

# JAGUARS & BIRDS OF BRAZIL

31 JULY – 15 AUGUST 2010

## TOUR REPORT

**LEADER:** LUCIANO NICOLAS NAKA

“We now belong to a higher cast of mortals, for we have seen the jaguar”

This tour can only be described by one word: spectacular. Few other tours offer such an efficient introduction to some of the most desired, rare, and wild creatures of the Neotropics. Jaguars, Maned Wolf, Giant Anteaters, Giant Otters, Tapirs, Peccaries, Jaguarundi, Porcupines, six species of primates, three species of deer, and an impressive list of 435 species of birds and 25 species of mammals, in only two weeks. Together, the Pantanal, the Atlantic Forest, and the Cerrado, represent three of the most important and threatened biomes in the World, and by visiting the Transpantaneira, Intervales, and Serra da Canastra, we were able to have a glimpse of South America at its best. Birdquest, of course, is all about birds, and we found some very exciting ones, including a fine selection of specialties, endemics, and endangered species. Birds like Brazilian Merganser, Solitary Tinamou, Hyacinth Macaw, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Blue-bellied Parrot, White-bearded Antshrike, Brasilia Tapaculo, Slaty Bristlefront, Cock-tailed Tyrant, Grey-backed Tachuri, Hooded and Black-headed Berryeaters and Ochre-breasted Pipit, all offered excellent views. Beyond those rare birds, we will hardly be able to forget our encounters with some very charismatic creatures, such as the Greater Rheas running through the plains, Southern Screamers and Red-legged Seriemas screaming out in the open, Piping Guans perched over the rivers, an Agami Heron fishing in the shade, thousands of Jabirus nesting along the road, King Vultures patrolling the cliffs, Sungrebes exploring the banks, Sunbitterns displaying on the beaches, Rusty-barred Owls screaming and showing well at dusk, Pale-crested and Blond-crested Woodpeckers drumming in the woods, Rufous Cacholotes defending their nests, Giant, Large-tailed and Tufted Antshrikes showing their powerful sounds in the forest, Sharpbills unaltered by our presence, and fantastic names that include chachalacas, treehunters, streamcreepers, firewood-gatherers, scythebills and amazing tanagers. If you can spell it, we have seen it!

Our trip started on a warm winter morning in São Paulo. After a quick introduction at the airport, we departed to the Pantanal, using the city of Cuiaba as a convenient gate. After meeting Joselino, our Marsh Deer spotter (and driver), we drove towards the famous Transpantaneira, a road that allows

access to the largest and wildest wetlands in the Americas. The road started by crossing some dry woodlands and agricultural areas where we found our first Greater Rheas, Bare-faced Curassows, and dozens of Chaco Chachalacas. At the official 'gate of the Pantanal', a quick stop gave us many Grey-breasted Wood-Rails, a bright Vermilion Flycatcher, our first Purplish Jays, a family group of Thrush-like Wrens, huge numbers of Yellow-billed Cardinals, many Saffron Finches, a Rusty-collared Seedeater, and several Chopi and Giant Cowbirds. The transition of the dry cerrado into the Pantanal was sudden, and shortly after we crossed the gate, we were immersed in waterbird paradise. Birds were everywhere, and numbers were truly impressive. Thousands of birds were all around us, allowing close eye-to-eye views of literally hundreds of herons including Rufescent Tiger Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons, as well as Striated, Cocoi, Capped, and Whistling Herons. Neotropic Cormorants, Anhingas, Plumbeous and Buff-necked Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and Limpkins, among other species, were adding hundreds of individuals to impress even the well-travelled naturalist. Given the large amount of animals, we hardly managed to advance on the nearly 60 km that separated us from our first night stop at Pixaim. Snail Kites, Black-collared and Savanna Hawks, Large-billed Terns, Monk Parakeets and Guira Cuckoos, all showed well, and prevented us from reaching our destination. The most outstanding creatures, however, were the ubiquitous and ancestral-looking Jabirus, which were nesting on their huge nests just off the road. When it looked like we were finally getting satisfied with so many birds, a pair of Hyacinth Macaws appeared on the horizon, giving the final touch to an outstanding evening. It was only by the presence of Band-tailed and Nacunda Nighthawks that we realized that it was getting late, and decided to move forward towards Pixaim. It was already night when we made it to our hotel, and we had a nice long sleep to recover forces for the many birds that awaited us on the following day.

Our early start rewarded us with several new birds, including a few Scaled Doves, flocks of Yellow-chevrons, Peach-fronted, and Nanday Parakeets, as well as Blue-fronted Parrots, Toco Toucans, and Chestnut-eared Aracaris, all at walking distance from our rooms. Green-barred and a Lineated Woodpecker worked their way up the trees, Campo Flickers loudly vocalized from the ground, and White Woodpeckers cruised the skies. A short walk around the hotel also gave us our first passerines, including a very responsive pair of Great Thornbirds (conveniently located next to their huge nest), and the lovely Chotoy and White-lored Spinetails, while a Narrow-billed Woodcreeper climbed a tree. On the scrub, a male Great Antshrike was showing well, whereas the White-rumped Monjitas, Black-backed Water-Tyrants, White-headed Marsh-Tyrants, White-naped Xenopsaris, and the Red-crested Cardinals all perched in the open. After a productive early morning, we jumped into a speedboat, skilfully commanded by Jony. The old man seemed to know the Rio Pixaim very well, and the quiet motor allowed us to get very close views of a pair of fine birds: Sungrebe and Sunbittern. I then asked our boatman about the *socó-beija-flor* (the *hummingbird heron*, as local Brazilians call one of our most wanted water birds). Jony nodded, and a few minutes later we were 5m away from a wonderful Agami Heron, the big plate of the day. As we continued exploring the narrow river, all five possible species of kingfishers (Ringed, Amazon, Green, Green-and-rufous, and American Pygmy) gave close views, as well as Boat-billed and Little Blue Herons. On the Canopy, Red-throated and Blue-throated Piping Guans also showed well. And in the understory Rusty-backed Spinetails, Pale-legged Horneros, and White-tipped Antbirds also explored the terrain for some insects. While we were staring at a lovely Barred Antshrike, a pair of Buff-breasted Wrens, and a Rusty-fronted Flycatcher performed well, and a very responsive Red-billed Scythebill flew over the boat several times. After a couple of hours on the boat, our boatman mentioned the *mãe-da-lua* (literally mother of the moon). As I secretly nodded, he walked us through a small trail towards a branch-like Great Potoo. Astonished with such finding, we decided to further explore the gallery forest, which was teeming with birds. Lifers piled-up quickly, and included a male Blue-crowned Trogon, a Rufous-tailed Jacamar, a group of Black-fronted Nunbirds, a couple of Little Woodpeckers, and a straight-billed Woodcreeper. Some of the highlights of that trail were the responsive and endemic pair of

Mato Grosso Antbirds and the lovely couple of Large-billed Antwrens. As we moved through the forest, more and more birds appeared, and we also found at least two Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrants, a beautiful male Helmeted Manakin, two Flavescent Warblers, and a couple of Solitary Caciques. By noon, we climbed back on our boat for our well-deserved meal, and off we went towards Puerto Jofre. The 84 km that separated Pixaim from Puerto Jofre did not pass unnoticed, and many birds showed there for the first time, including a couple of Southern Screamers, Purple Gallinules, an outstanding pair of Rufous Cacholotes, a funny pair of Common Tody-Flycatchers, and our first Maguari Stork. Surprisingly, when we approached an old construction, we heard the calls of at least two Great-horned Owls, which were nesting at a large agglomerate of sticks. This bird was also a lifer for Joselino, who also got a glimpse of the intimidating night birds. We got to Puerto Jofre at night, and after an excellent dinner we retreated to our rooms, wondering whether on the following day, we would be among the few that have seen a jaguar in the wild...

Our boat was full of hope, but the weather was changing; Vandeley, our expert boatman and jaguar finder (among the best in the region), was a bit concerned. Jaguars are often seen here because they go to the river banks and sandy beaches to get sunbathed on hot days. The cold front we were experiencing was likely to make our jaguar quest a bit more difficult, but jaguars abound in the region, and we were very hopeful. After all, the word 'jaguar' was on the title of this tour, and would have been very disappointing to go back home without seeing one of these elusive creatures. As we sailed towards 'jaguar territory', we paused to study some birds on a big sandbank, including Black Skimmers, good numbers of Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns, and a few Pied Lapwings and Collared Plovers. The first big carnivore we found wasn't a jaguar, but a family group of Giant Otters, which were tearing apart the *Pintado* catfish that they had just got from the bottom of the river. The otters were very tame, and we had an excellent opportunity to admire these fantastic animals. It took us at least three hours to find a jaguar, but eventually, a pair was located. Growls and roars came from the forest, and with some efforts we managed to get our most-wanted prize in the bins. A fine male was looking at us through the forest. Its tail was up, and the spots were all there. A fantastic experience for all of us. However, knowing the stories of previous tours, where jaguars are often seen in the open at close range, made us want more, and once the jaguar was gone into the woods, we continued our search for more. We cruised at least three different rivers, and after hours of search, we ended in the same spot where we had had our first encounter. The jaguars (apparently a mating pair) were still there. Although we did not see those jaguars again, that late evening will remain in our memories forever. As the sun was setting and the nighthawks were cruising the air, the jaguars were putting a special and exclusive show for us with their very loud roars and cat-like screams. The jaguars were very close (less than 15m) but from the safety of our boat we could relax and only imagine what a deer would feel at this time.

On the following morning we decided to give jaguars a new shot. We were getting greedy, and wanted full views. It was even colder than the previous day, and we had a tough time locating new jaguars. The day, however, gave us several new birds, such as Crane and White-tailed Hawks, Bat Falcon, a small group of Blue-crowned Parakeets and even better looks at the Giant Otters. A rare Brazilian Porcupine (Coendu) was also found, and we were in good mood. A pit stop was requested, and Vanderley was reluctant, as he didn't want us walking in jaguar-infested areas. He asked us to wait, and he moved towards a 'safe area'. A nice beach was offered, and we jumped on shore. As I walked a few meters, a big creature flushed from the woods, at no more than 8-10 meters. At that moment Martine shouted: "Une tigre"!! We had a jaguar at very close range, but only she got some good views, while the rest of us wished we had paid more attention to the woods. We spent a couple of hours in the general area, with no luck. The creeks and rivers were easy birding, and eventually, we found a Crimson-crested Woodpecker, at least three Orange-backed Orioles, and our first Crested Oropendolas. The sail back home was cold, and we all had mixed feelings. We had it so close, and

yet most of us never got those wonderful views described by others, including Pete, who was the only one of us who already belonged to that selected group that had seen a jaguar in nature. Unfortunately, we had to move on, and leave Puerto Jofre for the many bird species that we still had to look for.

