

ECOTOURS WORLDWIDE TOUR TO BRAZIL

**Jaguars, Jabirus, Giant Anteaters & Otters plus
other Jewels of Pantanal's Wildlife**

**Unique itinerary with a full circle cruise in the
PANTANAL**

26 October - 6 November 2024



Leaders: Gabor Orban, Andrea Katona & Douglas



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PANTANAL-BRAZIL TRIP REPORT-26October-6November2024



The following is a detailed **Trip Report of our amazing 12-day-long Pantanal-BRAZIL tour** which was organized and led by Gabor and Andrea, owners of Ecotours Kondor EcoLodge www.kondorecolodge.hu and Ecotours Worldwide Travel www.ecotours-worldwide.com

We had 6 American guests (Kay & Phil, Sally & Gregory, Max, Dorothy) and a family from Orkney (Steve, Sarah, Sami) on the tour. Some of them good old friends of ours from other tours, for others this was the first time with us. It was a good-sized, mixed group which filled the 3-leveled yacht and we could fit into 1 largish motorboat when we went out on the rivers and channels to discover wildlife.

Beside Gabor and Andrea we had a local guide, Doug at Transpantania and through the river journey.

Most of the tour companies spend a few days alongside the Transpantania road and pay a quick visit to the nearest, always busy Jaguar watching sites close to Porto Jofre, but almost nobody does **a full circle on the huge River system in the Southern Pantanal**. It is a magical journey out in the wilderness without encountering other groups or any settlements for a week, but surrounded by lush green forests, finding new birds, mammals, butterflies, amphibians and reptiles regularly. **All this on the board of the best available boat with panoramic restaurant, excellent food and relaxing caipirinha, this is surely one of the best wildlife holidays in the Pantanal.**



Brazil and within that **the Pantanal** is without doubt a dream destination for any nature enthusiast. With our itinerary making a full circle on the rivers we visited the followings nature parks: **Parque Estadual Encontro da Aguas, Parque Nacional Mato Grosso & Reserva Ecologia Taiana.**

Usually after a tour like this when we think about what was the best of the tour, it is not just simply some of the best bird or mammal species which cross our mind, but the boat tour experience itself. Travel through huge protected areas full with wildlife, visiting side channels on smaller boats, but also the **Transpantaneira road** itself all were parts of a lifelong experience. Even well experienced travellers said this was one of their best ever wildlife tour! Regarding mammals out of the 23 species observed during the tour obviously the 12 **Jaguars** stood out with so many different actions - hunting, swimming, grabbing the leftover of a cow, walking alongside, sleeping. But watching **Giant Ant-eater, Ocelot, 4 Tapirs, Tayra,** different **monkeys** and **deers, fox, raccoon, peccari, capibara** and of course **Giant and Tropical River Otters** and plenty of **bats** were all part of the joy.

We observed 217 bird species during the tour, many of them were photographed as well by group members. Regarding the best birds it is hard to highlight only 1 or 2 but surely the 14 species of parakeets, parrots and 5 of the World, **Hyacinth Macaws,** the large **Gallinules, the Pantanal Snipe,** the **various raptors, 4 Owl species, 1 Black-capped Donacobius, Great Blackbirds** stood out of the crowd. **All pictures in this material were n and leaders.**

Fact File

- 3nights in lodge rooms, 8nights/9day the world-famous Pantanal area, total
- start and finish in Cuiaba, Brazil
- using one of the best Pantanal Lodge watching possibilities and an additional species & finally a spacious floating hot





Highlights

- **Jaguars, Giant River Otters, Giant Anteaters** & several mammal species
- more than 200 bird species in good numbers including unique ones like **Hyacinth Macaw, Blue-and-yellow Macaws, Red-shouldered Macaws, Yellow-collared Macaw, Red-and-Green Macaw, Jabiru, Sunbittern, Orange-backed Troupial** and many more
- **the floating hotel and the boat tour through incredibly vast areas full with wildlife**
- thousands of Caimans, **amazing landscape, days without roads & settlements**
- wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies and habitats**



Accommodation

3 nights at Piuval Lodge & 8 nights on the floating hotel

Extension possibility

We offered a 7nights/8days extension to the **Atlantic Forest** which is a paradise for endemics

Activities and activity level, weather

We had easy to moderate walks; sometimes it was hot and humid, however mornings and evenings were nice; we got heavy rain once or twice.

