

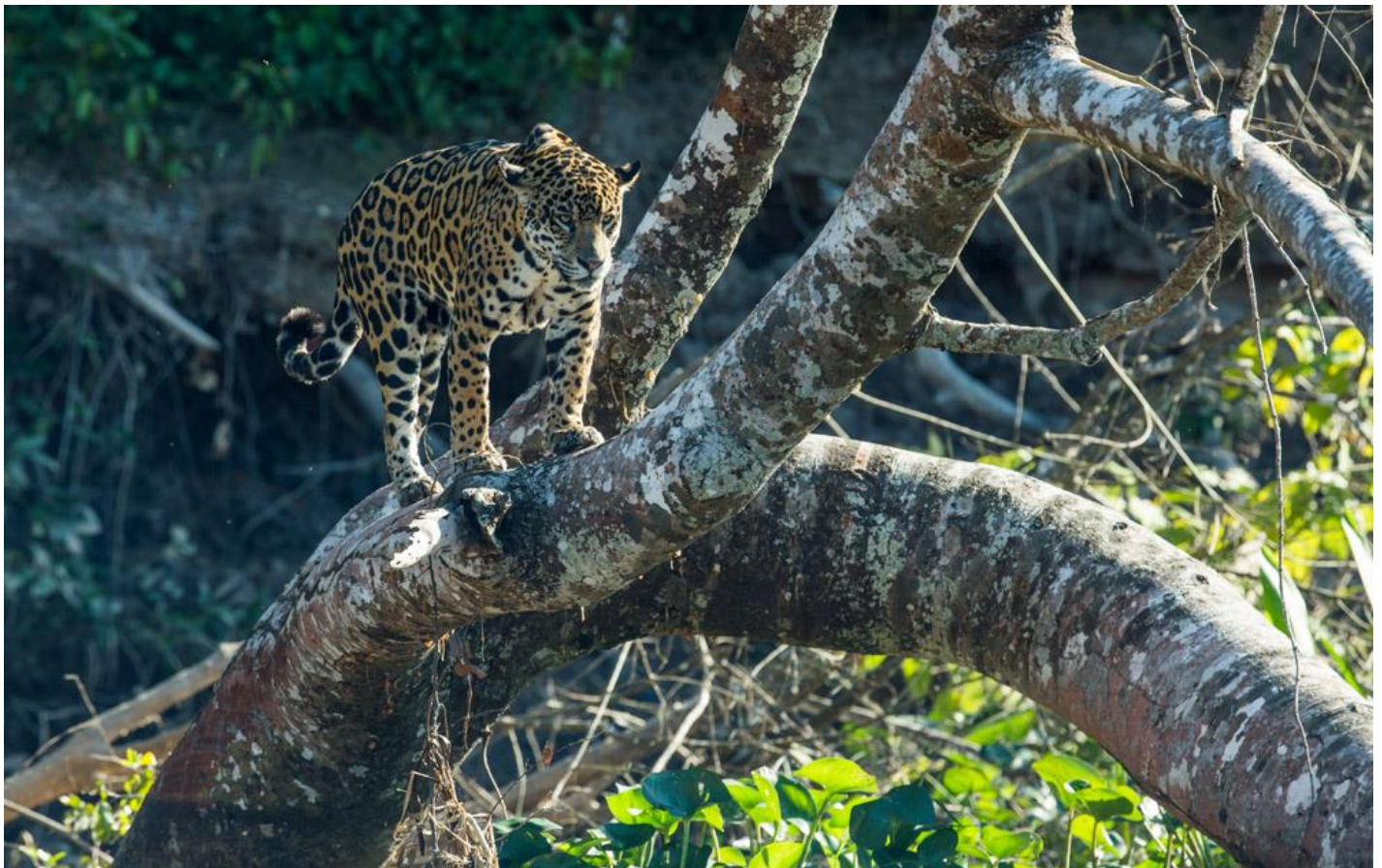
# TROPICAL BIRDING

## BRAZIL: The Pantanal and Amazon

June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

TOUR LEADER: Nick Athanas

Report by Nick Athanas. Photos by Nick and by Mark Eaton. More of Mark's photos are available here:  
<http://markeaton.org/gallery.php?galleryID=brazil16>. Thanks for sharing!



**Jaguars** have been a huge hit since we added them to this itinerary back in 2011, and they are considered the “critter of the trip” by many – this year was no exception with several memorable encounters with this magnificent cat. Nowhere else do you have such a high chance of not only seeing them, but spending extended periods of time observing them. The photo above is one we saw on the tour (*photo Nick Athanas*). While we also had numerous other great mammal sightings (**Giant Anteater** and **Brazilian Tapir** were also group favorites!), it was of course the birds that were the primary focus for much of the trip. Other than perhaps a rather uncooperative **Harpy Eagle**, they certainly did not disappoint, with **Hyacinth Macaw**, **Scarlet-headed Blackbird**, **Red-legged Seriema**, **Greater Rhea**, **Toco Toucan**, **Snow-capped Manakin**, **Razor-billed Curassow**, **Sunbittern**, **Cryptic Forest-Falcon**, and **White-winged Shrike-Tanager** being

just a few of the favorites on the tour. Weather was perfect, with no rain, slightly cooler than normal temperatures in most places, and thankfully no cold fronts in the Pantanal; once again we had a superb and friendly tour group was a pleasure to travel with.

As usual, the tour started in the scenic Chapada dos Guimarães northwest of Cuiabá with its dramatic rocky escarpments flanked by gallery forest and *cerrado* (savanna) habitat. The birding here is pretty easy and it's a great place to get your eye in" before the harder rainforest birding. With one day and part of a morning here, we scored big with nice sightings of major targets such **Collared Crescentchest**, **White-banded**, **White-rumped**, and **Black-faced Tanagers**, **Chapada Flycatcher**, **Coal-crested Finch**, **White-eared Puffbird**, **Red-shouldered Macaw**, **Planalto Slaty-Antshrike**, **Saffron-billed Sparrow**, and **Black-throated Saltator** before we caught a flight up to Alta Floresta.



*Black-faced Tanager and Black-throated Saltator from Chapada dos Guimarães (photos by Mark Eaton)*



*Planalto Slaty-Antshrike (photo by Nick Athanas)*





*Saffron-billed Sparrow, Chapada dos Guimarães (photo by Nick Athanas)*

The beautiful and comfortable Cristalino Jungle Lodge is situated in the south-central Amazon basin, and surrounded by towering, pristine rainforest. We spent five nights here, more than at any other single lodge on the trip, and there was always something to keep us busy. The lodge is located on the banks of the wonderful Cristalino River, not far from where it joins with the larger Teles Pires River, and the daily boat rides along the rivers were always great; we always saw something good wherever we went out. One of their top local bird guides, Jorge Lopes, accompanied us and drove the boat; he helped find a number of great birds, we were all appreciative of his assistance. Cristalino's two metal canopy observation towers offer some of the best and easiest birding at the lodge. We spent parts of two mornings in the towers, and the first morning on the newer was especially fun, as super cool birds kept coming one after the other almost without pause, among them **White-browed Hawk**, **Black-girdled Barbet**, **Gould's Toucanet**, **Curl-crested Aracari**, **Pompadour Cotinga**, **Brown-banded Puffbird**, and **Black-bellied Cuckoo** – not a bad lineup! The morning on the other tower was considerable slower; Jorge spotted a **Harpy Eagle** which would have made an amazing day and probably one of the best sightings of the trip... except the bird was in a hurry and flew away after only one of the group got it in the scope – disappointing.



