

BRAZIL: THE PANTANAL AND SOUTHERN AMAZONIA



Jaguar, Rio Piquiri (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

05 – 18 August 2010

trip report by Bradley Davis

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Introduction: Brazil hosted the 2010 International Ornithological Congress in Campos do Jordão, São Paulo state, and many a participant resolved to take advantage of the situation and spend little extra time to bird elsewhere in Brazil. Cagan contacted me about the possibility of a trip to Cristalino and the Rio Azul, with perhaps a little time spent in the Pantanal to pick up a few outstanding species from a previous visit. When I mentioned the possibility of big cat sightings in the Pantanal, the plans changed a little and we were on our way. Little did I know just how successful we would be in the feline department...

The timing of this trip coincided with a severe drought in central-west Brazil, one that affected the Pantanal, *cerrado* and Amazon regions of Brazil, causing water shortages and forest fires across the region. The upshot of this, for the wildlife observer, was that many mammals were more visible than usual as they were forced to wander in search of food and particularly, to find fresh water. We had a

remarkable run on mammals, missing only Giant Anteater out of the big mammals that could be expected on this itinerary. Of course the 5 species of wild cats including 4 jaguars and 2 pumas would be difficult to beat (though some of the group professed their preference for our armadillo sightings), but the birds did their part as well. Avian highlights included Chestnut-bellied Guan, Long-winged Harrier, Sungrebe, Hyacinth Macaws, Golden-collared Macaw, Great Potoo, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Buff-bellied Hermit, all 5 Neotropical kingfishers, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Mato Grosso Antbird, Helmeted Manakin, Subtropical Doradito, Plain Tyrannulet and Fawn-breasted Wren amongst the usual horde of herons, storks, and other water birds in the Pantanal. During the southern Amazonia section of the tour, we racked up a big list at Pousada Rio Azul and Cristalino Jungle Lodge, with just a few of the highlights including Agami Heron, Tiny Hawk, White-browed Hawk, Cryptic Forest-Falcon, Marbled Wood-Quail, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet, Bald Parrot, Kawall's Amazon, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Ocellated Poorwill, Tapajos Hermit, Blue-necked Jacamar, Curl-crested Araçari, Gould's Toucanet, an undescribed species of spinetail, Crested and Pará Foliage-gleaners, Short-billed Leaf-tosser, 15 species of woodcreepers, loads of antbirds including Glossy Antshrike and Bare-eyed Antbird, Spotted Antpitta, Pompadour Cotinga, a bunch of manakins including Snow-capped, Pale-bellied Mourner, White-crested Spadebill, Royal Flycatcher, Tooth-billed Wren, and much much more. All told we amassed a list of 509 species seen or heard by the group, not including species recorded only by the tour leader.

On the way we enjoyed the company of many friendly Brazilians including Eduardo at Pousada Jaguar, Carlão and his wife Ivaní at Pousada Rio Azul, and our trusty river pilot and sharp-eyed local guide Valdírrio at Cristalino Jungle Lodge. As usual on any tour visiting these locations, the food was a big highlight, particularly at the Pousada Rio Azul, where Ivaní's culinary creations must surely rank amongst the best food anywhere in the Amazon. Furthermore, we managed to slow down enough at times to notice small things, be it the brilliant colour explosions of the flowering hardwood trees in the Pantanal, the crystal clear waters of the rio Azul (where we even had time for a refreshing dip), or the magnificence of the Amazon rainforest from above as seen at the canopy tower at Cristalino. While it is the spectacular wildlife that drives some of us to travel the world, such rich experiences are always amongst the things that one ends up remembering most vividly.



Itinerary:

August 5th: Arrival in Cuiabá. Transfer to Jaguar Reserve in northern Pantanal.

August 6th: Bird and mammal spotting on the Cuiabá river and affluents from Porto Jofre. Night at Jaguar Reserve.

August 7th: AM birding around Jaguar Reserve. PM transfer to Pousada Rio Claro, and boat trip on the Claro river for Giant Otters.

August 8th: AM birding at Pousada Rio Claro. PM transfer to Cuiabá with birding stops en route. Evening flight to Alta Floresta.

August 9th: AM birding at the Santa Helena river. PM transfer to Pousada Rio Azul.

August 10th: Birding at Pousada Rio Azul.

August 11th: Birding at Pousada Rio Azul.

August 12th: Birding at Pousada Rio Azul.

August 13th: AM birding at Pousada Rio Azul. PM transfer to Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

August 14th: Birding Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

August 15th: Birding Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

August 16th: Birding Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

August 17th: Birding Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

August 18th: AM birding at Cristalino and transfer to Alta Floresta for flights to Cuiabá and onward.



Cagan Sekercioglu, www.sekercioglu.org

Jabiru, Pantanal (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

Systematic Bird List:

A selectively annotated systematic bird list follows below. Taxonomic order and nomenclature is roughly based on that of the Comitê Brasileiro de Registros Ornitológicos, but does not incorporate their most recent updates of 2011. The list includes species seen or heard by the group from August 5th to 18th 2010. Species marked with a single asterisk (*) were heard only, while species marked with a double asterisk (**) were recorded by the leader only. A total of **509** bird species were recorded during the tour. Of those, 480 species were seen by some or all of the group, 27 species were heard only, and 2 species were seen by the leader only.

RHEAS (RHEIDAE)

Greater Rhea (*Rhea americana*)

TINAMOUS (TINAMIDAE)

* **Great Tinamou** (*Tinamus tao*) – Heard only, on 3 dates at Pousada Rio Azul and Cristalino.

* **Great Tinamou** (*Tinamus major*) – Heard only, on 3 dates at Cristalino.

* **White-throated Tinamou** (*Tinamus guttatus*) – Heard only, on the 11th at the Rio Azul.

Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*)

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) – Seen on the 10th on the entrance track at Pousada Rio Azul.

Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*) – 1 seen in thick scrub along the gallery forest trail at the Pousada Rio Claro on the 8th. Also heard on 8 other dates in the Pantanal, at Rio Azul and Cristalino.

* **Brazilian Tinamou** (*Crypturellus strigulosus*) – Heard on 7 dates in the Amazon.

* **Variiegated Tinamou** (*Crypturellus variegatus*)

GREBES (PODICEPIDAE)

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*)

CORMORANTS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

ANHINGAS (ANHINGIDAE)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNs (ARDEIDAE)

Whistling Heron (*Syrigma sibilatrix*) – We saw small numbers of these beautiful herons around the

Jaguar Reserve and also near the beginning of the *Transpantaneira*. The Brazilian name for this heron is *maria-faceira*, or ‘Make-up Mary’, fitting given the pastel colours adorning its bill and face.

Capped Heron (*Pilberodius pileatus*) – While I don’t advocate changing the English name of the latter species to reflect its Brazilian name, the local name for this species is far more fitting – *garça-real*, or the Royal Egret.

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)



Agami Heron, Rio Cristalino (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*) – An immature bird seen twice in the same spot on consecutive days on the rio Cristalino downstream from the Castanheira trail was a big highlight, particularly since our Pantanal itinerary really didn't give us much chance for the species (it is seen regularly at the Pantanal Wildlife Centre, normally a stop on our Pantanal trips but one we skipped in favour of a serious attempt to see Jaguar).

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – This nocturnal heron was seen during spotlighting trips in the Pantanal and at Cristalino; at the latter location we watched a fascinating scene as an adult bird tried its best to swallow a large *casudo* fish which was far too big for its gullet – it finally admitted defeat, but not before Cagan managed some nice photos!

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

STORKS (CICONIIDAE)

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

Maguari Stork (*Ciconia maguari*) – Seen only on the 6th in the Campos do Jofre near the end of the *Transpantaneira*. This species can be scarce and seasonal in the northern Pantanal.

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) – The emblematic stork of the Pantanal was seen there on a daily basis in impressive numbers; we saw several nests along the *Transpantaneira*, and as always one must be impressed by any bird which can make its nest tree look small. A surprising sighting came on the 13th when we photographed a nest with 4 chicks near the Teles Pires river between the Pousada Rio Azul and Cristalino Lodge: this represented the first confirmed nesting record for the species in the municipality of Alta Floresta. The birds were using an isolated Brazil nut tree of roughly 35m height; finally a nest tree that even a Jabiru family couldn't dwarf!

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS (THRESKIORNITHIDAE)

Plumbeous Ibis (*Theristicus caerulescens*)

Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus caudatus*)

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis ayennensis*)

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)

SCREAMERS (ANHIMIDAE)

Southern Screamer (*Chauna torquata*)

DUCKS (ANATIDAE)

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)

Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*)

NEW WORLD VULTURES (CATHARTIDAE)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*)

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

King Vulture (*Sarcorambus papa*)

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (ACCIPITRIDAE)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*)

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*)

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Long-winged Harrier (*Circus buffoni*) – 1 seen flying overhead at Porto Jofre as we returned in the afternoon from a successful Jaguar-spotting outing on the 6th was a surprise. This species isn't often encountered in the northern Pantanal, and indeed most sightings tend to be around Porto Jofre and along the rio Piquiri.

Tiny Hawk (*Accipiter superciliosus*)

Crane Hawk (*Geranoospiza caerulescens*)

White-browed Hawk (*Leucopternis kublî*) – This regional specialty was seen from the canopy tower at Cristalino on the 14th.

**** White Hawk** (*Leucopternis albicollis*) – Leader-only, seen twice by myself on drives to and from the Pousada Rio Azul in situations where the bird couldn't be seen from the back of the truck and conditions didn't allow us to stop for a look.

Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubutinga*)

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*)

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)

White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

FALCONS AND CARACARAS (FALCONIDAE)

Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)

Red-throated Caracara (*Ibycter americana*)

Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnanans*)

*** Barred Forest-Falcon** (*Micrastur ruficollis*)

Cryptic Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur mintoni*) – We had repeated excellent flight views of an adult bird which responded several times to playback, flying close over our heads and usually perching hidden, though some of us had it sitting a couple of times. This was possibly the male of a duetting pair which we had on the Old Boat Track at the Pousada Rio Azul. We also heard pairs on a couple of dates at Cristalino. This species was only described to science in 2002, and is endemic to the southern Amazon basin east of the Madeira river.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*)

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)

GUANS AND ALLIES (CRACIDAE)

Chaco Chachalaca (*Ortalis canicollis*)

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)

Chestnut-bellied Guan (*Penelope ochrogaster*) – Seen on 3 of 4 dates in the Pantanal, this handsome cracid is rated as Vulnerable on the 2010 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It was particularly common along the Rio Claro where we saw many individuals eating flowers in the canopy of galler forest on the afternoon of the 7th. The northern Pantanal is the easiest place in the world to see this range restricted species; we have also seen it on Birding Mato Grosso scouting trips to the Araguaia valley.

Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*)

Red-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cujubi*)

Razor-billed Curassow (*Mitu tuberosum*)

Bare-faced Curassow (*Crax fasciolata*) – Seen daily in good numbers in the Pantanal. We also observed the resident pair around the lodge at Cristalino on a couple of dates.

NEW WORLD QUAIL (ODONTOPHORIDAE)

Marbled Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) – A confiding pair seen at close range as they walked slowly away from us near the river's edge on the Jatobá trail at the Pousada Rio Azul on the 13th. The extremely dry conditions and well-maintained trails at the lodge made this possible, as we managed to detect the birds rustling in the leaf litter before they noticed us.

