *Columbina squammata*. An uncommon species in Pantanal. It was only seen in Santa Teresa.
- Picui Ground-Dove. *Columbina picui*. A pair was observed in Santa Teresa.
- * Long-tailed Ground-Dove. *Uropelia campestris*. A commoner species in drier ground. It was photographed in Piuval.
- * White-tipped Dove. *Leptotila verreauxi*. It was first seen in Santa Teresa. Also found in Piuval.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Little Cuckoo. *Coccyua minuta*. We had flash views of this species in the black channel, southern Pantanal.

Squirrel Cuckoo. *Piaya cayana*. Seen various times in gallery forest.

* Guira Cuckoo. *Guira guira*. We enjoyed superb views of various (family?) groups.

Striped Cuckoo. *Tapera naevia*. Only scoped in Santa Teresa.

* Smooth-billed Ani. *Crotophaga ani*. Seen along the transpantaneira road.

Owls / Strigidae

* Great Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus*. Very nice stuies of an active individual in Santa Teresa ranch (I meant by active a vocal one!). Also, a pair was seen well at the edge of a forest island in Piuval ranch.

* Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl. *Glaucidium brasilianum*. We had a couple of sights, one of which was in great light for photography.

Burrowing Owl. *Athene cunicularia*. Scoped near Santa Teresa.

Nightjars & Allies / Caprimulgidae

* Nacunda Nighthawk. *Chordeiles nacunda*. We observed a huge flock moving in the afternoon we drove to Porto Jofre. I am not sure about what flushes this species during day time. We also photographed some individuals that were roosting on the ground at close distance to a female jaguar.

Band-tailed Nighthawk. *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*. A crepuscular species that was seen in all boat trips.

* Common Pauraque. *Nyctidromus albicollis*. This is the commonest of the nightjars in Pantanal. It was seen in both night outings.

* Spot-tailed Nightjar. *Hydropsalis maculicaudus*. This species is less common to the previous one and I suspect it might be more vocal during the rainy season. We enjoyed views of a pair in piuval. It was also Heard in South Wild Lodge.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar. *Hydropsalis torquata*. Unfortunately we only saw this species in the Piquiri river. No photo taken.

Potoos / Nyctibiidae

* Great Potoo. *Nyctibius grandis*. Jose Antonio knew of a roosting individual and took us there. We got superb photos of it.

Common Potoo. *Nyctibius griseus*. This one was seen flying only in Piuval.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

* Glittering-bellied Emerald. *Chlorostilbon lucidus*. We scoped one individual perched atop a bare limb of a *Thalia* sp. Unfortunately it was distant for close photos.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird. *Eupetomena macroura*. This was only seen (not photographed) in the early morning outing in Piuval lodge.

* Glittering-throated Emerald. *Amazilia fimbriata*. A common visitor to the hummingbird feeder in Santa Teresa – South Wild lodge.

Trogons / Trogonidae

* Blue-crowned Trogon. *Trogon curucui*. We photographed a male perched fairly low in the gallery forest of the Piquiri river.

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

* Ringed Kingfisher. *Megaceryle torquata*. A fairly common species in most ponds along the transpantaneira road.

- * Amazon Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle amazona*. We saw many individuals along the Pixaim river. It was also seen in the Piquiri river.
- * Green Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle americana*. A widespread species but decidedly less numerous than the previous two species.
- * Green-and-rufous Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle inda*. We have a superb view of a male inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.
- * American Pygmy Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle aenea*. The first individual photographed was a female at side of one of the bridges in the transpantaneira road. It was later seen in the Pixaim river. We got superb photos of it!

Puffbirds / Bucconidae

- * Black-fronted Nunbird. *Monasa nigrifrons*. We came across this species in forested areas, from pairs to small groups.

Jacamars / Galbulidae

- * Rufous-tailed Jacamar. *Galbula ruficauda*. This was another favorite among tour participants. It was as fairly common in exposed branches of the gallery forest of the Pixaim and Piquiri rivers.

