

SAFARI BRAZIL: THE PANTANAL & MORE

Oct 8, 2011 to Oct 24, 2011
Mitch Lysinger & Marcelo Padua

I'd actually have to sit down and count the times that I've done this trip, but it is somewhere around five or six now; the first time was with Bret to learn the ropes, and the rest have been as a solo leader, until this trip with Marcelo. This was my first time to bird with - and to even meet! - Marcelo. Sure, we had spoken on the phone, setting up for the trip, but we went out on the road together as birding blind dates. In a word, how would I describe it? Thrilling! Marcelo's birding/mammaling instincts and abilities, not to mention his organizational skills, blew me away. He speaks really good Portuguese too! It was nothing less than a joy to co-lead this year with all of you along for the ride... a memorable group that has "reunion tour" written all over it. You made it easy, guys, so hats off to you!

Now back to my first thought that I strayed from! Of all of the Safari Brazil tours that I have led, this one tops them all; you name it: birds, mammals, food, weather, great companionship, smooth and worry-free, logistically air-tight... all top-notch. What more could any of us have hoped for? Our priority prey, the birds, nudged aside previous trips for overall quality in my opinion. Sad misses were few, and we even managed to add a few species to the list that we had never recorded before on this route; Giant Snipe, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant, and Chapada Flycatcher ring a few bells, and all were seen spectacularly.

We opened our bags for the first time at beautiful Pousada Caiman, in the southern reaches of the Pantanal. Our visit coincided with the beginning of the rainy season; while things were fresh and green looking, there was still little standing water, away from the river and permanent lakes. Though we missed seeing impressive concentrations of waders and other waterbirds, all species were present in numbers and duly tallied over the course of our four days of birding. Among the highlights in the Pantanal and areas nearby were exciting views of: Capped and Boat-billed herons showing off their respective dazzling features; all of those beautiful Plumbeous Ibis; regal pairs of Bare-faced Curassows marching about; tremendous studies of a Little Nightjar perched only feet away; wonderful, day-roosting Great Potoo, and a spotlighted Common; gorgeous Toco Toucans and Pale-crested Woodpeckers; amazing Red-billed Scythebills; scope views of a small group of Long-tailed Ground-Dove; stunning Nanday Parakeets; of course... the fabled, and justly revered, Hyacinth Macaw, several of which were seen daily; a pair of Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaners feeding in the open; those stunning White Monjitas; a rare, yet confiding, White-naped Xenopsaris; and those brilliant Scarlet-headed Blackbirds that we found in what almost felt like a scavenger hunt. Mammals performed at Caiman like we've never seen, from encounters with Crab-eating Fox, Crab-eating Raccoon, South American Coati and herds of Capybaras, to Collared and White-lipped peccaries, Marsh, Pampas, and Brown Brocket deer, to crippling encounters with Jaguar, Giant Anteater and Brazilian Tapir. Our lodge was nothing less than dreamy, with delectable cuisine - care taken with the presentation - and posh accommodations... it felt like Club Med, Pantanal-style. That was the first four days!



Iconic bird of the Pantanal, the wonderful Hyacinth Macaw is one of the big draws for birders visiting the region, and they did not disappoint, with daily views at Caiman Lodge. (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levensgood)

From there it was on to the cerrados of the Brazilian Planalto Central at Emas National Park. We arrived to witness some large waves of migrating seedeaters - with the likes of Marsh, Chestnut and Capped - so our timing was excellent. Spritely Cock-tailed Tyrants were performing their captivating courtship flights over the waving grasslands, and Curl-crested Jays and rare Yellow-faced Parrots winged by. Collared Crescentchests, Sharp-tailed Tyrants, and Coal-crested and Black-

masked finches all sat up for scope views. Clouds of Cliff Swallows swirled by. In the gallery woodlands we found such fine birds as Large-billed Antwren, Helmeted Manakin, and White-striped Warbler... Long-winged Harriers never too far away. As mentioned above, we also netted a few species new for this tour at Emas, banking some real trip highlights.

Next stop, Caraca Natural Park, in Minas Gerais, was equally exciting, with fantastic scope views of scarce Swallow-tailed Cotingas - at a nest - and many birds characteristic of the more humid Atlantic Forest that we birded thoroughly on our "Southeast Brazil" tour. A few species that can be hard to see well on that tour were seen nicely at Caraca, such as the newly-described Rock Tapaculo, the furtive White-breasted Tapaculo that cooperated for all, and Serra Tyrant-Manakin. The Large-tailed and Tufted Antshrikes at Caraca were just unforgettable, so close and wonderful, and that pair of Serra Antwrens that approached to within a few feet of us was a true gem. And how about that pair of Rusty-barred Owls one evening?

We wrapped up our two weeks of birding at Serra do Cipo, a mountain capped in rocky cerrado habitat known as "campo rupestre". Cipo is as memorable for the plants as the birds (with all those fascinating Vellozias and other flowers and grasses), and we were very fortunate to have had a relatively calm, overcast morning up high, which permitted us to find even the rarest birds efficiently; it looked grim there for a while with the rain and wind, but it calmed down just perfectly. Highlights included, one right after the other, Cipo Canastero (excellent!!), Gray-backed Tachuri, Hyacinth Visorbearer, Blue Finch, and Cinereous Warbling-Finch.

Marcelo and I had a great time birding, butterflying, and looking at plants (orchids!!!) with you, and wish for all fun and safe birding in the future. Let's keep enjoying this wonderful world we all live in!

--Mitch

For more information about this tour, including future departures, please visit our website at www.fieldguides.com

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Rheidae (Rheas)

GREATER RHEA (*Rhea americana*) – A trip to central Brazil just wouldn't be complete without this hallmark species! We had some of our best encounters with them in the Pantanal where we had males attending 30+ young. Now there is a handful... dead-beat wife. But hey, that's evolution for you! We even managed to have ourselves convinced, for a moment, that a couple of young of this species - at Emas - were Red-winged Tinamous... oops! Had to watch the leg-length and plumage a tad more carefully; birding from the safari vehicle can have its complications.

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

BROWN TINAMOU (*Crypturellus obsoletus*) [*]

UNDULATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus undulatus*) – Nice looks at one trotting up the jeep track at Cerrdao at Caiman.

SMALL-BILLED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus parvirostris*) [*]

RED-WINGED TINAMOU (*Rhynchotus rufescens*) – After a few flybys at Emas, we finally had this large tinamou out in the open there for nice views.

LESSER NOTHURA (*Nothura minor*) – This one almost got away with the perfect crime when it hunkered down and outwaited us at Emas, but at least most of the group was attentive when it decided to make the final getaway across the fire-break... little devil!

SPOTTED NOTHURA (*Nothura maculosa*) – Birds flying over the grasslands at Emas.

Anhimidae (Screamers)

SOUTHERN SCREAMER (*Chauna torquata*) – A daily event at Caiman, in the Pantanal.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna viduata*) – Very nice studies out at Baiazinha at Caiman.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – A regular sight out at Baiazinha.

MUSCOVY DUCK (*Cairina moschata*) – Daily in the Pantanal. It is nice to actually have wild birds!

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

CHACO CHACHALACA (*Ortalis canicollis*) – Abundant in the Pantanal, and their explosive calls are a real attention-grabber!

DUSKY-LEGGED GUAN (*Penelope obscura*) – Guans in general can be stealthy and hard-to-find, but Caraca creates a nice sanctuary for this species, as they are yard-birds.

BLUE-THROATED PIPING-GUAN (*Pipile cumanensis*) – Often a bird that gets hunted out in many areas, but they are common in the Pantanal at Caiman.

BARE-FACED CURASSOW (*Crax fasciolata*) – Curassows are even more prone to vanishing from hunted areas, but they still remain common at Caiman, where we enjoyed many fine studies of them prancing around proudly.



Jesus Bird, Lotus Bird, Lilytrotter... a number of imaginative names have been bestowed upon jacanas, such as this Wattle-necked Jacana, thanks to those long slender toes, which allow them to stroll across lily pads, appearing as if they are walking on water. (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levensgood)

Ciconiidae (Storks)

JABIRU (*Jabiru mycteria*) – Probably the flagship species of the Pantanal; you see gigantic models of them at roadside stops, and plenty on of postcards, that is for sure, but we saw them in their element, and even at large nests with lanky young!