LIMPKIN (ARAMIDAE)

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

RAILS AND ALLIES (RALLIDAE)

The extremely dry conditions resulting from one of the worst droughts the region has seen in recent history nixed our chances for three rail species we encounter with some frequency in the Alta Floresta region, particularly around the Rio Azul – the pastures favoured by Gray-breasted, Ash-coloured, and Russet-crowned Crakes were dried out and the grasses dead and caked with dust. We heard not a peep from any of said species, in spite of a good amount of effort.

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

FINFOOTS (HELIORNITHIDAE)

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*)

SUNBITTERN (EURYPYGIDAE)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*)

SERIEMAS (CARIAMIDAE)

Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*) – After spending the bulk of our four days in the wetter southern portion of the northern Pantanal, we did well to score this dry country species near Poconé as we drove back to Cuiabá on the 8th.

JACANAS (JACANIDAE)

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)

AVOCETS & STILTS (RECURVIROSTRIDAE)

White-backed Stilt (*Himantopus melanurus*)

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (CHARADRIIDAE)

Pied Lapwing (*Vanellus cayanus*)

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)

SANDPIPERS (SCOLOPACIDAE)

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

TERNs (STERNIDAE)

Yellow-billed Tern (*Sternula superciliaris*)

Large-billed Tern (*Phaetusa simplex*)

SKIMMERS (RYNCHOPIDAE)

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

PIGEONS & DOVES (COLUMBIDAE)

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) – A scarce species in the Alta Floresta region, where we had a couple of birds during our final afternoon at the Pousada Rio Azul.

Picazuro Pigeon (*Patagioenas picazuro*)

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayannensis*)

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)

Picui Ground-Dove (*Columbina picui*)

Scaled Dove (*Columbina squammata*)

Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) – We saw several pairs of these striking doves at the *saleiro* near the Cacao trail at Cristalino on the 16th as we waited around mid-day in hopes that peccaries would visit to wallow.

Long-tailed Ground-Dove (*Uropelia campestris*) – Usually easy, this handsome little dove which favours *cerrado* and dry savannas played hard to get, finally found by Luc around the Pousada Rio Claro on our final morning in the Pantanal.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

* **Gray-fronted Dove** (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*)

PARROTS (PSITTACIDAE)

Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) – The biggest avian ticket in the Pantanal. These smart birds did not disappoint, with daily sightings in the *acuri* palms in the lodge grounds at Jaguar Reserve. These flocks have become rather habituated to human activity, and as such made for excellent photographic subjects. Ecotourism and a reduction in the number of individuals captured for the international pet trade have helped this species recover to a degree in the Pantanal. Nevertheless it is still rated as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) – Seen on a daily basis at Alta Floresta, the Rio Azul, and Cristalino. The three large *Ara* macaws are abundant in this region – perhaps moreso around the Pousada Rio Azul than anywhere else visited on this tour.

Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)

Red-and-green Macaw (*Ara chloropterus*)

Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severus*)

Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)

Golden-collared Macaw (*Primolius auricollis*) – After views that could best be described as ‘distant’ and ‘fleeting’ on the 6th, we saw several pairs on each the 7th and 8th on the Rio Claro, always a good spot for this species.

Blue-crowned Parakeet (*Aratinga acuticaudata*)

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)

Peach-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga aurea*)

Nanday Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*) – Great views of a flock of 15-20 birds that attended flowering trees on a ranch beside the Pousada Rio Claro in the morning on the 8th, before they flew over to the lodge and worked the big mango trees by the front desk for a while.

Crimson-bellied Parakeet (*Pyrrhura perlata*) – This specialty of the south and east Amazon basin did not disappoint at Cristalino Lodge, where a small flock showed up on queue at the forest salt lick late morning on the 14th.

Santarém (Madeira) Parakeet (*Pyrrhura snetblageae*) – This recently split member of the old Painted Parakeet (*P. picta*) complex is common in the Alta Floresta region, particularly along fast-flowing rocky rivers such as the rio Azul and the Cristalino, where they often descend to the rocks to ingest minerals during the heat of the day. Seen on a near daily basis in the Amazon.

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

Dusky-billed Parrotlet (*Forpus sclateri*)

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*)

Golden-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris chrysoptera*)

Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet (*Touit buetii*) – Seen on 2 dates and heard on several others at both Cristalino and the Rio Azul. As always, the birds were little more than specks high in the sky as they flew over in the stratosphere.

White-bellied Parrot (*Pionites leucogaster*)

Orange-cheeked Parrot (*Gypopsitta barrabandi*)

Bald Parrot (*Gypopsitta aurantiocephala*) – The star attraction at Pousada Rio Azul, this awkward-looking parrot was only described to science in 2002. It is endemic to south-east Amazonian Brazil, and the Rio Azul is without a doubt the best place to look for this species. We encountered them by sight or sound on 3 of the 4 dates we were at the Rio Azul. The birds aren't amongst the most co-operative species out there, but we had exceptional good fortune when a group of 8 birds landed in the subcanopy near us on the Jatobá trail on the 13th – Cagan's photos may count amongst the best ever taken on this species in the wild.

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)

Scaly-headed Parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*)

Blue-fronted Parrot (*Amazona aestiva*)

Yellow-crowned Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*)

Kawall's Parrot (*Amazona kawalli*) – Another enigmatic parrot, this species was described to science in 1989 in spite of the fact that it had been known in the cagebird trade for some time before that. Once outed, it has proved to be reasonably common across much of the Brazilian Amazon, at times occurring sympatrically with the widespread Mealy Parrot, *A. farinosa*, with which it had been previously confused. Normally quite common on our tours to Cristalino and the Rio Azul, we had it on only 2 dates at the former lodge.

Orange-winged Parrot (*Amazona amazonica*)

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*)

Red-fan Parrot (*Derophtus accipitrinus*)

CUCKOOS (CUCULIDAE)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)

Little Cuckoo (*Coccyua minuta*)

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*)

* **Striped Cuckoo** (*Tapera naevia*)

BARN-OWLS (TYTONIDAE)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) – A family group was seen on consecutive evenings in a lone Brazil nut tree (*Bertholettia excelsa*) near the Fazenda Rio Azul gate. I was sad to note on a subsequent visit that this tree blew over during a thunderstorm and the owls had to move elsewhere.