Toucans / Ramphastidae

- * Chestnut-eared Aracari. *Pteroglossus castanotis*. Small groups were seen in semi-open areas and forest edge in various locations.
- * Toco Toucan. *Ramphastos toco*. A favorite among tour participants. We had close views at the feeder in Santa Teresa ranch.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

- * White-wedged Piculet. *Picumnus albosquamatus*. We saw this species in various locations, but the best view was in a forest island in Piuval lodge.
- * White Woodpecker. *Melanerpes candidus*. Seen a couple of times in Piuval and Santa Teresa lodges.
- * White-fronted Woodpecker. *Melanerpes cactorum*. Great views of a pair in Piuval lodge.
- * Little Woodpecker. *Veniliornis passerinus*. One was briefly seen in the gallery forest of the Piquiri river, near the flotel.
- Green-barred Woodpecker. *Colaptes melanochloros*. We enjoyed a short but clear view of the species near the entrance of the Piuval lodge.
- * Campo Flicker. *Colaptes campestris*. Great views of pairs nesting in terrestrial termite nests.
- Pale-crested Woodpecker. *Celeus lugubris*. Seen briefly from the boat trip along the Pixaim river.
- Cream-colored Woodpecker. *Celeus flavus*. Seen briefly (mostly in flight) along the Pixaim river.
- * Lineated Woodpecker. *Dryocopus lineatus*. We saw a pair near the entrance of Piuval ranch.
- Crimson-crested Woodpecker. *Campephilus melanoleucos*. We saw a pair quite distant in Piuval.

Seriemas / Cariamidae

* Red-legged Seriema. *Cariama cristata*. How can I describe the show of three individuals calling near to our safari truck? It was both magic and impressive! We got very nice photos of it.

Falcons & Caracaras / Falconidae

* Southern Caracara. *Caracara plancus*. A very common species in Pantanal.

* Yellow-headed Caracara. *Milvago chimachima*. Only seen twice in the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

Laughing Falcon. *Herpetotheres cachinnans*. Heard only in Piuval.

* Aplomado Falcon. *Falco femoralis*. Seen first soaring in Piuval ranch. Later, a pair was photographed in Santa Teresa ranch.

Bat Falcon. *Falco rufigularis*. One was seen flying in Piuval ranch.

Parrots / Psittacidae

* Monk Parakeet. *Myiopsitta monachus*. Various nesting colonies were observed and photographed along the road.

Blue-crowned Parakeet. *Aratinga acuticaudata*. Seen only in flight.

* Peach-fronted Parakeet. *Aratinga aurea*. Nice views of small groups feeding on small seeds on the ground. Also seen along the upper transpantaneira road.

* Hyacinth Macaw. *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*. This species was one of the highlights of the tour. The first view was of a group along the transpantaneira road. Later we enjoyed astonishing view along the Piquiri river.

* Blue-and-yellow Macaw. *Ara ararauna*. Great shots of a pair north of Santa Teresa ranch.

Yellow-collared Macaw. *Primolius auricollis*. Seen only in flight.

Red-shouldered Macaw. *Diopsittaca nobilis*. Reported only in Cuiaba.

* Yellow-chevroned Parakeet. *Brotogeris chiriri*. Several pairs were seen in Santa Teresa ranch.

* Turquoise-fronted Parrot. *Amazona aestiva*. Great views of pairs perched on trees around Santa Teresa. Also, we photographed a pair nesting along the road to Porto Jofre.

Orange-winged Parrot. *Amazona amazonica*. Only seen flying.

Typical Antbirds / Thamnophilidae

* Great Antshrike. *Taraba major*. This species is usually shy in most areas of distribution. However, in Pantanal it can perch in fairly open areas but, in few seconds will hide into the dark understory. For that reason, we only had flash views and obtained few photos of it.

* Barred Antshrike. *Thamnophilus doliatus*. We found this species not so responsive to playback as it is in other neotropical regions. We enjoyed good views of a pair only once.

* Planalto Slaty-Antshrike (E). *Thamnophilus pelzelni*. The forest-islands on sandy soil were the sites to find this species. We were fortunate to find a male singing for a while, allowing some good photos!

Plain Antwreio. *Dysithamnus mentalis*. Heard only in the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

* Large-billed Antwren. *Herpsilochmus longirostris*. Members of this genus are canopy dwellers. In the Pantanal, and given the low forest size, it is easier to see this species from the counterparts in the Amazonian rainforest. Still, it was a difficult task to capture this species in a photo. Some participants got fairly decent photos of it!

* Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa*. We owe a big thank you to Jan and Linda for finding this species. We enjoyed repeated views of a pair in a scrubby vegetation contiguous to a marsh along the transpantaneira road.

* Band-tailed Antbird. *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*. Seen from the flotel. Great views at the gallery forest of the Piquiri river.