We left early in the morning back to Pixaim, but stopped on the way at the Fazenda Santa Isabel, which proved to be a great idea. As we approached the gate, we found a Rock Deer, an Agouti, a group of Coatis and a Jaguarundi, in what was going to be our most successful day in terms of mammals (but we had no idea of the grand finale that awaited us later that day). Our first *goodie* was the much wanted Ochre-bellied Guan. We had astonishing views of this rare cracid, particularly at an old Research Station, where we also found a beautiful Blue-crowned Motmot in the sun. The scrubby vegetation gave us two of its treasures: the Cinereous-breasted Spinetail and Rusty-backed Antwren. In the forested areas, by simply imitating the sound of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was enough to get good numbers of birds around, and by mimicking the presence of this small predator we got several new birds for the trip, including an inquisitive Plain Tyrannulet, a curious Fuscous Flycatcher, both Fawn-breasted and Moustached Wrens, Tropical Parula, and three write-ins: Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Forest Elaenia, and Grey-hooded Tanager. We started to get hungry, and our hotel was still far away. By noon, we decided to go back to Pixaim, where our new hotel was waiting for us with some good food. At the hotel grounds we were surprised by the many birds at the feeders and flowers, which included Purplish Jays and three Chestnut-eared Aracaris, species that we had seen before, but not at such close range. At about 3pm we went on a boat trip to explore the Rio Pixaim once again. To be honest, I was not that thrilled with the boat trip. Although the avifauna was rich and active, herons and kingfishers were now low in our list, and we decided to walk a bit in the woods. Martine asked me whether we still had chances of a jaguar there, and I had to be honest and explain that away from Puerto Jofre, the chances were lower. We had good enough views of the jaguars, and I was already happy with the experience. I was now thinking of piculets and jacamars, and we decided to be dropped on a trail which had the suggestive name of 'trilha da onça', the trail of the jaguar! As soon as we were dropped off and started to walk back towards the hotel, I saw a large thing ahead. \*\*\*\*!!!! It's a jaguar!!!! I couldn't believe it! We had a jaguar no more than 15 m from us, and apparently the big cat was walking with difficulties. Was it sick??? No, our predator was carrying nothing less than a 2m caiman that it just killed on the shore. Fortunately, the jaguar already had a prey, so we were not too concerned about our safety. The Jaguar gave short but good views and disappeared in the woods. We were almost losing hopes of more views when Martine found the jaguar again. The beast was eating its kill no more than 20m from us. Through the bins we saw its bloody mouth, and the entire body of the most wonderful carnivore of the Neotropics. Eventually, the cat moved away, and realizing it was almost dusk, we rushed towards the hotel. That was our last afternoon in the Pantanal, and when we expected it the least, we had our major prize, and the views we were hoping for. We were happy chaps, and got back to the hotel with big smiles in our faces. Our only regret was that Pete and Connie were not with us, as they stayed on the boat hoping for some finer pictures of other animals. On the way back we had time to see a handsome pair of Pale-crested Woodpeckers, and a silent Fuscous Flycatcher, but our minds were on the spotty beast. Because at Birdquest we are never satisfied, that night, we decided to go on a night-spotting trip, and used the big truck of the hotel to look for some more mammals. During the meal, however, we were called by the hotel's manager, as a tapir had just been seen in the back of the hotel. We run and got amazing views of yet another wonderful creature. A few minutes later we were on the truck looking for more mammals. Despite the cold, eye-shines started to appear and we found another four species of mammals, including Collared Peccaries, Marsh and Rock Deer, and a group of Crab-eating Foxes. That day had given us a total of 10 different species of mammals, including the most wonderful cat of the Neotropics.

Fulfilled with our experience in the Pantanal, we had a plane to catch, so we left early to fly to São Paulo. From the big metropolis, we had to drive to Intervales, an area that holds some of the finest Atlantic Forests in Brazil. At the Airport, after a short flight, we met Marcelo, our excellent driver. Within ten days we transformed a bored driver into an Anteater tracker, an owl spotter, and a nature enthusiast who would stop at any bird he could find. The driving to Intervales was not too bad, and by night we were already at the Pica-pau lodge, enjoying our good rooms and great food.

Early morning we met Gilberto Teixeira Rodrigues, known as *Betinho*, who was going to be our compulsory local guide at Intervales. I was happy to have him, as I knew his skills. Born in the outskirts of the park, Betinho had become a birder himself, and acquainted a very good knowledge of the local avifauna. Knowing that there were too many birds to be seen, and only two full days to bird, we knew we had no time to waste. We started our first day early, and at 0630 we were already birding in the woods. We selected a wide trail that would allow us to see some of the more common stuff, but would also let us find the more interesting species. The place was teeming with birds, and in the first 30 minutes (within 200 meters), we had already found all four species of *Drymophila* antbirds (Ferruginous, Bertoni's, Ochre-rumped, and Dusky-tailed Antbirds). During the following 48 hours, we birded several trails, where we found several thamnophilids, such as a fantastic male Giant Antshrike, both male and female Tufted Antshrike, a too-close to focus male Long-tailed Antshrike, and also the more common Variable Antshrike. Spot-breasted and Plain Antvireos were also in the area, and very receptive to our playback calls, as was the case with the Star-throated and Streak-capped Antwrens, and the White-shouldered Fire-eye. Birds piled up steadily. Songs were quickly identified, and birds were called, and on our two and a half days we found around 180 species of birds, including Solitary Tinamou, Surucua, Black-throated, and Amazonian White-tailed Trogons, Rufous-capped Motmot, Crescent-chested Puffbird and Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Red-breasted Toucans, the not-so-pallid Pallid Spinetail, and a myriad of other cool birds. The skies were busy, and we found some interesting flying raptors, including Short-tailed and White-rumped Hawks and Black Hawk-Eagle. Parrots cruised the air, and we had great views of large flocks of Maroon-tailed and Plain Parakeets, the minute Blue-winged Parrotlets, and the larger Red-capped and Scaly-headed Parrots. Our most wanted psittacid (Blue-bellied Parrot), was tougher to get, but eventually, after some heavy playback and whistling efforts from our side, a pair gave fantastic extended eye-level, close-ranged, perched views. Also, the many flowers blooming helped us find several species of hummingbirds, including many Dusky-throated and Scale-throated Hermits, a lovely Brazilian Ruby, a distant Festive Coquette, the very abundant Violet-capped Woodnymph, the handsome White-throated Hummingbird, and the wonderful Sapphire-spangled Emerald. Woodpeckers were very active while we were there, and we had no trouble in finding Ochre-collared Piculet and the handsome Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, and other species such as White-spotted, White-browed, and Blond-crested Woodpeckers. To get any views of the two big guys was a whole different story: we heard both, Robust and Helmeted Woodpeckers. We devoted nearly an hour to get any views of the latter one, but we had to content ourselves with flight views of a responsive, yet shy, pair. In the forest understory we found the secretive Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, many Rufous-capped and Grey-bellied Spinetails, Squamate Antbird, Rufous Gnatcatcher, and a trio of wonderful tapaculos that after some efforts showed very well to all of us: the elusive Slaty Bristlefront, Mouse-coloured (or Serra do Mar) and White-breasted Tapaculos. The mid-story was constantly being worked by noisy and laborious furnariids, including Buff-browed, White-browed, Black-capped, Buff-fronted, and White-collared Foliage-gleaners, as well as Sharp-billed Treehunter and Streaked Xenops. Woodcreepers were also abundant, and we got excellent views of Plain-winged, Olivaceous, Planalto, and Lesser Woodcreepers, as well as the rarer Black-billed Scythebill. Mixed-species flocks have several important small tyrants to look for, and we managed to get pretty decent views of Mottle-cheeked, São Paulo, Oustalet's, and Bay-ringed Tyrannulets. Hangnest, Brown-breasted, and Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrants also gave very good views, as well as the cute White-throated Spadebill. Cotingas dominated

the sound scene of this pristine forest, and although we only heard the Bare-throated bellbird, we had splendid views of both Hooded and Black-headed Berryeaters, and of Cinnamon-vented Piha. A friendly Sharpbill gave a particular show near our lodge, giving too-close to focus views for as long as wanted. Manakins were also friendly, and we had great looks at Pin-tailed and Blue Manakins. The Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin responded diligently to tape, and also allowed great views, as was the case with both Greenish Schiffornis and Wing-barred Piprites. In general, afternoons were devoted to the hotel surroundings, where we also had some great encounters, including Dusky-legged Guans, a pair of cute Tropical Screech-Owls roosting at the park's headquarters, and a number of tanagers, including the comparatively dull Brown and Olive-green Tanagers, but also their more colourful cousins: Magpie, Black-goggled, Ruby-crowned, Diademed, Azure-shouldered, Green-headed, Red-necked, and Brassy-breasted Tanagers. Uniform Finches and a solitary Red-rumped Warbling-Finch were also among the highlights. At dusk we went owling. One of our main goals was the Long-trained Nightjar, which decided not to appear, but our persistence rewarded us with excellent views of a pair of Rusty-barred Owls. While birding, we could hear the presence of Brown Tinamou, Spot-winged Wood-Quail and Rufous-capped, Short-tailed, and Such's Antthrushes, as well as the invisible Variegated Antpitta, which remained well-hidden in the vegetation.

Our last afternoon was devoted to bird the marshes and open areas around the hotel, and we were happy to get good views of noisy pairs of Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Blackish Rail, and Red-eyed Thornbirds, as well as a lovely Black-masked Yellowthroat. Our last morning was quieter than usual, but we still managed to get some new birds. That day's highlight, however, was our very last bird of the morning. Coming back from the viewpoint, we decided to give a new try to a bird that some of us briefly saw on the previous day, but some had missed: the rarely-seen and handsome White-bearded Antshrike. A lovely pair was showing nicely not far from the edge of the road. After a little playback, all of us had fantastic views of one of the symbols of the Atlantic Forest. Unfortunately, we had to leave to the fantastic region of Serra da Canastra, our last destination.

Reluctantly we climbed on the van, and headed north, towards Mococa, a small city near the border between the states of São Paulo and Minas Gerais. For our surprise, we had a night stop at a wonderful historic farm, where we had a great meal and an outstanding breakfast. At Fazenda Nova, we were greeted by the owners (7<sup>th</sup> generation in the place), and we were told many stories involving the old house. On the gardens we had some good birds, including our first White-eyed Parakeets, Planalto Hermits, Stripe-breasted Starthroats, Burnished-buff Tanagers, and our only Saffron-billed Sparrow of the trip. After a succulent breakfast, we continued our trip to São Roque de Minas. We made several stops along the way, and found birds like a lone White-tailed Kite, a group of four Golden-capped Parakeets, White-collared Swifts, and Pale-breasted Thrush. Our last stop before our destination proved to be worthy, as part of the group managed to get good views of a Neotropical River Otter, a rarely seen mammal.

Once in São Roque, we rushed to lunch, and decided to do some birding. We drove a couple of kilometres out of town to get used to a whole new avifauna. Our walk along the Rio do Peixe was quite productive, and we saw both Laughing and Aplomado Falcons, some hummers such as the pretty White-vented Violetear, the small Glittering-bellied Emerald, the impressive Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, and a tiny Amethyst Woodstar. Other birds that we found that afternoon included Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Crested Black-Tyrant, Long-tailed Tyrant, Swallow Tanager, and Yellow-bellied Seedeater.

