

BIRDS OF THE PANTANAL

An Identification Guide
Vol. 1: Non-Passerines



CAMPUS
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wildlife photography

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Introduction

This is a simple photo identification guide for most of the bird species we may see or photograph during our company's tours to the Pantanal and adjacent areas. This guide has no intentions of being a complete bird guide to the region, as it only covers the most common species or the ones we are most likely to photograph, with just a few true rarities.

Each species is depicted by a photo and a brief text with habitat preferences and some comments that may help in the identification process. Some species may have more than one photo, such as when there are significant differences between sexes or age.

The comments are relative to the regions we make our tours, such as if a species is common or not and habitat preferences. These remarks may not hold true for other parts of the species ranges.

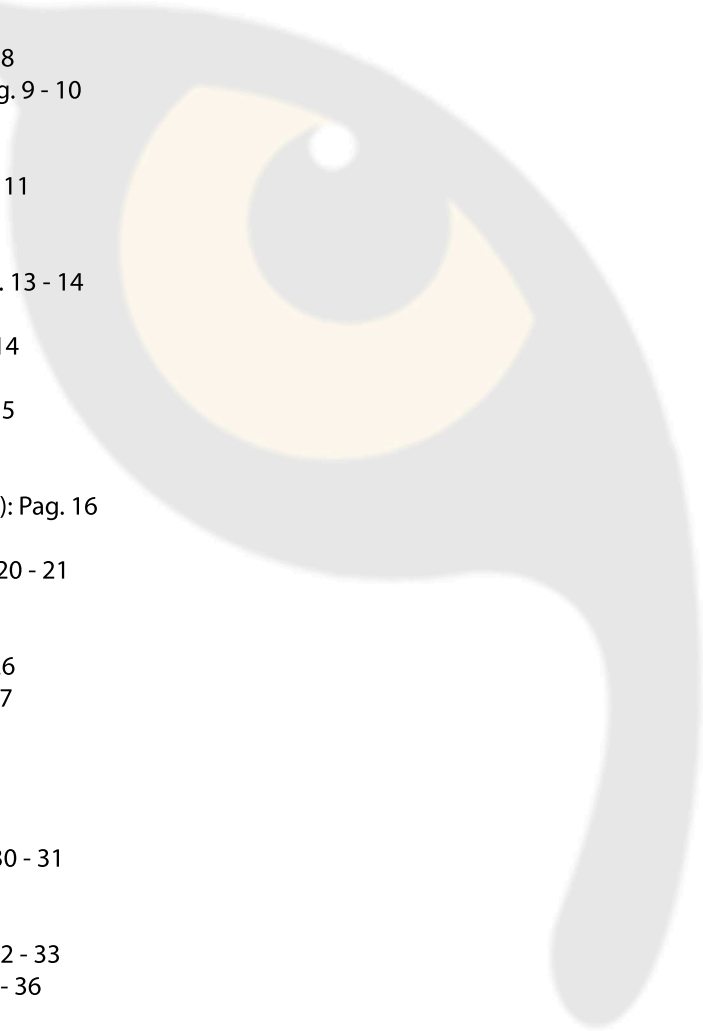
This is still a **work in progress**, so a few species don't have photos yet. This will be added soon, if you wish to contribute please send an e-mail to phototrips@octaviosalles.com.br.

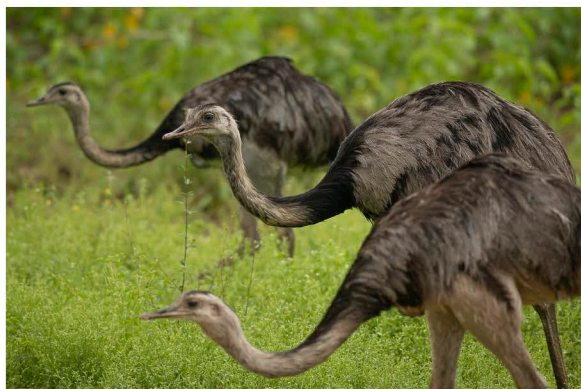
Taxonomy notes

This guide loosely follows the taxonomic order and names of the South American Classification Committee (SACC), of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU), as of January 2020, except for a few cases where we have opted to use an alternate scientific name, used by other sources as well. On some occasions we have also changed the taxonomic order, for example with the Falcons (Falconidae), which are placed next to the Hawks (Accipitridae) for identification purposes, even though today according to SACC the Falcons are placed next to the Parrots (Psittacidae).