*Black-girdled Barbet and Brown-banded Puffbird (Nick Athanas)*



*Black-bellied Cuckoo from one of the towers at Cristalino (photo by Mark Eaton)*

One morning we went up a hilly and rocky area called the “Serra”, lucking out with a male **Fiery-tailed Awbill** and seeing some other nice birds like **Striolated Puffbird**, **Natterer’s Slaty-Antshrike**, and **White-browed Purpletuft**. Trail birding was much harder, and the understory birds tend to be more quiet in the dry season, but with patience we did see a number of shy species including **Blue-cheeked Jacamar**, **Bar-breasted Piculet**, **Yellow-throated Woodpecker**, **Striated**, **Spot-backed**, and **Dot-backed Antbirds**, **Amazonian Antshrike**, **Sclater’s** and a **Long-winged Antwrens**, **Spix’s Woodcreeper**, and **Flame-crowned Manakin**. We spent a lot of time cruising both the Cristalino River as well as the larger Teles Pires river – this is an especially nice way to spend the hotter times of the day when the forest interior can be quiet. **Sunbittern**, **Capped Heron**, **Green Ibis**, **macaws**, **kingfishers**, **Bronzy** and **Paradise Jacamars**, **Silvered** and **Band-tailed Antbirds**, **Black-collared Swallow**, **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, and **Razor-billed Curassow** were all seen from the boat. **Giant Otters** entertained us and we spotlit a **Brazilian Tapir** swimming across the river and then clambering up the bank one evening. Jorge also had a few tricks up his sleeve, the best being a “secret” bird bath where we watched **Snow-capped** and **White-crowned Manakins**, **White-flanked Antwren**, **Spot-winged Antshrike**, **Brown-winged Schiffornis**, and **White-winged Shrike-Tanager** come in to bathe in the late afternoon. Jorge also had a great stakeout for the very hard to see **Cryptic Forest-Falcon** and we managed to see it really well for a change.



*Snow-capped Manakin above the bird bath (Photo by Nick Athanas)*





*A sunbittern flying away from us as we cruised the river (Photo Nick Athanas)*



*Razor-billed Curassow along the Cristalino River (Photo Nick Athanas)*



Leaving Cristalino, we flew back to Cuiabá and headed down to Pousada Piuval at the northern edge of the Pantanal. As usual the birding there was absolutely spectacular with huge day lists. Herds of **Greater Rheas** and record numbers of **Red-legged Seriemas** were welcome sights and new families for many of the group. We had our first delightful **Hyacinth Macaws** and tons of other great stuff like **Chestnut-bellied Guan**, **Bare-faced Curassow**, **Plumbeous Ibis**, **Whistling Heron**, **Turquoise-fronted Parrot**, **Orange-backed Troupial**, **Great Rufous Woodcreeper**, **Red-billed Scythebill**, **White Woodpecker**, **Mato Grosso Antbird**, **White-lored Spinetail**, and **Scarlet-headed Blackbird** just to mention a very few.



*Great Rufous Woodcreeper (Mark Eaton) and Red-legged Seriema (Nick Athanas), both from Pousada Piuval*

Heading south from Piuval along the Transpantanal Highway, our sharp-eyed driver Joceli spotted a **Giant Anteater** in a field. Remarkably, not long after that, another one ran in across the road for an even better view! Photo below by Nick Athanas.





Our next lodge was on the banks of the sluggish Pixaim River, where boat rides were a relaxing way to see and photograph lots of neat birds like **Sungrebe**, **Boat-billed Heron**, and **Black-collared** and **Great Black Hawks** that hungrily dove at fish that our boat driver threw out to them. The forest trails offered a different selection of species absolutely topped by a striking male **Helmeted Manakin**, but also **Golden-green Woodpecker**, **Buff-breasted Wren**, **Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant**, and others. It's also the only place we visit in the Pantanal with feeders, which brought in a decent variety like **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, **Grayish Saltator**, and **Yellow-billed Cardinal**.



*Sungrebe on the Pixaim River (Nick Athanas) Chestnut-eared Aracari at the feeder (Mark Eaton)*



*Black-collared Hawk and Great Black Hawk along the Pixaim River (Nick Athanas)*

Our last new destination was Porto Jofre, at the southern end of the Transpantanal Highway. We stayed in a great hotel here and used it as a base to search for Jaguars along the Cuiabá River and its tributaries. Jaguars are always the main focus when we are out of the river here, but this time we really did not have to worry. Thirty minutes after beginning our quest, we were staring at male and female **Jaguars** through a small opening in the forest on the edge of the river! Even better, we found them ourselves, so did not have to contend with other boats jockeying for position in the river. They only stayed for a couple of minutes before disappearing into the forest. Based on the loud grunts we then heard, I strongly suspect they were mating. It was an incredible first encounter, and the first of several we had over the next day and a half. Having seen the Jaguars so easily, we could also relax and enjoy other mammals and birds on the boat rides, as well as around the lodge itself.





*The male and female Jaguars we saw on the first afternoon at Porto Jofre (Nick Athanas)*



*Scarlet-headed Blackbird and Marsh Deer, which we saw along the drive south to Porto Jofre (Nick Athanas)*





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Yellow-billed Tern on a sand bar (Mark Eaton)



A "romp" of Giant Otters frolicking along the banks of the Cuiabá river (Nick Athanas)





*A pair of Hyacinth Macaws at the Pantanal Norte Hotel in Porto Jofre (Mark Eaton)*

By the last morning, we had had our fill of boat rides and instead worked our way slowly back north to Cuiabá, taking in the Pantanal scenery and wildlife one last time, and adding a surprisingly number of birds to the trip list such as **Long-winged Harrier**, **Tawny-bellied Seedeater**, and **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**. After a final night in Cuiabá, we went our separate ways the next morning, though some of the group joined me in Rio for the Atlantic Forest Introtour.

## BIRD LIST

This list includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one of the group, including the leader. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow **Clements, James F. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Sixth Edition, 2007, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press***, including all updates through August 2015.

### Totals:

421 bird species seen

47 heard only

H=Heard only

GO=Guide only

### RHEAS (RHEIDAE)

**Greater Rhea** *Rhea americana* – Numerous sightings at Piuval and along the northern parts of the Transpantanal Highway



**TINAMOUS (TINAMIDAE)**

(H) **Gray Tinamou** *Tinamus tao* – Cristalino

(H) **Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* – Cristalino

(H) **Cinereous Tinamou** *Crypturellus cinereus* – Cristalino

(H) **Undulated Tinamou** *Crypturellus undulates* – Pantanal, can be one of the easier tinamous to see on this trip but no luck this time.

(H) **Variegated Tinamou** *Crypturellus variegatus* – Cristalino

(H) **Small-billed Tinamou** *Crypturellus parvirostris* - Chapada

**SCREAMERS (ANHIMIDAE)**

**Southern Screamer** *Chauna torquata* – Quite common in the Pantanal and seen on most days there.

**DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL (ANATIDAE)**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* – Only one sighting, a flock on the northern part of the Transpantanal Highway.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* – Several sightings in the Pantanal.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* – A few in the Pantanal and a several on the drive in to Cristalino.

**Brazilian Teal** *Amazonetta brasiliensis* – A couple of sightings in the Pantanal.

**GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS (CRACIDAE)**

**Chaco Chachalaca** *Ortalis canicollis* – Every day in the Pantanal; pretty common and very loud!

**Spix's Guan** *Penelope jacquacu* – Twice at Cristalino, the best sighting coming from the newer tower.

**Chestnut-bellied Guan** *Penelope ochrogaster* – A threatened species due to habitat loss and hunting. The Pantanal is arguably the best place to see it. Our best sightings came from Piuval. Endemic to Brazil, though likely occurs in Bolivia.

**Blue-throated Piping-Guan** *Pipile cumanensis* – We saw them most days in the Pantanal, along with several hybrids of Blue-throated X Red-throated.

**Red-throated Piping-Guan** *Pipile cunjubi nattereri* – Great views most days at Cristalino. It readily hybridizes with Blue-throated in the northern Pantanal, though we did not see any pure Red-throateds there on this trip.

**Razor-billed Curassow** *Mitu tuberosum* – Wow, we cut this one really close, finally seeing a lone bird on our last afternoon boat ride at Cristalino! I was seriously worried we were going to miss it.

**Bare-faced Curassow** *Crax fasciolata* – Almost every day in the Pantanal, but we saw it first at Cristalino where a fearless pair came in one morning behind the staff accommodation.

**STORKS (CICONIIDAE)**

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* – An iconic bird of the Pantanal, where seen daily; the local name is *Tuiuiú*.



**Wood Stork** *Mycteria Americana* – Common, Cristalino and the Pantanal.

#### **CORMORANTS AND SHAGS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – Daily in the Pantanal and a few at Cristalino.