It had been a long day, and we were already looking forward to the following day, when we were going to visit the Serra da Canastra National Park, an outstanding plateau where the famous Rio São Francisco has its origins. We started our day quite early, in order to get to the park at dawn. Our day

at the park was magnificent, and we spent the entire day exploring the never-ending stretches of golden-coloured tall grasses, traversed by beautiful transparent rivers. Among the several special birds we found that day we can include an outstanding King Vulture and a Grey-chested Buzzard-Eagle near the Casta D'Anta gorgeous waterfall, the (now) monotypic Yellow-faced Parrot, a large flock of nearly 50 Great Dusky Swifts, a sympathetic White-eared Puffbird (later caught with a small snake on its bill), a pair of the cool-named Firewood-gatherer, several Sooty Tyrannulets jumping along the streams, a single Grey-backed Tachuri, a group of excited Sharp-tailed Tyrants, many Grey Monjitas, the rare Ochre-breasted Pipit, an amazing duetting pair of White-rumped Tanagers, a few Stripe-tailed Yellow Finches, several Wedge-tailed Grass-Finches, and Great Pampa-Finch, as well as Plumbeous Seedeaters, a small flock of Yellow-rumped Marshbirds, and of course, the two stars of the grasslands: Streamer-tailed and Cock-tailed Tyrants. It was getting late, but we still had unfinished business, as our previous views of the Brasília Tapaculo were far from great. This time, São Francisco (the saint of the animals) gave us a hand, and a cooperative male tapaculo came very close, and gave extended and close views to all of us! Full house on this difficult bird to see. We could then relax, and enjoy the sound of the grasslands: the whistles of a nearby Red-winged Tinamou. As night arrived and we started our descent, we were already thinking in the fabulous mergansers we were hoping to see on the following day.

Our second full day in Minas Gerais was devoted to the lower stretches of the Rio São Francisco, most specifically, to find our most important bird: the critically endangered and rarely seen Brazilian Merganser. A bird with an estimated world population of no more than 300 individuals. This was a difficult task, particularly with the sometimes hilarious help of Toninho, our improbable local guide. Besides the mergansers, we were looking for other birds and along the day, we found a pair of Rusty-margined Guans, a pair of White-barred Piculets, two Black-capped Antwrens, Plain-crested Elaenia, Euler's Flycatcher, groups of Curl-crested and Plush-crested Jays, Cinnamon and Fawn-breasted Tanagers, Pileated Finch, and White-bellied Warbler. Despite those many new birds, we were starting to feel anxious. After all, our true goal was the Merganser. We had been searching for this elusive creature for more than eight hours, without much success. We had been stopping on every corner of the river, and had scanned every inch of water available. On our way back, we continued our quest, and tried a new spot. It was quite a relief when Warren shouted the magic words: "mergansers!!" These are shy creatures, and they were already on the run. We traversed a field (that later was going to prove a tick-infested area) to get close to them, and eventually we all had great scope views of a happy Merganser family (two adults and two chicks)! Our main goal was fulfilled, and we were among the chosen few, that can include Brazilian Merganser among its memories.

Having seen the Merganser, we then had one creature in mind: the Maned Wolf, the most elegant and beautiful dog of the Americas. The whether was fantastic and our last day seemed promising. As we searched for the wolf, we found several new birds, including good views of several Spotted Nothuras, a very responsive pair of Rufous-winged Antshrike, several Tawny-headed Swallows, and the rare White-banded (or Shrike-like) Tanager. We were not that lucky with the Collared Crescentchest, a bird that we heard in the distance but failed to come to our tape, despite our peaceful efforts. It was getting late, and we decided to spend our last hour chasing and scanning for the wolf. In the meantime, we had astonishing views of many Giant Anteaters, including moms with her babies on their backs. After some serious search in an area where some of us had very distant views of a wolf, Pete found one distant colourful dog. Our dreamed Maned Wolf was there!! Although we were very happy for our finding, the wolf had disappeared within the tall grasses, and we decided to look for it more closely. The walk in the tall grass wasn't easy, and Rattle Snakes are not rare in this area. We spent a good hour looking for the wolf, until Warren (once again our Messiahs) did something he promised not to do, and cried: "wolf"!!! This was not a warning; a Maned Wolf was flushed meters from his feet and left us while jumping in an indescribable Maned

Wolf manner. Every now and then, it would stop and stare at us, as if wondering why his peace had been broken. That was our last sight of the tour, an amazing way to end a fabulous tour.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

### RHEIDAE

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*: Good numbers at the beginning of the Transpantaneira, where we found a whole family with several young birds. Also found in the extensive grasslands of Canastra. Currently considered as a Near-Threatened species by BirdLife International.

### TINAMIDAE

Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius*: Excellent views of this rarely seen and Near-Threatened Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus* (H): We heard this shy species daily in the Pantanal. As most tinamous, this species is notoriously difficult to see, and we had to content ourselves with its nice and melancholic three-note song.

Brown Tinamou *Crypturellus obsoletus* (H): Same fate as with the previous species. Heard daily in the forests of Intervalles.

Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens* (H): We heard its distinctive whistle in the grasslands of Serra da Canastra National Park.

Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*: We flushed several of this species in the grasslands on the upper plateau of Serra da Canastra.

### ANHIMIDAE

Southern Screamer *Chauna torquata*: Small numbers were noted along the Transpantaneira. This bizarre species often perches on tops of riverside trees and is quite a sight to have them vocalizing as they usually do, in pairs.

### ANATIDAE

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*: A large group of nearly 50 birds were seen in the Pantanal.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: Regular observations in the Pantanal.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*: Several 'real' ones in the Pantanal and a few 'unreal' ones at Serra da Canastra.

Brazilian Teal (B Duck) *Amazonetta brasiliensis*: Several views throughout the trip; particularly in the Pantanal, where we had amazing views of a pair in flight.

Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus*: It took a while, but we eventually obtained good views of this much-desired and enigmatic species. Warren was the hero of the day, when he found a very shy family group (two adults and two chicks) swimming away from us, along the Rio São Francisco. Our efforts to get them back into view were worth (despite the few ticks) and eventually got long views of the happy family. Only a handful of pairs of these ducks inhabit the streams of the Serra da Canastra National Park, where they hold territories varying between 4 and 14 km (!) of river. New, fairly sizeable populations were recently found in Tocantins and in Bahia (NE Brazil), but the total numbers of the rarest Neotropical duck are minute (c250 birds only). It used to occur in nearby Paraguay (last recorded in 1985) and in northern Argentina (Misiones), from where there is only one recent record, despite extensive surveys. This species is treated as Critically endangered, and was considered the bird of the trip by popular vote.

## CRACIDAE

Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*: Good views on our last two days of the trip in Canastra.  
Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura*: A few were seen at Intervalles. Widespread and often remarkably tame.

Chestnut-bellied Guan *Penelope ochrogaster*: After a couple of days of concern, we had excellent views of several individuals in the Pantanal. This is an Endangered Brazilian endemic with an extremely tiny distribution, centred on the northern Pantanal. Its total population is in the range of 2,500-10,000 birds.

Blue-throated Piping-Guan *Pipile cumanensis*: Regular sightings of this attractive species in the Pantanal. This species forms a super-species with *P. pipile* (Trinidad), *P. kujubi* (see below), and *P. jacutinga* (Atlantic Forest). These species are so close together that *cumanensis* and *cujubi* have been considered conspecific by various authors in the past; most recent treatments, however, suggest that both forms are independent species, that apparently interbreed in SW Brazil and Bolivia.

Red-throated Piping-Guan *Pipile kujubi*: We also had excellent views of this species in the Pantanal, which is one of the few areas where this and the previous species come into secondary contact.

Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis*: The most abundant cracid in the Pantanal, with several dozens found each day.

Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata*: Regular superb sightings of this species in the Pantanal, where we observed both males and females. These exquisite birds have a really splendid hair-do.

## ODONTOPHORIDAE

Spot-winged Wood-Quail *Odontophorus capueira* (H): We heard the distinctive song of this Atlantic Forest endemic a few times at Intervalles.

## PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C) *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: Super abundant on the pools of the Pantanal, where they feasted on the plentiful fish, together with herons, egrets, storks and jacarés (caimans).

## ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*: Hundreds of individuals seen in the Pantanal.

## ARDEIDAE

Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*: Commonly encountered in the Pantanal. We also enjoyed a few sightings of young birds in their distinctive plumage.

Agami Heron *Agamia agami*: Outstanding views of this handsome species on the Roi Pixaim. We probably owe this one to our boatman, who knew where to find this elusive creature, probably the most secretive of the large herons, and was considered within the top three birds of the trip by popular vote.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*: Several were seen in the Pantanal. This peculiar-looking bird is often associated with the night-herons due to its similar plumage. DNA analysis, however, suggests links with the tiger-herons. Given its very distinctive morphology, it has been placed in its own family, Cochleariidae.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: These well known night birds were commonly encountered in the Pantanal.

Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata*: Very common in the Pantanal.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Widespread and common. This highly successful species apparently invaded South America from Africa in the late 19th century, one of the most spectacular examples of avian range expansions in historic times.

Cocoi Heron (White-necked H) *Ardea cocoi*: Common in the Pantanal.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Very common in the Pantanal.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*: Regularly seen in the Pantanal, often walking on dry areas. Its evocative Brazilian name is Maria-faceira (= Maria with lots of make-up), due to the lovely soft, pastel colours of the bill and face. We heard the peculiar whistle a couple of times.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*: A regular and much appreciated appearance along the rivers of the Pantanal. Unlike other herons, this species is usually found single or in pairs.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: Common in the Pantanal.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: Several encounters with this exquisite bird in the Pantanal.

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*: Superb views in the Pantanal, where is probably the best place to see this species well. Everything about this bird is green. Its onomatopoeic Brazilian name is Corocoro.

Bare-faced Ibis (Whispering Ibis) *Phimosus infuscatus*: Few observations in the Pantanal, but daily seen by everyone (except me) in the pond just behind our rooms in Puerto Jofre.

Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens*: Small numbers of this distinctive and vociferous species in the Pantanal. It is sometimes placed in the genus *Harpiprion*. The Pantanal is the place to see this rather uncommon and localized species.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*: Regular encounters in the Pantanal and Canastra. Note that the Andean-Patagonian form, *melanopsis* (the Black-faced Ibis), is now considered a distinct species.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*: Regular sightings of this spectacular bird in the Pantanal. The scientific epithet is a Tupi Indian name for this species.

#### CICONIIDAE

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*: Regular observations of small numbers in the Pantanal.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*: These huge creatures were splendidly common and very approachable in the Pantanal. Several huge nests contained chicks. Soaring birds are truly magnificent to observe. It was noteworthy and quite memorable, our bird trying to eat a huge fish on the Rio Cuiabá.

Wood Stork (American Wood-Ibis) *Mycteria americana*: Very common at the shrinking pools in the Pantanal.

#### CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Regular sightings, but much less common than Black Vulture. The evolutionary history of the New World Vultures remains controversial. They were traditionally placed in a family of their own in the Falconiformes, but in the late 20th century some ornithologists argued that they were more closely related to storks rather than birds of prey, mostly based on morphology and behaviour. It was then placed within the Ciconiiformes, along with storks and herons. The most recent trend, however, is to raise the New World vultures to the rank of an independent order Cathartiformes not closely associated with either birds of prey, storks, or herons. However, recent DNA studies seem to suggest that they are, after all, related to other birds of prey and should be part of a newly expanded Accipitriformes, a position adopted in 2010 by the AOU (American Ornithologists' Union).

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (Savanna Vulture) *Cathartes burrovianus*: Probably as common as the following species throughout the grasslands of the Pantanal.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: Everywhere.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*: We found two adults on top of the Serra da Canastra, where one bird gave amazing views just above the waterfall.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*: A single bird seen from the van on our way to São Roque de Minas.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: Dozens seen in the Pantanal on a daily basis.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*: Outstanding observations in the Pantanal, where an adult individual was seen searching tree cavities with its long feet, probably going after snakes or other preys. The Crane Hawk superficially recalls the Afrotropical Harrier Hawk (or *Gymnogene*), but it is smaller and more lightly built, with relatively longer legs, and not particularly related to it, in a great example of convergence evolution.

Great Black-Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*: Commonly encountered in the Pantanal and often very approachable.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*: Common in the Pantanal, but also recorded in Canastra.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*: Regular sightings of this fine bird along the rivers in the Pantanal.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*: We made observations of three lone individuals in Canastra.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*: Many records throughout the trip, including its sibling species and cryptic form, the now (in)famous Riverside Hawk (joke, of course!).

White-rumped Hawk *Buteo leucorrhous*: A single bird seen in flight at Intervalles, where was found for the first time by Betinho and myself just a week before our arrival. A bird that is not common anywhere and is seldom seen.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*: Two flying birds seen at Intervalles.

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albicaudatus*: Several records both in the Pantanal and Canastra.

Black hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*: A single bird seen in flight at high altitude in Intervalles.

#### FALCONIDAE

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*: Several observations, both in the upper and lower reaches of the Serra de Canastra National Park.

Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*: Several birds heard, and one seen in flight at Intervalles.

Southern Caracara (Southern Crested Caracara) *Caracara plancus*: Seen almost daily throughout the trip, mostly in open areas and marshes.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*: Small numbers all over our route, but particularly abundant in Canastra.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: Only a handful of sightings, mostly from our van in Canastra.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*: Several observations of this smart-looking falcon in the Pantanal.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*: Few observations of this species, both in the Pantanal and Canastra. *Aplomado* refers to the lead-coloured upperparts of the bird (plomo = lead).

#### ARAMIDAE

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*: We got amazing views of this member of the monotypic family Aramidae. It was fairly common in the Pantanal, where we heard its loud voice and even saw it feeding from apple snails (Pomacea), that are also favoured by Snail Kites. Our views of the adult with several chicks was quite rewarding.

## RALLIDAE

Grey-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea*: Many excellent views in the Pantanal, including unflattering views at the trash piles around the house near Poconé.

Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail *Aramides saracura*: Excellent views of a pair around the lake at Intervalles, where the birds were duetting after some playback.

Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius* (H): A single bird heard at the Intervalles marsh. Unfortunately was a bit too late in the evening for a serious chance of getting any decent views.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*: Several good and extended views (sorry François) in the marsh at Intervalles, where a pair came attracted by our tape.

Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule) *Gallinula chloropus*: Seen both at Intervalles and on our way to São Roque de Minas.

Purple Gallinule (American P G) *Porphyrio martinica*: Seen both in the Pantanal and on our way to São Roque de Minas.

## HELIORNITHIDAE

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*: Amazing views of this cute-looking species in the Pantanal, where we even managed to see its stripped feet, unique in the bird world. The Neotropical species is the smallest of the three pantropical 'finfoots'.

## EURYPYGIDAE

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*: Many excellent encounters with this sublime, unusual-looking creature. This species is so distinctive, that it has a family for its own. It is noteworthy remembering a displaying individual chasing a large heron, opening its wings and showing its full splendour.

## CARIAMIDAE

Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*: Several encounters, both in the Pantanal and at Serra da Canastra, where we had extended and close-range views of this peculiar-looking and wild-sounding species. It looks and behaves as the Secretary bird of the African savannas. Recent paleontological studies have found that the family Cariamidae, now restricted to the Neotropics, used to occur in Europe a few million years ago.

## CHARADRIIDAE

Pied Lapwing (Pied Plover) *Vanellus cayanus*: Perfect views of these very handsome creatures on the sand banks of the Pantanal.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*: Regular encounters, particularly in the football stadium at Intervalles!

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*: Several showed very well amongst the Black Skimmers on the sand banks of the Rio Cuiabá, in the Pantanal.

## SCOLOPACIDAE

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*: A couple of sightings in the Pantanal, just behind our rooms in Puerto Jofre.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*: A single bird found in a pond just behind our rooms in Puerto Jofre.

## JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*: Commonly encountered in the Pantanal and a few times near São Roque de Minas. The name jacana is derived from the Tupi Indian word jaçana (note the Ç) so the right pronunciation should really be 'jassaná'.

## STERNIDAE

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*: Fair numbers of this tiny and delicate tern were found along the rivers in the Pantanal.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*: Many encounters in the Pantanal. An exclusively fluvial species.

## RYNCHOPIDAE

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*: Good numbers of this widespread species along the rivers of the Pantanal, particularly on the river banks.

## COLUMBIDAE

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*: Fairly common all over the place.

Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata*: A regularly observed and lovely little dove. It is sometimes placed in the genus *Scardafella*.

Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*: Small numbers of this delightful little dove.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: No comments.

Picazuro Pigeon *Patagioenas picazuro*: Abundant throughout the trip. Picazuro means sour pigeon in Guarani Indian language, referring to the taste of its flesh after having eaten certain fruits. The genus *Patagioenas* was recently erected (based both in morphology and DNA) to replace the genus *Columba*, now restricted to Old World pigeons, such as the Rock Dove.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Regular sightings. A handsome species when seen in good light.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*: Good observations at Intervalles.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*: A few observations of this widespread species in drier areas.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*: Heard and seen on several occasions throughout the trip.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*: Good views in the Pantanal, and also heard in several occasions

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*: A bird heard by all of us, and seen only by Connie at Intervalles.

## PSITTACIDAE

Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*: Fantastic views of the largest of parrots in the Pantanal. The total population is probably less than 10,000 individuals, and therefore is currently considered as an Endangered species. It was considered the second most important bird of the trip by popular vote.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticaudata*: Only two birds seen in the Pantanal.

White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalma*: Particularly common in Minas Gerais, where groups of up to 50 individuals were recorded.

Golden-capped Parakeet *Aratinga auricapillus*: We had two encounters with two different groups of four birds in and near São Roque de Minas, but unfortunately none of the sights were too good. The total population of this species is small and scattered over tiny fragments of remaining habitat. It is treated as Vulnerable in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Peach-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga aurea*: Excellent views in Canastra, including smashing views around the cows near the Merganser spot.

Nenday Parakeet *Nandayus nenday*: A single encounter of a group of six birds perched near our hotel in Pixaim.

Maroon-bellied Parakeet (Maroon-bellied Conure) *Pyrrhura frontalis*: Flight and perched views of several small flocks at Intervalles, but we also found a single bird in São Roque de Minas.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*: Common in the Pantanal, where we also found them at their colonial huge stick nests.

Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius*: A group of ~20 individuals found at Intervalles, and a smaller group in Canastra.

Plain Parakeet *Brotogeris tirica*: Many encounters of this well-named Brazilian endemic at Intervalles.

Yellow-chevrons Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*: Many good sightings in the Pantanal.

Red-capped Parrot *Pionopsitta pileata*: A pair seen well in flight at Intervalles. This former member of the *Pionopsitta* super-species is now alone in its genus, after molecular studies showed that the genus *Pionopsitta* would be paraphyletic when including all other former species.

Yellow-faced Parrot *Alipiopsitta xanthops*: fantastic views of a single individual on top of a termite mount in Canastra. This *cerrado* endemic is only present in Brazil and Bolivia, and has received its own genus after molecular studies showed that it is more closely related to *Graydidascalus* than to other Amazons, where it used to be placed. Its former name, *Salvatoria* had to be changed because it was also used for a worm...

Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*: Several seen in the Pantanal and Canastra.

Blue-fronted Parrot (B-f Amazon, Turquoise-fronted Parrot) *Amazona aestiva*: Common in the Pantanal, and famous for being an excellent talker.

Blue-bellied Parrot *Triclaria malachitacea*: Astonishing perched views of this Brazilian endemic (records from Argentina remain hypothetical). It took us a good dose of playback to bring this pair in, but when they did, we had long eye-level views that allowed us detailed studies of this vulnerable species (extant population probably less than 10,000 individuals).

#### COCCYZIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*: Regular encounters.

#### CROTOPHAGIDAE

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Common and widespread in open areas. The generic name has been derived from the Greek words *kroton*, a tick, and *phagos*, a glutton ('tick-eater'). In many parts of South America this species has the reputation of eating ticks off cattle, the reason for the recent introduction and spread of Smooth-billed Anis in the Galápagos Islands. We could have certainly used a few anis to take our ticks off at the Merganser site.

Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*: An impressive and common bird in the Pantanal. *Guira* is a Guarani Indian word, meaning bird. Great views of the bird.

#### NEOMORPHIDAE

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H): A single bird heard in the Pantanal. This is one of the few parasitic cuckoos of the New World, favouring hosts with domed nests like spinetails and wrens.

#### TYTONIDAE

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (H): Several individuals heard at dusk in the Pantanal.

## STRIGIDAE

- Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*: Splendid views of an adorable, roosting pair near our lodge at Intervales.
- Great-horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*: Amazing views of a noisy nesting pair and a lone bird along the transpantaneira. Although this species is sometimes split in two different species, the populations in the Pantanal are included in the same species as the North American one.
- Rusty-barred Owl *Strix hylophila*: Excellent views of two birds at night in Intervales. It took us some time, but our efforts were rewarded with several noisy vocalizations and eventually a pair perched at close range. Probably the bird that put our driver Marcelo into birds!
- Least Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium minutissimum* (H): A single bird heard in the distance by daylight at Intervales, but never came to our desperate whistles.
- Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* (H): A single bird heard in Canastra, but too far to attract. Small birds really do hate this owl, and its sound was very useful to *pish* for other species in the Pantanal.
- Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*: Several encounters of this cute species. This owl seems to be expanding its range following deforestation, and was recently found in the heart of the Amazon in Manaus, which was bad news.

## NYCTIBIIDAE

- Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*: Astonishing views of a branch-like perched bird along the Rio Pixaim, where our friendly boatman had a known roost. We probably would have never seen it without his advise!