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Greater Rhea

Rhea americana

Habitat: Open areas, agricultural fields, pastures

Comments: Common in drier areas. Seems more common outside of actual Pantanal or in South Pantanal.

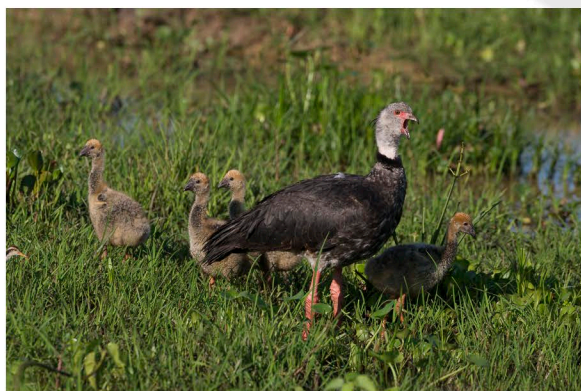


Undulated Tinamou

Crypturellus undulatus

Habitat: Forests

Comments: Relatively common but difficult to see. Sometimes seen walking along trails or roads inside forest. Often heard song a series of melodious whistles.

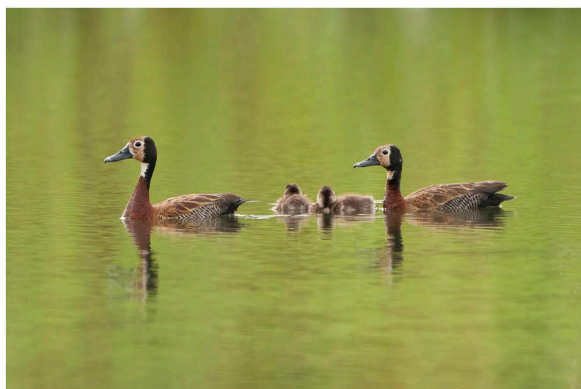


Southern Screamer

Chauna torquata

Habitat: Marshes and river edge

Comments: Relatively common. Large bird. Loud alarm calls by the river often indicates the presence of a Jaguar.

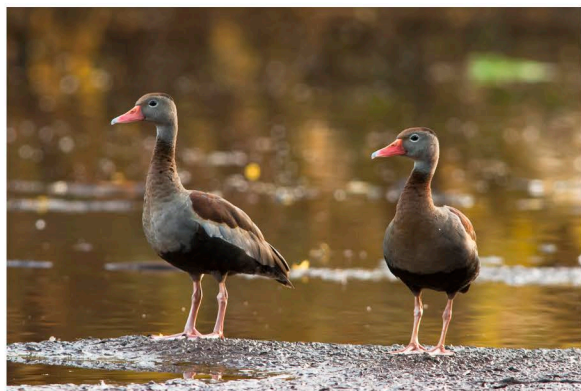


White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Habitat: Marshes and lakes

Comments: Relatively common. Often in groups. Very shy, difficult to approach. More common in South Pantanal.

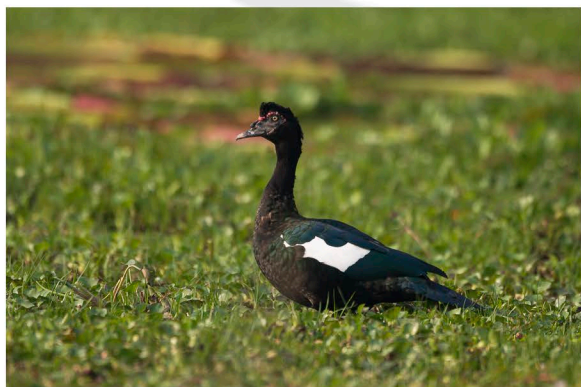


Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis

Habitat: Marshes and lakes.