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*) – Healthy numbers in the Pantanal.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*) – Called the Water-Turkey and even Snakebird, in some parts, so always a fascinating bird to watch.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) – Daily in the Pantanal.

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*) – A really clean-cut heron.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – A close relative of the more migratory Green-backed Heron.

WHISTLING HERON (*Syrigma sibilatrix*) – A common sight out in the Pantanal and central grasslands. Just loved it when Marcelo played its sound and got them to fly in a few times.

CAPPED HERON (*Pilherodius pileatus*) – Fairly common in the Pantanal, and really handsome heron.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

BOAT-BILLED HERON (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – This nocturnal heron has a pretty healthy population in the Pantanal, where we had some awesome views.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) – What strikes me most about this wide-ranging species is its strange flight: slow down-stroke, and quick up-stroke.

BARE-FACED IBIS (*Phimosus infuscatus*) – Common in the Pantanal.

PLUMBEOUS IBIS (*Theristicus caerulescens*) – A mysterious looking ibis, that graces the ponds and puddles of the Pantanal.

BUFF-NECKED IBIS (*Theristicus caudatus*) – Very common in the Pantanal and grassland plateaus, such as Emas National Park.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*) – In small numbers in the Pantanal.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes burrovianus*) – Common over grasslands and other open areas on the first half of the tour, often seen flying very low to the ground.

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – What a spectacular vulture species, reminding me (shape-wise) of a small condor. We saw some fabulous studies of one that we caught as it flew up from a dead cow to then perch in the nearby trees during one of our safari drives at Caiman in the Pantanal.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) [b]

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

GRAY-HEADED KITE (*Leptodon cayanensis*) – One flew by at Emas.

HOOK-BILLED KITE (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) – Nice views at a perched bird at Caiman.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*)

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – On a couple of days in the Pantanal.

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*)

BLACK-COLLARED HAWK (*Busarellus nigricollis*) – An elegant hawk that perched for some awesome photos in the Pantanal.

LONG-WINGED HARRIER (*Circus buffoni*) – Some great studies at an interacting pair at Emas, among other great views.

CRANE HAWK (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) – We had our best views at this long-legged species one afternoon at Caiman as we watched it reach into holes for prey.

GREAT BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) – Good numbers in the Pantanal, with some pretty nice perched views a few times from the safari vehicle.

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) – Common in open habitats, and a really beautiful hawk.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) – One of what was probably a light-morph bird of this species at Caraca.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*) – A large and commonly seen Buteo of open habitats.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

SOUTHERN CARACARA (*Caracara plancus*) – Won the award for bird seen everyday of the trip. This one is split from the birds of northern South America, on up to the States.

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*) – Common on much of the second half of the trip.

LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – One of the great neotropical vocalizations comes from this handsome falcon species. This one sort of reminds me of the Lone Ranger, with that dark mask! We had some killer views a couple of times at Caiman.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

APLOMADO FALCON (*Falco femoralis*) – Most common at Emas, where we had them zooming about over the grasslands. This one is easily recognized in silhouette, with that long tail.

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*)

Cariamidae (Seriemas)

RED-LEGGED SERIEMA (*Cariama cristata*) – We experienced the speed of this long-legged species a few times! A visit to this part of South America, for birders, just wouldn't be complete without a spiritual encounter with a Red-legged Seriema; they just embody the life out in the grasslands, stalking about, and so perfectly evolved for the habitat.



Once considered conspecific with Black-faced Ibis of the Andes, the handsome Buff-necked Ibis is a common sight across the grasslands of the Pantanal. (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levengood)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

OCELLATED CRAKE (*Micropygia schomburgkii*) [*]

RUFOUS-SIDED CRAKE (*Laterallus melanophaius*) – Unbeatable studies at a pair on our first day when we stopped off at a marsh on our way to Caiman!

GRAY-BREASTED CRAKE (*Laterallus exilis*) – Aside from the Ocellated crane, we essentially ran the rail department on this trip! We nabbed some really nice studies of this lakeside species out near the Sede lodge at Caiman after a little work.

GRAY-NECKED WOOD-RAIL (*Aramides cajanea*) – The yard-chicken at Caiman!

SLATY-BREASTED WOOD-RAIL (*Aramides saracura*) – Trotting around out in the open out near the lake at Caraca!

ASH-THROATED CRAKE (*Porzana albicollis*) – There is always payback, isn't there? We worked really hard - to no avail - at Caiman to see this one, but were blown away later on in the trip in the Emas area when we found them out feeding on the road for dreamy views!

BLACKISH RAIL (*Pardirallus nigricans*) – Another rail that gave us a hard time initially, but we scored big at Caraca for excellent looks.

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*) – Out in a swamp near Caiman.

Aramidae (Limpkin)

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*) – Common in the Pantanal, but for the first time ever, at least in my experience, we had one limping!

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*) – Abundant in open-country areas. Should be called a "Yapwing", as they "yap" all day!

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (WHITE-BACKED) (*Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*) – Part of the 'white-backed' group, that inhabits much of South America.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*) – Pronounce it however you like, but this is certainly one nice looking bird of South American marshes!

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*) – Daily out at Baiazinha at Caiman. [b]

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*) – We must have had about 5-6 stalking about out in the grazed grass at Baiazinha. [b]

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) – In small numbers out at Baiazinha. We even saw them in flight, displaying that bold white rump.

GIANT SNIPE (*Gallinago undulata*) – One of the mega-tripbirds, for sure, and new one for this tour. This species has - up until the recent past - been considered sort of mythical, as not much was known about its habits. But in recent years, much has been learned about its habits. So, with this new-found knowledge, it is being turned up in even fairly regularly birded areas. This is not to say that it is common, because this is far from the truth; it is still rightfully labeled as a rare and local bird. We also had the advantage of our lethal weapon, Marcelo, who has more than quite a bit of experience with the bird. I think we were all stunned when this hulk of a snipe came blasting in, to land almost at our feet for unbelievable, spotlight studies!

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – At least one feeding about on one of the islands at Baiazinha. According to records, this is not a common bird at all in the area. [b]



South America's largest Canid, the Maned Wolf is also a very unique animal, with no close living relatives. Normally shy and elusive, these beautiful animals are most easily seen at the monastery at Caraca, where they come to feed on chicken scraps at night. (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levensgood)

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

LARGE-BILLED TERN (*Phaetusa simplex*) – A large and well-marked tern, found along fresh-water systems in the neotropics.

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops niger*) – Skimming the water's surface at Baiazinha.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – This species' name does not do it justice; it has some spectacular purple and reddish tones!

PICAZURO PIGEON (*Patagioenas picazuro*) – Large, and with a very recognizable, buoyant flight.

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – Common at Caraca.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Across South America in less forested areas.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*) – Abundant!

SCALED DOVE (*Columbina squammata*) – Most common at Caiman where we saw them in small numbers on a daily basis.

PICUI GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina picui*) – The common little ground-dove with the bold white in the wings.

LONG-TAILED GROUND-DOVE (*Uropelia campestris*) – We didn't have to work as hard as in previous years to find this thinly proportioned ground-dove. We had some super studies at a small group of them out on one of our "safari" drives one morning at Caiman. Love that yellow coloration around the eyes!

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – Common around Caiman.

GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) – In small numbers at Emas.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

NANDAY PARAKEET (*Nandayus nenday*) – Also known as the Black-hooded Parakeet. This is a common bird in loud, screeching flocks right around the Sede at Caiman, and we enjoyed some spectacular views in perfect light, for to soak in all of the intense - and subtle - colors!

BLAZE-WINGED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura devillei*) – A specialty of the southern Pantanal. Not always the easiest bird to find and see well, we had some spectacular studies at a group of them at point-blank range out near the Sede, when they perched up on some eye-level branches.

MONK PARAKEET (*Myiopsitta monachus*) – Common and noisy around Caiman.

BLUE-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Aratinga acuticaudata*) – Doug and Brian had one with our local guide, Vitor, one morning at Caiman... had to have beer-goggles on to see this one, I guess! This species is pretty much at its eastern-most reaches here, so not in large numbers.

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET (*Aratinga leucophthalma*) – Good looks a few times.

PEACH-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Aratinga aurea*) – Some birds have misleading names, but not this one, that is for sure! We had fine studies at this attractive parakeet species on most days of our trip, mainly in non-forested areas.

