

# MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL: PANTANAL SAFARI & CHAPADA DOS GUIMARÃES

JUNE 19 – JULY 1, 2009

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*In a country renowned for its diversity of habitats and avifauna, the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso stands out. From the vast marshes of the Pantanal to the spectacular country of the Chapada dos Guimarães, this region has something for everyone.*

*Lying in the seasonally flooded basin of the Paraguay River, these vast lowlands of the Pantanal are home to countless numbers of waterbirds, raptors, and other wildlife. The abundance and diversity of large mammals (capybara, giant otter, marsh deer, Brazilian tapir, black howler monkey, ocelot, crab-eating fox, coatimundi—even the rarely-seen jaguar is possible), coupled with throngs of herons, ibis, storks, ducks, raptors, and kingfishers will immediately recall Africa to those who have been there. Small birds are equally conspicuous, and daily lists of over 150 species are commonplace. Among the prizes we'll seek are Maguari Stork, Jabiru (sometimes more than 200 present in a single drying pool), Plumbeous Ibis, Southern Screamer, Chaco Chachalaca, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Bare-faced Curassow, Sunbittern, Sungrebe, the incomparable Hyacinth Macaw, Golden-collared Macaw, Black-hooded Parakeet, Turquoise-fronted Parrot, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Nacunda Nighthawk, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Buff-bellied Hermit, Blue-crowned Trogon, Toco Toucan, Purplish Jay, Pale-crested and White woodpeckers, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Red-billed Scythebill, Chotoy Spinetail, Gray-crested Cacholote, Mato Grosso Antbird, Black-backed Water-Tyrant, Fawn-breasted Wren, Green-backed Becard, Orange-backed Troupial, Epaulet Oriole, Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Yellow-billed Cardinal, Rusty-collared Seedeater and others.*

*The Chapada dos Guimarães is situated near the western rim of Brazil's Planalto Central—a land of beautifully eroded and fractured red rimrock formations, drained by spectacular waterfalls and dissected by deep ravines containing fingers of Amazonian forest. The surrounding countryside is “cerrado,” a strange chaparral-like habitat with sandy soil and low gnarled trees dispersed amongst a shrub-dominated plant community. Although it doesn't harbor as diverse an avifauna as the Pantanal, the Chapada region is home to many highly localized species that we won't see elsewhere. Huge Greater Rheas and bizarre Red-legged Seriemas frequent this open country, where the melancholy whistles of Red-winged Tinamous may be nearly drowned out by the rollicking duets of the endemic White-rumped Tanagers. Noisy mobs of Chalk-browed Mockingbirds, Curl-crested Jays, and Guira Cuckoos are among the more conspicuous birds, while more searching will be required to find such prizes as the recently described Chapada Flycatcher (described by Kevin Zimmer and Andrew Whittaker in 2001), Blue-winged Macaw, Peach-fronted Parakeet, Checkered Woodpecker, White-eared Puffbird, Horned Sungem, Rusty-backed Antwren, Rufous-winged Antshrike, Collard, Campo Flycatcher, Plain-crested Elaenia, the curiously shrike-like White-banded Tanager, Black-throated Saltator, Yellow-billed Blue Finch, and Coal-crested Finch. Some of our groups have even been treated to sightings of magnificent Crowned Eagles and Orange-breasted Falcons. We won't neglect the wooded ravines either, for these harbor a very different fauna that includes Undulated Tinamou, Red-shouldered Macaw, Dot-eared Coquette, Little Cuckoo, Blue-crowned Trogon, Blue-crowned Motmot, Brown*

*Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, Large-billed Antwren, the spectacular Helmeted Manakin, Planalto Tyrannulet, White-bellied and Flavescent warblers, Saffron-billed Sparrow and many others.*

*This tour can be taken by itself or in combination with our June 29-July 9 2009 Brazil: Alta Floresta's Cristalino Jungle Lodge tour.*

**June 19-20, Days 1–2: Travel to Cuiabá via São Paulo.** All participants will need to depart the USA this evening and arrive in São Paulo on June 20 in time to connect to the 9:00 a.m. departure of TAM Flight 3804 to Cuiabá (subject to change). After lunch we'll begin the three-hour drive to Pixaím in the Pantanal, with frequent stops for birding en route as the opportunity arises.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting should consider arriving in São Paulo on June 19 and spending the night at an airport-area hotel. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

NIGHT: Pantanal Wildlife Center, Pixaím (June 20)