From the lodge we went out by 4x4 Trucks to discover the famous Transpantaneira road and from the yacht we went out daily on smaller motorboats to search wildlife in the mornings & afternoons. This year was characterized by huge draught in the whole region and wildfires were more frequent and stronger than in previous years, which once caused a situation during the cruise, but fortunately the problem eased later on.



Detailed day by day description of the tour and observations:

Day1 26October 2024



Some members of the group arrived day(s) before the tour to Cuiaba, but we all gathered during the evening of 25th October 2025 to meet and greet, plus have a dinner.

After dinner we all went to sleep asap, since most of us had a long traveling day and we wanted to be well prepared for next day by being fresh as early as possible.

From Cuiaba it is an easy and short transfer to the Piuval Lodge. Generally 1-1,5 hours but we stopped a few times to look for the first birds.

When we reached the dirt road leading to the lode we

spent a few hours with more intensive birding. It was really exciting to find more and more new species and by the time we reached reception area before 1pm we collected more than 60 species. Not a bad start for a simple tranfer!

Without making a full list here we mention just some of the highlight species such as **Savanna Hawks, Mississippi and Plumbeous Kites, Toco Toucans, Red-legged Seriamas, Blue-and-yellow plus Red-sholdered Macaws, Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Green, Bare-necked, Buff-necked and Plumbeous Ibises, Campo Flickers, Gray and White-rumped Monjitas, Purplish JaysRed-crested and Yellow-billed Cardinals.**

After checking in and having our first fullfilling lunch we had a bit of siesta time and ventured out 15.30 together on a safari truck. Just before mounting on the truck Gabor pointed out 3 **Nacunda Nighthawks** hunting not too far in the distance. During this outing we had close to 50 species, many of them were new like **Muscovy Duck, Chaco Chachalaca, Bare-faced Curassow, Greater Ani, Dark-billed Cuckoo. Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, Sunbittern, Whistling Heron.**

We had a few raptors as well, **Roadside and Crane Hawk, Crested Caracara and heard Collared Forest-Falcon. Amazonian Motmot and Black-fronted Nunbird** was nice and **Blond-crested Woodpecker** was new as well.

We admired **White-eyed** and **Monk Parakeets**, **Silver-beaked Tanager**, **Great** and **Slaty Antshrike**, **Rufous Cacholote**, **Saffron Finch**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Black-tailed Tityra**, **Crested Oropendola**, **Flavescent Warbler** and many more.

The first raptors were represented by **Black Vultures** and **Southern Crested Caracaras**.

We continued the quest after sunset so we could find **Lesser Nighthawk** and **Band-tailed Nighthawk**, plus **Common Pauraque** and even **Common Potoo**. But perhaps the most exciting one was a beautiful **Striped Owl** and upon returning to the lodge 2 **Great Horned Owls**. The first very exciting mammals were **Brown Capuchin Monkey**, **Crab-eating Raccoon**, **Crab-eating Fox** and even an **Ocelot**.

After this exciting outing we gathered to make the list which was not easy since the printed out systematic list and eBird had different logic and order so since eBirders outnumbered the users of printed list later on we continued with discussing our eBird lists.

Dinner was excellent and we all felt tired and could not wait for a well-deserved good sleep.



Day2 27thOctober 2024



We started the day with an early drive out just after 5am and again ended up with about 50 species. Beside the plenty **Picazuro Pigeons** and **Ruddy Ground Doves** we had **Scaled Dove**, **Picui Ground-dove** and **Long-tailed Ground-dove** as well.

A pair of **Aplomado Falcons** were great, one perched, one hunting around. The **Blue-crowned Parakeets** were suppressed by size and colour of a **Hyacinth Macaw** pair. **Great Rufous Woodcreeper**, **Chotoy Spinetail**, **Rufous Hornero**, **Cattle Tyrant**, **Grayish Baywing**, **Cream-bellied Thrush**, **Wedge-tailed Grassfinch** and **White-bellied Seedeater** was new.