HYACINTH MACAW (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) – Sort of a mascot bird for Caiman lodge, and for good reason, as they have been highly successful with their nest-box breeding program. The Hyacinth Macaw is one of the big reasons that many birders visit the Pantanal, and they rarely disappoint! I mean how could they, with their large size and gorgeous shade of deep blue? I know I never get tired of seeing a pair up in the trees yelling at us, or the sight of them



This cooperative Pale-throated Pampa-Finch (or Serra-Finch) sure got the cameras clicking when it popped up right in front of us at Caraca! (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levensgood)

gliding by!

RED-AND-GREEN MACAW (*Ara chloropterus*) – Quick flyby views at Caiman. I sure wish that they had stayed just even a moment longer!

BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW (*Ara ararauna*) – A wide-ranging bird throughout the lowlands of South America, and a testament to the wilds of this great continent!

YELLOW-COLLARED MACAW (*Primolius auricollis*) – A beautiful, small macaw that we saw wonderfully at Caiman, and even at a nest-hole close to the jaguar spot.

RED-SHOULDERED MACAW (*Diopsittaca nobilis*) – The common - and very noisy! - small macaw at Emas, where they inhabit the gallery woodlands.

BLUE-WINGED PARROTLET (*Forpus xanthopterygius*) – A few of this tiny species at Cipo.

YELLOW-CHEVRONED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris chiriri*) – Most common around Caiman, where small groups of them screech by daily.

YELLOW-FACED PARROT (*Alipiopsitta xanthops*) – Common in small numbers in the cerrado woodlands at Emas. This species is restricted to the cerrado woodlands in Brazil's central plateau.

SCALY-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus maximiliani*) – Two rather different subspecies were seen on the tour: 'siy' around Caiman with the bold white eye-ring, and the nominate form at Caraca.

BLUE-FRONTED PARROT (*Amazona aestiva*) – Also known as the Turquoise-fronted Parrot, this one was a common sight at Caiman where we had some excellent scope studies a few times.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*) – This one really does remind you of a squirrel when it runs along branches.

DARK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus melacoryphus*) – An austral migrant that gave us nice views a few times over the course of the trip.

[a]

GUIRA CUCKOO (*Guira guira*) – An endearing cuckoo of open country, common in campos and towns alike. Quite a gregarious species, we had some fun watching them fan out and hunt, forming what best looks like a sparrow-line, and roosting together in tightly-packed lines.

STRIPED CUCKOO (*Tapera naevia*) – Good looks at Caiman.

GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*) – Emas was the only place we had them this trip.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*) – Another common open country cuckoo species.

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) – Seen during some night driving on the edges of Emas.

Strigidae (Owls)

TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops choliba*) – Sensational views at responsive birds during some pre-dinner owling at Caiman.

BLACK-CAPPED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops atricapilla*) – This can be a wary species, as was our experience, but at least we heard them; Caraca. [*]

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – Particularly common at Caiman.

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) – Often covered in clay dust, giving them that reddish tinge. Edimar, our Emas guide, joked that we should re-name the park, "Burrowing Owl National Park", as they are so common there!

RUSTY-BARRED OWL (*Strix hylophila*) – It took a couple of tries, but we finally lured in a pair - after some persistence at Caraca - for nice spotlight views.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

SHORT-TAILED NIGHTHAWK (NATTERERI) (*Lurocalis semitorquatus nattereri*) – Seen by some at dusk around the



The largest of the toucans, the spectacular Toco Toucan gets more than its fair share of publicity, often appearing in advertisements for places they don't actually occur! No false advertising here, though, as Tocos are a common sight throughout this tour. (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levengood)

monastery at Caraca.

- COMMON PAURAQUE** (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – Very common along the roadsides during our night drives at Caiman.
- SPOT-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus maculicaudus*) – Marcelo pulled this one out of the hat for us at Emas just after we had decided to pack it in after knee-buckling views at a Giant Snipe! He called us back and we enjoyed awesome views of one of these swirling around us.
- LITTLE NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus parvulus*) – Tremendous studies at perched birds at both Caiman and Emas during our night birding forays!

Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

- GREAT POTOO** (*Nyctibius grandis*) – Nice views at a day-roosting bird not far from our lodge at Caiman for brilliant studies!
- COMMON POTOO** (*Nyctibius griseus*) – As if the Tropical Screech-Owl and Little Nightjar weren't enough, we called in a very responsive individual of this species for excellent views, right at the same spot. Those big yellow eyes blew us away... but gave me the creeps at the same time!

Apodidae (Swifts)

- WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – Clouds of them coming in to roost at Caraca.
- BISCUTATE SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne biscutata*) – In smaller numbers than the previous species, but still seen well at Caraca.
- SICK'S SWIFT** (*Chaetura meridionalis*) – Most common around Emas.
- FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT** (*Tachornis squamata*) – The common and small swift around Emas. We even saw them hitting other birds in flight to pluck feathers to line their nests with.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

- PLANALTO HERMIT** (*Phaethornis pretrei*) – Fairly common in small numbers around Caraca.
- SCALE-THROATED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis eurynome*) [*]
- HYACINTH VISORBEARER** (*Augastes scutatus*) – One of the real target birds at Cipo, as it is fairly range-restricted and very handsome. This was a good year for them and we celebrated some wonderful views!
- WHITE-VENTED VIOLETEAR** (*Colibri serrirostris*) – In small numbers around Cipo.
- HORNED SUNGEM** (*Heliactin bilophus*) – Fabulous views at a female on our first afternoon at Cipo, which is certainly a stroke of luck as this one can be elusive. This took the pressure off!
- WHITE-TAILED GOLDENTHROAT** (*Polytmus guainumbi*) – I may have been the only one to have gotten quick looks at this one at Emas when it popped in and fed at some low flowers near the headquarters.
- BLACK-THROATED MANGO** (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*) – Feeding at the Royal Pointsiana tree on the grounds of the Sede at Caiman.
- BRAZILIAN RUBY** (*Clytolaema rubricauda*) – One female came in to mob the pygmy-owl sound at Caraca, which was certainly a blessing as this can be a tricky one to get on this tour.
- AMETHYST WOODSTAR** (*Calliphlox amethystina*) – At the garden flowers at Caraca and then again at Cipo.
- GLITTERING-BELLIED EMERALD** (*Chlorostilbon aureoventris*) – A regular at the garden flowers at Caraca where they sported their electrifying colors!
- GRAY-BREASTED SABREWING** (*Campylopterus largipennis*) – Fairly common in the woodlands around Caraca.
- SWALLOW-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Eupetomena macroura*) – A very showy hummer of open habitats. We had our first looks at them, as a group, at Caiman, where they showed off their rich blues and greens, not to mention that long, swallow tail!



Striped, brownish birds are what generally come to mind when one thinks of grassland birds, certainly not the electric coloration of this stunning Blue Finch. We enjoyed this singing male in the rocky serras at Cipo. (Photo by tour participants Bob Sprague and Amy Levengood)

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*) – Replaces the next species west of the Atlantic forests. We saw them a few times at Emas, and then again at Cipo.

VIOLET-CAPPED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania glaucopis*) – Some gorgeous, glittering males were to be had at Caraca!

VERSICOLORED EMERALD (*Amazilia versicolor*) – At the garden flowers at Caraca, and the one with the aqua-colored throat.

SAPPHIRE-SPANGLED EMERALD (*Amazilia lactea*) – One of the more common species around the monastery at Caraca; this one had the deeper bluish-purple throat.

GILDED HUMMINGBIRD (*Hylocharis chrysurus*) – Daily at Caiman.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

BLUE-CROWNED TROGON (*Trogon curucui*) – A common sight at Caiman.

SURUCUA TROGON (*Trogon surrucura*) – Fairly common in the Atlantic forest fragments at Caraca. We saw the yellow-bellied form.

Momotidae (Motmots)

AMAZONIAN MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*) – A responsive group was seen quite well at Fazenda Santa Amelia, not far from our lodging near Emas.

RUFOUS-CAPPED MOTMOT (*Baryphthengus ruficapillus*) – Not a bird that we have seen much of over the years at Caraca, but we had some nice scope views during our trail birding there this year.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Daily at Caiman.

AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*) – Ditto! This was the slightly smaller species with the dark green plumage.