OWLS (STRIGIDAE)

* **Tropical Screech-Owl** (*Megascops choliba*)

Austral Screech-Owl (*Megascops usta*) – Hard to beat the singing bird which took a little while to arrive, but eventually responded in marvellous fashion, perching out in the open beside the cabins in the lodge clearing at Pousada Rio Azul on the 8th.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

* **Crested Owl** (*Lophostrix cristata*)

* **Amazonian Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium hardyi*)

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

POTOOS (NYCTIBIIDAE)

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*)

* **Long-tailed Potoo** (*Nyctibius aethereus*)

NIGHTJARS (CAPRIMULGIDAE)

Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)

Nacunda Nighthawk (*Podager nacunda*)

Band-tailed Nighthawk (*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*)

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

Ocellated Poorwill (*Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*) – We were fortunate to flush and subsequently re-locate an individual which had been roosting alongside the Haffer trail at Cristalino on the 17th.

* **Little Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus parvulus*)

Blackish Nightjar (*Caprimulgus nigrescens*)

Ladder-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)

Scissor-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis torquata*) – A remarkable male

SWIFTS (APODIDAE)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

Pale-rumped Swift (*Chaetura egregia*)

Amazonian Swift (*Chaetura viridipennis*)

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyuran*)

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)

HUMMINGBIRDS (TROCHILIDAE)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsutus*)

Tapajós Hermit (*Phaethornis aethopyga*) – Another key bird at the Pousada Rio Azul. This recently validated species (2010) is normally quite common at the lodge, but it turned out we were fortunate to get it under the belt on the 10th as we wouldn't see it again at that location. We did however see one at close range in the Secret Garden at Cristalino on the final morning of the trip.

Reddish Hermit (*Phaethornis ruber*)

Buff-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis subochraceus*)

Planalto Hermit (*Phaethornis pretrei*)

Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis superciliosus*)

Black-eared Fairy (*Heliothryx auritus*) – One visited tiny pools of water along a dried out stream bed in the afternoon on the 17th, our only record of this fairly common canopy hummer.

White-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus guainumbi*) – Luc caught up with this guy in the scrubby fields around the Pousada Rio Claro on our final morning in the Pantanal.

Green-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus theresiae*) – Abundant as usual in the *campina* habitat at Pousada Rio Azul, where the species is also now common in the lodge clearing thanks to their practice of transplanting native flowers to create the lodge gardens.

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

Long-billed Starthroat (*Helioaster longirostris*)

Amethyst Woodstar (*Calliphlox amethystine*)

Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Eupetomena macroura*)

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)

Versicolored Emerald (*Agyrtria versicolor*)

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Polyerata fimbriata*)

Rufous-throated Sapphire (*Hylocharis sapphirina*)

White-chinned Sapphire (*Hylocharis cyanus*)

TROGONS (TROGONIDAE)

Green-backed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)

Amazonian Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - Following the split of cis- and trans-Andean populations of Violaceous Trogon, the SACC passed another proposal splitting the races *ramonianus* and *crissalis* from the nominate race of the Guianan Shield. The birds of the south bank of the Amazon are *ramonianus* and now have the new English name Amazonian Trogon.

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*)

* **Black-throated Trogon** (*Trogon rufus*)

Blue-crowned Trogon (*Trogon curucui*)

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)

KINGFISHERS (ALCEDINIDAE)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryla torquata*)

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle inda*)



American Pygmy Kingfisher, Pantanal (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)

MOTMOTS (MOMOTIDAE)

Amazonian Motmot (*Momotus momota*) – Note the name change. The South American Checklist Committee has passed a proposal to split what was formerly known as Blue-crowned Motmot into five separate species. The birds we saw and heard in the Amazon are now known as Amazonian Motmot, but retain their scientific binomial.

* **Rufous Motmot** (*Baryphthengus martii*)

JACAMARS (GALBULIDAE)

Blue-cheeked Jacamar (*Galbula cyanicollis*) – This handsome specialty of the southern Amazon was

seen or heard on 3 dates, including a wonderful resident pair near the lodge at Pousada Rio Azul.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*)

Bronzy Jacamar (*Galbula leucogastra*)

Paradise Jacamar (*Galbula dea*)

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*)

PUFFBIRDS (BUCCONIDAE)

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*)

* **Brown-banded Puffbird** (*Notharchus ordii*)

Striolated Puffbird (*Nystalus striolatus*)

Rufous-necked Puffbird (*Malacoptila rufa*) – Slim pickings for puffbirds on this trip as we missed a couple of species we normally see. Nevertheless, a pretty terrific individual of this low-density species was a highlight of our walk on the Haffer trail at Cristalino on the 17th.

Rufous-capped Nunlet (*Nonnula ruficapilla*) – We managed to call a singing bird to the edge of the forest at Cristalino's Secret Garden on the morning of the 17th – an excellent find!

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

White-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa morphoeus*)

Swallow-wing (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

BARBETS (CAPITONIDAE)

Black-girdled Barbet (*Capito dayi*) – A near-endemic specialty of the southern Amazon. We had this slick barbet on 6 dates at Cristalino and the Rio Azul.

TOUCANS (RAMPHASTIDAE)

Gould's Toucanet (*Selenidera gouldii*)

Lettered Araçari (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*)

Red-necked Araçari (*Pteroglossus bitorquatus*)

Chestnut-eared Araçari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*) – Cracking close views of these handsome and mischievous birds at the feeders at Pousada Jaguar.