**June 21-26, Days 3–8: Pantanal.** Dawn will bring an astonishing flurry of bird activity as we begin our Pantanal adventure. The riverine woodlands and brushy pastures here are alive with birds, among them Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, White-wedged Piculet, Pale-crested and Golden-green woodpeckers, Red-billed Scythebill, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Pale-legged and Rufous horneros, White-lored and Rusty-backed spinetails, Great Antshrike, Band-tailed Antbird, Helmeted Manakin, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Fuscous Flycatcher, Rufous Casiornis, Purplish Jay, Masked Gnatcatcher; Ashy-headed Greenlet, Green-backed Becard, Orange-backed Troupial, Epaulet Oriole, Red Pileated-Finch and many others. Such is the diversity of birdlife here that we could easily have seen more than 100 species before breaking for lunch! Our exact schedule over the next few days will remain flexible, allowing us to exploit changing water levels and birding conditions to full advantage.

On many afternoons we'll bird by boat, stopping repeatedly to drift close to the variety of kingfishers, herons, anhingas, and the like. One of our primary targets will be the spectacular giant otter, one of the most impressive mammals in South America.. River trips are also excellent for encountering birds like Sunbittern, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, and Boat-billed Heron. The late afternoon is a perfect time to see parrots and macaws returning to roost, as well as cracids such as the Chestnut-bellied Guan, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, and Chaco Chachalaca perched up in the open. As dusk gathers around us, the bugling of Green Ibis rings up and down the river, and spectacular Nacunda Nighthawks join the many Band-tailed Nighthawks in their pursuit of flying insects. On at least one day, we will make an extended morning boat trip, the focus of which will be upon finding a jaguar. These magnificent animals are elusive, and more often missed than seen, but this is a particularly good area for them and we will definitely make the effort. In the process, we'll be treated to a good show of riverine birds from the region, including (probably) Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns, Black Skimmer, Pied Lapwing and a variety of raptors and water birds.

As the dry season progresses, the once vast marshes of the Pantanal become shrinking pools that concentrate wading birds, capybara, and yellow caiman. Herons and egrets (including Capped Heron and Rufescent Tiger-Heron), Wood Storks, magnificent Jabirus, Roseate Spoonbills, and four species of ibis (including Plumbeous Ibis and Buff-necked Ibis) are all in abundance. Raptors are conspicuous as well, with Snail Kites and Black-collared Hawks being particularly abundant. Five species of kingfishers frequent the stream and river edges, where we'll also remain alert for Sungrebes, Sunbitterns, and Gray-necked Wood-Rails. As we enter the increasingly open marshlands, giant Southern Screamers are more in evidence, as are Southern Lapwings and Wattled Jacanas. Both Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns cruise over the larger bodies of water, and the skies are frequently filled with martins and swallows. Stately Maguari Storks frequent these more open areas, and depending on water levels, it's here that we could be treated to large numbers of waterfowl including Muscovy, Brazilian Teal, and one-to-three species of whistling-ducks. Parrots are also well represented in the Pantanal, among them fast-flying groups of Yellow-chevrons Parakeets, screeching colonies of Monk Parakeets, Turquoise-fronted Parrots, and colorful Golden-collared Macaws. However, one member of this family stands out above all others, the fabulous Hyacinth Macaw—biggest and most spectacular of its tribe and a near endemic of this region.

These incredible blue-and-yellow birds will be one of the primary targets as we travel through the Pantanal. At one of our lodges, these amazing birds frequently roost and feed right on the grounds near our cabins.

Although better known for its extensive marshes, the Pantanal also offers excellent gallery forest and savanna woodlands birding. Groups of screeching parrots, parakeets, and macaws constantly divert our attention from scanning the larger trees, where our glasses are apt to find Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Chaco Chachalacas, spectacular Toco Toucans, Chestnut-eared Aracaris, or groups of monkeys. Smaller birds are everywhere. Among those we'll seek out are Blue-crowned Trogon, Buff-bellied Hermit, Gilded Sapphire, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, Pale-crested Woodpecker, Campo Flicker, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, White-wedged Piculet, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Gray-crested Cacholote, White-rumped Monjita, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Pearly-vented and Stripe-necked tody-tyrants, Thrush-like Wren, Purplish Jay, Black-capped Donacobius, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Guira and Hooded tanagers, Yellow-billed Cardinal, Red Pileated-Finch, the stunning Scarlet-headed Blackbird, and many others.