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*) – Seen out at Baiazinha during some afternoon birding at Caiman.

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

WHITE-EARED PUFFBIRD (*Nystalus chacuru*) – A really flashy puffbird that graced our presence a few times at Emas. This species' head pattern, with the bold black-and-white face, and salmon bill, are hard to beat!

SPOT-BACKED PUFFBIRD (CHACO) (*Nystalus maculatus striatipectus*) – Excellent scope views right from the safari vehicle at Caiman. We saw the Chaco form that some consider different from the birds further north.

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa nigrifrons*) – We called up a couple of birds at Fazenda Santa Amelia on our last morning around Emas.

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR (*Galbula ruficauda*) – Most numerous around Emas, but Bob spotted the first one at Caiman! One of the more wide-ranging jacamars.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus castanotis*) – Very quick views at a small group of them at Caiman when they blasted through.

TOCO TOUCAN (*Ramphastos toco*) – A daily sight - in strong numbers - at Caiman and Emas. This large toucan is also one of the most striking, with that honker, Tequila Sunrise bill!

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

WHITE-BARRED PICULET (*Picumnus cirratus cirratus*) – In good numbers with the mixed flocks at Caraca.

WHITE-WEDGED PICULET (*Picumnus albosquamatus albosquamatus*) – This nominate race is what we saw at Caiman. It appears to intergrade into the following race in western Mato Grosso.

WHITE-WEDGED PICULET (*Picumnus albosquamatus guttifer*) – The birds we saw at Emas appear darker on the breast and belong to this race.

WHITE WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes candidus*) – Some nice views in the Pantanal and cerrado. This is a very colonial woodpecker species that you rarely see singly.

WHITE-FRONTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cactorum*) – It took a couple of tries, but we did end up with really nice scope views at a responsive pair not far from the Sede at Caiman. This one is also known as the "Cactus Woodpecker" as it seems confined to stands of cactus in some parts of its range.

LITTLE WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis passerinus*) – The common and small woodpecker that we saw on a few days at

Caiman.

GOLDEN-GREEN WOODPECKER (*Piculus chrysochloros*) – On our first two days at Caiman. This one is really a handsome woodpecker, with bold greens, yellows and reds... not to mention that blue eye.

WHITE-BROWED WOODPECKER (*Piculus aurulentus*) – Also known as the "Yellow-browed Woodpecker". We pulled this one out of an exciting mixed flock in the forest at Caraca.

GREEN-BARRED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes melanochloros*) – Seen well at Caiman and Emas.

CAMPO FLICKER (*Colaptes campestris*) – Widespread and lovely!

PALE-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Ceolus lugubris*) – Some killer views of this dry-woodland species at Caiman.

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – Most common at Caiman.

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*) – Nicely at Caiman.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

CAMPO MINER (*Geositta poeciloptera*) – A specialist in recently burned campos of the cerrado. We had them really well on two days during our birding at Emas.. which was a thrill, because if you don't hit it right, it can be missed!

PALE-LEGGED HORNERO (*Furnarius leucopus*) – Fairly common, usually near water, at Caiman.

RUFOUS HORNERO (*Furnarius rufus*) – This common species, apparently responsible in part for the elimination of Chagas disease from Argentina, was with us throughout our trip.

CHOTOY SPINETAIL (*Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*) – A pretty humorous scientific - especially the second part of the binomial! - name when you read it carefully! We had some terrific studies at a pair in some roadside scrub at Caiman.

RUFOUS-CAPPED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis ruficapilla*) – The spinetail that sounds like it is constantly saying, "todo bem, todo bem, todo bem...?". We enjoyed some nice views of this skulker along the forest trails at Caraca.

GRAY-BELLIED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis cinerascens*) – The spinetail that gave us the hardest time, which is usually the case. After some work though, most folks either got quick to good views as they popped up from time to time out of the thick bamboo understory; Caraca.

SOOTY-FRONTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis frontalis*) – To run the possible spinetails for the trip, it was down to this species, but we managed to sniff it out along a side road near our lodge at Cipo on the last day for great views.

PALE-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albescens*) – Good looks at this cerrado species at Emas and Cipo.

SPIX'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis spixi*) – Also called "Chicli Spinetail". We had good looks at this one on our first afternoon at Caraca.

CINEREOUS-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis hypospodia*) – A localized species that seems to prefer low, slightly swampy habitats. We had a pair come in for us on our first day out of Campo Grande.

WHITE-LORED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albilora*) – Split from the Plain-crowned Spinetail some years back. This species prefers lower stature forest, such as around Caiman, where we had some nice views.

RUSTY-BACKED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca vulpina*) – Fairly common near water at Caiman and Emas where they often feed about in the water hyacinths.

PALLID SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca pallida*) – An arboreal species of the Atlantic forests that we saw on two days at Caraca.

YELLOW-CHINNED SPINETAIL (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*) – Most common at lake edges at Caiman.

CIPO CANASTERO (*Asthenes luizae*) – Awesome!!! I'll quote Rose Ann Rowlett here, who sums this bird's history up perfectly: "Geographically separated by almost 1500 kms from its nearest congener, this species was only discovered in 1988--right here in the Serra do Cipo, which is still essentially the only known locality for it. (Surveys in 1996-98 found the species at three additional in s. Minas Gerais.) Considered ENDANGERED, but at least has funded the purchase of some of its rocky habitat to be added to the Cipo National Park." We had a perfect morning to look for this species, even though it looked grim (rain-wise) at first, but things came together after some patience. After hearing it sound off not too far away, we out waited it, and finally got one to dance across the rocks, and even sit out for a few moments, for memorable views!

RUFOUS-FRONTED THORNBIRD (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*) – We had our first views during a snack break out at Caiman.

GREATER THORNBIRD (*Phacellodomus ruber*) – Responsive out at the Sede at Caiman for wonderful views on our first afternoon. Love that yellow eye!

ORANGE-EYED THORNBIRD (*Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*) – We tracked down a pair attending a nest next to the monastery at Caraca!

FIREWOOD-GATHERER (*Anumbius anumbi*) – Just not very responsive this trip! [*]

- RUFOUS CACHOLOTE** (*Pseudoseisura unirufa*) – We had our best looks right next to our lodge at the Sede on our first afternoon at Caiman.
- BUFF-BROWED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) – Sneaky this trip, but we still managed some decent views along the trails at Caraca.
- RUSSET-MANTLED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Syndactyla dimidiata*) – This one can be a real headache, but at least we glimpsed them flying by at Emas.
- BUFF-FRONTED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Philydor rufum*) – We saw this canopy foliage-gleaner with the flocks at Caraca.
- WHITE-EYED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Automolus leucophthalmus*) – Responsive along the forest trails at Caraca.
- CHESTNUT-CAPPED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Hylocryptus rectirostris*) – A short side trip off of the main highway, to a little stake-out we know about, produced some stunning views at this range-restricted species in the Campo Grande area! It was a thrill to see them foraging about on the ground, unobstructed.
- SHARP-TAILED STREAMCREEPER** (*Lochmias nematura*) – Responsive at Caraca, where they blasted in from their river-edge hangouts.
- STREAKED XENOPS** (*Xenops rutilans*) – Fairly common with the flocks at Caraca.
- OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER** (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) – We saw at least two races of this complex species, including the mustard-colored sylviellus, restricted to the Atlantic Forest. The birds in the Emas were brownish-gray and rufous. Eventually, there will be splits in this group.
- WHITE-THROATED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphocolaptes albicollis*) – Great looks at one in the forests at Caraca when it came bombing in!
- GREAT RUFOUS WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphocolaptes major*) – This species was conspicuously singing and much in evidence at Caiman this year. It was a real treat to see them so well.
- PLANALTO WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*) – Nice views of birds at Caiman and Emas.
- NARROW-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*) – This striking and distinctive woodcreeper is common in the Pantanal and in gallery woodland through the Cerrado.
- SCALED WOODCREEPER** (*Lepidocolaptes squamatus*) – In small numbers with the flocks at Caraca.
- RED-BILLED SCYTHEBILL** (*Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*) – What great views of this fancy woodcreeper at Caiman!