## CAPRIMULGIDAE

- Least Nighthawk *Chordeiles pusillus* (NL): A few birds seen by Pete and others (?) at dusk in the Pantanal.
- Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*: Common over the rivers of the Pantanal, where we even saw its distinctive tail band.
- Nacunda Nighthawk *Podager nacunda*: Huge numbers roosting in the dry campos of the Pantanal, where we had excellent views. Nacunda is a Guarani Indian name, meaning big mouth, used for this species.
- Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: A few encounters in the Pantanal, including a nice perched bird along the Rio Cuiabá.

## APODIDAE

- Great Dusky Swift *Cypseloides senex*: A large flock discovered by Svein, and well seen (at the distance) by all of us.
- White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: Several small groups seen near Intervales and on our way to Canastra.
- Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*: At least two birds seen in flight at Intervales.
- Sick's Swift *Chaetura meridionalis*: A couple of small flocks seen well at Intervales.

## TROCHILIDAE

- Dusky-throated Hermit *Phaethornis squalidus*: Daily encounters of this tiny hermit at Intervales.
- Buff-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis subochraceus* (NL): A bird seen by most of us (not me) in the hotel backgrounds in Pixaim. It is restricted to Bolivia and the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso.
- Planalto Hermit *Phaethornis pretrei*: A couple of encounters in the Canastra area.
- Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*: Regular good looks at this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervales.

White-vented Violetear *Colibri serrirostris*: Possibly the most abundant hummer in Canastra, where we had excellent views and even a nesting bird.

Brazilian Ruby *Clytolaema rubricauda*: Great looks at a female of this Brazilian endemic perched at Intervalles.

Stripe-breasted Starthroat *Heliomaster squamosus*: Superb close up views of this Brazilian endemic in Canastra

Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*: Perfect looks at a male and several females in the Canastra area.

Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*: Astonishing views, including an aerial display in Minas Gerais and in São Paulo at Mococa.

Festive Coquette *Lophornis chalybea*: A single female seen at Intervalles, with its distinct small size and white band on the back.

Violet-capped Woodnymph *Thalurania glaucopis*: Several splendid encounters with this beautiful Atlantic Forest endemic.

White-throated Hummingbird *Leucochloris albicollis*: Great looks at this pretty hummer at Intervalles.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*: A couple of encounters with this widespread and well-known species (here of the race *tephrocephala*, which may deserve species status).

Sapphire-spangled Emerald *Amazilia lactea*: A couple of this pretty species very well seen at Intervalles.

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystina*: A single bird seen near São Roque de Minas.

#### TROGONIDAE

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *Trogon viridis*: We saw a couple of individuals at Intervalles. The taxonomy followed here separates cis- and trans-Andean populations into different species, including within Amazonian W-t T all populations east of the Andes.

Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*: Excellent views of this beautiful species. The nominate race, from Argentina to Sao Paulo has a red belly and an orange-red eye ring, whereas birds in Rio de Janeiro have a yellow belly. The scientific epithet is derived from the Guarani Indian name *surucua*, which refers to all trogons.

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui*: Nice studies of both male and female in the gallery woodlands of the Pantanal.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*: Several birds, including male and female very well seen at Intervalles.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*: Hundreds were counted each day in the Pantanal, where we had excellent sightings.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*: Possibly the second most abundant kingfisher in the Pantanal; also gave excellent views.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*: Much more unobtrusive than the previous two, but also quite regular.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*: Several individuals seen along the small creeks in the Pantanal, and much shyer than the previous three species.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*: Possibly the least abundant kingfisher in the Pantanal, but yet we saw several individuals along the small creeks, where we even witnessed several fishing attempts.

#### MOMOTIDAE

Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*: A couple of birds heard and one seen at Intervalles.

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota*: Outstanding views of one individual in the perfect light at the old research station in the Pantanal.

#### GALBULIDAE

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*: Several amazing encounters in the gallery woodland of the Pantanal.

#### BUCCONIDAE

White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru*: A couple of sights of this great bird in the cerrado of Canastra, one of which will be remembered by the small snake that was hanging from its beak. Certainly a voracious predator.

Crescent-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila striata*: At least two birds very well seen along the Estrada do Carmo at Intervalles.

Rusty-breasted Nunlet *Nonnula rubecula*: Excellent views of the “small nun” at Intervalles; a seldom seen bird and cool write-in.

Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons*: Several groups found in the Pantanal, with its interesting vocal repertoire.

#### RAMPHASTIDAE

Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*: Many superb sightings of this largest of toucans. It was seen at extremely close range, allowing for perfect views of the bright blue iris.

Red-breasted Toucan *Ramphastos dicolorus*: A couple of sightings of this really smart Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*: Good looks in the gallery woodland of the Pantanal, but smashing views at the feeders of the Hotel Mato Grosso in Pixaim.

Saffron Toucanet *Pteroglossus bailloni* (H): A flock of this species was heard not too far from the trail at Intervalles. Unfortunately, it never came to us, and remained as a heard write-in. This species was formerly in its monotypic genus *Bailloni*, but recent genetic and morphological data placed it firmly within the genus *Pteroglossus*. Also known as the Banana Araçari...(that was a good one!)

#### PICIDAE

White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*: A pair well seen in one of the small mixed-species flocks found in the lower portion of Serra da Canastra.

Ochre-collared Piculet *Picumnus temminckii*: Several great looks at this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles. It was formerly included within *P. cirratus*, with which interbreeds in some areas of secondary contact.

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*: A couple of groups of three individuals were found in flight in the Pantanal.

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons*: Certainly among the prettiest and more vocal woodpeckers. We had lovely views of this Atlantic Forest endemic around the lodge at Intervalles.

White-spotted Woodpecker *Veniliornis spilogaster*: Several encounters with this Atlantic Forest endemic, present in most mixed-species flocks at Intervalles.

Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus*: A few in the woodlands of the Pantanal and Canastra.

Golden-green Woodpecker *Piculus chrysochloros*: Brief views of one in the gallery woodland of the Pantanal.

White-browed Woodpecker *Piculus aurulentus*: Good views of one at Intervalles. It would be more correct to call this species Yellow-browed Woodpecker!! This Atlantic Forest endemic is treated as Near-Threatened in “Threatened Birds of the World”.

- Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*: A single bird seen in the Pantanal and a copulating pair at the surroundings of our historical farm at Mococa.
- Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*: Many individuals found throughout the trip, yet a bird worth watching over and over again.
- Pale-crested Woodpecker *Celeus lugubris*: A pair showed very well after playback on the woodlands of the Rio Pixaim along the *trilha da onça*.
- Blond-crested Woodpecker *Celeus flavescens*: Astonishing views of at least two different individuals at Intervales.
- Helmeted Woodpecker *Dryocopus galeatus*: We only got flight views of this rare and endangered Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervales. It took us about an hour to get any views at all, and I believe Betinho was the only one that had any decent views that morning.
- Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*: One bird seen at Intervales and another two at Mococa.
- Robust Woodpecker *Campephilus robustus* (H): We heard the double drum of this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervales. Unfortunately, it never came to our desperate calls.
- Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*: A great encounter with this widespread species in the Pantanal, while looking for jaguars.

#### FURNARIIDAE

- Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus scansor*: Excellent views of this secretive species at Intervales.
- Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus*: Fair looks at several individuals along the rivers of the Pantanal.
- Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*: Very common in open areas, where their distinctive calls are often heard. Their domed mud nests are a real feature of the countryside and because of their fancied resemblance to a Dutch oven, have given rise to the often-used English name of ovenbird for the genus and the family. It is worth noting that this is the national bird of Argentina.
- Chotoy Spinetail *Schoeniophylax phryganophila*: Fantastic looks at this handsome species in the Pantanal.
- Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla*: Possibly the most abundant furnariid at Intervales, yet a pretty Atlantic Forest endemic.
- Grey-bellied *Synallaxis cinerascens*: Very good views after some serious efforts to see this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervales.
- Spix's Spinetail (Chicli S) *Synallaxis spixi*: Good looks at a responsive bird at Intervales, and also heard in Canastra.
- Cinereous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis hypospodia*: It took us some time, but eventually we got astonishing views of this shrub-lover spinetail.
- White-lored Spinetail *Synallaxis albilora*: Possibly the most abundant *Synallaxis* in the Pantanal, yet the most range-restricted in the area.
- Pallid Spinetail *Cranioleuca pallida*: Good detailed views of several birds at Intervales.
- Rusty-backed Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpina*: Fantastic views of a very responsive group on one of our river trips in the Pantanal.
- Yellow-chinned Spinetail (Y-throated S) *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*: Regularly seen in the marsh vegetation of the Pantanal.
- Greater Thornbird *Phacellodomus ruber*: Several great looks in the scrub vegetation of the Pantanal, where they build their large stick nests even on top of electricity posts.
- Red-eyed Thornbird *Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*: Excellent views of a pair in a marsh at Intervales. Another Brazilian endemic, restricted to the southern portions of the Atlantic Forest.
- Firewood-gatherer *Anumbius anumbi*: Great looks at a pair near their distinctive stick nest at Canastra. Possibly one of the coolest names among the Neotropical avifauna!

- Rufous Cacholote (Grey-crested Cacholote) *Pseudoseisura unirufa*: Repeated great views of this attractive species in the Pantanal. The bright yellow eyes and grey crest are very distinctive. This is a recent split from Rufous Cacholote *P. cristata*, which has been renamed Caatinga Cacholote and which is restricted to north-eastern Brazil.
- Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*: Several encounters and pretty good views at Intervalles.
- White-browed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia amaurotis*: A single bird seen at Intervalles, joining a mixed-species flock.
- Black-capped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor atricapillus*: A single observation of this Atlantic Forest endemic made by some of us. The genus *Philydor* as we know it will be a short-lived one, as it currently includes several very distinct clades that need to be taken out of the genus.
- Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum*: The most abundant Foliage-gleaner at Intervalles, and surprisingly similar to the Brown Tanager.
- White-collared Foliage-gleaner *Anabazenops fuscus*: Several observations of this noisy, distinctive and fascinating Brazilian endemic at Intervalles.
- Pale-browed Treehunter *Cichlocolaptes leucophrus* (H): A single bird was heard, but never came into tape.
- White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus* (H): One bird heard at close range, but it never responded to our desperate calls.
- Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper *Lochmias nematura*: Outstanding views of a responsive bird at Intervalles. This is a wide-ranging bird that occurs between 700 and 2800m in the Andes from Venezuela south to Argentina, whilst in SE Brazil and adjoining countries it inhabits mainly streams and rivers in lowland forest.
- Sharp-billed Treehunter *Heliobletus contaminatus*: A single, but excellent observation of this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.
- Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*: Several encounters with this widespread bird in several mixed-species flocks at Intervalles.

#### DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

- Plain-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla turdina*: A single bird seen at Intervalles. This species was formerly included within the Plain Brown Woodcreeper *D. fuliginosa*, from which it was recently split based on morphology, genetics, and vocalizations.
- Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*: Regular encounters. Make sure you note where you have seen this species, as splitting into at least five different species is likely to happen in the near future. The birds we have seen represent the Atlantic Forest endemic subspecies *sylviellus*.
- White-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*: We heard this Atlantic Forest endemic from the research station at Intervalles. Too far to even try some playback.
- Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*: A couple of great observations of the nominate race at Intervalles.
- Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus*: Regular sightings in the woodlands of the Pantanal.
- Lesser Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus fuscus*: A couple of birds seen at Intervalles. This Atlantic Forest endemic was formerly placed in the genus *Lepidocolaptes*, but recent molecular studies indicate that it is better included in *Xiphorhynchus*. This is also suggested by vocalizations and morphological characters.
- Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*: Several encounters in the woodlands of the Pantanal, where although not vocal, was quite common.
- Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*: Great looks at a few in the Pantanal.