We'll likely make at least one extended night drive during our stay here, with large mammals (particularly jaguar, cougar, ocelot and Brazilian tapir) as our primary targets. These drives will also provide us with opportunities for seeing night birds such as Scissor-tailed, Little and Spot-tailed nightjars, Great or Common potoo, and Great Horned Owl.

On Day 8, we will drive to Pousada Alegre, which is located along the northern end of the Trans-Pantanal Highway. This area is drier and brushier, providing suitable habitat for some species that are rare or that do not occur in the lower, wetter portions of the Pantanal, such as Blue-crowned Parakeet, White-fronted Woodpecker and Black-bellied Antwren. Night drives in this area have produced such treats as Giant Anteater, Crab-eating Fox, Crab-eating Raccoon, and both Common and Great potoos.

NIGHTS: Pantanal Wildlife Center, Pixaím (June 21, 24-25)  
Hotel Porto Jofre, Porto Jofre (June 22-23)  
Hotel Pousada Alegre (June 26)

**June 27, Day 9: Pantanal to Chapada.** Today gives us further opportunity to bird the grounds of Pousada Alegre and the northern part of the Trans-Pantanal Highway. Although this is only the fringe of the Pantanal, birds are amazingly abundant and conspicuous, and frequent stops will be the order of the morning. Greater Rheas are frequently seen along here and this area seems to be particularly good for species such as Pearl Kite, Golden-collared Macaw, Blue-crowned and Peach-fronted parakeet, White-fronted Woodpecker, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Black-bellied Antwren, Southern-scrub Flycatcher and Red-crested Cardinal. After lunch in Cuiabá, we'll drive north to Chapada dos Guimarães, a land of spectacular red rimrock formations clothed in a peculiar chaparral-like plant community known as "cerrado." Should time allow, we'll make a late afternoon visit to a spectacular nearby waterfall, where numbers of Blue-headed Parrots, White-eyed Parakeets, and even a few Blue-winged Macaws can often be seen coming to roost.

NIGHT: Pousada Penhasco, Chapada

**June 28-29, Days 10-11: Chapada Area.** We'll greet each dawn in the cerrado. Although avian diversity is lower here, this region contains many special birds that have limited distributions. Indeed, few of the birds here will be seen elsewhere on the tour. At first light we're treated to the noisy calls of Red-legged Seriemas, the haunting whistles of Red-winged Tinamous, and the rollicking duets of the endemic White-rumped Tanagers. Noisy mobs of Chalk-browed Mockingbirds, Curl-crested Jays, and bizarre Guira Cuckoos are among the more conspicuous birds whereas more searching will be required to find such prizes as Horned Sungem, White-vented Violetear, White-eared Puffbird, Rusty-backed Antwren, Rufous-winged Antshrike, Collared Crescent-chest, Chapada Flycatcher (described in 2001 by Kevin Zimmer and Andy Whittaker), Campo Suiriri, Plain-crested Elaenia, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant, White-banded Tanager, Black-throated Saltator, Yellow-billed Blue Finch, and Coal-crested Finch. Groups of huge Greater Rheas are also frequently seen lumbering across the landscape.

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As activity wanes in the cerrado we'll descend into the wooded valleys below, where fingers of forest bring extensions of Amazonian flora and fauna into the region. Bird diversity is greater here, and there will be much to look for. Among the possibilities are Undulated Tinamou, Red-shouldered Macaw, Dot-eared Coquette, Cinnamon-throated Hermit, Blue-crowned Trogon, Blue-crowned Motmot, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Brown Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, Planalto Woodcreeper, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, Large-billed Antwren, the spectacular Helmeted Manakin, Band-tailed and Fiery-capped manakins, Planalto Tyrannulet, White-bellied and Flavescent warblers, Gray-headed and Guira tanagers, Saffron-billed Sparrow and many others.

An extensive wooden boardwalk at our hotel offers great opportunities for birding, especially for raptor watching from the many spectacular overlooks. Among the possibilities are King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed and Short-tailed hawks, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Black-and-White and Black hawk-eagles, and even the rare and spectacular Crowned Eagle, which we have recorded on a few of our previous trips. Our 2008 group was treated to scope studies of a magnificent perched Harpy Eagle from these same lookouts. The hotel grounds are also an excellent place for seeing the tiny hoary fox.