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

- LARGE-TAILED ANTSHRIKE** (*Mackenziaena leachii*) – Another Atlantic Forest endemic that is quite a skulker. A quietly responsive male sneaked in and really performed, singing and hopping around quite visibly in the undergrowth next to the soccer field at Caraca.
- TUFTED ANTSHRIKE** (*Mackenziaena severa*) – This one gave us fits at Caraca in our usual birding areas, but we struck gold down along the road on our way when he found a cooperative male that sat out for awesome views!
- GREAT ANTSHRIKE** (*Taraba major*) – Fairly common around Caiman... the one with the red eye.
- BARRED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – A couple of pairs in the woodlands north of Campo Grande and Emas.
- RUFOUS-WINGED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus torquatus*) – Our most memorable views were of a male in the late afternoon - through the scope - just before the Giant Snipe hunt!
- PLANALTO SLATY-ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus pelzelni*) – A stop in some roadside woodland produced nice views at a pair on our way back to Campo Grande from Emas.
- VARIABLE ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus caerulescens*) – Good looks at a male at Caraca.
- PLAIN ANTVIREO** (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) – Responsive along the trails at Caraca.
- BLACK-CAPPED ANTWREN** (*Herpsilochmus atricapillus*) – We called this canopy antwren in for some nice views along the trails at Caraca.
- LARGE-BILLED ANTWREN** (*Herpsilochmus longirostris*) – A specialist of gallery woodlands. We had many fine studies around Emas, where they are fairly common.
- SERRA ANTWREN** (*Formicivora serrana*) – A split from Black-bellied Antwren, this specialty of Caraca is a very local endemic of the stunted woodland and edge. We saw it quite well here when we called in a pair.
- RUSTY-BACKED ANTWREN** (*Formicivora rufa*) – Sensational views of a pair in the cerrado woodland at Caiman where they put on quite a performance.
- OCHRE-RUMPED ANTBIRD** (*Drymophila ochropyga*) – This species is real big fan of the bamboo understory... but I know some birders who aren't! These guys did put on a good show for us at Caraca once we got them going though. This

one's voice sounds like it has a cold or something.

DUSKY-TAILED ANTBIRD (*Drymophila malura*) – Another one that had us on our hands-and-knees, but this is what it takes sometimes when trying to pry out those skulkers; Caraca.

MATO GROSSO ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra melanaria*) – A very responsive pair offered up some nice looks at Caiman on our second full day there.

WHITE-SHOULDERED FIRE-EYE (*Pyriglena leucoptera*) – Fairly common in the understory at Caraca, and not too difficult to see this trip.

Conopophagidae (Gnateaters)

RUFOUS GNATEATER (*Conopophaga lineata*) – A really nice pair performed nicely near the monastery at Caraca.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

SPOTTED BAMBOOWREN (*Psilorhamphus guttatus*) – This may be a first for this tour. We heard it calling downslope from us along the road leading into Caraca, but it was just too far away to reel in. [*]

WHITE-BREASTED TAPACULO (*Eleoscytalopus indigoticus*) – Crippling views of one that popped right into where we had put out the ole ipod/speaker trap... nice!!!

ROCK TAPACULO (*Scytalopus petrophilus*) – It is nice to finally have an official name to tag to this one; for years its taxonomy has been sort of a mess. The short of it is that there was confusion with respect to the biogeographics and official naming of this species and the Mouse-colored. This one played a little harder to get this than others, but most folks did end up with fair to good views when we pulled them upslope; Caraca.

Melanopareiidae (Crescentchests)

COLLARED CRESCENTCHEST (*Melanopareia torquata*) – Top-notch scope studies at Emas when we got one to pop up right along the roadside. I imagine the pics. were quite nice as well!

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) – Fairly common in most habitats.

SUIRIRI FLYCATCHER (*Suiriri suiriri affinis*) – Very cooperative at Caiman.

CHAPADA FLYCATCHER (*Suiriri islerorum*) – This one seems to have been a cryptic species that had been overlooked for years, being very similar to the Suiriri Flycatcher. Aside from a few structural and plumage differences, they are quite alike, but the display dance of this one is the most fascinating characteristic that sets them apart. We had some great fun watching them at Emas a couple of times.

MOUSE-COLORED TYRANNULET (*Phaeomyias murina*) – An unobtrusive little flycatcher that we saw well a couple of times.

YELLOW TYRANNULET (*Capsiempis flaveola*) – Right at the Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner spot in the overhanging bamboo.

GRAY-BACKED TACHURI (*Polystictus superciliaris*) – Excellent studies at this serra specialist up on Cipo during our one stop shop morning up there!

FOREST ELAENIA (*Myiopagis gaimardii*) – Never could get one into view. [*]

GREENISH ELAENIA (*Myiopagis viridicata*) – Common and vocal at Caiman.

YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – The common and most wide-ranging elaenia of the trip, and a good one to learn in order to compare to other species.

LARGE ELAENIA (*Elaenia spectabilis*) – We eked one out at Caiman for nice looks. [a]

PLAIN-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia cristata*) – The elaenia with the really tall, titmouse-like crest that we saw many of at Cipo.

LESSER ELAENIA (*Elaenia chiriquensis*) – Of all of the elaenias that we saw, this one is the dullest plumage and flatter-headed look. They were pretty common at Emas and Cipo.

HIGHLAND ELAENIA (*Elaenia obscura*) – A few active birds at Caraca.

SOOTY TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga nigricans*) – I've had some tough luck with this one in recent years on this trip, but we had them really well at both Emas and Cipo. This species is fond of lake and river edges.

GRAY-HOODED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes rufiventris*) – Quick looks along the forest trails at Caraca.

SEPIA-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) – We had our first encounters with this one at Fazenda Santa Amelia, before the long drive to Campo Grande, and then had them daily in the woods at Caraca.

MOTTLE-CHEEKED TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes ventralis*) – Fairly common with the flocks at Caraca.

PLANALTO TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias fasciatus*) – Common around Caraca. We had some really nice looks at birds coming to pygmy-owl tooting on our first afternoon there, right from the garden wall.

GRAY-CAPPED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias griseocapilla*) – I have found this to be a very tough bird to come by at Caraca, but we connected with them twice, for incredible views, one time coming down quite low.

SOUTHERN SCRUB-FLYCATCHER (*Sublegatus modestus*) [*]

PLAIN TYRANNULET (*Inezia inornata*) – In the scrub forests not far from the Sede at Caiman, for eye-level studies.

SHARP-TAILED TYRANT (*Culicivora caudacuta*) – A tiny little tyrant that specializes in grasslands, such as those that abound at Emas. It didn't take too much time before we pulled them in for close views.

SOUTHERN ANTPIT (*Corythopis delalandi*) – Now this one proved to be a real challenge to see well as it seemed to move about ghost-like, but most folks ended up with pretty darned good views after about 30 minutes of work; Fazenda Santa Amelia.

RUFOUS-SIDED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*) – A first for this tour; good thing Marcelo was keen as to the spot for it at Emas! This species seems a bit unpredictable and very local, preferring a certain degree of recent fire burn; they seem to vanish from traditional areas once the habitat matures a bit.

EARED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Myiornis auricularis*) – One of our last big - well little, really! - scores at Caraca as we made our way out along the entrance road.

DRAB-BREASTED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus diops*) – Tricky to see at times, but we nailed it along the forest trails at Caraca.

HANGNEST TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus nidipendulus*) – Prefers stunted, open woodlands. We had good looks at a pair not far from the monastery at Caraca.

PEARLY-VENTED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*) – Common at Caiman.

OCHRE-FACED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps*) – Marcelo pulled these little devils up out of the bamboo for us at Caraca.

GRAY-HEADED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum poliocephalum*) – Also known as the "Yellow-lored Tody-Tyrant", and one that we saw well daily at Caraca, right around the gardens. One of the best-dressed tody-tyrants, for sure!

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – We had our first looks at this one on our first look around the lodge at Caiman.

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) – Subspecies *pallescens*, except at Caraca, where we saw the Atlantic forest nominate form.

CLIFF FLYCATCHER (*Hirundinea ferruginea bellicosa*) – Common right on the monastery at Caraca.

BRAN-COLORED FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) – In the Cipo area.

EULER'S FLYCATCHER (*Lathrotriccus euleri*) – Seen first at Emas in some gallery woodland.

TROPICAL PEWEE (*Contopus cinereus*) – Along the forest trails at Caraca.