#### **ANHINGAS (ANHINGIDAE)**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* – Daily at Cristalino and in the Pantanal.

#### **HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERN (ARDEIDAE)**

(H) **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* – Pantanal

**Rufescent Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* – Daily in the Pantanal.

**Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* – Seen most days.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* – Large numbers in the Pantanal and one near Alta Floresta.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* – Almost daily.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* – A few in the Pantanal.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – Good numbers in the Pantanal and a few in farmland around Alta Floresta.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* – Almost every day.

**Whistling Heron** *Syrigma sibilatrix* – Several great views of this neat-looking bird in the Pantanal.

**Capped Heron** *Pilherodius pileatus* – Small numbers along the Cristalino River and in the Pantanal.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Mostly Pantanal, but one of the group saw one near Cristalino.

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* – One brief sighting along the Cristalino River and then better views along the Pixaim river in the Pantanal.

#### **IBISES AND SPOONBILLS (THRESKIORNITHIDAE)**

**Green Ibis** *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* – A few every day along the Cristalino river and also several in the Pantanal.

**Bare-faced Ibis** *Phimosus infuscatus* – Almost daily in the Pantanal.

**Plumbeous Ibis** *Theristicus caerulescens* – Ditto.

**Buff-necked Ibis** *Theristicus caudatus* – Everywhere except the Cristalino segment. They are nearly tame around the lodges in the Pantanal!

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* – A few flocks in the Pantanal.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES (CATHARTIDAE)**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* – Common, all but one day.



**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* – Small numbers in the Chapada and Pantanal, and one of the group had one at Cristalino.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* – Common in the Pantanal.

**Greater Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes melambrotus* – Common around Cristalino and Alta Floresta.

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* – Two were circling over the Cristalino River one afternoon. A few of us also saw an immature from the lodge.

### OSPREY (PANDIONIDAE)

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* – We saw two soaring over the Rio Cuiabá near the end of the trip. These were presumably birds too young to breed since otherwise they would be in North America in July.

### HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES (ACCIPITRIDAE)

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* – A few perched in a very distant dead snag from one of the towers at Cristalino.

**Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* – When we see Harpies on this tour, they often go down as one of the top sightings. Sadly it was not the case this time. Jorge spotted one from the older tower at Cristalino. He got it in the scope but it flew after only one person saw it. Some of the group also saw it in flight, though it was fairly distant. It was frustrating since they often perch for long periods of time, but we were lucky to even encounter one.

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* – Near daily in the Pantanal, including some along the Pixaim river that snatched fish that the boatman threw to them.

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* – Large numbers every day in the Pantanal. There was also a distance flock at Cristalino.

**Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* – One on our last morning at Porto Jofre. It appears to be a rare and seasonal austral migrant here. It was the first time I had seen one here.

**Crane Hawk** *Geranoospiza caerulescens flexipes* – 3 separate sightings of single birds in the Pantanal. In this part of their range they are strongly barred, and may be worth of species recognition (HBW calls it “Banded Crane-Hawk”)

**Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* – Daily in the Pantanal, also a few hanging around recently burned *cerrado* in the Chapada.

**Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* – Daily in the Pantanal and a few along the Cristalino River.

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* – Almost daily in the Pantanal, and one in the Chapada.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* – A single bird between Alta Floresta and where we got on the boat for Cristalino.

**White-browed Hawk** *Leucopternis kuhli* – Nice scope views of a lone bird our first morning on the tower at Cristalino. There are few places where this bird is regularly seen, and Cristalino is arguable the best.

**Gray-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* – Seen on the drive in to Cristalino and also along the Cristalino River. Split from Gray Hawk *B. plagiatus*.

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* – One near Alta Floresta, and a “guide only” bird as we drove to the Chapada.



**SUNBITTERN (EURYPYGIDAE)**

**Sunbittern** *Eurypyga helias* – Seen well on eight days – this tour is great for it!

**RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS (RALLIDAE)**

**Rufous-sided Crake** *Laterallus melanophaius* – One at Piuval was glimpsed by a few of the group.

**Gray-breasted Crake** *Laterallus exilis* – I cleared out a little spot on the side of the Transpantanal Highway and managed to call one in close!

**Gray-necked Wood-Rail** *Aramides cajaneus* – Common and easy to see in the Pantanal.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus* – A few in the Pantanal.

**FINFOOTS (HELIORNITHIDAE)**

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* – One male on the Pixaim River and another one a couple of days later on the Cuiabá River, which even showed his striped feet.

**LIMPKIN (ARAMIDAE)**

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* – Abundant in the Pantanal; we also saw one between Alta Floresta and Cristalino.

**STILTS AND AVOCETS (RECURVIROSTRIDAE)**

**Black-necked (White-backed) Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus melanurus* – Several at Pousada Piuval.

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS (CHARADRIIDAE)**

**Pied Lapwing** *Vanellus cayanus* – Close encounters on sand bars along the Rio Cuiabá and its tributaries. Another seen poorly along the Teles Pires River.

**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* – Common in non-forest areas.

**Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* – Seen only on one day along the Rio Cuiabá – one bird ran circles around the other and we suspect it was courtship behavior.

**JACANAS (JACANIDAE)**

**Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* – Daily in the Pantanal and also on the drive in to Cristalino.

**GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS (LARIDAE)**

**Yellow-billed Tern** *Sternula superciliaris* – One along the Teles Pires and then plenty the last few days in the Pantanal.

**Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex* – Almost daily in the Pantanal.

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* – Several close encounters in the Pantanal.

**PIGEONS AND DOVES (COLUMBIDAE)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* – Rather few since we spent so little time in urban areas.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* – Scattered sightings in the Pantanal, Chapada, and Cristalino.

**Picazuro Pigeon** *Patagioenas picazuro* – Common everywhere except Cristalino, and I even saw one there, which is unusual.

**Plumbeous Pigeon** *Patagioenas plumbea* – One at the saleiro at Cristalino.

**Ruddy Pigeon** *Patagioenas subvinacea* – Several at Cristalino.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* – Common everywhere except Cristalino.

**Scaled Dove** *Columbina squammata* – Daily in the Pantanal.

**Picui Ground-Dove** *Columbina picui* – Almost daily in the Pantanal.

**Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* – Several up on the “Serra” at Cristalino.

**Long-tailed Ground-Dove** *Uropelia campestris* – Almost missed this one – we saw a lone bird at Piuval. It’s rather uncommon and local.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* – A bunch in the Pantanal and on in the Chapada.

**Gray-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* – One briefly on the edge of the Cristalino River.

## CUCKOOS (CUCULIDAE)

**Little Cuckoo** *Coccyzua minuta* – Two close encounters, one an island in the Teles Pires River and another along the Transpantanal Highway.

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* – Most days in the Pantanal with one “guide only” bird at Cristalino.

**Black-bellied Cuckoo** *Piaya melanogaster* – Great views of one from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Guira Cuckoo** *Guira guira* – Daily in the Pantanal – an entertaining species as they are almost always in large flocks. Known in Portuguese as *Anu Branco* or “White Ani”.

**Striped Cuckoo** *Tapera naevia* – Two sightings in the Pantanal.

**(H) Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus* – Distantly in the Chapada, no response.

**Greater Ani** *Crotophaga major* – A couple were seen from the dock at Cristalino. Very seasonal in this region, and very scarce in the dry season.

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* – Very common in the Pantanal and on the drive in to Cristalino.

## OWLS (STRIGIDAE)

**(H) Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl** *Megascops watsonii* – Cristalino.

**(H) Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata* – Cristalino.

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* – Usually a tough bird at Cristalino, but one was hanging around the lodge this trip and heard almost every night. We managed to track it down one evening.

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus* – One seen and another heard at a day roost along the Transpantanal Highway.



**Amazonian Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium hardyi* – Jorge did well tracking one down and getting it in the scope on the Serra at Cristalino.

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* – Two great sightings in the Pantanal, where it was also heard almost daily.

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* – One seen in a farm on the way to Cristalino and another in the Pantanal.

**(H) Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata* – Cristalino.

#### NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES (CAPRIMULGIDAE)

**Nacunda Nighthawk** *Chordeiles nacunda* – We saw lots of this beautiful bird our first day in the Pantanal, and a single one a few days later.