* Mato Grosso Antbird. *Cercomacra melanaria*. Nice studies (and photos) of a pair from the boats at the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers / Furnariidae

* Great Rufous Woodcreeper. *Xiphocolaptes major*. This was a superb woodcreeper and one we saw and photographed well. It was seen in a forest island in Piuval.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper. *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*. Heard various times. Seen only once.

* Straight-billed Woodcreeper. *Dendroplex picus*. We saw this species in the gallery forest of the Piquiri river. We discussed the various plumages and voices among the range of distribution of the species.

* Red-billed Scythebill. *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*. Hearing this species was a real surprise to me as its voice resembled that of the Curve-billed Scythebill in the Guianas. Keep track of all the members of this genus as there will be various splits in the years to come.

* Narrow-billed Woodcreeper. *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*. A common species in Pantanal. It was photographed various times.

* Pale-legged Hornero. *Furnarius leucopus*. We saw this species in the gallery forest of the Pixaim river. It is less conspicuous than the next species.

* Rufous Hornero. *Furnarius rufus*. A very common species in Pantanal. It was seen almost every day.

* Rufous-fronted Thornbird. *Phacellodomus rufifrons*. We saw (and photographed) a pair near the entrance of the Santa Teresa farm.

* Greater Thornbird (Yellow-eyed Thornbird). *Phacellodomus ruber*. A common species in Pantanal. We enjoyed superb views of pairs working at their huge nests!

* Rusty-backed Spinetail. *Cranioleuca vulpina*. Pairs and small family groups were seen in the Pixaim and Piquiri rivers. Also, we saw a pair building a nest next to the flote.

* Rufous (Gray-crested) Cacholote. *Pseudoseisura unirufa*. This is a comical species given its plumage, eye color and behavior. We saw really well in the Santa Teresa ranch.

* Chotoy Spinetail. *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*. What a species! We enjoyed superb views of a pair near the entrance of the Santa Teresa ranch. At one point, these individuals were perched atop a bare limb on a scrub.

* Yellow-chinned Spinetail. *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*. This uncommon spinetail was observed near the South Wild lodge. Some good photos were taken!

* Cinereous-breasted Spinetail. *Synallaxis hypospodia*. A distant view of an individual perched on a bare limb inside a marsh was the only sighting for the species. Although photographed, it was quite distant.

* White-lored Spinetail. *Synallaxis albilora*. A common species in Pantanal. It was seen various times but equally hard to photograph.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

* Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet. *Camptostoma obsoletum*. We observed a very active individual coming after a pygmy owl whistling. Its name is actually longer than the total length of the bird!

* Forest Elaenia. *Myiopagis gaimardii*. One of the first tyrant flycatchers seen in the tour. We studied in the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

* Large Elaenia. *Elaenia spectabilis*. We came across this species only once, near the marsh where we saw the Scarlet-hooded Blackbird. We took nice photos of it!

Sepia-capped Flycatcher. *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*. Heard only (i think no one saw it, right?). Rio Pixaim gallery forest.

* Plain Tyrannulet. *Inezia inornata*. A common species in the gallery forest of both rivers, the Pixaim and the Piquiri.

Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus striaticollis*. We enjoyed fairly decent views in the subcanopy of a tree inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river. It seemed to like vine areas. Unfortunately, not photographed.

* Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant. *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*. This interesting flycatcher was seen and photographed in various locations. It is widespread and certainly involves more than one species. Keep an eye to your records since it will surely be split in multiple species soon!

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher. *Poecilatriccus latirostris*. Heard mostly. Seen by few inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

* Common Tody-Flycatcher. *Todirostrum cinereum*. A very common species in Pantanal. We photographed a pair building a nest in Campo Jofre.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher. *Tolmomyias sulphureus*. Seen only in the Piuval ranch. Another species that will be split in multiple species in the near future.

* Fuscous Flycatcher. *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*. Pairs were seen inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river. This species is likely to be split in the future.

* Vermilion Flycatcher. *Pyrocephalus rubinus*. Pairs were observed and photographed in fairly open branches in many open areas.

* White-rumped Monjita. *Xolmis velatus*. A nice individual hang around the Jabiru nest in the Santa Teresa ranch. Great views and photos!

* White-headed Marsh Tyrant. *Arundinicola leucocephala*. Seen (and photographed) in marshes at side of the wooded bridges of the transpantaneira road.