Curl-crested Araçari (*Pteroglossus beaubarnaesii*)

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

White-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*)

WOODPECKERS (PICIDAE)

Bar-breasted Piculet (*Picumnus aurifrons*)

White-wedged Piculet (*Picumnus albosquamatus*)

White Woodpecker (*Melanerpes candidus*)

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)

Red-stained Woodpecker (*Veniliornis affinis*)

Yellow-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus flavigula*)

Golden-green Woodpecker (*Piculus chrysochlorus*) – We had an extremely responsive bird approach from quite a distance on the afternoon of the 7th while we were on a boat ride on the Rio Claro.

Campo Flicker (*Colaptes campestris*)

Scaly-breasted Woodpecker (*Celex grammicus*)

Chestnut Woodpecker (*Celex elegans*)

Pale-crested Woodpecker (*Celex lugubris*) – This specialty of the Pantanal was a good score at one of our final stops, the road to the rio Clarinho, on the afternoon of the 8th as we returned to Cuiabá.

Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celex flavus*)

Ringed Woodpecker (*Celex torquatus*)

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Red-necked Woodpecker (*Campephilus rubricollis*)

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

OVENBIRDS (FURNARIIDAE)

Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*)

Rufous Hornero (*Furnarius rufus*)

Chotoy Spinetail (*Schoeniophylax phryganophilus*)

Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*)

Cinereous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis hypospodia*) – This species, generally scarce, was easy to find on the 6th along the *Transpantaneira* in the Campos do Jofre, where it is quite common.

Ruddy Spinetail (*Synallaxis rutilans*)

undescribed spinetail (*Synallaxis sp. nov.*) – What a bird to see on the final morning of our trip... this odd spinetail, in the process of being described from east Amazonian Brazil, was accompanying a small mixed flock of understory birds in the orchard-like woods on Ariosto Island in the Teles Pires river.

White-lored Spinetail (*Synallaxis albilora*)

Rusty-backed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca vulpina*)

Speckled Spinetail (*Cranioleuca gutturata*)

Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*)

Greater Thornbird (*Phacellodromus ruber*)

Gray-crested Cacholote (*Pseudoseisura unirufa*) – This attractive furnarid is one of two species that resulted from the split of the Rufous Cacholote in 2000 by Zimmer & Whittaker; the endemic Caatinga Cacholote of NE Brazil is the other.

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor ruficaudatum*)

Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor erythrocerum*)

Chestnut-winged Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor erythropterum*)

Crested Foliage-gleaner (*Anabazenops dorsalis*) – This bamboo specialist is patchily distributed in the Brazilian Amazon, restricted to the far south-west on the Peruvian border, and to a handful of locations in the south-eastern Amazon. We had a very responsive bird in cut-over bamboo on a *fazenda* neighbouring the Pousada Rio Azul on the 11th. Also known as Bamboo or Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

Pará Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus paraensis*)

Short-billed Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus rufigularis*)

Rufous-tailed Xenops (*Xenops milleri*)

Slender-billed Xenops (*Xenops tenuirostris*)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*)

WOODCREEPERS (DENDROCOLAPTIDAE)

White-chinned Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla merula*)

Long-tailed Woodcreeper (*Deconychura longicauda*)

Spot-throated Woodcreeper (*Certhiasomus stictolaemus*) – We had a pair with a mixed flock on the Serra Nova trail at Cristalino on the 15th. It was previously a member of the genus *Deconychura*, but studies of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences found that *stictolaema* was not the sister species to *D. longicauda*; to rectify to problem of a polyphyletic *Deconychura*, the SACC passed a resolution in 2010 that created a new genus, *Certhiasomus*, for *stictolaema*.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*)

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper (*Dendrozetetes rufigula*)

Uniform Woodcreeper (*Hylezetetes uniformis*) – We saw this species in the lodge clearing at Pousada Rio Azul on the 11th. It is sometimes considered a subspecies of Red-billed Woodcreeper (*H. perrotii*). This taxon is nearly endemic to the southern Amazon in Brazil, just crossing the border into NE Bolivia.

*** Strong-billed Woodcreeper** (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*)

Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*)

Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*) – We saw the endemic *transfasciatus* race on the 14th and 16th at Cristalino.

Planalto Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*)

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Dendroplex picus*)

Spix's Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus spixii*) – This endemic woodcreeper is common in *terra firme* forest at Cristalino and Rio Azul.

Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Narrow-billed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*)

Lineated Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*)

Red-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhynchus trochilirostris*)

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS (THAMNOPHILIDAE)

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)

Glossy Antshrike (*Sakesphorus luctuosus*) – A near-endemic species which is common in riverine scrub in the Alta Floresta region. We first saw it outside town on the 9th at the Santa Helena river, and in the end recorded it on 6 dates total.

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

Chestnut-backed Antshrike (*Thamnophilus palliatus*)

White-shouldered Antshrike (*Thamnophilus aethiops*)

Plain-winged Antshrike (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*)

Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus stictocephalus*) – Seen along the entrance track at Pousada Rio Azul. This species is a specialist of stunted and semi-deciduous forests south of the Amazon and east of the Madeira.

Amazonian Antshrike (*Thamnophilus amazonicus*)

Spot-winged Antshrike (*Pygiptila stellaris*)

Plain Antwreos (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)

Saturnine Antshrike (*Thamnomanes saturninus*) – This *terra firme* flock specialist was seen on 2 dates at Cristalino.

Cinereous Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesioides*)

Pygmy Antwren (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)

Amazonian Antwren (*Myrmotherula multistriata*)

Sclater's Antwren (*Myrmotherula sclateri*)

Plain-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula bauxwelli*)

White-eyed Antwren (*Myrmotherula leucophthalma*)

Ornate Antwren (*Myrmotherula ornata*)

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Long-winged Antwren (*Myrmotherula longipennis*)

Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

Large-billed Antwren (*Herpsilochmus longirostris*)

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufomarginatus*)

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*)

White-fringed Antwren (*Formicivora grisea*)

Striated Antbird (*Drymophila devillei*) – We finally saw the near-endemic *subochracea* race, a bamboo specialist, on our 2nd to last day at Cristalino. Stotz et al. (1996) treated this taxon as a distinct species given the rich colouration on the underparts and some vocal differences. At the moment few other authorities have followed that treatment, but if it were split the popular English name that appears from time to time is Xingu Antbird.

