

Brazil: The Pantanal

Jaguars and Jabirus

Sun 2nd–Fri 14th Sep 2018



Trip photos (clockwise, from top left): Rufescent Tiger Heron • Chestnut-eared Aracari • Hyacinth Macaw • ... and those amazing Jaguars!! © Jo Latham, Colin Bushell/Limosa

**Report compiled by tour leader:
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Brazil | Jaguars and Jabirus

The Pantanal is back in the Limosa schedule after a break but things have changed over the years and for the better! Jaguars now feature heavily in any Pantanal itinerary with time allotted to searching for these incredible cats along the Rio Cuiaba. Of course, the birding is still every bit as good as it was with numerous wetland species constantly on view including Jabirus, egrets, herons and a few waders and ducks. The forest birds are often a bit of a surprise to visiting birders though with some very nice birds like Helmeted Manakins, Rufous Casiornis, Pale-crested Woodpeckers and a small selection of antbirds to be found. We finished off at Chapada dos Guimaraes in the hope of Cerrado birds. Admittedly this site is not what it used to be with the fragile Cerrado ecosystem now severely damaged, but the birds are still there to be found and the tablelands make a very pleasant change from the plains of the Pantanal anyway.

2nd & 3rd September

It was a busy Terminal 3 at London Heathrow for our rendezvous prior to our flight to Sao Paulo but thankfully the check-in for our LANTAM flight to Brazil was smooth and the whole group met 'airside' in good time. With plenty of time for our transfer to the connecting flight to Cuiaba we could relax after take-off, enjoying the food and entertainment as we winged our way across the Atlantic, breaching the north-eastern tip of South America over Brazil in the early hours of the following morning. On arrival at Guarulhos Airport in Sao Paulo there was the usual lengthy delay at immigration as we joined the meandering lines waiting to present passports, but we'd made good time on the international flight so there was no panic. With bags collected we then had to make a terminal transfer for our domestic flight to Mato Grosso and in truth, the GOL check-in desk could not have been further in the far depths of the next terminal, resulting in one of the longest walks of the whole tour! A few coffees later we were safely on board our connecting flight to Cuiaba, a two-hour passage with another time zone to the east coast of Brazil. We arrived in Cuiaba where Mario (our local guide for the tour) met us and whisked us away for lunch. Meals in Brazil are generally of the famous Churrascaria-style. The group soon got the hang of these, helping ourselves to fare on offer at the salad bar before being tempted by various cuts of beef, pork, lamb, cheese and even pineapple by skewer-wielding waiters.

After lunch we made our way from the city centre of Cuiaba towards the Pantanal. Black and Turkey Vultures filled the blue sky as we reached the dry Cerrado-like open country and we were soon among the birds after so much time travelling. Greater Rheas, Toco Toucans, Plumbeous Kites and Picazuro Pigeons were nice for starters, but it was the strange, lanky figure of the Red-legged Seriema that we made our first long stop for after narrowly missing a roadside Laughing Falcon seen only by the leader. After a quick stop in Pocone (where Burrowing Owl, Sayaca Tanager, Rufous Hornero and Tropical Kingbird were added to the list) the birding picked up considerably as we neared Pousada Piuval, our accommodation for the first few nights in the Pantanal. Every small roadside pool had birds – Wood Storks, Plumbeous and Bare-faced Ibises, Striated Herons and the giant Jabiru nesting in the largest trees. A quick scan along the unmade roads revealed Grey-necked Wood Rails and Chaco Chacalacas strutting across followed by rather furtive White-tipped Doves. Snail Kites, Black-collared Hawks and Savanna Hawks perched on fenceposts as Crimson-crested Woodpeckers bounded across the road. It was almost frustrating having to pass Buff-necked Ibis, Limpkins and Amazon Kingfishers to arrive at the pousada in good time, but these were all species we'd see again many times. Finally arriving at Piuval we settled in to our rooms, changed for dinner and completed our first bird list of the tour. What would tomorrow bring?

4th September

The first full day of the tour in the Pantanal is always an exciting one. Our pre-breakfast amble this morning gave us just a taster of what was in store for the next few days. Pousada Piuval is well situated, overlooking the Pantanal 'plains', grasslands, distant forest patches and some nice roadside ponds near the lodge. The latter would be our focus for our short walk early in the morning for this day. Distant Hyacinth Macaws welcomed us with their raucous calls across the ranch, but we'd see these better later for sure. The ponds were packed with birds – Wattled Jacanas, a pair of Brazilian Teals consorting with the more numerous Muscovy Ducks, Rufescent Tiger Herons, Bare-faced Ibis and Solitary Sandpipers mingling with Lesser Yellowlegs on the muddy margins under the watchful gaze of basking caimans. But Pantanal birding isn't just about the wetlands. The open country and forest patches have a lot to offer birders here; Crane Hawks dropped into the long marshy grasslands from time to time, parties of Guira Cuckoos playing 'follow the leader' as they flew from one clump to another, Campo Flickers and Grey-crested Cachalotes kept us very busy in the short period we had before breakfast. With exotic Blue-and-yellow Macaws, the massive Great Rufous Woodcreeper and the more 'regular' Narrow-billed Woodcreeper for company

as we strolled back to the pousada our rumbling stomachs told us we had been kept from food a little too long by the birds. Buffet breakfast completed we drove out across the plains mid-morning, dodging the loafing Capybaras, for some forest birding. Mario took us to a broad corridor of woodland where we started to work on the expected species in this habitat. We were soon interrupted by a spectacular fly-by of superb Hyacinth Macaws however, their calls almost deafening as they swerved by in a hectic chase.