When we returned to the lodge we had our first buffet style breakfast where you could choose from various cold and hot meals and drinks. Later from 9 o'clock we went out for a late morning safari ride, again on a transformed truck. With a clever foldable metal ladder it was relatively easy to climb up to the plateau even for Phil. Once you were up you could choose from several rows of soft seats from where we could enjoy panoramic view.



We stopped several times when we could see something and indeed we could make a long list of various species again, such as **Burrowing Owl, Whistling Heron, Red-legged Serama, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Black-tailed and Black-crowned Tityras, Streaked Flycatcher, Epaulet Oriole, Giant Cowbird, Chopi Blackbird.**

Although **Hyacinth Macaws** were not new but when you see four perhaps it is still worth to mention! :-)

We also managed to see **Black-tailed Marmosets, Brown and Red Brucket Deers** and even a **Tayra**. We returned to our base around 11am, later had lunch and some rest before we went out again around 3pm for almost 4 hours out of which 3 was at daylight, 1 in the dark.



Again we had more than 40 species just this afternoon so surely we will not list all. But we have to mention about 60 **Scarlet-headed Blackbirds**, 60 **Wattled Jacanas**, 30 **Southern Screamers**, 21 **Woodstorks**, 25 **Great Egrets** and about a dozen **Unicolored Blackbirds** from the most numerous ones. **Chestnut-bellied Guan, Squirrel Cuckoo, American Golden Plover, Lesser Yellowleg, Black Skimmer, Capped Heron, Black-collared Hawk, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Black-headed Water-Tyrant and Rusty-collared Seedeater** was new. We also witnessed a **Jabiru**-technique to swallow a huge fish.



We heard **Undulated Tinamou** and later on

Tropical Screech Owl when we were admiring our first **Jaguar** in front of the light of our truck.

Day3 28thOctober 2024



This morning we started early and pretty soon we struck gold, this time not with a new bird species but a fantastic mammal, **Giant Anteater**.



We all had excellent view of this amazing, unique species as it was crossing the fields full with termite mounds. We not just simply had an excellent view but could observe its behaviour. We surely forgot about birds during the time we watched this creature. There was a group of photographers who shamefully approached and disturbed the animal which finally crossed the main road while these guys were climbing after through private property fence as well.

Later on we concentrated on birds. Beside the regular ones we managed to find again some new ones like **Fulvous Whistling Duck, Rufescent Tiger-heron, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Campo Flicker, White-throated Kingbird, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Thrush-like Wren, Grassland Sparrow, Grayish Baywing**. There were many **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** around and we had again **Hyacinth Macaws, Orange-winged and Turquoise-fronted Amazons** as well.



After breakfast we went out again around 8.30 till 11am. We saw plenty of species familiar from previous outings like **Greater Rhea, Southern Screamer, Guira Cuckoo, Sunbittern** and many more but found some new ones again, such as **Striated Heron, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Great Black Hawk** and a beautiful **Blue-crowned Trogon**.

We also added to the list **Solitary Black Cacique and Bluish-gray Saltator**. Mammalwise another **Red-brucket Deer** was interesting.

We followed the routine of the previous day, so returned to the lodge when temperature got too high around 11am so we could refresh ourselves before lunch and had again some siesta time.

Around 15.30 pm we ventured out again and saw close to 50 species but still finding new ones as usual. We had **Red-throated Piping-Guan, White-throated Piping Guan, Scaled Dove, Stripe Cuckoo, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, Snail Kite, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Short-crested Flycatcher, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Chopi Blackbird and Hooded Tanager**.





It was sad to see that water disappeared from large areas, boardwalk were above bone-dry areas. As we were driving back in the dark we could find roosting **Southern Screamer**, a few **Common Pauragues** but one of them turned out to be a **Lesser Nighthawk** with an obviously shorter tail. Amazingly we found 3 different **Great Potoos** plus 2 **Jabirus** on a giant nest as well.