FUSCOUS FLYCATCHER (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*) – This understory species was seen well in the gallery woodlands at Caiman.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – On one day at Caiman! It is an austral migrant to the region. [a]

CRESTED BLACK-TYRANT (*Knipolegus lophotes*) – I think that this is one of the flashiest black-tyrants around, and they even made it suspenseful up on Cipo, where we had to scramble a bit to locate them. Once we did, however, the views were grand!

VELVETY BLACK-TYRANT (*Knipolegus nigerrimus*) – A yard bird right around the monastery at Caraca... and oh so velvety!

YELLOW-BROWED TYRANT (*Satrapa icterophrys*) – We picked one out of a marsh at Caiman.

GRAY MONJITA (*Xolmis cinereus*) – Common out on the cerrado.

WHITE-RUMPED MONJITA (*Xolmis velatus*) – Common in open habitats throughout the tour.

WHITE MONJITA (*Xolmis irupero*) – Immaculate as always! I never get tired of seeing our usual pair adorn the fence posts out in the Pantanal!

STREAMER-TAILED TYRANT (*Gubernetes yetapa*) – One of the greatest of all tyrant flycatchers. Aside from its large size and beautiful plumage, this species' dueted wing/tail display is not to be missed! We found them daily at Emas, but had our first crack at them on the first of birding soon after leaving Campo Grande.

SHEAR-TAILED GRAY TYRANT (*Muscipipra vetula*) – Wonderful looks at this canopy species on our way out of Caraca... thought we were going to miss it!

BLACK-BACKED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola albiventer*) – Nick was the only one to get this one at along the lake edge at the Sede; we went out searching for it numerous times, but came up empty handed.

MASKED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola nengeta*) – Every time we birded by the pond at Caraca.

WHITE-HEADED MARSH TYRANT (*Arundinicola leucocephala*) – A pair was very nicely scoped out at marsh near Chapadao do Ceu.

COCK-TAILED TYRANT (*Alectrurus tricolor*) – We hit the mother load of this grassland species during a safari drive out to the central part of Emas. This wonderful little bird, named "Little Airplane" (*Aviaozinho*) in Portuguese, was into its breeding cycle during our visit, performing its fascinating aerial courtship flights over the grasslands. Like the Sharp-tailed Tyrant, it's a true cerrado specialty.

LONG-TAILED TYRANT (*Colonia colonus*) – Common around Caraca.

CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosa*) – Common in open country, and quite confiding. We really got a kick out of one particular individual bird at Emas that kept following us along in the safari vehicle! Guess you make friends in some of the strangest ways.

SIRYSTES (*Sirystes sibilator*) – This canopy flock leader was seen well at both Caiman and Caraca.

RUFOUS CASIORNIS (*Casiornis rufus*) – A common woodland bird at Caiman.

SWAINSON'S FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus swainsoni*) – Caiman and Caraca. This is a tough complex, but this species' pale color in the mandible, more olive tone to the head, and often slightly darker mask, not to mention its distinctive call note, all help identify it.

SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus ferox*) – The most common *Myiarchus* of the trip.

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) – Fairly common at Caiman and Emas at forest edges.

LESSER KISKADEE (*Pitangus lictor*) – Often associated with water, we had them on a couple of days at Caiman.

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – Everyday of the trip!

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – Most common at Caiman and Caraca.

RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) – Most common around Caiman.

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*) – Daily at Caraca.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) – Common at Caiman, Caraca and Cipo.

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – A common canopy flycatcher that one often hears first. We had them at Caiman and Cipo.

VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus varius*) – Conspicuous and vocal at Emas. Looks much like a Piratic, but longer and slimmer, among other differences. [a]

CROWNED SLATY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) – One at Caiman. [a]

WHITE-THROATED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus albogularis*) – Common at many of our birding venues. This one migrates north to areas such as the Amazon when not breeding. [a]

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Seen on all but one day of the trip.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus savana*) – Large numbers of them throughout the trip.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

SWALLOW-TAILED COTINGA (*Phibalura flavivrostris*) – It was a bit of a pressure-cooker, but we ended up with some sensational views at Caraca of a pair at a nest, thanks to the tip from our British friends!

Pipridae (Manakins)

SERRA DO MAR TYRANT-MANAKIN (*Neopelma chrysolophum*) – A very hard bird to find unless vocalizing, but we had one sounding off along the forest trails at Caraca for some really nice views.

PIN-TAILED MANAKIN (*Ilicura militaris*) – A stunning species of manakin that really performed for us along the forest trails at Caraca!

HELMETED MANAKIN (*Antilophia galeata*) – Yet another really hot manakin; the male of this species looks like something that Lady Gaga might have dreamed up had she lived in the sixties... with Elvis in mind. We were nothing less than dazzled by our looks at Emas at a bird that inspires the spirit!

SWALLOW-TAILED MANAKIN (*Chiroxiphia caudata*) – Also known as the "Blue Manakin", but I think its current name is a much flashier! Our scope views of that male were memorable at Caraca.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA (*Tityra cayana*) – Right where we had the White-fronted Woodpeckers, at Caiman.

BLACK-CROWNED TITYRA (*Tityra inquisitor*) – A few around Caiman.

GREENISH SCHIFFORNIS (*Schiffornis virescens*) – Our prospects for this one were looking pretty grim at Caraca; we had not heard one our entire time until the last morning as we walked our way out along the road. Lucky for us, it was cooperative and offered up some good views.

WHITE-NAPED XENOPSARIS (*Xenopsaris albinucha*) – Phenomenal studies at a rare bird... it just seemed too easy! I could not believe our luck when this one popped up out near the Sede at Caiman, where we could study every feather.

GREEN-BACKED BECARD (*Pachyramphus viridis*) – Most common at Caraca, where we saw them nesting.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED BECARD (*Pachyramphus castaneus*) – Another one that we lucked into on our last morning at Caraca.

WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) – On a few days at Caiman.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

GRAY-EYED GREENLET (*Hylophilus amaurocephalus*) – Vocal and in our faces at Caraca!

RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – An energetic and chunky bird that John Rowlett personifies, hence his bird name, the "Peppershrike". Anywhere peppershrikes occur, you hear them almost constantly, but seeing them is a different story; John you can hear and see easily, at any venue... awe how we love him! We did, however, have some nice looks at this vocal species a few times, with its big attitude in tow.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

PURPLISH JAY (*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*) – A raucous species that we saw at Caiman daily.

CURL-CRESTED JAY (*Cyanocorax cristatellus*) – Gratifyingly common at Emas; a true cerrado specialty that never fails to disappoint!

PLUSH-CRESTED JAY (*Cyanocorax chrysops*) – Common in the woodlands at Caiman... but another stunner!

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – Common around the monastery at Caraca.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – Emas and Caraca.

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*) – Abundant at Caiman, and seen best out at Baiazinha, where they hang around the lodge there.

BROWN-CHESTED MARTIN (*Progne tapera*) – Also common at Caiman, being found mostly around water.

WHITE-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*) – Flying low out over the grasslands at Caiman.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – A few out over the marshes near Chapadao do Ceu not far from Emas. [b]

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – Clouds of migrating birds at Emas. [b]

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

THRUSH-LIKE WREN (*Campylorhynchus turdinus unicolor*) – The rather dull, unmarked unicolor race, which we had commonly at Caiman. What a song these guys can belt out!

FAWN-BREASTED WREN (*Cantorchilus guarayanus*) – Great looks at a responsive bird in the understory of scrub woodland at Caiman.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) – Caraca and Cipo where they were common and vocal.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) – We pulled up a cooperative pair out of the grasslands at Emas when we drove a little further into the park.

Poliptilidae (Gnatcatchers)

MASKED GNATCATCHER (*Poliptila dumicola*) – Most common around Emas where they foraged about with small mixed groups and sometimes responded to the pygmy-owl whistling.

Donacobiidae (Donacobius)

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIOUS (*Donacobius atricapilla*) – Now placed in its own monotypic family after decades of being bounced around between such families as the mockingbirds and wrens. We had plenty of good looks at this flashy species at water's edge many times at Caiman.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

PALE-BREASTED THRUSH (*Turdus leucomelas*) – As its name suggests, this is a pretty markless bird; we had them commonly at a few spots.

RUFOUS-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus rufiventris*) – The most common thrush of the trip which regaled us with its sweet

song on many occasions.