Once we had gathered ourselves we began inspecting the forests, finding Rufous-tailed Jacamars, Purplish Jays, Squirrel Cuckoos, Blue-crowned Trogon and Black-fronted Nunbird with ease. Undulated Tinamous are also 'easier' to see in the Pantanal than in the rainforests and sure enough, we saw four rummaging around in the forest edge leaf litter this morning. White-wedged Piculet, noisy Rusty-backed Spinetails, Large-billed Antwren and scolding Mato Grosso Antbirds took a little more work but it was all part of the 'fun'. Some Bees made life a little more uncomfortable for Mario so we decided to switch venue and watch a different patch of forest where Little Woodpecker was expected but an overshooting migrant Sooty Tyrannulet certainly wasn't!

We all enjoyed lunchtime, whether for a siesta in the intense midday heat, or for a gentle walk to the ponds to see the Hyacinth Macaws in a shady tree, the Yellow-chevroned Parakeets and Turquoise-fronted Amazons around the ranch coral or the Scaled Doves, Picui Ground Doves and cardinals, cowbirds, Chopi Blackbirds and baywings feeding on grain near the troughs. Post lunch birding saw us returning to the forest patches once again. The Sunbitterns in an almost dry stream were of course a major distraction but with 'discipline restored' we managed to find some Boat-billed Flycatchers, Black-tailed Tityras, Red-eyed Vireo, Thrush-like Wrens, Masked Gnatcatchers, Yellow-rumped Caciques, gaudy Orange-backed Troupials as well as many species already seen previously in the morning. In the late afternoon we drove to another forest patch where a perched Bat Falcon could be 'scoped at leisure and many Bare-faced Curassows and Blue-throated Piping Guans ventured out in the late afternoon sunshine. With many macaws, parrots and parakeets making for their roost, we headed for the pousada for dinner. After dinner a few of the group opted for a night drive. With Mario in charge of spotlighting, we found a few Pauraques at the forest edge before returning for a good night sleep at Piuval after a long day in the field.

5th September

As usual we took an early morning walk local to the Pousada. Aplomado Falcon, Creamy-bellied Thrush, Chopi Blackbirds, Red-crested Cardinals and our only Black-bellied Whistling Ducks of the tour. After breakfast we took our bus down along the Transpantaneira to the Rio Claro. Hyacinth Macaws were seen very well indeed here before we boarded our boats. By now it was very hot indeed but there was still plenty to see. Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers were everywhere, and two Golden-collared Macaws flew over as the 'front boat' got brief views of a skittish Sungrebe. Delightful Capped Herons were new for the trip and we also started to pick out some of those Pantanal birds typical of river margin vegetation like Yellow-rumped Caciques, Lesser Kiskadees, the stunning Black-capped Donacobious and the not-so-gaudy Band-tailed Antbird. Two of the stars were the American Pygmy Kingfisher (we saw three) and the ever-popular Boat-billed Herons of course, but the White-lored Spinetail just could not be tempted out from cover as we sat on the boats staring into the riverside vegetation.

After lunch we braved the afternoon heat, birding the forest edge along the approach road to the pousada. Chestnut-vented Conebills, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Suiriri Flycatcher and Southern Beardless Tyrannulet did little to persuade the team that this was a good idea but the "Giant Anteater" shout changed the afternoon a little! Thankfully this strange mammal headed into relatively open grassland and not straight back into the dry forest edge, even allowing 'scope views for most of the group! Eventually the anteater made its way back into the forest, but we were not quite finished yet. Noisy alarm calls from a group of Purplish Jays led us to a family party of Horned Owls and they seemed less bothered by us than the noisy jays. Planalto Slaty Antshrike was next and with a little playback in a 'likely area' we were soon watching a male at the forest edge. On a tour where hummingbirds are not very numerous, a few Glittering-throated Emeralds were very welcome indeed. We ended the day reaching the Transpantaneira, listening to Ash-throated Crakes in the deep marsh vegetation near the road where we managed to see our first Rusty-collared Seedeaters and Yellow-chinned Spinetails of the tour. We had worked hard but what a day in the field!

6th September

We left Pousada Piuval today and pre-breakfast birding produced very few new birds for the tour, although a flock of over a hundred American Golden Plovers out on the 'plains' was very impressive indeed. Travelling south along the Transpantaneira towards Porto Jofre we noticed a slight change in the composition of Pantanal bird species. We visit towards the latter stages of the dry season when vast expanses of water do not exist in the Pantanal (hence the small numbers of duck seen on the tour), but today we were treated to more Large-billed Terns, Jabirus, Green Ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Cocoi and Capped Herons. Traditionally this section of the Pantanal is also good for Southern Screamers and we saw some distant birds; views that were bettered as we neared Porto Jofre later in the tour. Roadside pools were full of birds like Bare-faced Ibis, the odd Sunbittern and Peach-fronted Parakeets hanging on branches over the water. Unicoloured Blackbirds, Black-backed Water Tyrants and Yellow-chinned

Spinetails frequented the damper areas while Red-legged Seriemas and Whistling Herons stayed in the drier areas that were persisting here in the northern Pantanal. Mario knew a good woodland site for Helmeted Manakin and we didn't have to wait too long before one appeared. In fact, we saw three birds, which were well received, even though none were full adult males. Chestnut-bellied Guan was a bonus here too and the Rufous-tailed Jacamars are always entertaining at the forest edge.

Checking in to Jaguar Lodge we headed into the field at the earliest possible moment. Crimson-crested, Little and Lineated Woodpeckers were in the grounds, but the best birding was undoubtedly along a side road off the Transpantaneira further south. Rufous Casiornis was rather a common bird around here and we finally secured good views of elusive birds like White-lored Spinetail and Buff-breasted Wren, while Mario identified White-tailed Goldenthrout at the forest edge. Indeed, this side road emphasised how good Pantanal birding can be away from wetlands with Golden-collared Macaws, Short-crested Flycatchers, Masked Gnatcatchers and a roosting Great Potoo all seen in the hottest part of the day. Pools close to Jaguar Lodge produced Purple Gallinule and closer to dusk Black-crowned Night Herons became active as we successfully searched for Boat-billed Herons with at least two roosting birds found. Perhaps most impressive was the pre-roost gathering of Snail Kites (we must've seen more than one hundred birds) just to the south of our lodge.