Day4 29thOctober 2024

This morning we had to do a final packing and after breakfast we said goodbye to this wildlife rich area. As we were driving out on the small road through the huge land of the lodge we felt we have to stop for a last birding at the gate area. It was a great decision with some nice „farewell” species such as **Orange-backed Troupial, Chaco Chachalaca, Guira Cuckoo, Streaked-Flycatcher, Thrush-like Wren** and **Chalk-browed Mockingbird**.



We also found our first **White-lipped Peccaris** and a **Marsh Deer**.

Finally we started our journey South on the famous Transpantania Road. We slowed down or even stopped each time when we found something interesting. **Smooth-billed Anis** were in small groups and we saw herons, egrets, some Wood Storks and beside the usual raptors we had a nice group of Plumbeous Kites, plus a Mississippi Kite as well.

We broke the journey at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso for a cold drink and to find some more birds such as **White-tipped Dove, Neotropic Cormorant, Amazon Kingfisher, Purplish Jay, Shiny Cowbird, Grayish Baywing and Saffron Finch**. A nice group of ten **Yellow-chevroned Parakeets** was attractive as well. We saw our first **Giant Otters** here and many **Capibaras** as well. All this within 15 minutes!

Soon we had another short stop with **Bare-faced Curassow, Southern Lapwing, Wattled Jacana, Green Ibis, Buff-necked Ibis, Cocoi Heron, Roadside Hawk and Crested Caracara**.



An hour later we stopped again at the Jaguar Reserve Lodge

which offered not just some shopping possibilities but we had some nice surprising bird species as well. Perhaps the most remarkable find was the lonely but upclose **Pantanal Snipe**. We had **Plumbeous and Buff-necked Ibis** as well.

Discover 3 **Hyacinth Macaws** and some other previously seen birds, but 3 **Lined Seedeaters** were new.

From here we continued our driving South towards Santa Rosa and finally to Porto Jofre. We saw dozens of species, mainly waders and waterbirds which we had before, but it was interesting to observe among the many Southern Screamers a few freshly feathered chicks. Also we had a Brazilian Teal and several Capped Herons.

Finally around 1pm we reached the riverbank where our boat waited us and with the help of our crew we uploaded our luggages and got our cabins. As it turned out a main pipe of a bathroom of one the cabins just exploded before we arrived so Gabor and Andi volunteered to have that one. The guys had to tear apart both the flooded cabin and the bathroom and it took some days to restore the original state of it.



We had our lunch on board and around 3pm we had our first small boat excursion nearby. We could compare a quickly maneuvering **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** with a **Turkey Vulture and Anhinga with Neotropic Cormorant**. Also saw our first **White-winged Swallow**. We saw some more **Cocoi** and **Striated Herons** as well.

2 attractive **Pied Plovers** were new and we had our first **Yellow-billed Tern** as well. The first 3 **Osprey** we had here out of a total staggering more than 50 during the tour. 2 **Rufous-tailed Jacamars** were around a nest and we had a **Toco Toucan** as well. A preening **Golden-green Woodpecker** and swiftly passing **Bank Swallow** was new.



Then we found our first riverside **Jaguar** laying on the edge of the high bank. We heard **Undulated Tinamou** in the meantime and saw some **Silver-beaked Tanagers** over the jaguar.

We returned the the „mother ship” at dusk and at deep twilight around 6pm we were completely surrounded by multiple flocks of **Band-tailed Nightjars** foraging over the river. We counted circa 85 but good chance that there were hundreds more which we could not see.

We made our lists and later on we had our first tasty dinner in the spacious restaurant on the second deck of the boat.



**Day5
30thOctober
2024**

For the first full morning small about outing we planned 3-4 hour discovery on the Cuiaba River up till the Negrinho River. The distance was not long but we



had so many bird species and several amazing **Jaguar** sightings that actually we spent almost 5 hours in the small boats. We had seen 50 species and what is more, several new ones again. This means that as an average every 6th minute we saw another species. We will not list all but has to mention good number of **White-throated Piping Guans** and a pair of **Red-throating Piping Guan**. Beside the large numbers of **Neotropic Cormorants** and **Wood Storks** we had a few **Black-crowned Night-Herons** and **Rufescent Tiger-herons** as well. Beside the usual **Black-collared, Savanna and Great Black Hawks** a dark morph **Short-tailed Hawk** was new. We also saw our first **American Pygmy Kingfisher**. **Bar-breasted Piculet** and **White Woodpecker** was new as well.