Blackish Antbird (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)

Gray Antbird (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)

Mato Grosso Antbird (*Cercomacra melanaria*)

Manu Antbird (*Cercomacra manu*) – A *Guadua* bamboo specialist species, this bird is patchily distributed across the southern Brazilian Amazon; Cristalino and the Rio Azul are likely the most accessible locations for the species in Brazil. We had a responsive pair in cut-over bamboo-dominated forest on a ranch neighbouring the Pousada Rio Azul on the 11th.

* **White-backed Fire-eye** (*Pyriglena leuconota*)

White-browed Antbird (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)

Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)

Spix's Warbling-Antbird (*Hypocnemis striata*) – Endemic. Formerly treated as a subspecies in the *H.*

cantator complex, a group which in 2007 was proved to contain at least 6 good species level taxa.

Yellow-browed Antbird (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*) – The endemic *ochraceiventer* subspecies is fairly common in sandy soil forests at the Pousada Rio Azul. Vocal and plumage differences, along with its disjunct distribution, suggest that *ochraceiventer* may best be considered a full species.

Band-tailed Antbird (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*)

Silvered Antbird (*Sclateria naevia*)

Black-throated Antbird (*Myrmeciza atrothorax*)

Spot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax naevius*)

Dot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax punctulatus*)

Scale-backed Antbird (*Willisornis poecilinotus*) – Isler and Whitney (2011) have recently revised the *Willisornis* complex, splitting *poecilinotus* into two distinct species subsuming seven subspecies. The *nigrigula* race we saw at Pousada Rio Azul and heard at Cristalino would comprise part of the Xingu Scale-backed Antbird (*Willisornis vidua*) under the new treatment.

Bare-eyed Antbird (*Rhegmatorbina gymnops*) – Endemic. This and other obligate ant followers were in short supply as we did not hit on a significant *Eciton* antswarm all trip. Thankfully, we struck gold on the afternoon of the 16th when we staked out a tiny water attraction inside the forest upstream from Cristalino lodge; a pair of this species was amongst the late afternoon visitors that came for a drink and a wash.

* **Black-spotted Bare-eye** (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*)

GROUND ANTBIRDS (FORMICARIIDAE)

Spotted Antpitta (*Hylopezus macularius*) – We saw this handsome little antpitta on the Serra Nova trail on the morning of the 15th at Cristalino; it was a very fortunate observation, as we detected the bird as it rustled about in dry leaf litter, foraging near and eventually crossing the trail as we watched it at close range.

COTINGAS (COTINGIDAE)

* **White-browed Purpletuft** (*Iodopleura isabellae*)

Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*) – This spectacular sky-blue cotinga was seen on 6 dates.

Pompadour Cotinga (*Xipholena punicea*)

Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymmoderus foetidus*)

Amazonian Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)

MANAKINS (PIPRIDAE)

Band-tailed Manakin (*Pipra fasciicauda*)

Red-headed Manakin (*Pipra rubrocapilla*)

Snow-capped Manakin (*Lepidobrix nattereri*) – Seen right above the trail along the track to the new tower at Cristalino on the 16th, a just reward for enduring the worst morning for *mutuca* horseflies I've seen in 7 years in the Amazon.

White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia pipra*)

Helmeted Manakin (*Antilophia galeata*)

Fiery-capped Manakin (*Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*) – An active lek on the Jatobá trail at Pousada Rio Azul was a pleasant surprise, and after a bit of patient waiting, everyone managed to get on a couple of males as they zoomed about above our heads.

Flame-crested Manakin (*Heterocercus lineatus*) – A couple of males were vocal and active at a lek on the Jatobá trail at the Pousada Rio Azul.

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*)

Wing-barred Piprites (*Piprites chloris*)

Greater Schiffornis (*Schiffornis major*) – 1 seen at the Santa Helena river near Alta Floresta.

Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdina*)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (TYRANNIDAE)

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

Gray Elaenia (*Myiopagis caniceps*)

White-lored Tyrannulet (*Ornithion inermis*)

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

Suiriri Flycatcher (*Suiriri suiriri*)

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*)

Subtropical Doradito (*Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*) – Cagan’s persistence paid off while the rest of us were more concerned with a horde of bloodthirsty mosquitoes, scoring with a single bird in a reed bed on the *Transpantaneira* on the 6th.

Ringed Antpipit (*Corythopsis torquatus*) – A lovely and responsive individual was found on the Jatobá trail at the Pousada Rio Azul on our final morning, the 13th.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*)

* **Slender-footed Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*)

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

Southern Scrub-Flycatcher (*Sublegatus modestus*)

Plain Tyrannulet (*Inezia inornata*)

Amazonian Tyrannulet (*Inezia subflava*) -

Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis ecaudatus*)

Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus galeatus*)

White-bellied Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus griseipectus*)

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*)

* **Zimmer’s Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus minimus*) – Unfortunately, this rare and local species was heard only at Pousada Rio Azul and Cristalino.

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus latirostris*)

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum maculatum*)

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

* **Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

Gray-crowned Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*)

White-crested Spadebill (*Platyrinchus platyrhynchos*)

Amazonian Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) – A territorial bird co-operated nicely for most of the group at the Saleiro on the Rochas trail at Cristalino on the 14th.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)

Euler's Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus euleri*)

Fuscous Flycatcher (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*)

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

Black-backed Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola albiventer*)

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)

Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*)

Cattle Tyrant (*Machetornis rixosa*)

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)

Dusky-chested Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*)

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)

*** Boat-billed Flycatcher** (*Megarynchus pitangua*)

Sulphury Flycatcher (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)

Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*)

White-throated Kingbird (*Tyrannus albogularis*)

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – The *elusive* Tropical Kingbird!