* Cattle Tyrant. *Machetornis rixosa*. We got superb photos of cattle tyrants riding on the back of horses and capybaras. They love to search for ticks and other ectoparasites on the back of herbivorous mammals.

Dull-capped Attila. *Attila bolivianus*. Heard only in the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

* Rufous Casiornis. *Casiornis rufus*. Nice views of a pair at eyelevel inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river.

- * Short-crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus ferox*. A fairly common species in Pantanal. Notice that it has pink at the very base of the lower mandible (something apparently not highlighted in many field guides).
- * Brown-crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus tyrannulus*. One individual was seen inside the Capao Forest Island in Piuval.
- Swainson's Flycatcher. *Myiarchus swainsonii*. We might have seen this species near Santa Teresa ranch. We made the decision based in the extensive pink in the lower mandible of the individual.
- * Lesser Kiskadee. *Pitangus lictor*. A common species usually found near water at the edge of the gallery forest.
- * Great Kiskadee. *Pitangus sulphuratus*. A common species in Pantanal.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher. *Megarynchus pitangua*. Heard only in the gallery forest of the Piquiri river.
- * Rusty-margined Flycatcher. *Myiozetetes cayanensis*. A fairly common species in the Pantanal. We discussed its similarities with Great Kiskadee and other *Myiozetetes* flycatchers.
- Tropical Kingbird. *Tyrannus melancholicus*. A fairly common species in the Pantanal although not as numerous as in other neotropical locations. Did anyone get photos of this species?
- * Fork-tailed Flycatcher. *Tyrannus savana*. We saw a pair at the entrance of the Santa Teresa ranch. We discussed some plumage aspects of the populations inhabiting South America.

Manakins / Pipridae

- * Helmeted Manakin. *Antilophia galeata*. A fairly long wait paid well. We enjoyed views of a male calling while perched on a bare vine some 12 feet from the ground. Great photos were taken!

Tityras & Allies / Tityridae

- * White-naped Xenopsaris. *Xenopsaris albinucha*. We saw an individual in the black channel, a tributary of the Piquiri river.

Vireos / Vireonidae

- * Ashy-headed Greenlet. *Hylophilus pectoralis*. We had very nice studies of an individual moving along the gallery forest edge from the open areas of the flotel.
- Rufous-browed Peppershrike. *Cyclarhis gujanensis*. Seen from the flotel. Not photographed.

Crows, Jays & Magpies / Corvidae

- * Purplish Jay. *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*. Several conspicuous individuals came to the feeder at dawn in Santa Teresa.

Swallows / Hirundinidae

- Southern Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. A fairly common species in open areas of the Piquiri river.
- Gray-breasted Martin. *Progne chalybea*. Seen only in Piuval.

- * Brown-chested Martin. *Progne tapera*. Common in Santa Teresa ranch.
- * White-winged Swallow. *Tachycineta albiventer*. Seen every day in the Piquiri river.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

- * Thrush-like Wren. *Campylorhynchus turdinus*. Pairs were seen in the lower Pantanal. We enjoyed views of a pair in the South Wild lodge. Those of you that have been visited the Amazon previously may have noticed the pale underparts of the race occurring in Pantanal.
- Moustached Wren. *Pheugopedius genibarbis*. We were rewarded with a concert of a duet by this species in the capao forest island of Piuval.
- Buff-breasted Wren. *Cantorchilus leucotis*. Heard only in the Pixaim river.
- * Fawn-breasted Wren. *Cantorchilus guarayanus*. Seen only in the Piquiri river gallery forest.

Gnatcatchers / Polioptilidae

- * Masked Gnatcatcher. *Polioptila dumicola*. A pair was observed in scrubby vegetation of the Pixaim river.

Donacobius / Donacobiidae

- * Black-capped Donacobius. *Donacobius atricapilla*. The dancer of the trip! We observed pairs displaying in packs of *Thalia* shrubs.

Thrushes & Allies / Turdidae

- * Creamy-bellied Thrush. *Turdus amaurochalinus*. A common species seen almost every day. This is Brazil's national bird.

Mockingbirds & Thrashers / Mimidae

- * Chalk-browed Mockingbird. *Mimus saturninus*. A common species in Pantanal.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

- * Flavescent Warbler. *Myiothlypis flaveola*. Scattered individuals were observed inside the gallery forest of the Pixaim river. It was hard to photograph and we got some decent shots.