7th September ('Jaguar Day')

Pre-breakfast birding around the lodge forest patches was very productive indeed with the highlight being a Pale-crested Woodpecker seen from the trail. Also, of interest were Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Rusty-fronted Tody Flycatcher, Band-tailed Manakin, more Helmeted Manakins (but still no males), Yellow-olive Flatbill, Grey-headed Tanager and our first Flavescent Warblers of the tour. As we left the forest and into the cleared ground surrounding the lodge we found some nice Fork-tailed Flycatchers before heading back to the lodge for breakfast.

Another birding session along the side road really paid dividends this morning and under the expert guidance of Eduardo, the owner of Jaguar Lodge, we enjoyed views of Agami Heron and Green-and-rufous Kingfisher; two very secretive Neotropical bird species. Passing through the marshlands of Campo Jofre we found many Southern Screamers, Maguari Storks (another species easier to see near Porto Jofre) and wonderful day-flying Nacunda Nighthawks. Anticipation was at a high level as we boarded our boats and coasting along the Rio Cuiaba we started to see new birds. The large sandbars held Pied and Collared Plovers and Black Skimmers but of course our minds were on something rather larger (and furry rather than feathered!). Suddenly a 'flotilla' of boats changed speed – always a good sign on the Rio Cuiaba – and we followed. Turning a corner, we could see a gathering of boats, placed around a forested bank of the tributary and sure enough, as expected, there was a magnificent Jaguar! A little tricky to see but very impressive nevertheless, the massive head lifting every so often to peak over the bank and peer at the gathered admirers. Pressure was off but not everyone was content as photography opportunities were limited thus far. Not to worry – another Jaguar was soon located, this time a handsome female prowling the river bank vegetation, even swimming among the Lilly pads!

Birding had taken a back seat this afternoon but 'post-pussy cat' avian interest included Yellow-billed Tern, a 'heard-only' Striped Cuckoo, Pale-legged Horneros, Rusty-backed Spinetails and Band-tailed Antbird so we all returned to the bus after our fluvial adventures well and truly sated! We returned along the Transpantaneira in darkness and just as we thought it was all over (to coin a phrase) some saw a Jaguar on the road!

8th September

Crossing Campo Jofre we didn't really stop for many birds but one fortuitous pause produced a pair of Sungrebes, a bonus for those who were on the 'back boat' on the Rio Claro who missed that brief sighting. Our first White Woodpeckers also made an appearance here too. Switching plans we visited the Rio Cuiaba early today, opting for our boat ride in the morning and hoping to avoid the intense heat of the Pantanal. How wrong could we be? However, it was a delight to watch two Jaguar cubs loafing on the beach, allowing for yet more photo opportunities before we headed for a small tributary in search of birds. We repeated many of the previous day's birds – no bad thing – and enjoyed some good views of Little Cuckoos and a splendid White-banded Mockingbird while our only White-browed Blackbirds were seen on this trip.

Revisiting Campo Jofre in the afternoon we experienced a mass emergence of Nacunda Nighthawks (at least a hundred birds) and some Band-tailed Nighthawks that were feeding closer to the road. A night birding session after dinner was good for hearing birds but as is often the case, seeing them was not quite so easy! A Black-banded Owl was never very close to us along the side-road so productive during daylight hours and Tropical Screech Owls could not be coaxed out into view either.

9th September

This morning we made our way back north along the Transpantaneira in search of some of the species missed over the last few days. Targets included the spectacular Scarlet-headed Blackbird and after searching some likely habitats we found one of these stunning black birds with bright crimson hoods. Another less obvious, but attractive species is the Chotoy Spinetail which we found after limited use of playback at a few promising spots. The southern section of this road also produced a pair of Black-bellied Antwrens and Cinereous-breasted Spinetails; both birds that are generally harder to find closer to Pocone.

Reaching Pocone we stopped once again for a meal at the local Churrascaria before continuing onto Cuiaba and the park at Mae Bonifacia where we spent the remainder of the afternoon. Black-tailed Marmosets greeted us near the carpark before we continued into the park and the dry forest paths. Blue-crowned Trogon, Variegated Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenias, Boat-billed Flycatcher and our first Bananaquits of the tour were all logged. Tired and hot we checked into the city hotel to enjoy freshening up and a cold drink before another meal at one of the best Churrascarias in Cuiaba.

10th September

The overnight in Cuiaba meant we caught the city traffic a little on our departure for Chapada dos Guimaraes and it was certainly a relief to hit the open road and head towards the scenic escarpment. Already quite warm on our arrival we made a quick stop at Portao de Inferno where we saw our first Cliff Flycatchers and a soaring White-tailed Hawk overhead. With the heat almost unbearable by mid-morning we made straight for our lodge in the National Park where we checked in and had a quick look at what birds were around the grounds. We were not disappointed as Red-shouldered Macaws, Glittering-bellied Emeralds, Streaked Flycatcher, Southern Yellowthroat and our first House Wren of the tour were seen. Mario suggested we take a trail into the forest below the lodge to keep to the shade and this worked quite well. Amazonian Motmots were the best birds down here but we also stumbled across some nice Saffron-billed Sparrows, Flavescent Warbler as well as hearing some Band-tailed Manakins. Returning for lunch we added some time for a siesta afterwards, heading back out to the forests once again. Birding was in truth a little slow with many species hard to find in the afternoon heat. The Crested Becard was nice, we heard Olivaceous Woodcreeper but managed to see Buff-throated Woodcreeper well and added some more common Neotropical birds to our tally such as Buff-throated Saltator. Swallow Tanagers made an appearance and were much appreciated by everyone. We drove back to the lodge in the half-light and enjoyed splendid views of Scissor-tailed Nightjars along the approach road to the lodge before dinner.