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* – One bird at dusk at Cristalino.

**Band-tailed Nighthawk** *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* – Almost every evening in the Pantanal.

**Blackish Nightjar** *Nyctipolus nigrescens* – One at dusk in a clearing behind Cristalino, then Jorge showed us roosting bird on one of the staff cabins.

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* – The first bird of the trip as one flushed off the highway, then additional encounters at Cristalino and in the Pantanal (where the most common nightjar).

**Ladder-tailed Nightjar** *Hydropsalis climacocerca* – Several females on the edge of the Cristalino River.

#### SWIFTS (APODIDAE)

**Biscutate/White-collared Swift** *Cypseloides* sp. – A flock on the Chapada was not seen well enough to ID.

**Amazonian Swift** *Chaetura viridipennis* – Noted a couple of times at Cristalino, though many swifts went unidentified. Sometimes called Mato Grosso Swift (IOC).

**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* - A few by the palm grove between Alta Floresta and Cristalino.

**Gray-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* – Noted on three days times at Cristalino, though many swifts went unidentified.

**Pale-rumped Swift** *Chaetura egregia* - First by the palm grove between Alta Floresta and Cristalino and identified on three days at Cristalino, though many swifts went unidentified.

**Fork-tailed Palm-Swift** *Tachornis squamata* – A few by the palm grove between Alta Floresta and Cristalino.

#### HUMMINGBIRDS (TROCHILIDAE)

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* – A few were seen hawking insects over the Cristalino River.

**Buff-bellied Hermit** *Phaethornis subochraceus* – One visited a flower patch along the Transpantanal Highway for a prolonged period, giving much better views than we usually get.

**White-vented Violetear** *Colibri serrirostris* – Two seen in the Chapada on the first day.

**Black-eared Fairy** *Heliodytes auratus* – Nice closeup views of this flash hummer from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Fiery-tailed Awbill** *Avocettula recurvirostris* – A single male on the Serra at Cristalino. They seem to be seasonal here and this is definitely the best time of year.

**Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis* – A couple of sightings at Cristalino.

**Long-billed Starthroat** *Helimaster longirostris* – One in forest in the Chapada and another at Cristalino.

**Amethyst Woodstar** *Calliphlox amethystina* – A lone female on Ilha Ariosto at Cristalino.

**Glittering-bellied Emerald** *Chlorostilbon lucidus* – One female in the Chapada.

**Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* – Several in the Chapada and one the in the Pantanal.

**Versicolored Emerald** *Amazilia versicolor* – A single bird in a flowering tree in the Chapada.

**Glittering-throated Emerald** *Amazilia fimbriata* – The most common hummer we encountered in the Pantanal. We also saw one in the Chapada.

**Gilded Hummingbird** *Hylocharis chrysur* – Two birds in the Chapada.

#### TROGONS (TROGONIDAE)

**Black-tailed Trogon** *Trogon melanurus eumorphus* – A male at Cristalino.

**Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis viridis* – A pair our last morning at Cristalino

**Amazonian Trogon** *Trogon ramonianus* – A pair at Cristalino.

**Blue-crowned Trogon** *Trogon curucui* – Seen well the first day in the Chapada and heard on the Serra, but strangely not encountered in the Pantanal.

**(H) Black-throated Trogon** *Trogon rufus* – Cristalino.

**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* – One seen at Cristalino.

#### MOTMOTS (MOMOTIDAE)

**Amazonian Motmot** *Momotus momota simplex* – One seen the first day in gallery forest in the Chapada.

#### KINGFISHERS (ALCEDINIDAE)

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* – Almost daily.

**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona* – Seen daily at Cristalino and in the Pantanal.

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* – Seen most days at Cristalino and in the Pantanal.

**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* – One male seen along the Teles Pires River.

#### PUFFBIRDS (BUCCONIDAE)

**(H) White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperhynchus* – Cristalino.

**Brown-banded Puffbird** *Notharchus ordii* – A pair responded nicely and perched next to the newer tower at Cristalino.



**Striolated Puffbird** *Nystalus striolatus torridus* – One bird up on the Serra at Cristalino.

**White-eared Puffbird** *Nystalus chacuru* – A pair the first morning in the Chapada.

**(H) Rufous-capped Nunlet** *Nonnula ruficapilla* – Cristalino. Probably saw it fly but that's not really a sighting.

**Black-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa nigrifrons* – Only missed it on one day!

**White-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa morphoeus* – Seen on three days at Cristalino.

**Swallow-winged Puffbird** *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* – Daily along the Cristalino River.

### JACAMARS (GALBULIDAE)

**Brown Jacamar** *Brachygalba lugubris* – A memorable sighting of an amorous pair the first day in the Chapada.

**Blue-cheeked Jacamar** *Galbula cyanicollis* – A pair played hide and seek for a while at Cristalino, but finally came out into the open.

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* – Common, seen most days.

**Bronzy Jacamar** *Galbula leucogastra* – We called a pair into a tree by the edge of the Cristalino River one afternoon.

**Paradise Jacamar** *Galbula dea* – Surprisingly we only saw one along the edge of the Cristalino River. Usually there are more.

**(H) Great Jacamar** *Jacamerops aureus* – Cristalino.

### NEW WORLD BARBETS (CAPITONIDAE)

**Black-girdled Barbet** *Capito dayi* – At one point I thought we were going to have settle for a crappy view, but a male came back and landed in a tree next the tower. One of the "star birds" at Cristalino due to its attractive plumage and because it is a lifer for most first-time visitors.

### TOUCANS (RAMPHASTIDAE)

**Lettered Aracari** *Pteroglossus inscriptus* – Seen from both towers at Cristalino.

**Chestnut-eared Aracari** *Pteroglossus castanotis* – Most days in the Pantanal, including some coming to the feeders at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

**Curly-crested Aracari** *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* - Seen from both towers at Cristalino.

**Red-necked Aracari** *Pteroglossus bitorquatus* – Three sightings are Cristalino from both the river and a tower.

**Gould's Toucanet** *Selenidera gouldii* – One male showed off for us from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Toco Toucan** *Ramphastos toco* – Every day in the Pantanal, but I never get tired of seeing them!

**White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan** *Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri* – A bunch from the first tower we did at Cristalino.

**Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus* – Also from the first tower visit, allowing some nice comparisons with the previous. We saw it again elsewhere around Cristalino.

**WOODPECKERS (PICIDAE)**

**Bar-breasted Piculet** *Picumnus aurifrons* – Twice along the trails at Cristalino, including a pair that we suspected had a nest though we couldn't find it.

**White-wedged Piculet** *Picumnus albosquamatus* – Seen well in both the Chapada and at Piuval.

**White Woodpecker** *Melanerpes candidus* – One flock our first morning at Piuval was our only encounter. The scope helped!

**Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes cruentatus* – A pair on the Serra at Cristalino.

**Little Woodpecker** *Veniliornis passerinus* – Seen twice in the Pantanal, heard in the Chapada.

**Red-stained Woodpecker** *Veniliornis affinis* – One along a trail at Cristalino.

**Yellow-throated Woodpecker** *Piculus flavigula magnus* – Ditto.

**Golden-green Woodpecker** *Piculus chrysochloros* – One in the gallery forest at Hotel Pantanal Mato Grosso.

**Campo Flicker** *Colaptes campestris* – Several encounters in the Pantanal, though they are not super common there.

**(H) Scale-breasted Woodpecker** *Celeus grammicus* – Cristalino.

**Pale-crested Woodpecker** *Celeus lugubris* – First seen in the Chapada, and then another one at Piuval.

**Ringed Woodpecker** *Celeus torquatus* – One lone bird from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* – Two in the Chapada, one at Cristalino, and another at Piuval.

**Red-necked Woodpecker** *Campephilus rubricollis* – One seen nicely from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos* – Perhaps the last “new” bird of the tour with a male along a side road off the Transpantanal Highway.

**SERIEMAS (CARIAMIDAE)**

**Red-legged Seriema** *Cariama cristata* – Record numbers at Piuval! We chased after our first one for a long way, only to find them much closer on several other occasions.