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

Grayish Mourner (*Rhytipterna simplex*)

Pale-bellied Mourner (*Rhytipterna immunda*) – We scored on this specialty of *campinaranas* along the

entrance road at the Pousada Rio Azul on the 10th.

Rufous Casiornis (*Casiornis rufus*)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

Large-headed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon megacephalum*)

Rufous-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*)

Dusky-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*) – Seen when it approached in response to playback in cut-over bamboo at a *fazenda* neighbouring the Pousada Rio Azul on the 11th. This bamboo specialist has a patchy distribution in Brazil, restricted to the southern Amazon mostly in the west but occurring in scattered localities in the eastern part of the region.

Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*)

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)

Cinereous Mourner (*Laniocera hypopyrra*)

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*)

White-naped Xenopsaris (*Xenopsaris albinucha*)

* **Chestnut-crowned Becard** (*Pachyramphus castaneus*)

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

Black-capped Becard (*Pachyramphus marginatus*)

Pink-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus minor*)

VIREOS & ALLIES (VIREONIDAE)

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Gray-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus semicinereus*)

Ashy-headed Greenlet (*Hylophilus pectoralis*)

Dusky-capped Greenlet (*Hylophilus hypoxanthus*)

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) – This is a miss-able bird at Cristalino, where we had a couple accompanying mixed flocks in the understory of *terra firme* forest.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius leucotis*)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES (CORVIDAE)

Purplish Jay (*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*)

Plush-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax chrysops*) – Recorded on 2 dates along the entrance track at the Pousada Rio Azul. In Amazonia this species is restricted to *campinaranas* and other areas with stunted forest on poor soils.

SWALLOWS (HIRUNDINIDAE)

White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*)

White-thighed Swallow (*Atticora tibialis*) – A few individuals were seen at the usual spot on an abandoned logging road at a *fazenda* neighbouring the Pousada Rio Azul on the 11th.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

White-rumped Swallow (*Tachycineta leucorhoa*)

WRENS (TROGLODYTIDAE)

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

Tooth-billed Wren (*Odontorchilus cinereus*) – This canopy wren, a specialty of the southern Amazon and common constituent of mixed canopy flocks, was recorded on 3 dates at Cristalino and Rio Azul.

Moustached Wren (*Pheugopedius genibarbis*)

Buff-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus leucotis*)

Fawn-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus guarayanus*) – We saw this specialty of the southern Pantanal on a couple of dates around Pousada Jaguar and further south on the *Transpantaneira*.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

DONACOBIUS (DONACOBIIDAE)

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*)

THRUSHES (TURDIDAE)

Hauxwell's Thrush (*Turdus hauxwelli*) – A responsive bird was had on the 17th by the streambed near the Serra Nova trailhead at Cristalino. This species is often quite difficult to *see* at Cristalino.

Rufous-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*)

Creamy-bellied Thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*)

Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*) – We had a single bird on the entrance track at Pousada Rio Azul on the 10th.

GNATCATCHERS (POLIOPTILIDAE)

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

Pará Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila paraensis*) – Sometimes considered a subspecies of Guianan Gnatcatcher, *P. guianensis*. We saw this one high in the canopy accompanying a mixed species flock in the ecotone between *terra firme* and *campinarana* along the entrance track at Pousada Rio Azul on the 10th.

Masked Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila dumicola*)

SISKINS & ALLIES (FRINGILLIDAE)

Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*)

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)

White-lored Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

Rufous-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

TANAGERS & ALLIES (THRAUPIDAE)

Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*)

Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria capitata*)

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leverianus*)

Red-billed Pied Tanager (*Lamprospiza melanoleuca*)

Hooded Tanager (*Nemosia pileata*)

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

Fulvous-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus surinamus*)

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

White-winged Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio versicolor*)

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)

Sayaca Tanager (*Thraupis sayaca*)

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Masked Tanager (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)

Turquoise Tanager (*Tangara mexicana*)

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)

Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*)

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)

Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*)

Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)

Yellow-bellied Dacnis (*Dacnis flaviventer*)

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)

Short-billed Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes nitidus*)

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)

Yellow-backed Tanager (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)

Chestnut-vented Conebill (*Conirostrum speciosum*)

SALTATORS & ALLIES (INCERTAE SEDIS)

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)

*** Slate-colored Grosbeak** (*Saltator grosus*)

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)

Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak (*Parkerthraustes humeralis*)

SPARROWS & ALLIES (EMBERIZIDAE)

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

*** Grassland Sparrow** (*Ammodramus humeralis*)

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Slate-colored Seedeater (*Sporophila schistacea*) – A handful of singing males and plenty of female-plumaged birds seen in a stand of seeding bamboo at a *fazenda* neighbouring the Pousada Rio Azul.

Rusty-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*)

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)

Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*)

Pectoral Sparrow (*Arremon taciturnus*)

**** Red-crested Finch** (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)

CARDINAL GROSBEAKS (CARDINALIDAE)

Red-crowned Ant-tanager (*Habia rubica*)

Rose-breasted Chat (*Granatellus pelzelni*)

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocopsa cyanoides*)

NEW WORLD WARBLERS (PARULIDAE)

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)

Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*)

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)

Flavescent Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*)

BLACKBIRDS (ICTERIDAE)

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

Amazonian Oropendola (*Gymnostinops bifasciatus*)

Solitary Cacique (*Cacicus solitarius*)

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)

Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus croconotus*)

Epaulet Oriole (*Icterus cayanensis*)

Chopi Blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)

Scarlet-headed Blackbird (*Amblyramphus holosericeus*)

Unicolored Blackbird (*Agelasticus cyanopus*)

Bay-winged Cowbird (*Agelaioides badius*)

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

Red-breasted Blackbird (*Sturnella militaris*)

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIDAE)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Mammals:

ARMADILLOS (DASYPODIDAE)

Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo (*Tolypeutes matacus*) – Seen twice; once on a ranch neighbouring the Pousada Rio Azul, and again a day later on Cristalino’s private road near the Teles Pires river.