Comments: Relatively common. Often in groups. Very shy, difficult to approach. More common in South Pantanal and often seen together with White-faced Whistling-Duck.

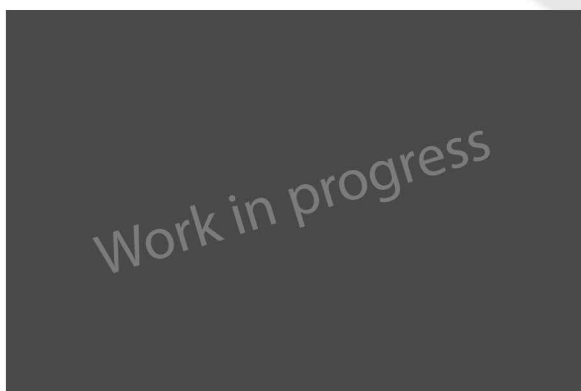


Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Habitat: Marshes, rivers and lakes.

Comments: Relatively common. The largest duck in the Pantanal. Large white panels on wings during flight. Often in pairs.



Brazilian Teal

Amazonetta brasiliensis

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Relatively common. Almost always in pairs. Seen even in very small water bodies.



Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Habitat: Marshes and lakes

Comments: Rare, records are from South Pantanal only. Usually in pairs or small groups.



Chestnut-bellied Guan

Penelope ochrogaster

Habitat: Forest, forest border, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Often seen walking on ground, sometimes in association with other cracids. Visits feeders at lodges.



Blue-throated Piping-Guan

Pipile cumanensis

Habitat: Forests, woodland, river edge.

Comments: Relatively common, often in groups. Large white panel on wings. Often seen high on trees or at river edge eating clay.

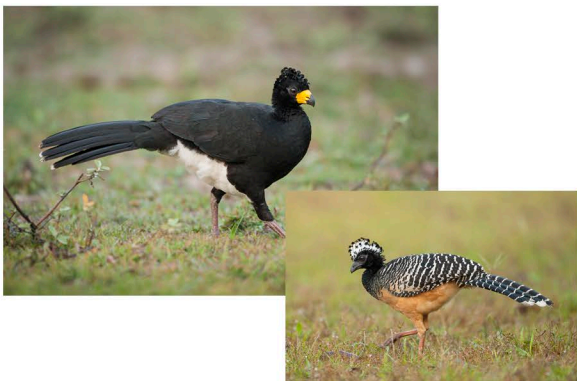


Chaco Chachalaca

Ortalis canicollis

Habitat: Forest, woodland, river edge.

Comments: Very common. Loud raucous calls heard throughout the day and before sunrise. On trees or on the ground.



Bare-faced Curassow

Crax fasciolata

Habitat: Forest, woodland, river edge.

Comments: Common. Visits bird feeders. Walks on ground.

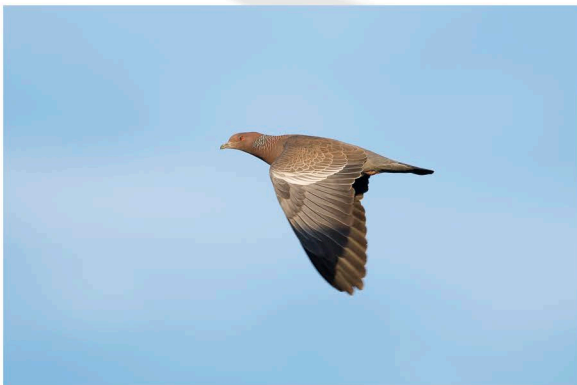


Least Grebe

Tachybaptus dominicus

Habitat: Lakes and ponds.

Comments: Uncommon. Small size, dives and swims underwater. More common in South Pantanal.