11th September

This morning we hit the Cerrado along the Agua Fria road as early as possible. The intense heat on this year's tour had made birding difficult in all but early and late parts of the day, so with no shade at all it was definitely 'fingers crossed' for this morning! The deterioration of the Cerrado has had detrimental effects on the birding near Chapada dos Guimaraes, with many of the species typical of that specialised habitat now very difficult to find in accessible areas it would seem. Anyway, we gave it our best shot and certainly saw some very interesting birds from the road here including Black-throated Saltator and Burrowing Owl, but 'true' Cerrado birds were almost impossible to find. We did however come across some White-rumped Tanagers and Rusty-backed Antwrens that fell into this category nicely even if we had to be satisfied with just hearing a White-eared Puffbird and distant Red-winged Tinamous. Away from the Agua Fria road a side-track produced Black-faced Tanager in remnant Cerrado and Scaled Pigeons over the forest but little else so we retired for lunch and a break from the heat.

In the late afternoon we visited Veu de Noiva ("Veil of the Bride" due to the appearance of the waterfall), mainly to watch the macaws coming to roost. These did not disappoint with Red-and-green and Blue-winged Macaws treating us to great views as we waited at the viewpoint. White-collared and a few Biscutate Swifts were nice too, but the Great Dusky Swifts were the true celebrities here, speeding by and looping up under the veil of water to roost on the walls of the falls. Swallow Tanagers, Masked Tityras and Blue Dacnis could be seen in the trees below the platforms from where we watched. Scissor-tailed Nightjars were seen once again on the way back to our lodge and we heard distant Tropical Screech-Owl and Spot-tailed Nightjar as we made for our rooms.

12th September

Our final full day in the field dawned hot and sunny as usual and we opted for an early walk along the approach road to the lodge in search of forest species. This was a busy walk with Chestnut-eared and Lettered Aracaris and Toco Toucans in full view at times. More difficult were the Fiery-capped Manakins but Mario worked hard to get these for us in a particularly good patch of forest where we heard Pavonine Cuckoo and saw Plain Antwrens, Planalto Slaty Antshrikes and Black-capped Antwren. After breakfast we packed our bags, paid our bills and checked out, hoping for some good Cerrado species on our last day at Chapada. Unfortunately, we failed to find any reasonable habitat with any birds but the male Helmeted Manakin just before lunch eased the pain just a little! Our final birding before heading back to Cuiaba was surprisingly good given the time of day (mid-afternoon) and Black-and-white Hawk Eagle and King Vulture in the clear blue sky together was a real treat. A Crested Black

Tyrant was only seen by a few unfortunately. We drove back to Cuiaba, checking in to our 'airport hotel' in good time for dinner at the local Churrascaria once again. One final Brazilian feast was enjoyed by all, finishing off a busy tour to Mato Grosso.

13th & 14th September

Our hotel was just a short hop from the airport and we reluctantly said goodbye to Cuiaba with the GOL flight arriving early afternoon in Sao Paulo. This was where we said our farewells to Mario and then took time for lunch and some relaxation before our long flight back to the UK.

We arrived early afternoon on 14th and with luggage safely reclaimed we went our separate ways after a wonderful trip to one of the richest wildlife areas South America has to offer.

Thanks once again to the whole team this year – we had some very hot days to deal with, but those Jaguars helped!

Annotated Checklist of Birds (268 Species)

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*

Regularly seen (and heard 'booming') in the Pantanal.

Little Tinamou *Crypterellus soui* (H)

Heard near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th.

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*

Heard daily throughout the tour. The small wooded 'islands' of the Pantanal are quite a good place to see this retiring species though and we were fortunate enough to see four on 4th near Pousada Piuval.

Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens* (H)

Heard at Chapada dos Guimaraes on two dates. Always difficult to see in the Cerrado.

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata*

Up to six seen (including chicks) on four dates in the Pantanal. Easier to find near Porto Jofre than further north.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Five seen in flight near Pousada Piuval on 5th were the only ones of the tour.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Seen on six dates in the Pantanal with at least twenty recorded on 4th.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

A pair seen on two consecutive dates on Pousada Piuval pools in the Pantanal.

Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis*

Common and ubiquitous in the Pantanal. Not seen at Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Chestnut-bellied Guan *Penelope ochrogaster*

We saw this Brazilian endemic on 6th as we headed south along the Transpantaneira. We saw three birds with our first at the 'official entrance' to the Pantanal south of Pousada Piuval.

Blue-throated Piping Guan *Pipile cumanensis*

Small numbers seen on six dates in the Pantanal, including some with red wattles!

Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata*

Surprisingly easy to see around the Piuval grounds this year. At least a dozen birds seen on 4th (mainly at dusk) and recorded in smaller numbers over the next four days.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Common in the Pantanal where we saw it daily.

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*

Seen on two dates in the Pantanal near the southern end of the Transpantaneira close to Porto Jofre.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

This iconic Pantanal bird was seen daily there with many active nests on view.

Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens*

Common and noisy in the Pantanal.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*

This attractive ibis was regularly seen in the Pantanal. A small flock of six birds flew across the Agua Fria road at Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th too.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

Regularly seen in the Pantanal but definitely more numerous south of Pousada Piuval.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal and not particularly numerous anywhere.

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Seen in small numbers on six dates in the Pantanal with many barred juvenile birds noted.

Agami Heron *Agamia agami*

Two seen on 7th on a quiet forested pool near Jaguar Lodge in the Pantanal.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

Three seen on the Rio Claro boat trip on 5th and a couple the next day at a traditional site south of our lodge from the Transpantaneira.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal. This mainly crepuscular feeder was seen in greater numbers as we returned to the lodges at dusk.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Small numbers seen on seven dates.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Recorded on seven dates throughout the tour. Locally common but I am always surprised how few I see during a Pantanal tour Or is it because we see so many "back home" in the UK nowadays?