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS (FALCONIDAE)**

**Cryptic Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur mintoni* – Definitely one of the trip highlights. Jorge took us to what seemed like a random spot along the Cristalino River, bushwhacked into the forest, and then proceeded to call one in to where we could actually see it reasonably clearly. I always hear it at Cristalino, but this is the first time I actually got to see one there (I've seen it elsewhere in Brazil). It was only described to science in 2002.

**Black Caracara** *Daptrius ater* – Seen almost daily along the rivers at Cristalino.

**Red-throated Caracara** *Ibycter americanus* – We scoped one as we drove out to Cristalino, shortly before reaching the boat landing at the Teles Pires river.

**Southern Caracara** *Caracara plancus* – Everywhere except Cristalino and Alta Floresta, and bordering on tame around the Pantanal lodges.



**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* – Not very common here. One flushed off a roadkill as we drove to the Pantanal, and I glimpsed one on the first morning.

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans* – Only one, seen from the Serra at Cristalino.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* – One bird in the cerrado in Chapada dos Guimaraes.

**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* – Eric saw one fly by Piuval during our siesta.

**Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* – Almost daily along the rivers at Cristalino and also two sightings in the Pantanal.

## PARROTS (PSITTACIDAE)

**Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* – Almost every day in the Pantanal, where their enormous stick nests were often well in evidence.

**Yellow-chevroned Parakeet** *Brotogeris chiriri* – Good views both in the Chapada and the Pantanal.

**Golden-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris chrysoptera* – Two small flocks at Cristalino. The ones that flew by the older tower showed the golden wing patches nicely.

**(H) Orange-cheeked Parrot** *Pyrilia barrabandi* – Cristalino.

**Scaly-headed Parrot** *Pionus maximiliani* – Scarce in the Pantanal, where we stopped to see a few birds as we drove south to Porto Jofre.

**Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* – The most common parrot at Cristalino. We also saw one in the Chapada.

**(H) Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala* – Cristalino.

**Turquoise-fronted (Blue-fronted) Parrot** *Amazona aestiva* – Common in the Pantanal, where we saw them almost every day.

**Kawall's Parrot** *Amazona kawalli* – Three times in Cristalino, but always distant. Endemic to Brazil.

**Orange-winged Parrot** *Amazona amazonica* – Some good views at Piuval.

**Dusky-billed Parrotlet** *Forpus modestus* – We scoped some of these miniscule parrots from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**White-bellied Parrot** *Pionites leucogaster* – Cristalino. After a flyby on the Serra we saw one perched in the older tower.

**Red-fan Parrot** *Deropterus accipitrinus* – Like so many other birds, we only saw them the morning we went up the newer tower at Cristalino. A superb bird and they hung around for a while.

**Santarem Parakeet** *Pyrhura amazonum lucida* – They were frequently in some palm trees by the staff rooms at Cristalino. Oddly, they did not seem to be eating fruit, but were tearing into the base of the fronds. I don't know what they were after. It certainly allowed us to get great views, and we also saw them on the Serra. This species is sometimes split; when this is the case, the Cristalino birds are treated as a subspecies of Madeira Parakeet *P. snethlageae lucida*.

**Hyacinth Macaw** *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* – Words cannot describe how awesome this bird is. The world's largest parrot. We saw them almost every day in the Pantanal, and they are incredibly approachable around the in Porto Jofre.

**Peach-fronted Parakeet** *Eupsittula aurea* – Regular encounters both in the Chapada and the Pantanal.

**(GO) Red-bellied Macaw** *Orthopsittaca manilatus* – A distant pair flew across the river at Cristalino

**Yellow-collared (Golden-collared) Macaw** *Primolius auricollis* – A few nice sightings near the Pixaim River.

**Blue-and-yellow Macaw** *Ara ararauna* – Another amazing macaw; we saw it daily at Cristalino and once in the Pantanal.

**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* – Good numbers at Cristalino.

**Red-and-green Macaw** *Ara chloropterus* – This year we saw it best in the Chapada. We did see it on two days at Cristalino but there seemed fewer than normal.

**Chestnut-fronted Macaw** *Ara severus* – Twice at Cristalino.

**Blue-crowned Parakeet** *Thectocercus acuticaudatus* – Lots of flocks seen flying over in the Pantanal, but only seen perched once.

**Red-shouldered Macaw** *Diopsittaca nobilis* – We tracked down some birds in the Chapada just before they left their roosting area.

**White-eyed Parakeet** *Psittacara leucophthalmus* – A few encounters in the Chapada and Pantanal.

#### TYPICAL ANTBRDS (THAMNOPHILIDAE)

**Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus* – A female seen from the lodge clearing at Cristalino.

**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* – Only one seen at Piuval, though heard elsewhere.

**Glossy Antshrike** *Sakesphorus luctuosus* – We called in a male on Ilha Ariosto at Cristalino. Endemic to Brazil.

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* – Seen a couple of times in the Chapada and once in the Pantanal.

**Rufous-winged Antshrike** *Thamnophilus torquatus* – A single male in *cerrado* in the Chapada.

**Chestnut-backed Antshrike** *Thamnophilus palliatus* – A female near the Glossy Antshrike on Ilha Ariosto.

**Plain-winged Antshrike** *Thamnophilus schistaceus* – Commonly heard at Cristalino, and we finally saw a pair on Dr. Haffer's trail.

**Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike** *Thamnophilus stictocephalus* – A pair on the Serra at Cristalino, though they were quite a pain to track down this time.

**Planalto Slaty-Antshrike** *Thamnophilus pelzelni* – Seen well both in the Chapada and at Piuval. Endemic to Brazil.

**Amazonian Antshrike** *Thamnophilus amazonicus* – Good views of a male on Dr. Haffer's trail at Cristalino.

**Plain Antwreos** *Dysithamnus mentalis* – One in the Chapada.

**(H) Saturnine Antshrike** *Thamnomanes saturninus* – Cristalino. One was hanging around near the bird bath but never came in...

**(H) Cinereous Antshrike** *Thamnomanes caesius* – Cristalino.

**(GO) Plain-throated Antwren** *Iseria hauxwelli* – One at Cristalino.

**Spot-winged Antshrike** *Pygiptila stellaris* – A female came to the bird baths.



**White-eyed Antwren** *Epinecrophylla leucophthalma* – One in a mixed flock on Dr. Haffer's trail at Cristalino, though it didn't show that well.

**Pygmy Antwren** *Myrmotherula brachyura* – A nice, close view from the newer tower.

**Sclater's Antwren** *Myrmotherula sclateri* – Finally got one in a mixed flock our last morning at Cristalino.

**Amazonian Streaked-Antwren** *Myrmotherula multostriata* – A pair responded well on Ilha Ariosto at Cristalino.

**White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris axillaris* – A pair came to the bird baths at Cristalino.

**Long-winged Antwren** *Myrmotherula longipennis* – Best seen in the mixed flock the last morning at Cristalino – I think the other one there was "guide only".

**Gray Antwren** *Myrmotherula menetriesii* – Saw a male well in a mixed species flock at Cristalino.

**Large-billed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus longirostris* – Two sightings in gallery forest, in the Chapada and along the trails at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

**(H) Rufous-winged Antwren** *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* – Cristalino.

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis emiliae* – A male in bamboo along Dr. Haffer's Trail at Cristalino.

**White-fringed Antwren** *Formicivora grisea* – Shy and unresponsive on the Serra at Cristalino, most of the group missed it.

**Black-bellied Antwren** *Formicivora melanogaster* – A female at Piuval. I heard a couple more here but they wouldn't come in.

**Rusty-backed Antwren** *Formicivora rufa* – Several in the *cerrado* along a side road in the Chapada.

**Striated Antbird** *Drymophila devillei subochracea* – Seen nicely in the bamboo along Dr. Haffer's trail.

**Spix's Warbling-Antbird** *Hypocnemis striata* – Great views of a pair along Dr. Haffer's trail at Cristalino. Endemic to Brazil.