We also could compare Pale-legged Hornero with Rufous Hornero. 2 Rufous-fronted Thornbirds and 3 Common Tody-Flycatchers were new as well. We also could compare **Brown-crested Flycatcher** with **Rusty-margined Flycatcher**. Another new species was **Masked Gnatcatcher** and **Tawny-bellied Seedeater**. We also heard **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**.

But there were several occasions when we forgot about birds, once we had 2 **Jaguars**, also we could follow 3 **Giant Otters** for a while and encountered another 2 different **Jaguars** separately as well. One we followed silently as it was walking alongside the shore, then searching fish or small crocodile among the watery vegetation or swimming almost submerged. It was quite breathtaking to be so close to a top predator actively searching prey.

We had a healthy, well-deserved lunch and some rest before we went out again during the afternoon after 3pm.

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This time we discovered Rio Piquiri which is a tributary to Rio Cuiaba. It was a very nice area and although we had seen dozens of species most of them we had before. Still worth to mention **Chaco Chachalaca, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Bare-faced Curassow, White-throated Piping-Guan.**



We had another beautiful, very exciting encounter with a Jaguar which was obviously searching for food. First it came alongside the bank, then approached the water, moved under fallen trees, went into the water where started to swim slowly, checking every movement. Later climbed up on the steep bank and searched further for any potential prey.



After we left the Jaguar pretty soon we found a **Tapir** in the water seemingly exhausted, did not even try to escape from our vicinity. When we observed more carefully we realized it had some serious recent scars on the back so it was perhaps still recovering of an almost fatal Jaguar attack.



There were many **Greater Anis and Cocoi Herons**. A parent **White-winged Swallow** with 3 juveniles were interesting. We had **White-rumped and Southern Rough-winged Swallows** as well.

Later we had another **Tapir** which was much more energetic than the previous one and climbed up and disappeared fast in the vegetation of the steep riverbank.

We also had a lovely view of 2 **Bluish-gray Saltator** drinking



at the edge of the river.

In the evening we discussed the bird species and our several encounters with Jaguars and other wildlife before we had a fulfilling dinner.

Day6 31stOctober 2024

Today we tried to discover the **Negrinho River**. It was quite overgrown by vegetation so we couldn't go as far as we planned but still found loads of birds and again several new ones. During four hours we gathered 53 species of birds.

A female **Glittering-bellied Emerald, White-tailed Hawk, Pale-crested Woodpecker, Mato Grosso Antbird, Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch, Lined, Double-collared and Rusty-collared Seedeaters** were great find. There were also large number of **Pale-vented Pigeons, Greater Anis, Wattled Jacanas, Jabirus, Anhingas, Green Ibises Striated Herons, Western Cattle Egrets, Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures**.



More birds came thick and fast so we had a hard time to return to the cruise boat after 4 hours birding. After lunch we had a bit longer siesta so we ventured out after 3.30pm. Despite we had shorter time partly because because of later start and partly because we bumped suddenly into a smoky area which prompted us to return to the main boat we still ended up with more than 50 species in the afternoon. Soon it was obvious that the smoke originated from a serious wildfire which at a certain point was just alongside the riverbank. We had a hard decision to make, either to turn back or cross the effected area. Since it was impossible to determine how long section of the riverbank was effected we made a decision to retreat a bit with the main cruise boat and sent ahead some of our boatmen to check out the further area. They ventured out, reported their experience to the captain and we discussed details and made a decision to continue. Although we had seen a few large scale devastetad and some still burning or smoking areas we managed to pass

safely the worse part and could continue safely the tour.



We saw huge numbers of **Smooth-billed Anis**, perhaps they were pushed to the river edge by the fire. Had seen lot of various raptors as well from **Crane Hawk till Savanna Hawk**, some hunting for barbecue dinner. It worth to note **Rusty-backed**



Spinetail, Crested Oropendola, Unicolored Blackbird, Silver-beaked Tanager and Bluish-gray Saltator from the crowd.