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Regularly encountered in the Pantanal.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Recorded on seven dates in the Pantanal.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

This attractive heron was seen on five dates once we travelled south of Pousada Piuval in the Pantanal.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*

Seen on three dates in the Pantanal. Usually found in grasslands rather than marshes.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

A couple seen on the two dates we were on the Rio Cuiaba out of Porto Jofre.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Seen on seven dates in the Pantanal. Quite common.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Recorded on five dates in the Pantanal. Another species encountered more frequently south of Pousada Piuval.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

Ones and twos on six dates in the Pantanal. Some great views of this "snakebird" from the boats on the Rio Claro especially.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Recorded on nine dates in the Pantanal and at Chapada dos Guimaraes. Numerous when soaring in the clear Mato Grosso skies.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

We recorded this species on six dates in small numbers in the Pantanal. Its status on the tour (as far as numbers are concerned) is undoubtedly blurred by the effort required to differentiate it from the preceding species.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Common and seen daily.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

A fine adult seen from Mirante Morro dos Ventos on 12th.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Several seen on two dates over Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Black-and-white Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus*

A fine adult seen near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

Up to eight birds seen on six dates in the Pantanal and at Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*

Seen on seven dates in the Pantanal and never far from water.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Common in the Pantanal (seen on seven dates) with a very impressive pre-roost gathering near our lodge north of Porto Jofre. Well over one hundred birds seen that evening just before dusk.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

Seen on five dates in the Pantanal. The plains around Pousada Piuval were particularly good for this species with up to four individuals seen in a day there.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*

This open country raptor was regularly seen in the Pantanal with records from six dates.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*

Seen on six dates in the Pantanal.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Seen on five days in the Pantanal and two around Chapada dos Guimaraes. Nowhere very numerous though.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*

Sightings from two dates at Chapada dos Guimaraes: a single 10th and three on 12th.

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*

A good tour for this strange lanky bird with sightings from four dates in the Pantanal (and heard on another day too) as well as calling birds in the distant Cerrado of Chapada dos Guimaraes that could not be seen.

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

This ever-popular species was seen on four dates in the Pantanal. A few birds even flashed their chestnut wing patches to us!

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*

Seen on two dates in the Pantanal. The first at Rio Claro on 5th was only seen by the "front" boat unfortunately, before disappearing into the shady undergrowth of the riverbank. Fortunately the next two birds, in a pool by the Transpantaneira, were seen well after being well found by Mario from the bus.

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus*

Seen daily in the Pantanal with many on the road as dusk approached.

Ash-throated Crake *Porzana albicollis* (H)

Heard on 5th near the entrance to Pousada Piuval.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*

Singles on just two dates in the Pantanal.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

Seen on seven dates in the Pantanal.

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*

Up to six on five dates in the Pantanal.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Seen daily but scarce at Chapada dos Guimaraes. Always noisy.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

On 6th there was a flock of a hundred birds (I counted them!) plus a lone single on the plains outside the lodge at Pousada Piuval. Slowly they became more distant as they fed and flew short distances when disturbed by cattle.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

One on a Rio Cuiaba sandbar on 7th.

Pied Plover *Hoploxypterus cayanus*

Several on the sandbars on the Rio Cuiaba on the two dates we were out on the boats there.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

Common on shallow pools in the Pantanal and seen on six dates there.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

We didn't see many migrant waders on this tour but a few of these were seen on four dates.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

One on the ponds near the lodge at Pousada Piuval on two dates.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

Several seen on the two days we took boats out on the Rio Cuiaba from Porto Jofre.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*

Seen near Porto Jofre, over roadside wetlands from the Transpantaneira or from the boat on the Rio Cuiaba.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*

Seen daily in the Pantanal.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Only seen in Cuiaba.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Fairly common in the Chapada dos Guimaraes area although most of our sightings were of birds in flight.

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*

Common and widespread. Seen on eight dates.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Fairly common in the Pantanal where we saw it on six dates.

Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata*

A few seen on three dates in the Pantanal only.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbia talpacoti*

Seen on nine dates; more common in the Pantanal than elsewhere.

Picui Ground Dove *Colombina picui*

Seen in the Pantanal and more numerous near Porto Jofre than further north along the Transpantaneira.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* (H)

Heard at Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Recorded daily and easily seen in the Pantanal.

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

This strange species was seen on seven dates and, as usual, often in large noisy groups.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

At least two along the Rio Cuiaba on 7th.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Seen daily.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H)

Heard as we drifted along a quiet stream off the Rio Cuiaba on 7th.

Pavonine Cuckoo *Dromococcyx pavoninus* (H)

Heard along the approach road to our lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th. Not seen, unfortunately.

Little Cuckoo *Coccyzua minuta*

Three seen on 8th in quiet tributaries of the Rio Cuiaba. Easily seen from boats as they are frequently found in cover by the water's edge.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Seen on six dates during our stay. Never numerous with daily max. of four.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* (H)

Heard on 8th in the Pantanal and 11th near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

Heard at Pousada Piuval on 4th and a family party seen well (detected by alarm calls of mobbing birds) near the entrance to the lodge property the following day.

Black-banded Owl *Strix huhula* (H)

Heard near Jaguar Lodge on 9th.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Recorded on six dates in the Pantanal with some nice views of birds on 4th and 9th.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

One near Pocone on 3rd and another along the Agua Fria road on 11th.

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*

Great 'scope views of a splendid roosting bird north of Porto Jofre. We also heard this bird when we were in search of owls one evening.

Nacunda Nighthawk *Chordeiles nacunda*

Three seen mid-afternoon on 7th at Campo Jofre were upstaged a little when we revisited the area the following day near dusk. After enjoying some wonderful views of this harrier-like nighthawk low over the marshes a quick scan in the distance revealed hundreds of hawking birds. Spectacular!

Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucipyga*

At least forty over Campo Jofre at dusk on 8th.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Four seen during our night drive from Pousada Piuval on 4th were spotlighted from the vehicle as they sat at the forest edge. One was also seen or heard most nights from the lodge near Chapada dos Gumaraes.

Little Nightjar *Setopagis parvula* (H)

Mario flushed a one below our lodge near Chapada dos Gumaraes on 10th but the rest of us never really saw the bird well. One was calling there the following evening when we returned from our afternoon excursion.

Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata*

Two seen well at dusk in open grassland near our lodge close to Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th and 11th.

Great Dusky Swift *Cypseloides senex*

About 30 came into roost under the Veu de Noiva waterfall, Chapada dos Gumaraes on 11th.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprogne zonaris*

Many came to roost at Veu de Noiva on 11th.

Biscutate Swift *Streptoprocne biscutata*

At least three at Veu de Noiva, Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Cinnamon-throated Hermit *Phaethornis nattereri*

One stunned bird at Jaguar Lodge (found outside one of the rooms) was nurtured back to health on 7th.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*

Singles in the Cerrado at Chapada dos Guimaraes on two dates.

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon lucidus*

One in the Pantanal on 8th and then seen on three consecutive dates near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

White-tailed Goldenthrout *Polytmus gainumbi*

Seen on three dates in the Pantanal.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*

Seen on three dates in the Pantanal with three birds seen on 5th in the Pousada Piuval area our best day.

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui*

One near Pousada Piuval on 4th was the first of the tour. On 9th we had great views of one in the Mae Bonifacia park (Cuiaba) and we also heard them near Chapada dos Guimaraes on two dates.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*

It was a good tour for this species and we saw it on four dates in the Pantanal. We saw three along the Rio Claro from the boats on 5th which was our best day for this species.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*

We had good 'scope views of this species on a shady forest pool just south of our lodge near Porto Jofre. It was tricky to see but luckily it perched in a position where 'scopes could be used.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

Seen daily in the Pantanal.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Perhaps the commonest kingfisher of our tour and seen daily in the Pantanal.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Very common along the rivers in the Pantanal.

Amazonian Motmot *Momotus momota*

Two seen below our lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

Recorded on six dates in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes. Quite easily located in most patches of woodland we visited.

White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacaru* (H)

Only heard near Chapada dos Guimaraes along the Agua Fria road.

Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal. Usually ones or twos in small woodland patches.

Lettered Aracari *Pteroglossus incriptus*

Two near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*

Recorded on ten dates throughout the tour. Usually in pairs but every now and then we'd come across several foraging together.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Pairs seen on two consecutive days near Chapada dos Guimaraes played hard to get!

Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*

Widespread and seen in small numbers throughout the tour. Recorded on eight dates.

White-wedged Piculet *Picumnus albosquamatus*

We enjoyed nice views of this diminutive bird in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes on three dates.

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

Surprisingly it took us until our sixth day in the Pantanal to see this species. We saw a few just north of Porto Jofre and then we had to wait until we reached Chapada dos Guimaraes to see a few more.

Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus*

We recorded this widespread and diminutive bird on eight dates throughout the tour.

Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*

Common in the Pantanal, particularly in the north near Pousada Piuval.

Pale-crested Woodpecker *Celeus lugubris*

A stunning bird shocked us all one morning on a forest trail near Porto Jofre when it flew in!

Lineated Woodpecker *Drycopus lineatus*

Singles in the Pantanal on 6th and near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*

Encountered on six dates in the Pantanal, even nesting outside one of our lodges.

Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Seen almost every day in small numbers.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Two near Pousada Piuval on 4th and another near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th were the only sightings.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* (H)

One seen by the leader in the Pantanal on 3rd as the bus sped by its perch, disappeared by the time the group returned there unfortunately. Although it started calling a little later we just couldn't locate it. Another was heard in the distance near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* (H)

One heard deep in the canyon at dusk at Veu de Noiva, Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

[American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*]

One was seen by the leader only near Veu de Noiva, Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

One seen at Pousada Piuval on 5th.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*

Seen on two dates in the Pantanal but absolutely brilliant, close-up views from Veu de Noiva on 11th, although brief, were hard to beat!

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Seen daily in the Pantanal. The big stick nests are a feature of the Transpantaneira.

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*

One of the most common parrots during the tour.

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*

Seen on three dates in the Pantanal but nowhere numerous.

Turquoise-fronted Amazon *Amazona aestiva*

Common in the Pantanal.

Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica*

Two near Pousada Piuval on 4th were the only ones identified.

Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*

Easily seen in the Pantanal with twenty-five or so birds seen daily.

Peach-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula aurea*

Common in the Pantanal and at least two seen near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Golden-collared Macaw *Primolius auricollis*

Two over the Rio Claro on 5th were our first, albeit missed by most of the group. However we saw them well as we headed south towards Porto Jofre and managed sightings on five Pantanal days in all.

Blue-winged Macaw *Primolius maracana*

Many coming into roost below us at Veu de Noiva, Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th provided a marvellous spectacle.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*

A pair frequented the Pousada Piuval area so at least one bird was seen almost every day we stayed there.

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus*

Seen on three dates near Chapada dos Guimaraes including some spectacular passing birds at a roost site.

Red-shouldered Macaw *Diopsittaca nobilis*

Fairly common around our lodge close to Chapada dos Guimaraes.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*

Common; seen on seven dates.

Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus*

Several seen along the Rio Cuiaba from the boat trips there.

Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*

Common and seen every day.

Chotoy Spinetail *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*

A pair just south of the Rio Pixaim in the Pantanal on 9th. One of the most attractive spinetails.

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis*

Three at Pousada Piuval on 4th.

Cinereous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis hypospodia*

A pair seen on 9th as we made our way north to Cuiaba again along the Transpantaneira.