**(H) Blackish Antbird** *Cercomacroides nigrescens* – Cristalino.

**(H) Manu Antbird** *Cercomacra manu* – Cristalino.

**Gray Antbird** *Cercomacra cinerascens* – Seen along two different trails at Cristalino.

**Mato Grosso Antbird** *Cercomacra melanaria* – Seen well at Piuval and Pixaim.

**White-backed Fire-eye** *Pyriglena leuconota* – One female seen in the Chapada.

**Band-tailed Antbird** *Hypocnemoides maculicauda* – Nice sightings both along the Cristalino and in the gallery forest at Pixaim.

**Silvered Antbird** *Sclateria naevia* – One male tracked down along the Cristalino River.

**Spot-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax naevius* – Called in for decent views along Dr. Haffer's Trail.

**Dot-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax punctulatus* – Ditto.

**CRESCENTCHESTS (MELANOPAREIDAE)**

**Collared Crescentchest** *Melanopareia torquata* – Luck was with us for this. It was singing distantly in cerrado in the Chapada, but there happened to be an old trail that took us straight to the bird. Nice view.

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS (FURNARIIDAE)**

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus transitivus* – One of the last new birds of the trip, seen on the way back to Cuiabá the last day in the Pantanal.

**(H) Long-tailed Woodcreeper** *Deconychura longicauda* – Cristalino.

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* – One near the lodge at Cristalino.

**Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes certhia concolor* – One in a mixed flock at Cristalino.

**Great Rufous Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes major* – Only at Piuval, where we saw several the first full day.

**(GO) Striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus* – One on an island on the Teles Pires near Cristalino.

**Spix's Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus spixii* - At least one bird in the big mixed species flock we found the last morning at Cristalino. Endemic to Brazil.

**Buff-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* – One at Cristalino and one at Porto Jofre.

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* – A few at Piuval and Pixaim.

**Red-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris* – Only one at Piuval, but a great view.

**Curve-billed (Tapajos) Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus procurvoides cardosoi* – A few glimpses in the big mixed flock the last morning at Cristalino.

**Narrow-billed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* – Only one at Piuval.

**Layard's (Lineated) Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes layardi* – One from the lodge clearing at Cristalino.

**Slender-billed Xenops** *Xenops tenuirostris* – One in a flock along the Manakin trail at Cristalino.

**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* – A couple of times at Cristalino.

**Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans* – One in the Chapada.

**Point-tailed Palmcreeper** *Berlepschia rikeri* – It wasn't looking good, but one finally came in and showed well in the palm grove between Alta Floresta and Cristalino.

**Pale-legged Hornero** *Furnarius leucopus* – Seen a few times along rivers in the Pantanal.

**Rufous Hornero** *Furnarius rufus* - Common everywhere except Cristalino.

**(H) Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner** *Anabazenops dorsalis* - Cristalino

**Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor erythrocerum* – Seen twice in mixed species flocks at Cristalino.

**(H) Chestnut-winged Hookbill** *Ancistrops strigilatus* – Cristalino



**(H) Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus* – Cristalino.

**Rufous-fronted Thornbird** *Phacellodomus rufifrons* – Seen at a stakeout along the Transpantanal Highway between Piuval and Pixaim. They are greatly outnumbered in this area by the next species, which builds similarly huge stick nests.

**Greater Thornbird** *Phacellodomus ruber* – Several nice sightings.

**Rusty-backed Spinetail** *Cranioleuca vulpina* – First on an island in the Teles Pires River, then again along the trails at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

**Speckled Spinetail** *Cranioleuca gutturata* – Called one in by the saleiro at Cristalino.

**Rufous (Gray-crested) Cacholote** *Pseudoseisura unirufa* – Pretty common in the Pantanal. They build stick nests similar to the thornbirds.

**Chotoy Spinetail** *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus* – We only saw one pair along the entrance road to Piuval.

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* – Regularly seen around water in the Pantanal.

**(H) Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* – Chapada.

**Cinereous-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis hypospodia* – A pair showed well from the boardwalk at Porto Jofre.

**White-lored Spinetail** *Synallaxis albilora* – Several encounters in the Pantanal.

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (TYRANNIDAE)

**White-lored Tyrannulet** *Ornithion inerme* – Seen well from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* – Surprisingly few sightings – the first day on the Chapada and the last day in the Pantanal.

**Suiriri Flycatcher** *Suiriri suiriri suiriri* – Two pairs seen in the Pantanal.

**Chapada Flycatcher** *Suiriri islerorum* – Decent view of a pair in the Chapada.

**Subtropical Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis* – One bird seen well the last day in the Pantanal. It's not even in the WCS guide but I see it fairly regularly in this area.

**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** *Tyrannulus elatus* – One from the newer tower.

**Forest Elaenia** *Myiopagis gaimardii* – Scattered sightings anywhere there was forest.

**Gray Elaenia** *Myiopagis caniceps* – One female from the newer tower.

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* – A few in the Chapada.

**Large Elaenia** *Elaenia spectabilis* – One seen well between Pixaim and Porto Jofre.

**Small-billed Elaenia** *Elaenia parvirostris* – A lone bird along the Transpantanal Highway near Piuval.

**Plain-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia cristata* – Well seen in *cerrado* in the Chapada.

**White-bellied Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga munda* – One seen on the last day near the southern end of the Transpantanal Highway. Probably only an austral winter visitor to the Pantanal.

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* – One in the Chapada and another at Cristalino.

**Planalto Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias fasciatus* – A pair along the radar road in the Chapada.

**Guianan Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius acer* – Close-ups from the older tower. Split from Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Z. gracilipes*, though due to close vocal similarities I question whether this is the best treatment.

**Plain Tyrannulet** *Inezia inornata* – Piuval. Apparently only an austral winter visitor to this area.

**Amazonian Tyrannulet** *Inezia subflava* – We got incredibly close to one on the Teles Pires River.

**Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant** *Lophotriccus galeatus* – Heard a lot but only seen once along the trails at Cristalino.

**Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus striaticollis* – We only saw it along the trails at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

**Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* – One at Piuval.

**Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilatriccus latirostris* – Once in the Chapada and once at Piuval.

**Spotted Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum maculatum* – Two seen on Ilha Ariosto in the Teles Pires.

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* – Several in the Pantanal.

**(H) Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum* – Cristalino.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens pallescens* – One in the Chapada and a couple in the Pantanal.

**Gray-crowned Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias poliocephalus* – One from the lodge clearing at Cristalino.

**(H) White-crested Spadebill** *Platyrinchus platyrhynchos* – Cristalino.

**Cliff Flycatcher** *Hirundinea ferruginea bellicosa* – Seen only near the edge of the escarpment in the Chapada.

**Bran-colored Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus* – One along the Transpantanal Highway on the last day.

**Fuscous Flycatcher** *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* – Once in the Chapada and once at Piuval.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* – Seen most days in the Pantanal.

**Crested Black-Tyrant** *Knipolegus lophotes* – A pair in the Chapada.

**Drab Water Tyrant** *Ochthornis littoralis* – Several along the edge of the Teles Pires River.

**(H) Gray Monjita** *Xolmis cinereus* – Chapada.

**White-rumped Monjita** *Xolmis velatus* – A couple seen near and long the entrance road to Piuval.

**Black-backed Water-Tyrant** *Fluvicola albiventer* – Regularly encountered in the Pantanal.

**White-headed Marsh Tyrant** *Arundinicola leucocephala* – Two sightings in the Pantanal.

**Cattle Tyrant** *Machetornis rixosa* – Daily in the Pantanal.

**(H) Rufous-tailed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon ruficauda* – Cristalino.

**(H) Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila** *Attila bolivianus* – Pixaim.



**(H) Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* – Cristalino.

**Sibilant Sirystes** *Sirystes sibilator* – A pair in the Chapada

**Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufus* – One bird on the Serra in Cristalino and another in the Pantanal.

**(H) Grayish Mourner** *Rhytipterna simplex* – Cristalino.

**(H) Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* – Cristalino.

**Short-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus ferox* – Several sightings in both the Pantanal and Cristalino.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* – Most days in the Pantanal and one in the Chapada.

**Lesser Kiskadee** *Pitangus lictor* – First at the palm grove on the way in to Cristalino, another upriver from Cristalino and several more in the Pantanal.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* – Common except in Cristalino, and even there we saw them occasionally.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* – One in the Chapada and a few more at Cristalino.