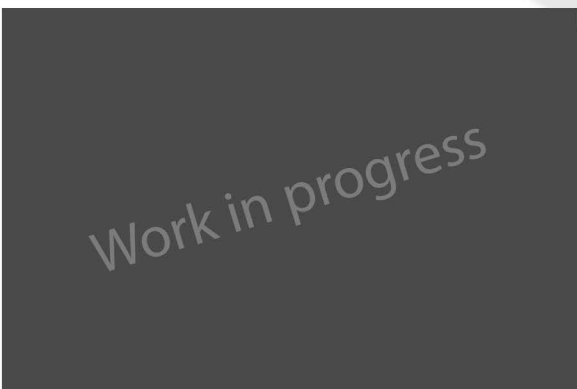


Picazuro Pigeon

Patagioenas picazuro

Habitat: Farmland, woodland, towns.

Comments: Common. Flies long distances over virtually all kinds of habitat to feeding grounds. Large size. White patch on upper wing during flight.



Pale-vented Pigeon

Patagioenas cayennensis

Habitat: Forest, woodland, river edge.

Comments: Relatively common. Often seen perched on canopy of trees alongside rivers. Backside with two color tones.



White-tipped Dove

Leptotila verreauxi

Habitat: Forest, forest border, woodland, gardens.

Comments: Very common. Visits bird feeders. Often seen walking on ground. Avoids wide open areas.

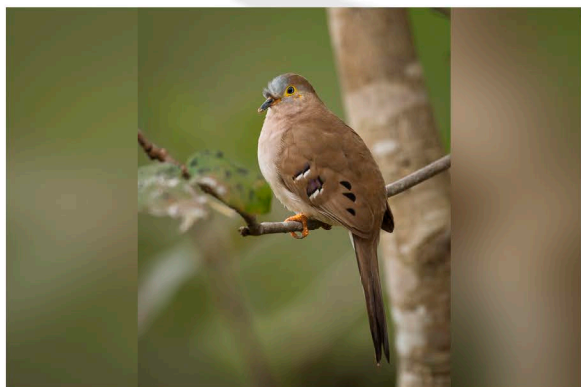


Eared Dove

Zenaida auriculata

Habitat: Open areas, agricultural fields, towns.

Comments: Common in drier areas. Much more common outside of actual Pantanal. More arboreal. May gather in large numbers on crops.



Long-tailed Ground Dove

Uropelia campestris

Habitat: Woodland, dry shrubby areas.

Comments: Rare to uncommon. Often seen on ground or low shrubs. May associate with other dove species. Seems absent from South Pantanal.

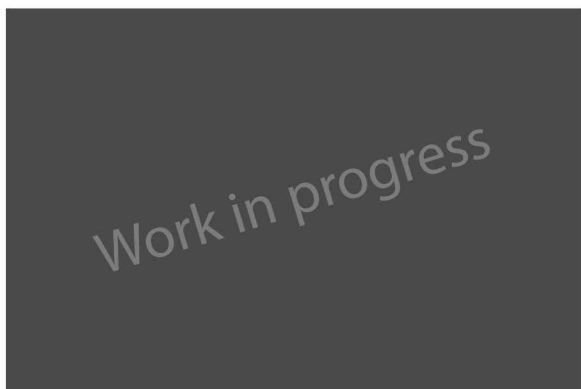


Scaled Dove

Columbina squammata

Habitat: Woodland, shrubby areas, agricultural areas.

Comments: Uncommon to locally common. Visits bird feeders. Often on ground. May associate with other dove species. Prefers drier areas.



Picui Ground Dove

Columbina picui

Habitat: Woodland, shrubby areas, agricultural areas.

Comments: Relatively common. Often in groups on the ground. May associate with other dove species. White markings on wings.

