

BIRDING IN BRAZIL (10/2-14/2009)

BRAZIL-TRIP REPORT09.DOC (10/22/09/09)

TRIP SUMMARY

A. Introduction

I want to thank you for participating on our Birding in Brazil trip. From my perspective, the trip was a great success! We saw **414** species of birds—including some very good ones, many exciting mammals (**17** species, including Jaguar!), and some of the most interesting habitats in the world.

You were a wonderful group! I very much appreciated your enthusiasm and cooperation despite the heat! I also appreciated your willingness to work together as a team, so that everyone could experience the many highlights of the trip.

I hope that you will join us on another expedition in the near future.

B. Contents of Trip Summary

1. Trip Highlights
2. Location Summaries
3. Bird and Mammal Checklists

Thanks again for participating on our expedition!

Dave.

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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

1. Seeing the jaguar up close but not too personal;
2. Meeting Nicholas and hearing about REGUA – his incredible enthusiasm for all things REGUA;
3. Learning about digiscoping from Fabiano;
4. Seeing the hummingbirds at David Miller's home;
5. Sunrises and sunsets – late afternoon sun on the wetlands at REGUA;
6. Meeting new people;
7. The Brazilian national drink (Caipirinha);
8. The boat rides in the early evening;
9. An afternoon walk at the wetlands at REGUA;
10. The vastness of the Pantanal landscape;
11. The quick walk around the square at Chapada;
12. Finding hidden surprises in the seemingly empty areas;
13. Watching the antics of the silly jacanas;
14. Seeing the Pantanal and how the animals, birds, and vegetation adapt to the flooding;
15. Seeing so many birds and animals I had never seen in the wild before;
16. Deep red sunset light reflected in the river returning from seeing the jaguar with magic memories still in mind and nightjars overhead;
17. Sensory color overload at the banana stand and at David Miller's;
18. Sitting quietly by the river watching a Green Ibis and a Sunbittern;
19. Watching the hummingbird feeders at REGUA and at the Miller's;
20. Lizard of ahhhhs at the Pantanal;
21. Watching and enjoying the mixed flock of tanagers, becards, etc., in the fig tree at the edge of the field on the Green Trail at REGUA;
22. Amazing variety of outlandish birds, butterflies, dragonflies, etc.;
23. Birding from and with the open truck at Pousada Piuval – a great way to travel and see the birds;
24. The whole experience at the Pantanal Wildlife Center – from the atmosphere to food to the good birds to the boat trips and, especially, the jaguar!!;
25. Great birding moments at Chapada and very comfortable digs;
26. The entire experience at REGUA – great birds, great lodge, great walks and day trips, great food, and especially Nicholas and the conservation mission of REGUA;
27. Traveling with a great group of people – so much expertise in so many areas.

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TOP TEN BIRDS

1. Hyacinth Macaw (no surprise there!)
 2. Blue-crowned Motmot
 3. Red-and-green Macaw
 4. Sunbittern
 5. Ornate Hawk-Eagle
 6. Burrowing Owl
 7. Red-billed Scythebill
 8. Green-headed Tanager
 9. Eastern Striped Manakin
 10. Collared Crescentchest
- (there was a 24-way tie for 11th place)

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LOCATION SUMMARIES

1. REGUA (10/3)

This location includes all species seen beginning at Rio de Janeiro International Airport, on the drive to the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge and REGUA, and on the grounds of the reserve.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

2. REGUA (10/4)

Includes all species seen at the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge, during our hike along the Green Trail, and during our late afternoon walk to the Common Potoo nest.

Time: 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.

3. Highlands (10/5)

Includes all species seen on the grounds of the lodge, during our stop at the banana stand, on Pico Caladonia, and at David Miller's home outside of Novo Friburgo.

Time: 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

4. REGUA (10/6)

Includes all species seen on the grounds of the lodge, during our excursion up to Maria's Cabin, during our afternoon walk near the wetlands, and during our after-dinner owling expedition.

Time: 6:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m..

5. Travel Day, REGUA to the Pantanal, (10/7)

Includes all species seen on the grounds of REGUA, during our drive to the international airport in Rio (including Rio harbor), and during our drive from the airport in Cuiabã to our lodgings at Pousada Piuval (few sightings due to the late arrival).

Time: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

6. Pousada Piuval (10/8)

Includes all species seen at the lodge, during our morning drive in the "safari truck" and hike on the grounds, and during our afternoon drive to the lake, boat ride to the tower and back, and during our return to the lodge after dark.

Time: 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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LOCATION SUMMARIES

7. Pousada Piuval to Pantanal Wildlife Center (10/9)

Includes all species seen at the lodge and during our morning drive and hike on the grounds and during our drive along the Transpantaneira.

Time: 6:15 a.m. – noon

Includes all species seen on the grounds of the Pantanal Wildlife Center, during our late afternoon boat ride on the Pixaim River, and our night drive along the Transpantaneira.

Time: noon – 7:45 p.m.

8. Pantanal Wildlife Center (10/10)

Includes all species seen at the lodge, during our early morning walk in the gallery forest and during our afternoon boat trip on the Pixaim River.

Time: 6:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

9. Pantanal Wildlife Center to Pousada Penhasco (10/11)

Includes all species seen at the lodge, during our early morning walk along the access road, and during the mid-morning walk to the Great Potoo nest, and during our drive north along the Transpantaneira.

Time: 6:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Includes all species seen during our drive to Chapada dos Guimarães and on the grounds of the Pousada Penhasco.

Time: 2:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

10. Chapada dos Guimarães (10/12)

Includes all species seen at the lodge, during our early morning walk in the cerrado habitat, our visit to a forested valley with an Ornate Hawk-Eagle nest, our lunch stop in Chapada, and our brief afternoon expedition (aborted due to torrential rain).

Time: 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

11. Chapada dos Guimarães (10/13)

Includes all species seen at the lodge, during our early morning walk in the cerrado habitat, birding in a wooded habitat and around small farms, at the overlook east of Chapada, and our afternoon visit to the pasture/cerrado habitats.

Time: 5:35 a.m. – 6:35 p.m.

12. Chapada dos Guimarães and Travel Day (10/14)

Includes all species seen at the lodge, during our early morning walk at the national park (Bridal Veil Falls) and during our drive to the airport at Cuiabá.

Time: 5:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.