**Rusty-margined Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes cayanensis* – Common in the Pantanal and Chapada.

**Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* – One in the Chapada.

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* – Two sightings in Cristalino.

**Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius* – One from the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Crowned Slaty Flycatcher** *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus* – Several at Cristalino.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* – Common and seen every day except the first.

## COTINGAS (COTINGIDAE)

**Amazonian Umbrellabird** *Cephalopterus ornatus* – Our first attempt at the Teles Pires islands was a failure, but we went back another afternoon and finally had some decent views of several perched high in the trees and flying back and forth.

**Spangled Cotinga** *Cotinga cayana* – Lots when we visited the newer tower at Cristalino. We also had a female from the lodge clearing.

**Screaming Piha** *Lipaugus vociferans* – Many heard at Cristalino. One was also seen at the saleiro.

**Pompadour Cotinga** *Xipholena punicea* – A spectacular male was one of the highlights of the morning we spent on the newer tower at Cristalino.

**Bare-necked Fruitcrow** *Gymnoderus foetidus* – Three sightings at Cristalino.

## MANAKINS (PIPRIDAE)

**Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin** *Tyranneutes stolzmanni* – One from the newer tower.

**Helmeted Manakin** *Antilophia galeata* - Nice views of a male inside the galley forest along the Pixaim River.

**(H) Blue-backed Manakin** *Chiroxiphia pareola* – Cristalino.

**Snow-capped Manakin** *Lepidothrix nattereri* – At least one male came in to the bird baths at Cristalino. Restricted to the south-central Amazon basin; Cristalino is perhaps the most easily accessible place where this neat-looking bird can be seen.

**Flame-crowned (Flame-crested) Manakin** *Heterocercus linteatus* – I don't remember how many times we tried for this, but persistence paid off in the end when we had a nice look at a male.

**Band-tailed Manakin** *Pipra fasciicauda* – A few birds, including a couple of males, in forest in the Chapada.

**White-crowned Manakin** *Dixiphia pipra* – A male and a female came in to bathe in the bird bath one afternoon at Cristalino.

**Red-headed Manakin** *Ceratopipra rubrocapilla* – Males seen on a couple of occasions at Cristalino.

**Wing-barred Piprites** *Piprites chloris* – One seen along a trail at Cristalino.

#### TITYRAS AND ALLIES (TITYRIDAE)

**Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* – One at Piuval.

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* – One in Chapada and another from the older tower at Cristalino.

**Brown-winged Schiffornis** *Schiffornis turdina* – One visited the bird bath at Cristalino, and heard elsewhere there.

**(H) Cinereous Mourner** *Laniocera hypopyrra* – Cristalino.

**White-browed Purpletuft** *Iodopleura isabellae* – Good scope views from the Serra at Cristalino, and another from the lodge clearing.

**Green-backed Becard** *Pachyramphus viridis viridis* – One seen along the trail at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

**(H) White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* – Pixaim.

**Pink-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus minor* – A female in a mixed flock at the saleiro at Cristalino.

#### VIREOS (VIREONIDAE)

**(H) Gray-chested Greenlet** *Hylophilus semicinereus* – Cristalino.

**Ashy-headed Greenlet** *Hylophilus pectoralis* – Pairs at Piuval and Pixaim.

**(H) Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps* – Cristalino.

**Dusky-capped Greenlet** *Pachysylvia hypoxantha* – One in a big mixed flock the last morning at Cristalino.

**Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo** *Vireolanius leucotis* – Ditto.

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* – One seen well in the Chapada on the first day.

#### CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES (CORVIDAE)

**Purplish Jay** *Cyanocorax cyanomelas* – Almost daily in the Pantanal.

**(H) Curl-crested Jay** *Cyanocorax cristatellus* – Chapada.



**SWALLOWS (HIRUNDINIDAE)**

**Black-collared Swallow** *Pygochelidon melanoleuca* – Nicely seen in some rapids along the Teles Pires River.

**White-banded Swallow** *Atticora fasciata* – Every day along the Cristalino River.

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* – Near daily throughout the trip.

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* – Common.

**Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera* – A few seen on the last day in the southern part of the Transpantanal Highway.

**White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* – Common and seen all but one day.

**WRENS (TROGLODYTIDAE)**

**Tooth-billed Wren** *Odontorchilus cinereus* – Seen nicely in the scope from the older tower, and heard several times elsewhere in Cristalino.

**Thrush-like Wren** *Campylorhynchus turdinus* – Daily in the Pantanal.

**Moustached Wren** *Pheugopedius genibarbis* – Piuval, Pixaim, Chapada, and along Dr. Haffer's Trail at Cristalino.

**Buff-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus leucotis* – Seen along the trails at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel; also heard at Cristalino.

**Fawn-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus guarayanus* – One along the southern third Transpantanal Highway and another at Porto Jofre. Very similar to Buff-breasted and best separated by voice.

**GNATCATCHERS (POLIOPTILIDAE)**

**(H) Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* – Cristalino.

**Masked Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila dumicola* – Almost daily in the Pantanal, and often the “first responders” to a pygmy owl imitation.

**DONACOBIUS (DONACOBIIDAE)**

**Black-capped Donacobius** *Donacobius atricapilla* – Almost daily in the Pantanal – always a tour favorite thank to their unique plumage and entertaining behavior – as a bonus it was also a new family for some!

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES (TURDIDAE)**

**Pale-breasted Thrush** *Turdus leucomelas* – A few on the first day in the Chapada.

**Rufous-bellied Thrush** *Turdus rufiventris* – Pretty common in the Chapada and Pantanal.

**Creamy-bellied Thrush** *Turdus amaurochalinus* – One on the first day in the Chapada.

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS (MIMIDAE)**

**Chalk-browed Mockingbird** *Mimus saturninus* – Several in the Chapada and at Piuval.

**White-banded Mockingbird** *Mimus triurus* – A single bird near the southern end of the Transpantanal Highway. A rare austral migrant to this area.

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS (MOTACILLIDAE)**

**Yellowish Pipit** *Anthus lutescens* – One very approachable bird seen at Piuval.

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS (PARULIDAE)**

**Masked Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis aequinoctialis velata* – A handsome male along the Transpantanal Highway near Piuval. One of the group also saw one in the Chapada.

**Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* – Several in the Chapada. Here they are ssp. *hypoleucus*, which have white underparts and were formerly considered a separate species, White-bellied Warbler. Ssp. *auricapillus* was also heard on the Serra at Cristalino.

**Flavescent Warbler** *Myiothlypis flaveola* – Seen at Piuval and Pixaim, with others heard in the Chapada.

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES (THRAUPIDAE)**

**Red-crested Cardinal** *Paroaria coronata* – We nearly missed this handsome bird, finally seeing a pair just before we left the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

**(GO) Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis* – One crossed behind the boat one afternoon on the Teles Pires, but no one else was looking.

**Yellow-billed Cardinal** *Paroaria capitata* – Common and daily in the Pantanal.

**Black-faced Tanager** *Schistochlamys melanopis* – Three birds seen in the *cerrado* the first morning in the Chapada.

**(GO) Magpie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus* – Chapada.

**White-banded Tanager** *Neothraupis fasciata* – Several in the *cerrado* the first morning in the Chapada. Sometimes called “Shrike-like Tanager”

**(H) Red-billed Pied Tanager** *Lamprospiza melanoleuca* – Cristalino.

**Hooded Tanager** *Nemosia pileata* – A handsome pair at Pixaim.

**White-rumped Tanager** *Cypsnagra hirundinacea* – Seen in the *cerrado* both mornings in the Chapada.

**Gray-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* – One in a mixed species flock in the Chapada.

**(GO) Flame-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus cristatus* – Jorge saw one in a mixed flock at Cristalino.

**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* – A couple of sightings in the Chapada and the Pantanal.

**White-winged Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio versicolor* – The last bird to come in to the bird bath at Cristalino as it was getting dark – I’m glad we waited!

**Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* – Almost daily in the Pantanal, and “guide only” at Cristalino.

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* – Seen twice at Cristalino.