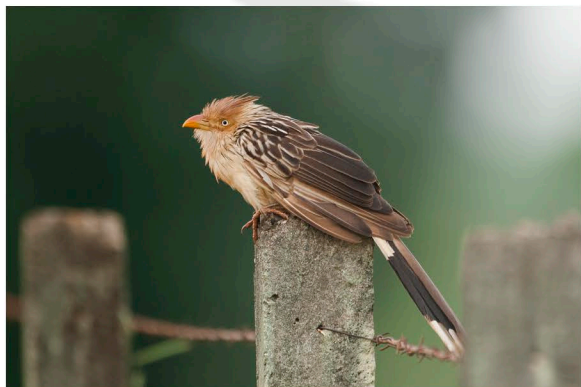


Ruddy Ground Dove

Columbina talpacoti

Habitat: Open areas, agricultural fields, pastures, woodland.

Comments: Common. Often on the ground. May associate with other dove species. Visits bird feeders.



Guira Cuckoo

Guira guira

Habitat: Shrubby habitats, semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Common. Always in small groups among low vegetation.

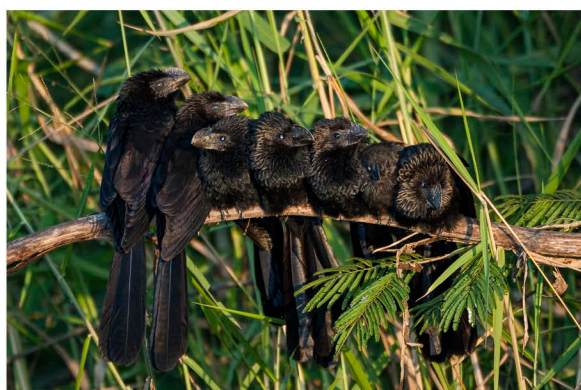


Greater Ani

Crotophaga major

Habitat: Marshes and shrubby river edge vegetation.

Comments: Uncommon. Large bird, often in small groups. Blueish shine to feathers and conspicuous white eyes.



Smooth-billed Ani

Crotophaga ani

Habitat: Any semiopen habitat, farmland, towns.

Comments: Common. Always in groups. More dull black coloration than above species, smaller size and not strictly associated with water.



Striped Cuckoo

Tapera naevia

Habitat: Marshes, dense shrubby vegetation.

Comments: Relatively common but difficult to see. Always hiding among dense vegetation. Song very often heard, a pure, far carrying two-noted whistle.

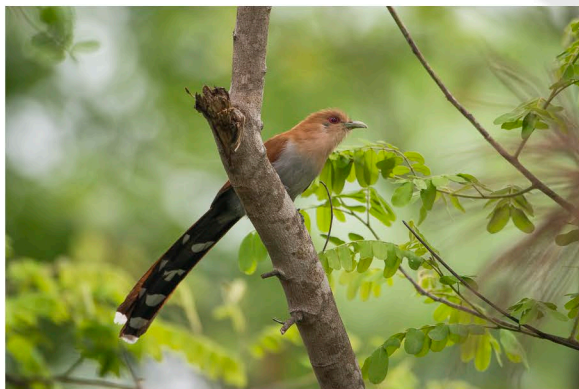


Little Cuckoo

Coccyua minuta

Habitat: Marshes, shrubby river edges.

Comments: Relatively common. Always near water. Much smaller than Squirrel Cuckoo.



Squirrel Cuckoo

Piaya cayana

Habitat: Forest, forest border, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Large bird with long conspicuous tail. Move around jumping from branch to branch, reminiscent of a squirrel. Arboreal.



Great Potoo

Nyctibius grandis

Habitat: Forest and woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Nocturnal bird, roosts during the day in canopy where is hard to see. Much larger and paler than Common Potoo.



Common Potoo

Nyctibius griseus

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Nocturnal bird, by day roosts in canopy where is very hard to see. Smaller and darker than Great Potoo.



Nacunda Nighthawk

Chordeiles nacunda

Habitat: Marshes, semiopen areas, open grassy fields.

Comments: Relatively common. Crepuscular and nocturnal. Flies quite high above open country. During the day roosts on the ground in very short grass. Large size.



Band-tailed Nighthawk

Nyctiprogne leucopyga

Habitat: Forest alongside rivers.

Comments: Common. Crepuscular and nocturnal. Flies on large numbers above rivers during dusk.

