

Brazil's Pantanal: Jaguars & More! with Atlantic Forest Pre-Extension Species List | September 5-19, 2024 With Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Wes Larson, with guide Xavier Munoz, and eight participants:
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Summary: We saw an incredible array of birds, mammals, and reptiles on our once-in-a-lifetime trip to Brazil. Avian highlights included, Green-Headed Tanager, Toco Toucan, Helmeted Manakin, Hyacinth Macaw, Red-Legged Seriema, Jabiru, Capped Heron, Sunbittern, Great Potoo, and many, many more. However, the bird voted most memorable and impressive by our group was the Frilled Coquette (bird of the trip). It wasn't an easy decision though and we had a lot of candidates for bird of the trip as we truly saw such an amazing amount of beautiful and charismatic birds.

We had simply incredible luck with mammals on our trip, and we had no shortage of views of the most famous resident of the pantanal, the jaguar. we also had really great luck with jaguars hunting and resting along the river (Jaguars were voted mammals of the trip). While giant anteaters were a bit tricky to find, we ended up getting some great yet brief looks at seven different individuals, including a mother with young on her back. We also got some nice looks at the smaller Southern Tamandua as well. Mammals were a true highlight throughout the trip though, and tapirs really stood out as we had one cross the road right in front of us in the southern pantanal, and one swim the river in front of us in the northern pantanal! We also had great looks at various species of primates, armadillos, deer, fox and of course, capybara. And we also had some great success with herps on this tour, including a particularly memorable yellow anaconda sighting that was voted the most outstanding experience of the trip! And we also saw various frog, lizard and snake species throughout the Pantanal. Brazil never fails to impress and it is a birdwatcher's paradise and a naturalist's dream. Join us next year.

BIRDS (286 species recorded):

This species report Ebird link below details the 286 species of birds our group either observed during the tour. If you're new to Ebird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen and how many.

[Brazilian Pantanal With Atlantic Rainforest | September 5-19, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (26 species recorded):

Southern Tamandua *Tamandua tetradactyla*—We had a nice up-close look at a southern tamandua as it climbed a tree on the grounds at Aguapé lodge, as well as another in a large tree near the entrance to Pousada Piuval

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*—We had fleeting but beautiful views of this unique and charismatic mammal around Aguapé and then again in Piuval

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—Seen once while at Aguapé, the most widespread and one of the largest armadillo species, but not as common around the lodge as the smaller six-banded species

Six-banded Armadillo *Euphractus sexcinctus*—Very common around the rooms and restaurant at Pousada Aguapé

Greater Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus*—seen feeding over the Cuiabá River in the evenings from the Panoramico houseboat (ALSO KNOWN AS THE GREATER FISHING BAT)

Lesser Bulldog Bat *Noctilio albiventris*—Seen near riverways in both the southern and northern pantanal (ALSO KNOWN AS THE LESSER FISHING BAT)

Pallas's Long-tongued Bat *Glossophaga soricine*—Regular visitors to the feeders at Hotel do Ypê during the evening hours

Black-tailed Marmoset *Mico melanurus*—Great sightings of these tiny primates in a park in Cuiaba, as well as a brief sighting at Piuval

Black-and-gold Howler Monkey *Alouatta caraya*—We saw these large New World primates along the Aquiduaana river, and the Cuiabá river. Both sexes start as the golden color and then males get darker and turn black as they age

Black Capuchin *Sapajus Cay*—A family of these cheeky monkeys has made Hotel do Ypê their home and are regular visitors to the feeders

Azara's Capuchin *Sapajus cay*—Several great observations throughout the northern Pantanal

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*—Really nice looks at these curious mammals at Pousada Aguapé and in the wetlands at Pousada Piuval

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous*—Frequent observations over multiple days of the trip, particularly at night or in the early morning. Genetic studies show that these 'foxes' are more closely related to South American 'wolves' such as the Maned Wolf than to true foxes

Jaguar *Panthera onca*—Fantastic views of this majestic feline along the Cuiabá River including a really beautiful individual hunting caiman along the river and a huge male on a beach as we were leaving the area. This species is the world's third largest big cat after the lion and tiger and the Brazilian pantanal is the only place where they can be seen with any regularity

Neotropical River Otter *Lontra longicaudis*—A brief sighting while on river safari on the Aquiduaana river

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*—Amazing experiences observing these incredible mammals hunting and feeding along the edge of the Cuiabá River on our boat safaris

South American Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*—We had a great trip when it came to tapir. We saw one individual in the southern Pantanal during an afternoon safari at Aguapé, as well as a tapir that ran out of the brush along the Cuiaba river and swam across the river right in front of our boat

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*—Large groups at Pousada Aguapé, Pousada Piuval, and we got to watch some individuals wallow at a watering hole near Mato Grosso Hotel

Red Brocket *Mazama americana*—seen at Pousada Aguapé and again at the Pixiam river

Gray Brocket *Mazama gouazoubira*—We saw this small deer species both on the Cuiaba and Pixiam rivers

Pampas Deer *Ozotoceros bezoarticus*—Common at Pousada Aguapé. Due to habitat loss and hunting, this deer has a highly fragmented distribution

Marsh Deer *Blastocercus dichotomus*—Seen both along the Transpantaneira and at Hotel Mato Grosso. The Pantanal is the stronghold of this largest South American deer species and we saw one especially impressive male

Guianan Squirrel *Sciurus aestuans*—The only squirrel species in Brazil. We saw multiple individuals during our pre-extension in the Atlantic Forest

Brazilian Guinea Pig *Cavia aperea*—Seen once in Piuval

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarae*—Common throughout the Pantanal and seen many times on our trip

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*—Extremely common in the Pantanal. It is the largest rodent species in the world and large groups of capybara are at most places where there is standing water

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (9 species recorded):

Red-footed Tortoise *Chelonoidis carbonarius*—We saw one of these beautiful tortoises by the water at Pousada Piuval

Amazon Lava Lizard *Tropidurus torquatus*—A regularly seen "fence lizard"

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva*—We had fleeting looks at the beautiful green lizard, especially at Aguapé and along the Transpantaneira

Argentine Black-and-white Tegu *Salvator merianae*—A few of our participants saw this large, predatory lizard at different locations throughout our trip— the largest species of lizard in the Americas!

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—Observed in both the Cuiaba part and along the Cuiabá and Pixiam rivers

Yellow Anaconda *Eunectes notaeus*—We had an up-close look at an anaconda that actively shedding near some wetlands at Pousada Piuval. We got to spend over 40 minutes with this particularly large and beautiful female and it was definitely an experience to remember. We also saw two smaller males in the water as well as an anaconda that had recently been struck by a vehicle

Yacaré Caiman *Caiman yacare*—The most abundant reptile (terrestrial vertebrate!) in the Pantanal, where it was ubiquitous. We saw hundreds if not thousands of these crocodilians, including one pool that easily had over 300 individuals

Chaco Tree Frog *Boana raniceps*—Common around lodges in the Pantanal

Banded Cat-eyed Snake *Leptodeira annulate*—Some of our group spotted this bothrops mimic on a large tree near Aguapé during a night safari