NIGHTS: Pousada Penhasco, Chapada

**June 30-July 1, Days 12-13: Chapada to Cuiabá; Departure for Home or Begin Brazil: Alta Floresta's Cristalino Jungle Lodge.** After an early morning birdwatch to catch up on anything we may have missed, we will drive back to Cuiabá in time for the 4:45 p.m. departure of TAM Flight 3805 to São Paulo which is scheduled to arrive at 9:20 p.m. (subject to change), which will connect to most late flights to the USA (arriving on the morning of July 1, allowing time for homeward connections).

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting should consider spending the night of June 30 at an airport-area hotel in São Paulo and departing for home on July 1. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

Participants continuing on Brazil: Alta Floresta's Cristalino Jungle Lodge (June 29-July 9, 2009) will spend the night of June 30 in Cuiabá.

**TOUR LEADER:** Andrew Whittaker (a second leader will be added if group size warrants)

**Andrew Whittaker** has been based in Amazonian Brazil for the last 21 years. Andy's passion for birding and natural history started at the early age of seven in the UK. For the past 26 years Andy has worked with birds, traveling around the world studying bird migration in Canada, Israel, Borneo, and the UK. Working in the Brazilian rainforest for the Smithsonian Institution has made Andy an authority on Amazonian birds and the region's natural history, and he has authored many technical publications on the region. He was a consultant for the prestigious *Life of Birds* series by David Attenborough, and is a research associate of the Museum Goeldi, in Belém. At present Andy is working with Kevin Zimmer on a comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil. Andy has extensive tour leading experience, having led tours throughout South and Central American countries, the UK, and the Antarctic. He immensely enjoys sharing his fascination and knowledge of Neotropical birds, animals, and their conservation with others. Andy's special interest is bird vocalizations; his knowledge of Neotropical voices has enabled him to make several important ornithological discoveries and add 18 species to the Brazilian list. Andy is a member of the Brazilian Ornithological Committee, and lives in Manaus with his wife Nadime, their son Steven, and daughters, Luana and Suzana.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 14 participants.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$4295** per person in double occupancy. This includes all food from lunch on Day 2 to lunch on Day 12, all lodging during the tour, ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Cuiabá and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$565**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation Penalties and Refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less \$300 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$300.
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available.

**FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE:** A brochure and application form for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. **We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness.** VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. **Contact Travel Insured International prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**AIR INFORMATION:** Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or interna-

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tional air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

Note that there are specific internal commercial Brazilian flights associated with this tour, the cost of which is not covered by the tour fee. Due to the complicated nature and limited availability of these flights, you are strongly encouraged to confirm reservations with Victor Emanuel Travel as early as possible.

**CLOTHING:** Weather will be generally warm to hot. Light field clothing, including several pairs of pants and shorts and comfortable shirts, will be appropriate. One set of warm clothing should be included in the unlikely event of a cold front (which could bring the temperatures down into the 50s) reaching the region or more likely a cool early morning up on the higher ground of the Chapada. A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are also recommended for protection. Be sure to have one pair of good hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes and a second pair to change into. A swimsuit is also suggested, and raingear is recommended. Dress will be casual throughout. Laundry can be done at Pantanal Wildlife Center and Pousada Penhasco.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current U.S. passport and **VISA** are required to enter Brazil. Your visa must be obtained in the U.S. prior to departure and is issued by Brazilian consulates. For further information, you may wish to contact the Brazil consulate nearest you or Pinnacle Travel Document Systems ([www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com) on the web or 888-838-4867 by phone), a company which handles visa procurement. Currently, tourist visas to Brazil are valid for multiple entries up to five years from the initial entry. However, the first visit must be made within 90 days of obtaining the visa, or else the visa is invalidated.

**CURRENCY:** Brazilian Real. Master Card and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, but all are useful, particularly in major centers. Travelers' checks are difficult to use in most areas of Brazil.

**HEALTH PRECAUTIONS:** Yellow fever vaccination is highly recommended, as well as polio and tetanus. Malaria has been confirmed in Brazil, including the chloroquine-resistant strain. There have been some recent changes in recommendations for malaria prophylaxis. Mefloquine (Lariam) is now the drug of choice in all areas where chloroquine-resistant malaria is present. A single dose should be taken one week before the start of the tour, continued during the tour, and for four weeks after its conclusion. Mefloquine is available by prescription only and may not be suitable for those using cardio-vascular medication; consult your physician. Cholera has been reported in Brazil, but no country requires cholera vaccination for direct travel from the USA and no vaccinations are required to return to the USA. Please consult your physician for any recommended preventative treatment. Your leader will have iodine tablets should they be needed for water purification. A good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (877) FYI-TRIP. You can check the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html) (click on travel health). We suggest that participants consult their physician as well as the CDC for current recommendations before beginning a prophylaxis regimen.