Day7 1st November 2024



This morning we were at the **Pantanal Matogrossense National Park** where despite the fact that our outing was once again disrupted shortly by another smoke incident we ended up with a staggering 60 species within a few hours. Again, without a full list we mention here just the large number of **White-faced and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, loads of **Pale-vented Pigeons, Smooth-billed Anis, Green Ibises, Cocoi Herons, Monk Parakeets**. It was also good to see 2 **Striped Cuckoos**, few



Limpkins but we had a hard time with a **Least Bittern** which flew out twice from the vegetation, but was impossible to show it for the whole group.

We had 2 **Green-barred Woodpeckers**, 2 **Turquoise-fronted Amazons** and 2 **Yellow-chinned Spinetail**, 2 **Purplish Jays**, 2 **White-rumped Swallows** and 2 **Fork-tailed Flycatchers**. We heard 2 **Great Antshrikes** but could not locate and see any. **Chopi Blackbird**, **Blue-black Grassquit** and a nice **Bat Falcon** was new, but the best new species was **Yellow-collared Macaw** out of which we had 10 individuals.

We returned to the main boat and soon had our great lunch. In the meantime we were cruising on the **Paraguay River** and since it was rainy we birded from the cruise boat. The rain was very much needed after such a long dry season and secured vast areas effected by wildfires. Surprisingly despite the rain we continued to see good number of birds. We had close to 200 **Large-billed Terns** and dozens of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**. 3 **Roseate Spoonbills** added some more colours.



Later on we were cruising close to the Bolivian border where we had **herons, egrets** and again loads of **Large-billed Terns** and **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, but the most interesting thing was a gathering of 34 **Greater Anis** roosting on a large tree.

Day8 2nd November 2024



This morning we started around 6.20 in the morning travelling towards the Indian Port. We had **Pied and Collared Plovers**, more than 100 **Wattled Jacanas**, but only 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowleg** each. We counted about 60 **Roseate Spoonbills**. We had both **Rusty-backed** and **Yellow-chinned Spinetails**.



But one of the best during this morning outing was to see 5 **Red-and-green Macaws** and 2 **Orange-winged Amazons**. Another highlight was to find **Azure Gallinule** and a gracefully hunting **Long-winged**

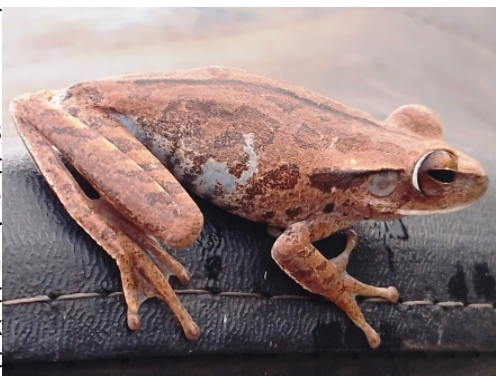


Harrier. Sami spotted another very special species, an upclose **Sungrebe** which we could observe nicely. **Wood Storks** outnumbered all the birds, we had about 350 during the morning. During circa 3,5 hours this morning we saw almost 70 species of birds.



A **Black Vulture** landed nearby on a rock which turned out to be well marked with several petroglyphs which was an interesting nature & culture combination.

A lovely tropical frog was discovered in the small boat plus a strange moth species we photographed as well. After lunch we rested a bit, then birded from the mother boat when dozens of **Monk Parakeets** and a **Jabiru** nest



with chicks were the most notable sights. Later in the

afternoon we went out again with the smaller boat. We saw 55 species out of which the most interesting was **Blue-crowned Trogon, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Toco Toucan, Bat Falcon, Gray Antbird, Great Antshrike, Rufous-browed Peppershrike**. A flock of 7 **Scaly-headed Parrots** flew over, adding another great species to the list.