- Scalloped Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes falcinellus* (NL): A single bird seen by Svein (and others?) at Intervalles. This is a recent split from Scaled Woodcreeper (see Handbook of the Birds of the World, vol 8, p443). It differs from Scaled Woodcreeper in the crown pattern and the colouration of back and tail. The dividing line between these two allopatric species is the Rio Paraiba do Sul in northern São Paulo. An Atlantic Forest endemic.
- Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*: A couple of encounters, including astonishing views of a very responsive bird along the Rio Pixaim, where a bird flew over our boat on several occasions.
- Black-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus falcularius*: It took us some time, but eventually we got outstanding views of this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.

#### THAMNOPHILIDAE

- Spot-backed Antshrike *Hypoedaleus guttatus* (H): We heard a couple of individuals on different days, but had no luck with our playback.
- Giant Antshrike *Batara cinerea*: An impressive and splendid male of the large nominate race showed beautifully at Intervalles. Regularly heard, as its voice carries a long way.
- Large-tailed Antshrike *Mackenziaena leachii*: That splendid male performing in the open only metres away at Intervalles definitely was one of the great moments of the tour. This is one of the more spectacular Atlantic Forest endemics. The genus is named after Helen Mackenzie McConnell (1871-1954), wife of English traveller and collector Frederick McConnell.
- Tufted Antshrike *Mackenziaena severa*: Good looks at both male and female of this attractive and lovely Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.
- Great Antshrike *Taraba major*: Several excellent looks in the bushy areas of the Pantanal.
- White-bearded Antshrike *Biatas nigropectus*: It took us some time, but our final try (we never give up) gave us outstanding views of both male and female at Intervalles, where it was found by Svein. This rare Atlantic Forest endemic only occurs in a handful of isolated forests, and is currently considered Vulnerable to extinction.
- Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*: Several great looks at this widespread, but snazzy species in the Pantanal.
- Rufous-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus torquatus*: Excellent views of a pair that came to inspect us in the Serra da Canastra. This cerrado specialist is restricted to central Brazil and adjacent Bolivia.
- Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*: Regular encounters of this widespread and well-named species, which shows a complex plumage variation and an unusual geographical distribution.
- Spot-breasted Antwren *Dysithamnus stictothorax*: A single male gave perfect views of this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.
- Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*: Several observations of this widespread species.
- Star-throated Antwren *Myrmotherula gularis*: Great views of this SE Brazil endemic at Intervalles.
- Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus atricapillus*: A responsive pair very well seen in the lower parts of Canastra, near the Casca D'Anta waterfall.
- Large-billed Antwren *Herpsilochmus longirostris*: Great looks of a pair on the gallery forest along the Rio Pixaim in the Pantanal.
- Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa*: Splendid looks at a group of three birds in the scrubby vegetation of the Pantanal.
- Ferruginous Antbird *Drymophila ferruginea*: Great views of this attractive SE Brazilian endemic in the bamboo thickets at Intervalles. This and the next three species are only sympatric in very few areas throughout their distribution, and it is quite uncommon to see all four in the very same patch of forest, except at Intervalles and a handful of other sites.

- Rufous-necked (Bertoni's) Antbird *Drymophila rubricollis*: Also great views of this attractive Atlantic Forest endemic.
- Ochre-rumped Antbird *Drymophila ochropyga*: Seen well at Intervales. Another SE Brazil endemic that is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World".
- Dusky-tailed Antbird *Drymophila malura*: Yet, another Atlantic Forest endemic in the genus *Drymophila* seen very well at Intervales. This *Drymophila* is the least associated to bamboo, and is often seen in scrubby vegetation and forest edges.
- Streak-capped Antwren *Terenura maculata*: Excellent views of this often hard-to-see Atlantic Forest endemic species, which is very responsive to playback, but hardly comes down from its beloved canopy.
- Mato Grosso Antbird *Cercomacra melanaria*: Good views of a male and a female in the woodlands of the Pantanal. This gallery forest specialist is restricted to a small region of SC Brazil, E Bolivia, and N Paraguay.
- White-shouldered Fire-eye *Pyriglena leucoptera*: Heard regularly, and one male finally seen at Intervales, where it put a special show for us, including excellent views of its superb bright red eyes.
- Band-tailed Antbird *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*: Perfect views of several birds along the narrow rivers in the Pantanal.
- Squamate Antbird *Myrmeciza squamosa*: Good views of this SE Brazilian endemic at Intervales.

#### FORMICARIIDAE

- Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma* (H): A couple of birds heard at close range at Intervales, but we were busy with another creature at the moment and missed our opportunity of seeing this rather widespread species.
- Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* (H): Regularly heard at Intervales. Despite our efforts, we never got to see it, unfortunately.
- Such's Antthrush (Cryptic A) *Chamaeza meruloides* (H): Also heard several times at Intervales. It is endemic to SE Brazil.
- Variiegated Antpitta *Grallaria varia* (H): Regularly heard in the distance at Intervales. Almost everywhere, a hard bird to see.

#### CONOPOPHAGIDAE

- Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata*: Great views of a responsive bird at Intervales.

#### RHINOCRYPTIDAE

- Slaty Bristlefront *Merulaxis ater*: Outstanding views of this seldom seen, range-restricted, Brazilian endemic. We got a male responding to our tape at very close range
- Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *Scytalopus speluncae*: Decent views of this Brazilian endemic at Intervales. The genus *Scytalopus* is experiencing an explosion in its recognized number of species, and at present no less than 7 species (four of which have been recently described) occur in SE and E Brazil. The taxonomy of this group is also quite complex, and it has been suggested that the *S. speluncae* needed a different name: *notorius*. An even more recent publication, however, suggests that the name *speluncae* has been well applied, and *notorius* became a junior synonym of the former. In synthesis: we had good looks of *S. speluncae*.
- Brasilia Tapaculo *Scytalopus novacapitalis*: An outstanding performance of this feathered mouse in a patch of riverine scrub at Canastra (and certainly impossible to see without a little playback!). This species is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World", and is restricted to only two Brazilian states (Minas Gerais and Goias). Its scientific name comes from the fact that when this species was first described, it was

found near Brasilia, the Brazilian capital built in the middle of the *cerrado* in the late 50s, thus the 'new capital' Tapaculo.

White-breasted Tapaculo *Scytalopus indigoticus*: Great looks of this pretty mouse at Intervalles. This SE Brazilian endemic is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Collared Crescentchest *Melanopareia torquata* (H): Despite our efforts, we had to content with distant vocalizations in the *cerrado* of the Serra da Canastra, there at the eastern edge of its known distribution.

#### TYRANNIDAE

Greenish Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias virescens*: A pair seen and (most importantly) heard at Intervalles.

Planalto Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias fasciatus*: Good looks at this short-billed species at Intervalles and Canastra.

Grey-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseicapilla*: Also pretty good views of this species at Intervalles.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardi*: Excellent views of this (sometimes difficult to see) species in the woodlands of the Pantanal

Grey Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps*: One bird heard and seen by some of us at Intervalles, there at the nominate form.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*: Fairly common in the *cerrado* habitat, in and near Canastra.

Olivaceous Elaenia *Elaenia mesoleuca*: A single bird seen well at Intervalles.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis*: Several birds seen in Canastra, with its very distinctive voice.

Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cristata*: A couple of sightings in the *cerrado* of Canastra. Almost always with its crest up.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*: Common all over our itinerary.

Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans*: Several of these mini dippers showed very well at Canastra. Always near water.

White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata* (H): A single bird heard in the Pantanal during lunch; it never gave us a chance to call it in.

Grey-backed Tachuri *Polystictus superciliaris*: Despite initial confusion, we finally got amazing views of this range-restricted Brazilian endemic in the scrubby vegetation of the Serra da Canastra. It is treated as Near-Threatened in BirdLife's "Threatened Birds of the World".

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*: Several birds seen at Intervalles.

Sao Paulo Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes paulistus*: Pretty good views of this range-restricted, Brazilian and Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles, always joining mixed-species flocks. It is treated as Vulnerable in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Oustalet's Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes oustaleti*: Repeated excellent views of this tail-shivering SE Brazil endemic at Intervalles. It is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World". The bird is named after Emile Oustalet (1844-1905), a French zoologist and author.

Bay-ringed Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes sylviolus*: Excellent views at Intervalles, whereby we were able to discern the very distinctive eye-ring of this canopy species. An Atlantic Forest endemic that is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Grey-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*: Good looks of this Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (H): A shameful dip on one of the most abundant and common species of our itinerary. I neglected this species till the very end, and on our last day, was too late. Not to worry much, as this is a widespread species likely to be seen elsewhere.

Plain Tyrannulet *Inezia inornata*: Attracted by the sound of the Pygmy-Owl in the woodlands of the Pantanal, where we had great views. Probably located within the wrong genus.

Sharp-tailed Tyrant (Sharp-tailed Grass-Tyrant) *Culicivora caudacuta*: Fantastic studies of this lovely grassland species at Canastra. A gorgeous bird when seen at close range. It is treated as Near-Threatened in BirdLife's "Threatened Birds of the World".

Eared Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis auricularis*: Several splendid looks at this endearing little fellow, which is endemic to the Atlantic Forest.

Brown-breasted bamboo-Tyrant *Hemitriccus obsoletus*: Several individuals heard, and a couple seen on our very last day at Intervalles. An Atlantic Forest endemic.

Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus orbitatus*: Excellent views of a single individual along the Lageado Rd, at Intervalles. Yet another Atlantic Forest Brazilian endemic, and a cool write-in

Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus striaticollis*: Good views of a pair in gallery woodland in the Pantanal.

Hangnest Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus nidipendulus*: Good views of two lone birds of this Atlantic Forest and Brazilian endemic at Intervalles.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* (H): Heard in the scrubby vegetation of the Pantanal, but unfortunately did not performed for us.

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps*: Great looks of this Atlantic Forest endemic species at Intervalles.

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus latirostre*: Also great looks of this charming little guy in the Pantanal.

Grey-headed Tody-Flycatcher (Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher) *Todirostrum poliocephalum*: A great performance of this cute SE Brazil endemic at Intervalles.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*: A couple of good sightings in the Pantanal.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Y-o Flatbill) *Tolmomyias sulphureus*: Regular observations at very close range at Intervals and Canastra. A bird that is also likely to be divided into several species once any genetic and vocal work is published.

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*: A couple of brief observations of this widespread species at Intervalles.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*: One individual seen at the forest edge along the Rio Cuiabá, and then another one in Canastra.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*: Great observations of this showy species. The birds occurring from Bolivia south into Argentina and the southern Brazilian populations are sometimes considered a separate species: Swallow Flycatcher *H. bellicosa*.

