

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

AUGUST 1-13, 2007

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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 August 11-28, 2007 Amazonian Brazil Tour.*

**August 1-2, 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 August 2 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 August 1 and spending the night at an airport-area hotel. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

NIGHT: Hotel Fazenda Santa Tereza, Pixaím (August 2)

**August 3-8, 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, aningas, 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.

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 three species of whistling-ducks. Parrots are also well represented in the Pantanal, among them fast-flying groups of Yellow-chevroned 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.

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.

NIGHTS: Hotel Fazenda Santa Tereza, Pixaím (August 3, 6-7)  
Hotel Porto Jofre, Porto Jofre (August 4-5)  
Hotel Pousada Alegre (August 8)

**August 9, 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 Guimaraes, 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

**August 10-11, 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 your leaders), 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.

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-

***Mato Grosso, Brazil: Pantanal Safari & Chapada dos Guimaraes, Page 4***

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. The hotel grounds are also an excellent place for seeing the tiny hoary fox.

NIGHTS: Pousada Penhasco, Chapada

**August 12-13, Days 12-13: Chapada to Cuiabá; Departure for Home or Travel to Manaus to Begin Amazonian Brazil.** After an early morning birdwatch to catch up on anything we may have missed, we will drive back to Cuiabá in time for the 5:00 p.m. departure of TAM Flight 3805 to São Paulo which is scheduled to arrive at 9:15 p.m. (subject to change), which will connect to most late flights to the USA (arriving on the morning of August 13, allowing time for homeward connections).

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting should consider spending the night of August 12 at an airport-area hotel in São Paulo and departing for home on August 13. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

Participants continuing on Amazonian Brazil (August 11-28, 2007) will depart Cuiabá at the same time on TAM Flight 3898 to Brasilia and connect with TAM Flight 3542, which is scheduled to arrive in Manaus at 11:24 p.m.(subject to change).

**TOUR LEADERS:** Andrew Whittaker and Kevin Zimmer

**Andrew Whittaker** grew up in England where he started birding at the early age of seven, thanks to his father. Andy's great passion for tropical rainforests began in Borneo, which led him to move to the Amazonian rainforests of Brazil where he has spent the last 20 years. Working in the rainforest for the World Wildlife Federation and Smithsonian Institution has made Andy an authority on Amazonian birds and the region's natural history. He was a consultant for the prestigious *Life of Birds* series by David Attenborough, and has authored many technical publications on Neotropical birds. Andy speaks fluent Portuguese and is an experienced tour leader and excellent tour organizer, having led tours throughout South and Central America and the Antarctic for the past 18 years. His enthusiasm for showing and sharing with others his fascination for Neotropical birds and animals is contagious. Andy's special interest is Neotropical bird vocalizations; his knowledge of their voices has enabled him to make several exciting discoveries and add 16 species to the Brazilian list. Andy lives in Manaus with his wife Nadime, their son Steven, and daughters, Luana and Suzana.

**Kevin Zimmer** has authored three books and numerous papers dealing with field identification and bird-finding in North America. His book, *Birding in the American West: A Handbook*, deals with finding and identifying birds in the western United States. Living in Alaska contributed to his affection for the Far North, where he has anchored VENT's tour program since 1986. For the past 16 years he has concentrated his attention on the Neotropics, particularly on Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. He has directed VENT's Brazil program since 1991. Kevin has a PhD in biology (research emphasis in Avian Evolutionary Ecology) from New Mexico State University, and is currently a research associate of Cornell's Library of Natural Sounds and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. He has authored numerous technical papers on the taxonomy, distribution, and behavior of Neotropical birds, particularly those of the Amazon basin. He recently completed (with co-author Mort Isler) the major chapter on the *Thamnophilidae* (antbirds) for the prestigious *Handbook of Birds of the World* series. He and Andrew Whittaker are currently at work on a comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil, to be published by Princeton University Press. Kevin lives in Atascadero, California with his wife Susan. Their daughter Marina is in graduate school at Dominican University in San Rafael, California.

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

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$3695** 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 **\$590**. 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, complete the VENT registration form and return it with a deposit of \$500 per person (check or money order in US dollars). If registering by phone, the deposit must be received within 10 days or the space will be released. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before departure date, the deposit less \$75 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 to protect yourself.*

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$75
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** Application forms 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 to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. 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. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. This transaction is not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. You are not eligible to file a claim against that fund in the event of Victor Emanuel's default. CASOT #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 international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

**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 Chapada.

**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.

**CURRENCY:** Brazilian Real. Master Card and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, but all are useful, particularly in major centers.

**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. You can check with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta at 877-FYI-TRIP or [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) for further health information. We suggest that participants consult their physician as well as the CDC for current recommendations before beginning a prophylaxis regimen.

**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, towel, 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.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Country Telephone Code:** 55

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

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEBSITES TO KNOW:**

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

877-FYI-TRIP or [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)  
900-WEATHER or [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
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***

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

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.)

Hilty, Steven L. and Rodolphe Meyer. *Guide to the Birds of Venezuela*. November 2002) Princeton University Press, 2002. A guide to the birds of De Schauensee, to be published in November 2002.

Meyer de Schauensee, R. and W.H. Phelps, Jr. *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978. By far the most useful guide to South America's avifauna prior to Steve Hilty's guide. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

Meyer de Schauensee, R. *A Guide to the Birds of South America*. Livingston Publishing Company, 1970. (Reprinted 1982, paperback.) No pictures, but basic written descriptions of nearly all species. ABE Books ([www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)) has a large section on Meyer de Schauensee's many works.) (<http://birds.cornell.edu>;

select “Audio Guides”)

Narosky, T. and D. Yzurieta. *Birds of Argentina and Uruguay*. Zagier & Urruty, 1993. Although it is not a great field guide, it does illustrate many more of the birds of SE Brazil than does *Birds of Colombia*.

(<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select “Audio Guides”)

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 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'Abbrera, 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.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or

other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on January 31, 2007 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.