White-lored Spinetail *Synallaxis albilora*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal.

Rusty-backed Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpina*

Found in the Pantanal and usually near water. We saw them on three days and heard them on another day.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*

Recorded almost daily in the Pantanal and always near water.

Greater Thornbird *Phacellodomus ruber* (H)

Heard on 8th only but not seen unfortunately.

Grey-crested Cacholote *Pseudoseiisura unirufa*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (H)

Heard near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th.

Great Rufous Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes major*

Two of these "beasts" seen near Pousada Piuval on 4th.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*

One near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th.

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*

Another “open country woodcreeper” seen well in the Pantanal. Often perching on fence posts and telegraph poles, this one is easier to watch than the forest woodcreepers. Seen on three dates in the Pantanal and once near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Black-bellied Antwren *Formicivora melanogaster*

A pair on 9th north of Jaguar Lodge along the Transpantaneira.

Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa*

Generally we struggled for birds in the baking heat of the Cerrado during this tour, but this attractive antbird showed well on the Agua Fria Road near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th. The chestnut-mantled male and streaky female responded well to the limited playback used.

Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus atricapillus*

A pair near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Large-billed Antwren *Herpsilochmus longirostris*

The “bouncing ball” song, so typical of the genus *Herpsilochmus*, was heard in gallery forests and woodlots of the Pantanal and we coaxed a couple into view on more than one occasion there.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*

Heard in forest behind our lodge near Porto Jofre on 7th and a pair seen near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

A widespread Neotropical species that is always well appreciated on tours; we recorded them on five dates in the Pantanal and Cerrado.

Planalto Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus pelzeni*

Recorded on two dates in the Pantanal with great views of a male just after we saw the Giant Anteater! We also saw a pair near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*

Another widespread Neotropical antbird seen well on this tour with records from five dates in the Pantanal.

Mato Grosso Antbird *Cercomacra melanaria*

Two pairs seen in forest borders on 4th at Pousada Piuval and heard near Porto Jofre on 9th.

Band-tailed Antbird *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*

Singles at water's edge habitat in the Pantanal on 5th and 7th.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* (H)

Heard on two dates in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes but not seen.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps* (H)

Heard near Pousada Piuval on 5th.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Seen on two dates in Cuiaba and near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cristata*

The Cerrado is the place to see this species and the raspy call was a familiar sound in that habitat near Chapada dos Guimaraes on two dates.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Recorded on seven dates throughout the tour.

Suiriri Flycatcher *Suiriri suiriri*

One near Pousada Piuval on 5th.

Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans*

A totally unexpected bird at Pousada Piuval on 4th. Presumably displaced by unseasonably cold weather just prior to our trip.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

Two along the Agua Fria road, Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus striaticollis*

Seen on two dates in the dry forests of the Pantanal.

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus latirostris*

Heard a few times in the Pantanal before finally seeing it on 7th near Porto Jofre in some dry forests there.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

Recorded on three dates in the Pantanal with good views of at least one bird on 6th.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

Two at Jaguar Lodge on 7th.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*

Seen daily near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus*

Seen daily in the Pantanal including some stunning males.

Crested Black Tyrant *Knipolegus lophotes*

One seen at Mirante Morro dos Ventos on 12th.

Grey Monjita *Xolmis cinereus*

One in the lodge grounds near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velatus*

Several seen over the first three days of the tour in the Pantanal were very nice indeed. After that they were strangely scarce in the south near Porto Jofre, not reappearing again until we made our way back north along the Transpantaneira on 9th.

Black-backed Water Tyrant *Fluvicola albiventer*

Quite common in the Pantanal once we made our way south from Pousada Piuval.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant *Arundicola leucocephala*

Seen at Campo Jofre on 8th.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

Widespread and seen on seven dates.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayenensis*

Identified on two dates in the Pantanal.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Seen on five dates in the Pantanal.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Common and ubiquitous; seen daily.

Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lictor*

Identified on three dates in the Pantanal and always near rivers.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Seen on three dates: once in the Pantanal and then there were a couple of birds outside our lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes on two days.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Two near Pousada Piuval on 4th then seen on consecutive days in Cuiaba and near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*

One on 9th in Cuiaba was our only record.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

The "default flycatcher" for the tour; seen daily.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*

Up to four seen on three dates in the Pantanal and once near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Rufous Casiornis *Casiornis rufus*

We saw these quite regularly near Porto Jofre with records from three dates there.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

One in the Pantanal on 4th.

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*

One near Cuiaba on 9th.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*

The most frequently seen species of this difficult genus with sightings from five dates in the Pantanal.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Miarchus tyrannulus*

Seen on three dates in the Pantanal, usually in dry forest areas. Also seen near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Helmeted Manakin *Antilophia galeata*

On 6th we saw three at the entrance gate to the Pantanal in roadside forest. Two were seen the next day near Porto Jofre but we had to wait until our last day in the field to see an adult male near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Band-tailed Manakin *Pipra fasciicauda*

We only saw females during the tour. The first was near Porto Jofre on 7th and then along the approach road to our lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Fiery-capped Manakin *Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*

Mario worked hard to secure sightings of this species and his determination paid off when he located a male and female close to our Chapada dos Guimaraes lodge.

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*

Four near Pousada Piuval on 4th were the only ones we saw.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Four at Veú de Noiva on 11th.

Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus*

One high in the canopy of a Chapada dos Guimaraes forest patch on 10th was our only record.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* (H)

Heard on four dates in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes but never seen.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Seen on just two dates near Pousada Piuval on 4th and Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis*

One seen on 7th near Porto Jofre and heard along the Transpantaneira the next day.

Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*

Seen on eight dates.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*

Common in the Pantanal once we travelled south of Pousada Piuval with sightings from six dates.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Seen on eight dates throughout the tour.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*

Seen on six dates in the Pantanal.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

Four near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopeteyx ruficollis*

Seen on five dates.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Just one bird seen flying across the Agua Fria road, Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*

This attractive bird was seen on five days in the Pantanal, most often as we drifted along rivers.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*

This garrulous species was recorded on seven dates in the Pantanal.