Nine-banded Armadillo, Pantanal (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasylops novemcinctus*) – Great views were had on the evening of the 6th beside the Pousada Jaguar after dinner.

MYRMECOPHAGIDAE (ANTEATERS)

Southern Tamandua (*Tamandua tetradactyla*)

CEBIDAE (CAPUCHINS, MARMOSETS & SQUIRREL MONKEYS)

Emilia’s Marmoset (*Callithrix emiliae*) – We saw a small group of these tiny, skittish primates in an extensive bamboo stand along the Haffer trail at Cristalino on the 17th.

Black-tailed Marmoset (*Callithrix melanura*) – These common marmosets were seen only once, on the 8th at the entrance road to the Pousada Rio Clarinho in the Pantanal.

Tufted Capuchin (*Cebus apella*)

PITHECIDAE (TITIS, SAKIS & UAKARIS)

* **Red-bellied (Dusky) Titi Monkey** (*Callicebus moloch*)

White-nosed (Bearded) Saki Monkey (*Chiropotes albinasus*) – We saw a troop of this ‘fancy’ endemic species from the canopy tower at Cristalino on the 14th.

ATELIDAE (HOWLERS, SPIDERS & WOOLLY MONKEYS)

* **Red-handed Howler** (*Alouatta belzebul*)

Black (Black-and-gold) Howler (*Alouatta caraya*) – We finally caught up with a family of these charismatic, ‘purposeful’ (read: lazy) monkeys in the forest patch behind the Pousada Jaguar on the 7th.

White-whiskered Spider Monkey (*Ateles marginatus*) – The flagship mammal of Cristalino Jungle Lodge; we had multiple sightings of this species, but we encountered them more frequently at the Pousada Rio Azul than we did at Cristalino.

SCIURIDAE (SQUIRRELS)

Guianan Squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*)

CAVIIDAE (CAVIES & MARAS)

Capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) – We had at least a handful of Capybara in the Pantanal... *at least*.

DASYPROCTIDAE (AGOUTIS)

Azara’s Agouti (*Dasyprocta azarae*)

Red-rumped Agouti (*Dasyprocta leporina*)

CUNICULIDAE (PACA)

Lowland Paca (*Cuniculus paca*) – Seen during evening spotlighting on the rio Cristalino on the 15th.

LEPORIDAE (RABBITS)

Brazilian Rabbit (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*)

NOCTILIONIDAE (BULLDOG BATS)

Greater Fishing Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*)

EMBALLONURIDAE (SAC-WINGED, SHEATH-TAILED & RELATED BATS)

Proboscis Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)

Lesser Sac-winged Bat (*Saccopteryx leptura*)

CANIDAE (CANIDS)

Crab-eating Fox (*Cerdocyon thous*) – Abundant and frequently seen in the evenings in the Pantanal.

FELIDAE (CATS)

Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) – We nearly ran one over with our van as it unexpectedly dashed across the *Transpantaneira* in front of us as we drove in the dark to reach Pousada Jaguar on the 5th.

Margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) – See above. Shortly after the Ocelot, another cat crossed in front of the van, and Eduardo of the Pousada Jaguar felt very strongly that it was a Margay.



Jaguar, Corixo Negro (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) – We had 4 sightings in total of the largest predator in South America. Three individuals were seen during an afternoon boat trip in the Pantanal from Porto Jofre on the 6th: first one resting in the shade on the Corixo Negro which we watched for quite some time before leaving it be; then later a different animal striding at the edge of gallery forest along the rio Piquiri; and then shortly thereafter yet another big adult resting on the beach on the opposite bank of the Piquiri. The first jaguar of course was the lifer for the group, but I'm certain we'll remember the next two more

fondly as they were 'self-found'. If that weren't enough, we had a thrilling and unexpected sighting of a jaguar at the river's edge at night during a spotlighting outing on the Cristalino upstream from the lodge on the 16th. Remarkably, Cagan managed to photograph all 4 of our jaguars!



Puma, Rio Cristalino (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)

Puma (*Puma concolor*) – Yet another remarkable mammal sighting. While drifting down the Cristalino river with our boat's engine turned off on the afternoon of the 17th, our attention was drawn to two golden-brown shapes upon an old trunk fallen out over the water – two Pumas, resting together! The first animal jumped over its sibling immediately upon spotting us and dashed into the forest; the other however sat, transfixed, as we drifted past, never taking its eyes from us. An absolutely amazing experience.

Jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*) – We had a quick encounter with this enigmatic cat when once leaped onto an abandoned logging road we were birding near the Pousada Rio Azul. It stopped momentarily to look over its shoulder at us, then was gone as quickly as it had appeared.

MUSTELIDAE (WEASELS & ALLIES)

Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*)

Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) – Seen on the 7th on the Rio Claro where there is a habituated family group not far from the lodge.

PROCYONIDAE (RACCOONS & ALLIES)

South American Coati (*Nasua nasua*)

TAPIRIDAE (TAPIRS)

Brazilian Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) – Seen on 3 dates: on our first night during a chilly spotlighting session after dinner on the research station road near Pousada Jaguar; a big adult seen bathing in a small roadside pool at forest edge en route to the Pousada Rio Azul on the 9th; and finally one seen along the Cristalino river upstream from the lodge on the 16th.

TAYASSUIDAE (PECCARIES)

Collared Peccary (*Pecari tajacu*)

CERVIDAE (DEER)

Marsh Deer (*Blastocercus dichotomus*)

South American Red Brocket (*Mazama americana*)

South American Brown (Gray) Brocket (*Mazama gouazoubira*) – 1 seen during a spotlighting session at the Pousada Rio Claro in the Pantanal on the night of the 7th.

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Birding from the canopy tower at Cristalino Jungle Lodge (Photo: Cagan Sekercioglu)