Tanagers & Allies / Thraupidae

- * Red-crested Cardinal. *Paroaria coronata*. Common but not numerous in Santa Teresa ranch. Seen around the bird feeders.
- * Yellow-billed Cardinal. *Paroaria capitata*. A very common species in Pantanal.
- * Silver-beaked Tanager. *Ramphocelus carbo*. Pairs or small family groups were seen along the transpantaneira road.
- * Sayaca Tanager. *Thraupis sayaca*. This is the equivalent to the Blue-gray Tanager in Pantanal. It was seen everyday.
- * Palm Tanager. *Thraupis palmarum*. This one was commoner around Santa Teresa ranch. Good studies in South Wild lodge.
- * Chestnut-vented Conebill. *Conirostrum speciosum*. We had nice views of a pair at the gallery forest edge of the Piquiri river. It was photographed!

* Saffron Finch. *Sicalis flaveola*. I find this species very interesting as there apparently are two populations with male distinctive plumages. One, the classic South America form, with rich yellow underparts. The other one, much duller and with streaks at the sides. This second one is expected to be considered a separate species.

* Rusty-collared Seedeater. *Sporophila collaris*. Seen in Santa Teresa and Piuval ranches.

White-bellied Seedeater. *Sporophila leucoptera*. Seen only once in Santa Teresa ranch.

* Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (Lesser Seed-Finch). *Oryzoborus angolensis*. We saw juvenile and adult individuals in scrubby vegetation of Santa Teresa and Piuval ranches.

Red-crested Finch. *Coryphospingus cucullatus*. One male was scoped and seen by everyone, but no change was given for a photo.

* Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola*. We only saw three individuals, thus we can claim to have seen more jaguars than bananaquits in this tour!

* Grayish Saltator. *Saltator coerulescens*. Commoner in upper Pantanal than in wetter locations. Photographed in Piuval.

Buntings & New World Sparrows / Emberizidae

Saffron-billed Sparrow. *Arremon flavirostris*. Heard only.

Troupials & Allies / Icteridae

* Chopi Blackbird. *Gnorimopsar chopi*. Few individuals were seen in the transpantaneira road and fairly common around the parking area of Piuval lodge.

* Scarlet-headed Blackbird. *Amblyramphus holosericeus*. Pairs or males were observed singing in the early morning in marshes south the Santa Teresa ranch. A rare species in Pantanal.

* Unicolored Blackbird. *Agelasticus cyanopus*. A pair was seen near the bush stop in the black channel, southern Pantanal. It was also seen along the transpantaneira road.

* Bay-winged Cowbird. *Agelaioides badius*. Callin this species a cowbird is a misnomer as it is parasited by Shiny Cowbird. We saw several groups around the bird feeder in the Santa Teresa lodge.

* Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonariensis*. Few individuals were seen around South Wild lodge. Also seen along the transpantaneira lodge.

* Giant Cowbird. *Molothrus oryzivorus*. Frequently around the South Wild lodge.

* (?) Variable Oriole. *Icterus pyrrhopterus*. Seen only in Campo Jofre. Did anyone get photos of this species?

* Orange-backed Troupial. *Icterus croconotus*. A regular visitor to the hummingbird feeder in Santa Teresa lodge. It was also seen in Piuval ranch.

* Solitary Black Cacique. *Cacicus solitarius*. A fairly common species in Pantanal. It is quite vocal and prefers gallery forest.

* Yellow-rumped Cacique. *Cacicus cela*. Few individuals and about two nesting colonies were observed during the crossing of the transpantaneira road.

* Crested Oropendola. *Psarocolius decumanus*. Fairly common in the upper Pantanal. Seen on the ground in Piuval lodge.

Old World Sparrows / Passeridae

House Sparrow (I). *Passer domesticus*. Common in Cuiaba.

OTHER SPECIES LIST

Species photographed are highlighted with an asterisk (*).

Armadillos / Dasypodidae

Nine-banded Armadillo. *Dasypus novemcinctus*. This might have been the armadillo we saw crossing the sandy road to the inside of a forest island.

Anteaters / Myrmecophagidae

* Giant Anteater. *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*. We enjoy superb close views of one individual in Piuval. We got great photos!

Marmosets / Callitrichidae

Black-tailed Marmoset. *Callithrix (Mico) melanurus*. We only heard this species from the gallery forest across the Pixaim river. Unfortunately not seen!