Euler's Flycatcher *Iathrotriccus euleri*: Great views of a very responsive bird in a mixed-species flock in Canastra.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*: Several good views. Make sure you note where you have seen this species, as future splitting is likely.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Regular observations in the Pantanal. A real beauty. Called *Principe* (Prince) in Brazil, *Hijo del Sol* (Son of the Sun) in Bolivia and *Atrapamoscas Sangre de Toro* (Bull's Blood Flycatcher) in Venezuela, or simply *Churrinche* in Argentina.

Crested Black-Tyrant *Knipolegus lophotes*: Great looks in and around Canastra.

Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*: A single bird seen in Canastra.

Grey Monjita *Xolmis cinerea*: Several birds very well seen of this handsome and rather large Monjita.

White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velata*: These attractive birds were decidedly common in all visited grasslands.

Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa*: Definitely one of the best-looking members of the huge Tyrannidae family. Distant but good scope views of four individuals in the upper plateau of Canastra.

Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant *Muscipipra vetula*: This Atlantic Forest endemic performed very well at Intervalles.

Black-backed Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola albiventer*: A regular sight in the Pantanal marshes.

Masked Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*: Despite my efforts in not seeing this species, Svein forced me to look at one in our meal stop at the Casca D'Anta...

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*: Regular observations in the Pantanal, but also near Intervalles and Canastra.

Cock-tailed Tyrant *Alectrurus tricolor*: Several in the immaculate grasslands of Canastra. We saw several males in breeding plumage and also several females. It is restricted to seasonally wet and dry grasslands (*campo limpo* and *campo sujo*) in northern Bolivia, Paraguay and central Brazil. The total population probably does not exceed 10,000 birds, and is currently treated as Vulnerable in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*: One of the more conspicuous members of the family and always fun to observe.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus*: Several encounters with the nominate race. They seem to like Capybaras too.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*: A single bird definitely identified in the Pantanal, using both plumage and voice.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*: Regular observations.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*: The most common and obvious member of the family. *Q'est qu' il a dit?*

Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor*: Regular along rivers in the Pantanal. Sometimes placed in the separate genus *Philohydor*.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*: Just a couple of sightings.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*: Regular, but by no means common.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*: A single bird seen near the Campinas airport on our very last day.

Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex*: A single bird showed well at Intervalles.

Eastern Sirystes *Sirystes sibilator* (H): A single bird heard, with its very distinctive voice. It never came to our tape.

Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*: A single observation of this species in Canastra.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*: The most abundant *Myiarchus* flycatcher, easily identified by its *uirrrrr*.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*: A couple of sightings in the Pantanal.

Large-headed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon megacephala*: A single bird heard by Betinho, attracted by me, and seen by all of us on our very last morning at Intervalles.

Grey-hooded Attila *Attila rufus* (H): Common by voice at Intervalles, but never seen. A SE Brazil endemic.

#### OXYRUNCIDAE

Sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus*: Astonishing, eye-level views of this special bird just outside our lodge at Intervalles. A species with a really peculiar and disjunct distribution in Central and South America, probably composed of several good biological species. Splitting in the air...

## COTINGIDAE

Hooded Berryeater *Carpornis cucullatus*: Several lovely views of this SE Brazilian endemic with its memorable voice. It is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Black-headed Berryeater *Carpornis melanocephala*: Excellent views of this seldom seen species, in a Palmitreiro (palm tree) at Intervalles. Despite some initial doubts, it was very clear that we had seen this lowland species at the edge of its altitudinal distribution (~550 m).

Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis* (H): Heard a couple of times at Intervalles, but not as vocal as in other times of the year. A visit in September would certainly help a lot in finding this seasonal cool bird.

Cinnamon-vented Piha *Lipaugus lanioides*: A single bird very well seen at Intervalles, and several others heard. Quite a distinctive Atlantic Forest endemic.

## PIPRIDAE

Serra Do Mar Tyrant-Manakin *Neopelma chrysolophum*: We saw this unobtrusive Brazilian endemic very well at Intervalles. This is a recent split from Wied's Tyrant-Manakin *N. aurifrons*.

Pin-tailed Manakin *Ilicura militaris*: A couple of good observations of (unfortunately) female-looking plumages only. A very interesting SE Brazil endemic.

Helmeted Manakin *Antilophia galeata*: Excellent views of a male in the woodlands of the Pantanal, and then heard regularly in Canastra.

Swallow-tailed Manakin (Blue Manakin) *Chiroxiphia caudata*: Several great looks at these lovely birds. An Atlantic Forest endemic.

Greenish Schiffornis (Greenish Mourner) *Schiffornis virescens*: Regular encounters with this modest Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles. It is often hard to see well, but we were delighted by very good, relaxed views.

White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha*: Fantastic views of this seldom-seen bird in a marsh in the Pantanal.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus*: Several great observations.

Wing-barred Manakin (W-b Piprites) *Piprites chloris*: Good looks at a responsive bird in the canopy at Intervalles.

## VIREONIDAE

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*: Several great observations of this widespread species.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (H): We heard one in the woodland vegetation in the Pantanal.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis*: A very abundant and vocal species at Intervalles, usually associated with mixed-species flocks.

Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis*: Great views of this pretty and vocal species in the woodlands of the Pantanal.

## CORVIDAE

Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*: Regular observations in the Pantanal, including astonishing views at the Hotel Mato Grosso at Pixaim.

Curl-crested Jay *Cyanocorax cristatellus*: We found a group of 6 birds along the road near Canastra, where we got great detailed views, including its cool-looking curl!

Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops*: An unexpected write-in. Great views of a small flock while looking for the merganser along the Rio São Francisco.

## HIRUNDINIDAE

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*: A common species near water in the Pantanal.

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*: We found fair numbers in the Pantanal and in the grasslands at Canastra.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*: Few observations, both in the Pantanal and Minas Gerais.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Fairly common.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*: Quite common in Canastra.

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata*: Perfect scope views of several perched individuals in the grasslands of Canastra.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Common all over the states of Mato Grosso and Minas Gerais. A couple of birds were actually seen leaving from a hole (possibly a nest) on a roadside bank in Canastra

#### TROGLODYTIDAE

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: Regular encounters, but according to my notes, not seen in the Pantanal (!?)

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*: A few showed well in the Canastra grasslands.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*: Regularly seen and heard in the woodlands of the Pantanal, usually in small family groups.

Moustached Wren *Thryothorus genibarbis*: A couple of birds seen by some of us (and heard by me) in the Pantanal.

Buff-breasted Wren *Thryothorus leucotis*: Excellent views, and often heard in the Pantanal. Our best views were from the boat on the Rio Pixaim, when we were distracted by the flight of the (impertinent) Scythebill.

Fawn-breasted Wren *Thryothorus guarayanus*: Despite lot of playback, we only managed to get good views of this range-restricted endemic species in the Pantanal using Pygmy-Owl tape. It seems to favour slightly drier habitat than the previous species.

#### POLIOPTILIDAE

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*: A few records of this cute species at Intervalles. We all saw the long bill!

Masked Gnatcatcher *Polioptila dumicola*: A couple of birds seen well in the Pantanal.

#### INCERTAE SEDIS

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*: Many splendid observations of this lovely and showy species. Its taxonomic position remains controversial. Originally placed in the Mimidae, this species was moved to the Troglodytidae in the mid-eighties. Recent genetic data, however, revealed that it doesn't belong in either of these families, suggesting a closer relationship with the Old World Sylvioidea group. The SACC (South American Checklist Committee) has removed it from the Troglodytidae and included it as Incertae Sedis (meaning, only God knows what this thing is!). Aleixo & Pacheco (2006) proposed that *Donacobius* be elevated to family rank, Donacobiidae, which seems to make a lot of sense.

#### TURDIDAE

Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*: Regular in the Pantanal and Intervalles.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*: Quite common around São Roque de Minas and Canastra. It has quite a distinctive call.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*: Just a few observations in Canastra and Intervalles.

#### MIMIDAE

Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*: A common bird of open areas.

## MOTACILLIDAE

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens* (H): Several birds were heard along the Transpantaneira and in Canastra, but none seen.

Ochre-breasted Pipit *Anthus nattereri*: Great scope and detailed views of this seldom seen, and range-restricted species in Canastra. Its golden-black back and large size were quite distinctive. It is treated as Vulnerable in BirdLife's "Threatened Birds of the World" and occurs only in a small area of south-central Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina.

## EMBERIZIDAE

Brown Tanager *Orchesticus abeillei*: Good views of this SE Brazil endemic at Intervalles. It is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World". The genus name is derived from the Greek *orkhestikos* (= of dancing), as it was originally described as allied to the genus *Saltator* (= a dancer, in Latin).

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*: Quite a few in the Pantanal, but never as common as the following species.

Yellow-billed Cardinal *Paroaria capitata*: Common all over the Pantanal, where we saw hundreds in places.

Cinnamon Tanager *Schistochlamys ruficapillus*: Excellent views of the nominate race in Canastra.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*: A handful of observations of this outstanding tanager at Intervalles.

White-banded Tanager *Neothraupis fasciata*: A group of three birds seen well in the woody savannas of Canastra. Also named Shrike-like Tanager, given its outstanding resemblance with *Lanius* Shrikes.

Olive-green Tanager *Orthogonys chloricterus*: Regular encounters of this drab tanager at Intervalles.

White-rumped Tanager *Cypsnagra hirundinacea*: Amazing views of a very responsive pair that came from the distance to put up a special show for us at the *Curral de Pedra* in Canastra. One of my favourite birds of the trip.

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*: A single bird was well seen in the woodlands of the Pantanal.

Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*: Several showed very well at Intervalles.

Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*: Common. We even managed to admire the usually hidden narrow scarlet streak on the hind crown.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*: Common in the state of Mato Grosso, but also present in Canastra.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*: Common in the Pantanal and Canastra.

Azure-shouldered Tanager *Thraupis cyanoptera*: A couple of observations of this Brazilian endemic at Intervalles. It was once considered rare, but has now been found to be more common and widespread. It is treated as Near-Threatened in "Threatened Birds of the World".

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*: A few encounters.

Diademed Tanager *Stephanophorus diadematus*: Repeated fantastic views of this really stunning Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*: A few birds seen in and around Canastra.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*: Fairly common in Canastra, but first seen in its full splendour in Mococa.

Chestnut-backed Tanager *Tangara preciosa*: Excellent views of this write-in at Intervalles, where we saw several birds around the lodges.

Green-headed Tanager *Tangara seledon*: Several superb close up studies of this pretty Atlantic Forest endemic at Intervalles.

Red-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanocephala*: Another fantastic endemic of the SE Brazil forests. We saw a few at Canastra.

Brassy-breasted Tanager *Tangara desmaresti*: Probably one of the prettiest Atlantic Forest endemics, and quite common at Intervales.

Gilt-edged Tanager *Tangara cyanoventris* (NL): A single bird of this Atlantic Forest endemic seen by Svein (and others?) in one of our walks at Intervales.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*: Both males and females were seen near São Roque de Minas and in Canastra.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*: Regularly recorded, usually in flowering or fruiting trees.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*: An immature bird seen well in the dry forests of the Casca D'Anta.