**Sayaca Tanager** *Thraupis sayaca* – Seen most days in the Chapada and Pantanal.

**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* – Common, seen on all but a few days.



**Burnished-buff Tanager** *Tangara cayana* – Nice views in the Chapada.

**Masked Tanager** *Tangara nigrocincta* – Several seen in a nice tanager flock from the lodge clearing the last morning at Cristalino.

**Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis* – A pair didn't show very well at the palm grove we stopped at on the way to Cristalino.

**Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana boliviana* – A couple of sightings at Cristalino, including point-blank eye-level views in a fruiting bush on the Serra

**Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* – An amazingly colorful tanager, seen well from both towers.

**Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia* – Cristalino; decent views from the newer tower and on the Serra.

**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* – Many on the Serra at Cristalino.

**Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* – A lone bird in a mixed species flock along the Manakin trail at Cristalino.

**Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis* – Two seen the first afternoon in the Chapada.

**Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* – Seen well from both towers.

**Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer* – A good view in the tanager flock near the lodge the last morning in Cristalino.

**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* – Chapada and the newer tower.

**Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* – A male was one of the first birds we saw from the newer tower.

**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* – One male near the lodge the last morning at Cristalino.

**Yellow-backed Tanager** *Hemithraupis flavicollis* – Two encounters in mixed species flocks at Cristalino.

**Chestnut-vented Conebill** *Conirostrum speciosum* – Piuval.

**Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* – Common in the Pantanal and Chapada.

**Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch** *Emberizoides herbicola* – One was seen singing from the top of a bush along the Piuval entrance road.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* – Several in the Chapada.

**White-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila leucoptera* – A lone bird at Pixaim.

**Tawny-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila hypoxantha* – A small flock including one male near the southern end of the Transpantanal Highway on the last full day.

**Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch** *Sporophila angolensis* – Two in the Pantanal.

**Plumbeous Seedeater** *Sporophila plumbea* – Fairly common in *cerrado* in the Chapada.

**Rusty-collared Seedeater** *Sporophila collaris* – Several sightings along the Transpantanal Highway.

**Coal-crested Finch** *Charitospiza eucosma* – Two birds in *cerrado* the first morning in the Chapada.

**Red-crested Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus* – Several in the Chapada and at Piuval.

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* – Occasional sightings throughout.

**Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak** *Parkerthraustes humeralis* – A single from the top of the older tower.

**Black-throated Saltator** *Saltator atricollis* – Nice views in the Chapada.

**Grayish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* – Most days in the Pantanal and one in the Chapada.

**(H) Slate-colored Grosbeak** *Saltator grossus* – Cristalino.

#### SPARROWS (EMBERIZIDAE)

**Grassland Sparrow** *Ammodramus humeralis* – One in the Chapada and another near Piuval.

**Saffron-billed Sparrow** *Arremon flavirostris* – Two in the Chapada.

**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* – A few in the Chapada. Unlike many tours, it's not an easy bird on this trip!

#### CARDINALS AND ALLIES (CARDINALIDAE)

**(H) Red-crowned Ant-Tanager** *Habia rubica* – Cristalino.

**Rose-breasted Chat** *Granatellus pelzelni* – A pair seen along a forest trail at Cristalino.

#### TROUPIALS AND ALLIES (ICTERIDAE)

**Red-breasted Meadowlark** *Sturnella militaris* – One male at the palm grove on the way to Cristalino. This species and the next were formerly called "blackbirds".

**White-browed Meadowlark** *Sturnella superciliaris* – A large flock seen from the boat along one of the tributaries of the Cuiabá River.

**Chopi Blackbird** *Gnorimopsar chopi* – A few in the Chapada and in the Pantanal.

**Scarlet-headed Blackbird** *Amblyramphus holosericeus* – Two different birds at different spots along the Tranapantanal Highway – each posed beautifully for us.

**Unicolored Blackbird** *Agelasticus cyanopus* – Common in marshes in the Pantanal.

**Grayish Baywing** *Agelaioides badius* – A lot fewer than normal in the Pantanal. One was seen at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel and a flock was seen at Porto Jofre. Formerly called "Bay-winged Cowbird", however the species is not a brood parasite.

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* – Lots in the Pantanal, one in the Chapada.

**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* – Daily in the Pantanal.

**Epaulet Oriole** *Icterus cayanensis cayanensis* – Two seen flying across the road at a stop between Alta Floresta and Cristalino.

**Variable Oriole** *Icterus pyrrhopterus periporphyrus* – A few seen at Pixaim and Porto Jofre. They seemed less common than normal.

**Orange-backed Troupial** *Icterus croconotus* – This eyeball-searing oriole was seen best at Piuval, and a few more were seen around Porto Jofre.

**Solitary Black Cacique** *Cacicus solitarius* – Seen on four days in the Pantanal.

**Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* – Only seen on five days. Like some of the other icterids, there seemed a lot fewer than normal this year.

**Red-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus haemorrhous* – One of the group saw one at Cristalino.

**Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* – Small numbers seen near Alta Floresta and most days in the Pantanal.

**(H) Olive Oropendola** *Psarocolius bifasciatus* – Cristalino. Sometimes called Amazonian Oropendola.

### SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES (FRINGILLIDAE)

**Purple-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia chlorotica* – A pair on Ilha Ariosto in the Teles Pires, and another near Pixaim.

**Thick-billed Euphonia** *Euphonia laniirostris* – Several on the Serra in Cristalino.

**(GO) Golden-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia chrysopasta* – I'm putting this as "guide only" since it was seen so badly right into the sun that no one else counted it. Also called White-lored Euphonia.

**Orange-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia xanthogaster* – A pair on the Serra in Cristalino.

**Rufous-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia rufiventris* – Good views from both the newer tower and the Serra.

### OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIDAE)

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* – Pantanal.

## MAMMALS

**Giant Anteater** *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* – Two excellent sightings along the Transpantanal Highway between Piuval and Pixaim.

**Lesser Bulldog Bat** *Noctilio albiventris* – The large reddish bats along the Pixaim River.

**Greater Bulldog Bat** *Noctilio leporinus* – The huge reddish bats along the Cuiabá River.

**Greater Sac-winged Bat** *Saccopteryx bilineata* – Several roosting under some eaves of the guide accommodation at Cristalino.

**Tufted Capuchin** *Cebus apella* – Several encounters at Cristalino. Formerly called Brown Capuchin.

**Black-striped Capuchin** *Cebus libidinosus* – Several in the Pantanal.

**White-nosed Saki** *Chiropotes albinasus* – One seen near a troop of Tufted Capuchins at Cristalino.

**Red-handed Howler** *Alouatta belzebul* – Cristalino, including one with a baby that came down to the river, dangling upside down to grab food from some vegetation at the bank (see photo next page).

**Black Howler** *Alouatta caraya* - Pantanal



**Ocelot** *Leopardus pardalis* – One was walking along the Transpantanal Highway on our last day in the Pantanal. It wasn't a great view, but a couple of times it turned sideways where the rather short tail was evident.

**Jaguar** *Panthera onca* – We had four nice encounters, and probably a total of 4 different individuals.

**Neotropical River Otter (Southern River Otter)** *Lontra longicaudis* – One in the Teles Pires River.

**Giant Otter** *Pteronura brasiliensis* – Several awesome sightings on both the Cristalino and Cuiabá rivers. We learned that a group of otters can be called a “romp”, which seems really appropriate.

**Brazilian Tapir** *Tapirus terrestris* – During one of our spotlighting outings at Cristalino we saw one swim across the river and then crash into the forest – superb!

**Marsh Deer** *Blastocerus dichotomus* – Several in the Pantanal.

**Red Brocket** *Mazama americana* – One at Piuval.

**Gray Brocket** *Mazama gouazoubira* – Several in the Pantanal.

**Capybara** *Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris* – A few at Cristalino and large numbers in the Pantanal.

## OTHER SIGHTINGS

**Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman** *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* – We stopped to look at some along the Cristalino River.

**Yacare Caiman** *Caiman yacare* – Abundant in the Pantanal.

**Argentine Black-and-white Tegu** *Salvator merianae* – One in the Pantanal.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* – A couple along rivers in the Pantanal.



*Red-handed Howler with baby at Cristalino*