New World Monkeys / Cebidae

* Brown Capuchin. *Cebus apella*. We came across various groups in the Piquiri river.

Large Monkeys / Atelidae

* Black Howler Monkey. *Alouatta caraya*. We saw a family group in Piuval ranch.

Guinea Pigs / Caviidae

* Capybara. *Hydrochoeris hydrochoeris*. We enjoyed repeated superb views along the transpantaneira road and in all locations. I think Gary got a photo with a kingbird on the back of a capybara!

Agoutis / Dasyproctidae

* Azara's Agouti. *Dasyprocta azarae*. Nice studies of various individuals in the Piquiri river. Linda got real good photos of this species.

Rabbits & Hares / Leporidae

Tropical Cottontail. *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*. We saw this species only once in a night outing.

Bulldog Bats / Noctilionidae

Lesser Bulldog Bat. *Noctilio albiventris*. Seen at night near the flotel.

Greater Bulldog Bat. *Noctilio leporinus*. Seen at night near the flotel.

Free-tailed & Mastiff Bats / Molossidae

Brazilian Free-tailed Bat. *Tadarida brasiliensis*. Apparently, this was the common species flying over the river at dusk.

Cats / Felidae

Jaguarundi. *Puma yagouaroundi*. Two black morph individuals were seen in separate locations. One near Santa Teresa ranch and another north of Piuval.

* Jaguar. *Panthera onca*. Normally, this is a species that you don't check in your checklist, and these little squares in your field checklist remains empty. Well, this is not the case in Pantanal. We were astonished by the size of the individuals seen and the quality of the sights. In total, we saw 6 individuals: four females and two males. Furthermore, our first sight was probably the most shocking one when a female hunted a cayman! The individuals seen are called (by the scientists): Iris, Silvia, a ringed male, Patricia, Jenny and Mick Jaguar!

Dogs / Canidae

* Crab-eating (Savanna) Fox. *Cerdocyon thous*. Very close views in Piuval lodge. Nice photos.

Weasels, Otters & Allies / Mustelidae

* Neotropical Otter. *Lontra longicaudis*. We were astonished to see an individual running across the lake edge of Piuval ranch. Some of us got very decent photos.

* Giant Otter. *Pteronura brasiliensis*. This was another mammals that allowed us impressive views. We came across various family groups, saw them screaming, calling, periscoping, and munching huge cat fishes!

Deer / Cervidae

* Marsh Deer. *Blastocerus dichotomus*. We saw a female foraging near the road entering the Santa Teresa ranch. Later, a male with two females was observed the day we left the ranch.

Red Brocket Deer. *Mazama americana*. We saw it at the night outing. Only a flash view.

Selected Reptiles and Amphibians

* Yacare Caiman. *Caiman yacare*. This species was previously considered a race of the Spectacled Cayman. Nowadays, it is a considered an endemic species of the Pantanal. The estimate population is about 10 million individuals! Photographed very well.

* Pantanal Swamp Turtle *Achanthochelys macrocephalus*. We were very lucky to see an individual crossing the road south of Santa Teresa ranch. According to other local guides, it is a very difficult turtle to see.

Ameiva Lizard. *Ameiva ameiva*. Seen in the Santa Teresa ranch.

* Tegu Lizard sp. *Tupinambis sp.* This is a small monitor that apparently digests small mammals, other reptiles and fruits. We saw a couple of individuals crossing the transpantaneira road. It was also seen in Piuval lodge.

* Iguana sp. *Iguana sp.* One individual was seen on a mango tree near Santa Teresa.

* Mata Cavalho snake / Racer. *Liophis poecilogyrus* (Colubridae). A cowboy worker of Piuval ranch showed us an individual feeding on a leopard frog.

* Eastern Collared Spiny Lizard. *Tropidurus torquatus*. Seen and photographed in Piuval ranch.

* Leopard Frog. *Rana sp.* Various individuals were observed along the Pantanal, specially in night outings.

Other species

* 88 or 89 butterfly. *Diaethria* sp. Only seen once in Piuval.

* Termites. *Cornitermes silvestrii*. We loved seeing the Pantanal landscape at dawn (or dusk) with huge termite nests and the sun in the background. Also, we discussed the relation between the termite nest size and the water flood level.

* Dragonfly. *Diastatops pullata*. We saw (and photographed) this species in the marshes of the low Pantanal.