Day9 3rd November 2025

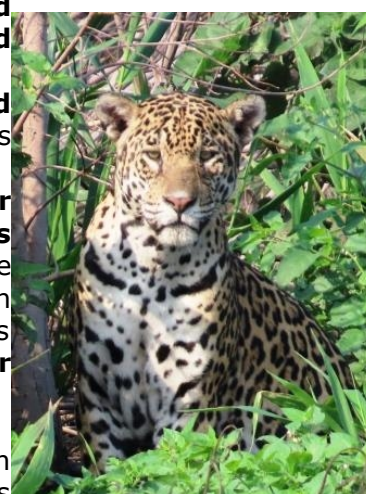
This morning as usual we went out with a smaller boat and found again more than 60 species of birds. Most of them we had seen before, but there were few species which were in much bigger number than usual. With more than 70 individuals we can call this Limpkin morning. Never experienced this amount in such a short period of time. There were plenty of **Southern Screamers, Wattled Jacanas, Jabirus, Wood Storks, Neotropical Cormorants, Striated and Cocoi Herons** as well. Raptors were represented by good number of **Crested Caracaras, Great Black Hawks, Black-**



collared Hawks and Black Vultures but there were a few **Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures, Savanna and Roadside Hawks** as well.



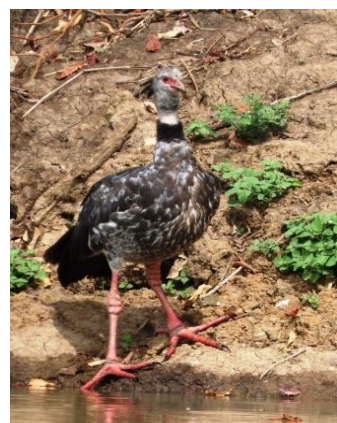
We witnessed **Yellow-rumped Caciques** occupying their nests hanging over the Paraguay River. We also found 4 separate **River Otters, some Howler Monkeys** and plenty of **Capybaras**. There was one large Capibara which



was sunbathing bravely and confidently among several crocodils as they were the best friends ever. But of course another **Jaguar** stole the show again.

We returned to the main boat, prepared for another healthy lunch which was followed by some rest. Later on we discussed species lists and talked about the upcoming extension in the famous Atlantic Forest.

Day10 4th November 2024



After breakfast we started birding from the mother-ship which was anchored close to a flowery tree and some other good vegetation which attracted several species including **Smooth-billed Anis, Squirrel Cuckoos, Common Tody-Flycatchers and Great Kiskadee**. But the best was perhaps a **Gilded Hummingbird** which we all could see well.

Other birds around were **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Rufescent Tiger-heron, Crested Caracara and Rufous-tailed Jacamar**.



Half an hour later we went out again for a few hours and ended up again with observing more than 60 species of birds. By now it was really hard to find new species so a **Versicolored Emerald** was surely an exciting one. A **Snail Kite** caused a lot of debate and a **Little Woodpecker** offered good photo opportunities. We could compare **Yellow-chinned and White-lore Spinetail, Great Antshrike and Mato Grosso Antbird**.



Also witnessed **Solitary Black Cacique** constructing its nest.

During the afternoon we reached **Taiama Ecological Reserve** where late afternoon we did a small boat ride on Rio Bracinho. Within 2 hours we encountered again more than species.



Muscovy Ducks, Limpkins, Neotropical Cormorants, Striated Herons, Great Egrets, Cocoi Herons and Monk Parakeets were in good number, but the 50+ **Southern Rough-winged Swallows** and the **100+ Brown-chested Martins** surely outnumbered all.

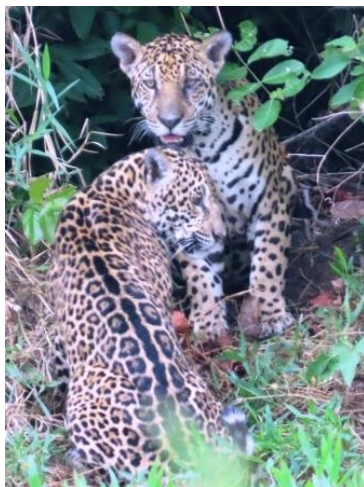


It was good to see **Striped Cuckoo**, another **Least Bittern** and **Snail Kite**. Variety of **Woodpeckers** were along as well, including **White, Little and Pale-crested. Orange-backed Troupial and Scarlet-headed Blackbird** added some more colour.