Rufous-headed Tanager *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*: A single bird seen very briefly by Betinho and myself at Intervales. Quite a pity, because this is a smart Atlantic Forest endemic.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*: A group of nearly 10 birds seen well in one of our walks at Intervales.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Fairly common.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*: Common at Intervales and Canastra.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*: Regular encounters with this modestly-attired species in the Pantanal and Canastra.

Uniform Finch *Haplospiza unicolor*: Fair looks at this Atlantic Forest endemic in the bamboo-choked forest at Intervales.

Red-rumped Warbling-Finch *Poospiza lateralis*: A single bird showed well near our house at Intervales.

Stripe-tailed Yellow Finch *Sicalis citrina*: Good looks of a few birds, particularly near the *Curral de Pedra* in Canastra.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*: Regular encounters, including outstanding views at the visitor's centre in Canastra.

Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch *Emberizoides herbicola*: Quite common in the Canastra grasslands.

Great Pampa-Finch *Embernagra platensis*: Fairly common in the grasslands of Canastra.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*: Just a few observations of this widespread and well-known species.

Plumbeous Seedeater *Sporophila plumbea*: Several males seen both in the upper and lower parts of Canastra.

Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris*: A few encounters in the Pantanal.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis*: Seen first by me in the gas station near Cuiabá, and then seen by most of us in Canastra.

Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*: A couple of observations around near São Roque de Minas.

White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera* (LO): A single bird seen briefly by me in the Pantanal, but never seen again (sorry).

Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*: A single female seen along the Rio Cuiabá in the Pantanal. A great example of the importance of specimen's tags (this species does certainly not occur in Angola, at all). It is included in the genus *Sporophila* in most recent taxonomic treatments.

Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris*: Perfect views of a single bird in the garden of the fazenda at Mococa. It proved to be the only individual seen throughout the trip.

Pileated Finch (Grey Pileated-Finch) *Coryphospingus pileatus*: Excellent views of this lovely bird near the cows at the tick place in Minas Gerais. The red crest offers a dramatic sight when raised in excitement.

Red-crested Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*: Excellent views of a pair along the Rio Cuiabá.

- Black-throated Saltator *Pitylus fuliginosus* (H): A single bird heard at Intervalles, but never came to our tape.
- Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*: Common in the Pantanal.
- Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*: Good looks in the forest edge at Intervalles.
- Ultramarine Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa brissonii*: Very good views of a bird at Intervalles by some of us, and then by all of us in the lower stretches of Canastra, in one of our adventures checking the river for mergansers.

#### PARULIDAE

- Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*: We saw this widespread species in all three localities, but was never too common. The scientific epithet is a Guarani Indian name, referring to the 'little yellow chest' of this species.
- Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*: Excellent views in the marsh at Intervalles.
- Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*: Possibly the most abundant bird at Intervalles, occurring both in pairs or within mixed-species flocks.
- White-bellied Warbler *Basileuterus hypoleucus*: Several found in the gallery forests of Canastra. Resembles Golden-crowned Warbler in overall shape, appearance and behaviour.
- Flavescent Warbler *Basileuterus flaveolus*: Very well seen in the gallery forests of the Pantanal.
- White-browed Warbler (White-rimmed W) *Basileuterus leucoblepharus*: Several birds heard and some seen at Intervalles.
- Riverbank Warbler *Basileuterus rivularis*: We heard an individual in a stream at Intervalles, but it did not react to or tape. Fortunately, Connie saved our honour and got good views of it.

#### ICTERIDAE

- Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*: Regular encounters with this large and showy species.
- Solitary Black Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*: Good looks at several in the Pantanal.
- Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*: Small numbers in the Pantanal.
- Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*: A single bird seen at Intervalles roaming around our lodge.
- Golden-winged Cacique *Cacicus chrysopterus*: Many sightings of these smart-looking birds at Intervalles.
- Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis*: A few in the Pantanal. In south-central Brazil the shoulders are tawny-chestnut, while elsewhere in their range the shoulders can be yellow.
- Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus*: This attractive species was regularly seen in the Pantanal. The original Troupial *Icterus jamacaii* has been split in three distinct species: Venezuelan Troupial *I. icterus* of Venezuela and Colombia, Orange-backed Troupial *I. croconotus* of western Amazonia south to northern Argentina, and *I. jamacaii* has been renamed Campo Oriole and is endemic to north-eastern Brazil.
- Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*: Common and very vocal. The easiest way to identify this species is to listen to its voice, and look for the groove on its bill (now, that's easy...).
- Scarlet-headed Blackbird *Amblyramphus holosericeus*: Great looks at this handsome marsh inhabitant in the Pantanal.
- Unicoloured Blackbird *Agelaius cyanopus*: Small numbers in the Pantanal. Easiest to identify by the accompanying females.
- Yellow-rumped Marshbird *Pseudoleistes guirahuro*: Several encounters in Canastra. The scientific epithet is a Guarani word that refers to a black and yellow (*huro*) bird (*guira*).
- Bay-winged Cowbird *Agelaioides badius*: Small numbers were noted in the Pantanal. Note that this species was formerly included within the genus *Molothrus*.
- Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivora*: Excellent views in the Pantanal, particularly at the gate of the Transpantaneira and several feeders in our hotels. Note that this species was formerly

included within the monotypic genus *Scaphidura*. A brood parasite on caciques and oropendolas.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*: Regular encounters throughout the trip.

White-browed Blackbird *Leistes superciliosus* (NL): A single bird seen by Martine (and others?) in the Pantanal.

#### FRINGILLIDAE

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica*: A single individual found at Intervalles (flying over the football field), and two in Canastra.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris*: A pair seen well in the Pantanal, while looking for jaguars.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* (NL): A single bird seen by Svein (and others?) in Mococa.

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*: Several of this Atlantic Forest endemic heard and a couple seen at Intervalles.

#### PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Quite common in towns and villages.

#### MAMMALS

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*: Quite abundant in Canastra, where we obtained amazing views of this fantastic creature. On the two days on the upper parts of the park we found at least 7 and 10 different individuals, many of which were mothers carrying the young on their backs. The case where we actually saw the female lying down to get its baby on top of her was quite an experience. Considered within the top three mammals of the trip by popular vote.

Brazilian Porcupine (Prehensile-tailed P) *Coendou prehensilis*: Fantastic views of this seldom seen and rare mammal along a river in the Pantanal.

Azara's Agouti *Dasyprocta azarai*: One seen in the Pantanal and one at Intervalles.

Brazilian Guinea-Pig *Cavia aperea*: Two lone individuals were seen crossing the road, once along the Transpantaneira, and then at Intervalles.

Capybara *Hydrochaerus hydrochaeris*: Very abundant in the Pantanal, where is supposed to be one of the main items in the jaguar's diet. We saw several family groups, including many babies and adult males patrolling the area for possible predators.

Forest Rabbit *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*: One seen at night at Intervalles, and two others on our way down from Canastra at late evening.

Jaguarundi *Felis yaguarondi*: Quick, but decent views of one individual crossing a secondary road in the Pantanal.

Jaguar *Panthera onca*: Certainly, the creature of the tour! I have never seen a place with such abundance of jaguars as the northern Pantanal, where we recorded three jaguars in three days. Although our views from the boat were good, they were not as spectacular as the one we got in land, when we found a rather large individual carrying a recently killed caiman. The cold, golden eyes of the male staring at us with blood on its mouth will never be forgotten!! Also, it will be hard to forget our late afternoon on the river, where we heard for over an hour the growls and *miaous* of a jaguar at very close range. Amazing. By far, the mammal of the trip, by popular vote.

Maned Wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus*: Another fantastic story to tell to our grandchildren. After a lot of effort, we managed to get outstanding views of one in Canastra, and in fact, was our very last animal of the tour, making the whole experience even more amazing. This was an excellent example of team work, where we got our best spotter (Martine) working in

conjunction with the experienced Pete (who actually found the wolf), and the rest of us, who would not rest until the very last minute. And finally, the perseverance of Warren, who together with Svein and myself, searched for the sleeping wolf and finally got it to move out of its hide. The second most important mammal of the trip, by popular vote.

Crab-eating Fox *Dusicyon thous*: At least 6 individuals seen on our rather freezing night spotting experience along the Transpantaneira.

Hoary Fox *Lycalopex vetulus* (NL): This species was seen by part of the group.

Neotropical River Otter *Lutra longicaudis* (NL): Quick, but good views of one individual found by Martine and François on our way to São Roque de Minas.

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*: Exquisite looks at several in the Pantanal, where we even saw a family group fishing and tearing huge fish apart at mere 5 meters from the boat. The fantastic sound that they make will also be remembered.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*: Several encounters in the Pantanal.

Great Fishing Bat (Greater Bulldog Bat) *Noctilio leporinus*: Just a few seen from one of the bridges in the Pantanal, where we could even feel the sweet scent typical of this species.

Lesser Fishing Bat (Lesser Bulldog Bat) *Noctilio albiventris*: These were the common small bats flying low over the rivers of the Pantanal.

Black-tailed Marmoset *Callithrix melanura*: Excellent views of at least four individuals at the gate of the Transpantaneira. This species, also known as the Pantanal Marmoset, was formerly included in an expanded *Callithrix argentata* group.

Black-tufted Marmoset *Callithrix penicillata*: Detailed studies of a group with six individuals near Casca D'Anta, just outside our restaurant.

Black-striped Capuchin *Cebus libidinosus*: Several seen in the Pantanal. Note that the species-level taxonomy of this genus remains highly controversial. Here we have adopted a rather liberal view, accepting many allopatric and distinct forms as good species.

Black-tufted Capuchin *Cebus nigritus*: A group of four seen at the distance at Intervalles. As mentioned at the IUCN red list cite, although this form is quite wide ranging in the Atlantic Forest, the species is nonetheless subject to habitat loss, degradation, and hunting across its range. The species is considered a crop pest in some areas (in sugar cane and pine plantations) and is generally scarce except in large protected areas

Black Howler (Black H Monkey) *Alouatta caraya*: Great looks at several in the Pantanal. Regularly heard.

Collared peccary *Dicotyles tajacu*: We found a group of four at night along the Transpantaneira, and then a group of three at Intervalles.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*: Four individuals found on our very first day in the Pantanal. An introduced species that became feral in the Pantanal.

Pampas Deer *Odocoileus bezoarticus*: Daily encounters with many individuals, including male, female and young in the grasslands of Canastra, with up to seven different individuals recorded in a single day.

Red Brocket *Mazama americana*: A few individuals well seen in the Pantanal.

Marsh Deer *Blastocerus dichotomus*: This beautiful deer showed well on several occasions in the Pantanal, and the favourite animal of our driver Joselino.

Brazilian Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*: Amazing looks at this strange animal in the backyard of our hotel at Pixaim.

BIRD OF THE TRIP (by popular vote)

1. Brazilian Merganser
2. Hyacinth Macaw
3. Agami Heron

MAMMAL OF THE TRIP

1. Jaguar
2. Maned Wolf
3. Giant Anteater