If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

**INSECT PROTECTION:** The use of a repellent containing DEET is recommended. We suggest bringing two squeeze bottles of Cutter's or OFF.

**BAGGAGE:** Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on bag if possible, as some of the vehicles have very limited luggage space. As a precaution, we recommend packing a change of clothes, your binoculars, toiletries, travel documents, and walking shoes in your carry-on.

**ITEMS TO BRING:** Pack a flashlight or headlamp, water bottle or small canteen, alarm clock, and day pack. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. Many electrical outlets in Brazilian hotels and lodges require a different plug type than the standard outlets in the United States. Therefore, a set of plug adaptors (available at Radio Shack as well as a wide range of other stores, including most airport terminal gift shops that sell travel accessories) is recommended for participants wishing to charge camera batteries or other appliances.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Country Telephone Code:** 55

**Electric Current:** 110 Volts in Rio, São Paulo, Brasília, Belo Horizonte, Belém, Manaus, and 220 Volts elsewhere.

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEBSITES TO KNOW:**

**Health-**Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC)

877-FYI-TRIP or [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

**Weather**

900-WEATHER or [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

**Travel Advisories**

202/647-5225

**SUGGESTED READING:** Our website at [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com) offers an affiliated online store which carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

***Birds***

Note: At present there is no adequate comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil. The book by Souza (listed below) has generally weak illustrations and text, but does offer some sort of illustration of most birds that we will encounter in a single portable book. For those wishing for good illustrations and informative text, we recommend a combination of the Erize *et al.* guide (covers the non-passerines) and the two volumes by Ridgely and Tudor (covers virtually all of the passerines). The two Ridgely & Tudor books, although nearly state-of-the-art, are large and heavy. Many participants choose to remove the plates from these books and have them re-bound separately.

De la Pena, Martin R. and Maurice Romboli. *Birds of Southern South America* (Collins Illustrated Checklist). HarperCollins, 1999.

Erize, Francisco, Jorge Rodriguez Mata, and Maurice Rumboll. *Birds of South America, Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers*. 2007. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, USA. Generally good illustrations and useful written descriptions of the non-passerine birds of South America. A good complement to the two volumes by Ridgely and Tudor listed below.

Hilty, Steven L. *Birds of Tropical America*. Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. Subtitle: "A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity." (Paperback April 1996.)

Pena, Martin and Martin Rodolfo de la Pena. *Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica*. London: HarperCollins, 1999. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America, Volume I: The Oscine Passerines: Jays, Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes and Allies, Vireos, Wood-warblers, Tanagers, Icterids and Finches*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1989. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America Volume II: The Suboscine Passerines: Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers, Antbirds, Gnateaters, and Tapaculos, Tyrant Flycatchers, Manakins and Cotingas*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1994. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Souza, Deodata. *Todas as Aves do Brazil: Guia De Campu Para Identificacao (All the Birds of Brazil: A Guide to Identification)*. Dall, 2002. Available from Buteo Books (1-800-722-2460 or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com)). Very

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basic illustrations and text, but is portable and does present some sort of illustration of most of the species that we will encounter.

### ***Butterflies***

D'Abreu, Bernard. *Butterflies of South America*. Australia: Hill House, 1984. Good pocket guide, covers many genera, nice pictures.

### ***Mammals***

Emmons, Louise H. *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. Good pictures and excellent text. (An audio field guide CD also available from this author: see below.)

### ***General Nature***

Caufield, C. *In the Rainforest*. Chicago: Random House, 1985.

Forsyth, Adrian, Ken Miyata et al. *Tropical Nature*. Scribner, 1987. (paperback)

Kricher, John. *A Neotropical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.

Pierson, David L., and Les Belesky. *The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide Brazil Amazon and Pantanal*. Academic Press, 2001.

Stap, Don. *Parrot without a Name: The Search for the Last Unknown Birds on Earth*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. An account of field expeditions with Ted Parker and John O'Neill, among others.

### ***Recording***

English, Peter H. and Theodore A. Parker, III. *Birds of Eastern Ecuador* Cornell: Laboratory of Ornithology, 1992. ([http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab\\_cds.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html))

Emmons, Louise H., Bret M. Whitney and David L. Ross. *Sounds of Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. ([http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab\\_cds.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html))

**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

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