CREAMY-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus amaurochalinus*) – More common at Caraca and Cipo; the one with the bolder streaking on the throat and yellow bill.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

CHALK-BROWED MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus saturninus*) – Often smudged with red dust, giving them an orange tinge!

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

MASKED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*) – Very nice views of singing males at Emas.

TROPICAL PARULA (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) – Common with the flocks at Emas.

WHITE-BELLIED WARBLER (*Basileuterus hypoleucus*) – A forest-based bird that we saw many times in the understory at Caraca and Cipo.

WHITE-STRIPED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis leucophrys*) – This is one really swanky warbler with those rich olive tones and bold white brow! This species prefers the thick understory of swampy woodland, such as those found around Emas, and we had some sensational views one afternoon before our Giant Snipe bash!

FLAVESCENT WARBLER (*Myiothlypis flaveolus*) – We pulled one in during some woodland birding at Caiman.

WHITE-BROWED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis leucoblepharus*) – This one can be tricky to lure in, but we had one come blasting in in the forest understory at Caraca for tremendous studies; also known as the "White-rimmed Warbler".

Coerebidae (Bananaquit)

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*) – Common around Caraca and Cipo.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

CINNAMON TANAGER (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*) – A bird of more open woodlands, such as cerrados and serras. We found them on three consecutive days at Caraca and Cipo for some grand studies.

MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leverianus*) – The longest tanager of them all, tail-aided, of course! It took a few tries but we got everybody onto them at Caraca.

WHITE-BANDED TANAGER (*Neothraupis fasciata*) – Very shrike-like in appearance. This cerrado species gave us some nice views at Emas.

HOODED TANAGER (*Nemosia pileata*) – At Caiman when we called in a pair dwelling in the canopy.

WHITE-RUMPED TANAGER (*Cypsnagra hirundinacea*) – Another cerrado tanager that we had some fabulous looks at during our safari drives at Emas. This species' duet is another "can't miss" during a visit to the area.

BLACK-GOGGLED TANAGER (*Trichothraupis melanops*) – Common in the forests around Caraca.

CHESTNUT-VENTED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum speciosum*) – A daily sight at Caiman.

GUIRA TANAGER (*Hemithraupis guira*) – One day at Caiman.

RUFOUS-HEADED TANAGER (*Hemithraupis ruficapilla*) – Replaces the previous species in the SE Atlantic forests. I think that this is a really spectacular little tanager, and had some nice luck pulling them into view - they are canopy dwellers - at Caraca.

GRAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Eucometis penicillata*) – Cooperative at Fazenda Santa Amelia, not far from Emas, in some woodlands that we often like to bird for a few special species.

RUBY-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus coronatus*) – Common around the gardens at Caraca.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*) – We had good looks at a pair out along the road near Caiman. This species replaces the previous one further west.

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*) – A common sight in cleared areas and at forest edges at Caiman, and a bird known to many neotropical birders.

SAYACA TANAGER (*Thraupis sayaca*) – The replacement of the very well-known Blue-gray Tanager in this part of South America.

GOLDEN-CHEVRONED TANAGER (*Thraupis ornata*) – Fairly common, even right around the monastery, at Caraca.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Seen on most days of the trip.

BRASSY-BREASTED TANAGER (*Tangara desmaresti*) – I don't think that any of us will forget any time soon that festive tree right off of the garden wall at Caraca, just dripping with this and the next species... at close range and right in our faces! We had the best turn out of this species that I have had in years here.

GILT-EDGED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanoventris*) – Common around Caraca, and a real stunner (see above comment).

BURNISHED-BUFF TANAGER (*Tangara cayana*) – The most wide-ranging *Tangara* of the trip.

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*) – Plenty of blue males and green females!

RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) – They made a brief appearance at Emas.

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis*) – Often in large congregations; we had them well in the Caraca and Cipo areas.

BLACK-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator atricollis*) – Probably not even a saltator at all, but rather a pampa-finch; its morphology and vocalizations all point to this possible conclusion. This cerrado/serra species performed for us a few times, perching up and singing with an attitude.

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*) – A regular at Caiman.

GREEN-WINGED SALTATOR (*Saltator similis*) – Takes over in the Caraca area with respect to the previous species.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

BLUE FINCH (*Porphyrospiza caerulescens*) – Up on the boulder-strewn serras around Cipo, and one lovely finch! Our scope views of that singing male just sent us into orbit.

CINEREOUS WARBLING-FINCH (*Poospiza cinerea*) – Not many folks might have known this, but this is one of the really special birds of this tour; I don't believe that we get this on any of our other itineraries. Cinereous Warbling-Finch is not one of the most attractive possible species of this trip, but it is range-restricted up on central Brazil's serras. We had some banner views when they came in for us on that stellar morning at Cipo. [E]

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*) – Common in almost any open habitat.

PLUMBEOUS SEEDEATER (*Sporophila plumbea*) – Common in the grasslands of the central Brazilian plateau.

RUSTY-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila collaris*) – A dashing seedeater that we saw at Caiman out in the shrubby growth along the lake edges.

YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila nigricollis*) – In small numbers at Caraca and Cipo.

DUBOIS'S SEEDEATER (*Sporophila ardesiaca*) – Sort of a specialty in the Minas Gerais area, if even a good species at all! This one differs from the previous species in being clean white underneath and with more distinct olive on the back. We had good looks at them feeding about on the lawn of the gardens at Caraca. I do remember Bret mentioning to me one time that there are some taxonomists who believe that many of these *Sporophila* seedeaters need to be lumped... this would be a real blow to some life list numbers!

DOUBLE-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila caerulescens*) – Pretty common at Caiman and Emas.

CAPPED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila bouvreuil*) – Some nice looks at a group of migrating birds along the Capibara stream at Emas.

MARSH SEEDEATER (*Sporophila palustris*) – I wish these guys had stuck around a little longer, but at least a few folks got onto them before they continued on their migratory path. This is really a nice looking seedeater with bold white, rust and gray tones that can be tricky to find, see it was lucky when they perched up in the fronds of that tall palm.

CHESTNUT SEEDEATER (*Sporophila cinnamomea*) – In the same scope field as the Capped Seedeaters as they fed about along the Capibara river in some seeding grass. Not a bad trip for migratory seedeaters at Emas, even if they breezed through only briefly!

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) – Nice views at one at Caiman during some trail birding.

SAFFRON FINCH (*Sicalis flaveola*) – Abundant throughout open country, mainly in areas close to man.

WEDGE-TAILED GRASS-FINCH (*Emberizoides herbicola*) – Pretty common out in the grasslands at Emas where they frequently sit up and sing.

LESSER GRASS-FINCH (*Emberizoides ypiranganus*) – This one is pretty similar to the previous species but tends to have a cleaner gray aspect to the face, has a drastically different song and prefers marshy habitats. We had some excellent scope studies not far from Chapadao do Ceu in the Emas area.

PALE-THROATED PAMPA-FINCH (*Embernagra longicauda*) – Also known as the "Pale-throated Serra-Finch", which would seem to be a better name. We had absolutely unbeatable views at Caraca in some scrub habitat not far from the lodge when one popped up into a tree only feet away. The cameras were certainly clicking away on this one!

RED-CRESTED CARDINAL (*Paroaria coronata*) – Very common at Caiman, and a really stunning bird.

YELLOW-BILLED CARDINAL (*Paroaria capitata*) – Abundant at Caiman!

COAL-CRESTED FINCH (*Charitospiza eucosma*) – Fantastic studies of a male perched up and singing in a regenerating, recently burned area of Emas. What a lovely finch!

BLACK-MASKED FINCH (*Coryphospiza melanotis*) – A finch of the central grasslands that we called in for stellar scope studies at Emas, and another real looker!

PILEATED FINCH (*Coryphospingus pileatus*) – In the Cipo area where some of us had some splendid views near our lodge over some beer!

RED-CRESTED FINCH (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*) – Not everybody got onto the one as ice-cream had taken center stage, but at least half of the group saw one when it appeared in a nearby tree at stop between Campo Grande and Chapadao do Ceu.

SAFFRON-BILLED SPARROW (*Arremon flavirostris*) – A handsome sparrow of forest understory that we had in a woodland at Caiman.

GRASSLAND SPARROW (*Ammodramus humeralis*) – Most common at Emas and Cipo, where they are sort of the default sparrow!