Moustached Wren *Pheugopedius genibarbis*

One seen well in the Pantanal on 6th and others heard near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilius leucotis*

Always shy and retiring; recorded on five dates and we managed to see them on two days at least.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Only seen at our lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes where birds frequented the garden there.

Masked Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila dumicola*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal but usually just one or two birds per day.

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

Seen on six dates in the Pantanal and at Chapada dos Guimaraes.

White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus*

It was nice to see this attractive mockingbird on 8th in the Pantanal when two were seen at Campo Jofre and along the Rio Cuiaba.

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*

Widespread and seen in small numbers in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes on six dates.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelus*

We didn't see this species until 7th when we reached our lodge near Porto Jofre. Seen daily thereafter in the Pantanal, Cuiaba and near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

Singles seen 5th – 7th in the Pantanal.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Recorded on three dates.

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens* (H)

Heard in the Pantanal on 6th.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*

Heard on five dates and seen by the leader only on 11th near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* Just one seen in the Pantanal on 9th and then a couple of sightings near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th and 12th.

Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris*

Seen on two dates in woods near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

White-browed Blackbird *Leistes superciliaris*

Seen on 8th in the Pantanal near the Rio Cuiaba.

Crested Oropendola *Psaracolius decumanus*

Seen daily in the Pantanal.

Solitary Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*

A few seen on two dates in the Pantanal.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cicicus cela*

Seen on five dates in the Pantanal and usually near rivers.

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus*

Singles on the first two days in the field near Pousada Piuval but the best views were on the feeding stations at The Hotel Mato Grosso by the Rio Pixaim on 9th.

Variable Oriole *Icterus pyrrhopterus*

Two near the entrance road to Pousada Piuval on 5th were the only ones seen.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Seen on six dates in the Pantanal.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Seen near Pousada Piuval on 4th.

Scarlet-headed Blackbird *Amblyramphus holosericeus*

Three on 9th in the Pantanal.

Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*

Seen on nine dates and common in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Greyish Baywing *Agelasticus badius*

Common in the Pantanal around the ranch buildings. Seen on six dates.

Unicoloured Blackbird *Agelisticus cyanopus*

Seen on five dates in the Pantanal; most frequently in the rapidly drying reed-fringed pools.

Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata*

One around the lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes on two dates.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*

Three at Chapada dos Guimaraes on 12th.

Flavescent Warbler *Myiothlypis flaveola*

Seen in the forests near Porto Jofre on 7th and Chapada dos Guimaraes on 10th.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Recently, the South American Classification committee of the AOU reclassified the "white-bellied warbler" as a subspecies of the golden-crowned warbler based on studies by Lovette et al. and Vilaca and Santos. These were the birds we saw on 11th on the approach road to our lodge near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*

Seen on three dates in the Pantanal.

Yellow-billed Cardinal *Paroaria capitata*

Common in the Pantanal and seen on seven dates.

Black-faced Tanager *Schistoclamys melanopis*

One near Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

White-rumped Tanager *Cypsnagra hirundinacea*

Two along the Agua Fria road outside Chapada dos Guimaraes on 11th.

Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*

One in the Pantanal on 7th.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*

Recorded on five dates but best seen near our Chapada dos Guimaraes lodge at the end of the tour.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*

Common and seen daily.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*

Seen on eight dates but not very numerous anywhere on the tour.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Seen on nine dates.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*

Seen on two dates near Chapada dos Guimaraes. We enjoyed great views at Veu de Noiva as macaws came into roost.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

Seen on three dates near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum*

Seen on two dates near Porto Jofre.

Red Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*

Two in the Pantanal on 5th but seen more frequently near Chapada dos Guimaraes with sightings on three dates.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*

Seen on six dates and common around the outbuildings near the lodges in the Pantanal.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Two on 10th near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator caerulescens*

Seen on five dates in the Pantanal where it frequents damp areas.

Black-throated Saltator *Saltator atricollis*

A Cerrado species seen well on three dates near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

Seen on only one day (9th) in the Pantanal.

Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris*

Small numbers on three dates in the Pantanal.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulea*

Seen on just one date at Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*

A male near Pousada Piuval on 4th.

Banaquit *Coereba flaveola*

All our records came from Cuiaba and Chapada dos Guimaraes at the end of the tour.

MAMMALS

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*

One seen at the entrance to the Pousada Piuval.

Black-tailed Marmoset *Mico melanurus*

Several in Cuiaba and near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Brown Capuchin *Sapajus apella*

Seen in the Pantanal.

Black-and-gold Howler Monkey *Alouatta caraya*

Heard in the Pantanal.

Capybara *Hydrocharris hydrocharris*

Common in the Pantanal.

Brazilian Guinea Pig *Cavia aperea*

Seen on four dates in the Pantanal and near Chapada dos Guimaraes.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae*

Seen on a couple of occasions in the Pantanal.

Jaguar *Panthera onca*

Most of our sightings involved large cubs on the two days we visited the Rio Cuiaba. One female was watched swimming and patrolling the river bank too and another seen briefly along the Transpantaneira (from the bus) as we drove back to the lodge.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous*

Several sightings in the Pantanal.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*

Seen in the Pantanal.

Neotropical Otter *Lontra longicaudis*

One briefly on Rio Claro on 5th.

Marsh Deer *Blastocercus dichotomus*

Regularly seen in the Pantanal.

Common Brown Brocket *Mazama gouazoubira*

Seen in the Pantanal but only in the southern section that we visited.

'OTHERS'

Yacare Caiman *Caiman yacare*

Black-and-white Tegu *Tupinambis merianae*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Yellow Anaconda *Eunectes notaeus*