At the end of the boat tour we saw good number of **Band-tailed Nighthawks** again.

Day11 5th November 2024

This morning we went out for more than 4 hours and had close to **70 species**. Surprisingly we still could find some new species. Some of us finally managed to spot even the **Undulated Tinamou** which we heard quite regularly but not seen before. Another interesting find was a colony of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** and what is more there were 3 **Boat-billed Herons** as well. Had plenty of **Ospreys, Great Black Hawks, Black-collared Hawks** and a few **Savanna Hawks**. **Kingfishers** were represented by **Ringed, Amazon and Green**, while **Woodpeckers** by **Little, Pale-crested and Green-barred**. **Turquoise-fronted Amazons and White-eyed Parakeets** were colourful additions. **Southern Scrub Flycatcher** was also new.



Suddenly we found a **Jaguar** hiding under bushes. Later on it turned out that it had a huge kill, a large cow which by now was half eaten. As we were waiting for the Jaguar to come out we also spotted a new bird species, a **Little Cuckoo**. We alternately checked the Cuckoo and the Jaguar for a while until the Jaguar mom came out and was followed by the well-grown youngster. Once witnessed the strength of the Jaguar Mom as she tried to pull the remains of the cow into the secure shadow of the bush.

Well, another quite incredible experience!

Well, another quite incredible experience!



We spent the late afternoon partly in the main **Paraguay River**, partly in side channels and at sand bars with finding again more than **60 species** of birds. We spent quite a lot of time with watching and photographing **Azure Gallinules**, altoghether we had 5. We had a



staggering number of about 50 **Black Skimmers**, what an incredible sight. Another **Least Bittern** caused some excitement. A juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** we observed both perched and on the wings as well. 2 **Yellow-collared Macaws** we saw at their nests and also counted 8 **Turquoise-fronted Amazons**. We had **Rufous Cacholotes** at nest as well. There was a large flock of **Southern Rough-winged Swallows**, approximately 150. A lonely **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was a nice addition too.

Day12 6th November 2024



On our last full morning we went out a little bit later than usual but still during about a 3,5-hour-long outing we ended up with almost 80 species! There were hundreds of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** and about 60-70 **Great Egrets** and circa 300 **Southern Rough-winged Swallows** beside the regular other species. We should mention as well **Bare-faced Curassows, Striped Cuckoos, Azure Gallinules, Pied Plovers, Least Bittern, Crane Hawk, Snail Kite, Toco Toucan, Hyacinth Macaws, Greater Thornbird.**

Black-throated Mango was new and also saw **Short-tailed Hawk**. We found great variety of **Seedeaters** as well, **Lined, White-bellied, Double-collared and Rusty-collared.**



After returning to the mother-boat we had our final lunch and we said goodbye to the crew who worked hard both to provide excellent food and refreshing juices and caipirinha and also maintaining and cleaning all areas.

We stopped before Caceres and our transportation arrived in time. Before leaving the area we stopped alongside the dirtroad shortly at a tree with nesting **Scarlet Macaws**. We also saw our last **Hyacinth Macaw, a Black-tailed Tityra, a Yellow-rumped Cacique and a Chopi**



Blackbird.

It was about 4 hours to arrive back to Cuiaba where we used the same good hotel as upon arrival at the beginning of the tour.



Not much later after checking in we gathered in the restaurant to have dinner and say goodbye to each other since next day almost each of us had different flight times and directions. 5 of us were heading to Rio through Sao



Paulo to continue on the Atlantic Forest extension while the other 6 members of the group started their home journey. It is surely a mission impossible to summarize what was the best of this 12-days-long journey, but surely everybody would remember some of the amazing observations, either if it was the **5 different Macaw species** or the **12 incredible encounters with Jaguars** or other mammal sightings like **Tapir, Giant Anteater, Ocelot, Giant Otter** or the vast landscapes, meandering wild rivers or incredibly large flock of birds.

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Once thing is sure, this tour should be on a bucket list of anyone who loves nature!



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