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – More inclined to be found in hilly and mountainous areas on this tour; we had them in large numbers at Caraca and Cipo.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (LOWLAND) (*Piranga flava flava*) – Once along the trails at Caraca.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

WHITE-BROWED BLACKBIRD (*Sturnella superciliaris*) – Pretty common in pastures along the roadsides in the Emas area.

CHOPI BLACKBIRD (*Gnorimopsar chopi*) – The common blackbird at Caiman and Emas and one with a loud and distinctive voice, often calling well before dawn right around the Sede; this one could give any rooster big competition!

SCARLET-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Amblyramphus holosericeus*) – We had to get a little creative when it came to finding the haunt of this one this year, but the fence crawling and bush-whacking paid off when we emerged onto just the right corner of the Sede lake at Caiman, nabbing scope views of at least a couple of males.

UNICOLORED BLACKBIRD (*Agelasticus cyanopus*) – Common in large groups along the lake edges at Caiman.

YELLOW-RUMPED MARSHBIRD (*Pseudoleistes guirahuro*) – Nice looks a few times at this chunky, black and yellow icterid, such as around Emas and Cipo, usually not far from water.

BAY-WINGED COWBIRD (*Agelaioides badius*) – A few foraging groups at Caiman where they can reach some pretty large numbers.

SCREAMING COWBIRD (*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*) – This one parasitizes the nests of the previous species; its juvenile plumage mimics the Baywing to help the process along, no like some overgrown cuckoo being attended by a much smaller warbler! We had pairs several times around Caiman where they often forage about on the ground near the lodges.

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*) – Fairly common around Caiman and Emas.

GIANT COWBIRD (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) – The hulk of the cowbirds, and quite an attractive bird, especially the male with that red eye; common around Caiman.

EPAULET ORIOLE (*Icterus cayanensis*) – Common in the gardens and woodlands at Caiman.

ORANGE-BACKED TROUPIAL (*Icterus croconotus strictifrons*) – I liken this one to a bottle of Sunkist, with black highlights! Another common bird at Caiman.

SOLITARY BLACK CACIQUE (*Cacicus solitarius*) – The all black cacique with the ivory bill; this one seems to be less of a skulker in this part of the world than in other parts of its range.

RED-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus haemorrhous*) – Superficially similar to the previous species, but with a blue eye and bright red rump. We had some nice first views of them at Caiman as they feed in some Inga trees not far from the Sede.

GOLDEN-WINGED CACIQUE (*Cacicus chrysopterus*) – A gorgeous little cacique that we might most remember for its delicate hanging nest made of black fungal fibers; Caiman.

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*) – Common in most areas, and the only oropendola of the trip.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

PURPLE-THROATED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia chlorotica*) – Our only euphonia of the trip! This one follows suit with the common dark purplish and yellow plumage of many euphonias.

BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanea*) – Some very nice views of them feeding in mistletoe patches at Caraca, and a staggeringly beautiful bird!

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – No comment, ha-ha!!! [I]

MAMMALS

TUFTED-EAR MARMOSET (*Callithrix jacchus*) – Quite an ornate little monkey that inhabits the forests at Caraca... they

look like trouble-making Gremlins to me! We took some time out from our birding to study them as they foraged about right overhead.

MASKED TITI MONKEY (*Callicebus personatus*) – A chunky, mid-sized monkey that we saw feeding at close range right next to the previous species at Caraca. The voice of this one frequently sounds off, and can be heard from quite a distance.

BLACK HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta caraya*) – We never did connect with visuals. [*]

BROWN CAPUCHIN (*Cebus apella*) – Another one that has "trouble-maker" written all over its face! Capuchin monkeys are energetic and always seem to be up to some foraging mischief... the expressions they get on their faces are nothing less than comical. We had a group of them one day at Caiman.

GIANT ANTEATER (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) – Of any of the tours that Field Guides does in the neotropics, this is the one where the potential exists for the mammals to upstage the birds, and our trip was no exception, depending on your priorities, right Amy!?! Any sighting of this incredible mammal deserves a long write-up, so here it is. I can't imagine a better place to soak in fabulous views of the huge anteater species as it lumbers about through the Pantanal grasslands and woodland edges. I think our most exhilarating experience had to be the individual that demanded a Mexican stand-off along the road out near the Sede. We were a tad perplexed when it stood there as if it wanted to take on the safari vehicle, but then Marcelo put it together, coming to the conclusion that it must have smelled a Jaguar nearby... nice sixth-sense, my man! Ill bet this Giant Anteater was never happier to see a truck load of birders in its life. Otherwise we saw what seemed like a record number of them this trip at Caiman, seeing them on four consecutive days.

SIX-BANDED (YELLOW) ARMADILLO (*Euphractus sexcinctus*) – Seen marching around Caiman especially around the Sede daily.

NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) – One at Caraca.

GUIANAN SQUIRREL (*Sciurus aestuans*) – Fairly common at Caraca.

CAPYBARA (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*) – Herds of them at Caiman... and those babies were really cute!

AZARA'S AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta azarae*) – Commonly seen along the roadsides at Caiman, where they fed about.

CRAB-EATING FOX (*Cerdocyon thous*) – Most common around Caiman at dusk and into the night where they trot along in search of food . We had many nice spotlight views of them.

MANED WOLF (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) – A canine that demands some serious respect on size alone! These guys are actually quite wary and flee most of the time at the approach of humans, but the family group that inhabits the grounds around the monastery at Caraca have gotten used to the presence of people (sometimes crowds!) and now creep up the main steps to scarf down chicken scraps that the priests leave out for them in the evenings. I've seen this spectacle now a few times, and still feel an adrenaline rush each time it appears out of the darkness and stands there only feet away!

CRAB-EATING RACCOON (*Procyon cancrivorus*) – One during a night drive at Caiman.

SOUTH AMERICAN COATI (*Nasua nasua*) – A group of them waddled along across an open area at Caiman for nice views.

TAYRA (*Eira barbara*) – Tremendous studies of one when it came bounding along on short, strong legs toward us near Caiman. Once it caught sight (and scent, I'm sure) of us, it bailed!

JAGUAR (*Panthera onca*) – The king of all South American mammals, and an animal that many travelers and nature buffs dream of seeing in the wild one day; I know many folks who have spent decades looking without luck. This tour has now netted them on the last three runs, and each time the quality of the views have just gotten better and better. This year Marcelo, at the helm of the safari vehicle, spotted one run across the road (right near the Sede!). Somehow he got us all interested when he yelled out, "JAGUAR"! We approached the spot and secured a visual as it cruised through the roadside shrubbery. Hiding behind a bush for a moment, it then emerged in all of its glory, pushing on to an area where we couldn't see it. A little creative thinking had us backing up to see if we could re-find it, and what do you know? It re-emerged and then took the liberty of just plopping down right out in the open for views that we'll never forget! The jaguar tracking team soon came speeding up in their jaguar vehicle; many of them had not even seen one! So we passed the baton to them and rolled away quietly, victorious and as heroes. Dinner and Caipirinhas never tasted so good! Let's hope next year's group has similar luck... wow. And how could I not mention the pair that we saw briefly, and heard copulating, later on this evening; their deep growls and thrashing sent shivers up our spines, allowing us to ponder the question: "how high is this safari vehicle anyway"?!

BRAZILIAN TAPIR (*Tapirus terrestris*) – Another one of the big target mammals on this tour. On one of our night drives, we passed by the mango groves at Caiman and spotlighted one for nice views. We stumbled across another one right out along the Emas park boundary one morning on our way in for equally good views. Nice! I'll bet not many folks can claim having seen Jaguar and Brazilian Tapir in one day!

COLLARED PECCARY (*Tayassu tajacu*) – The smaller of the two peccary species. We had good looks at them on one

day at Caiman when they came across the road at fairly close range.

WHITE-LIPPED PECCARY (*Tayassu pecari*) – Fairly common at Caiman where they roam about in sometimes large groups.

MARSH DEER (*Blastocerus dichotomus*) – A large rufous-colored deer that prefers wetter areas, such as along lake edges. We enjoyed some nice scope views of them at Caiman a few times.

PAMPAS DEER (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*) – The common gazelle-like deer that we saw commonly at Caiman and Emas.

BROWN BROCKET DEER (*Mazama gouazoubira*) – Fairly common at Caiman.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 405 bird taxa and 22 mammal taxa