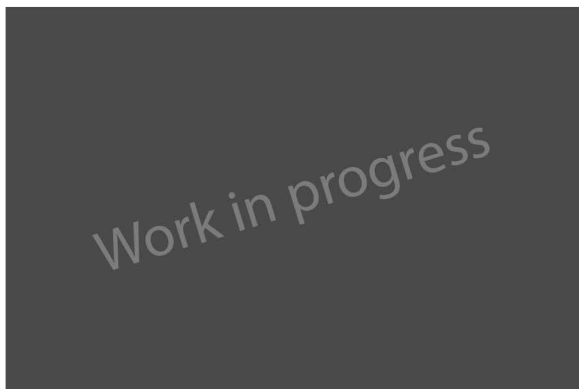


Common Pauraque

Nyctidromus albicollis

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Common. Nocturnal, often found at night sitting on the ground along dirt roads.

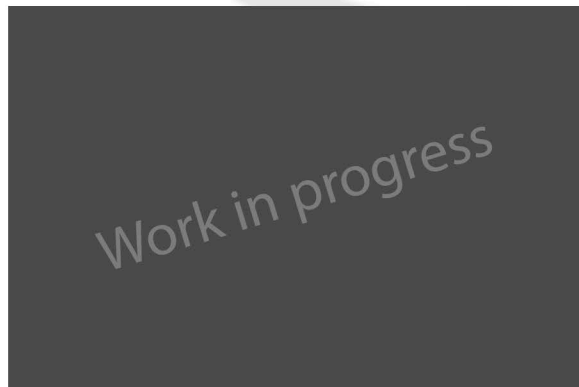


Buff-bellied Hermit

Phaethornis subochraceus

Habitat: Forest, woodland and shrubby vegetation.

Comments: Rare in undergrowth of shrubby vegetation, often along rivers. Inconspicuous. Dull-plumaged.



Cinnamon-throated Hermit

Phaethornis nattereri

Habitat: Forest, woodland and shrubby vegetation.

Comments: Uncommon in undergrowth of shrubby vegetation, often along rivers. Small size. Rufescent rump.

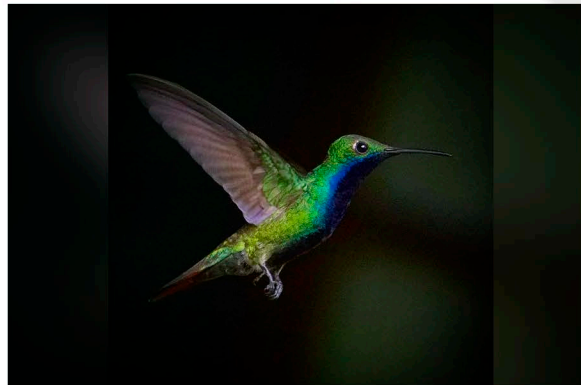


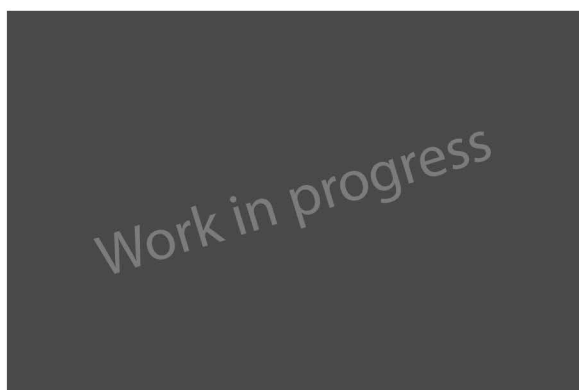
Photo: Larissa Pantanal

Black-throated Mango

Anthracothorax nigricollis

Habitat: Woodland, forest borders, gardens.

Comments: Uncommon. Seen foraging at flowering trees. Female has white underparts with a broad black stripe.



Fork-tailed Woodnymph

Thalurania furcata

Habitat: Woodland, forest borders, gardens.

Comments: Uncommon. Seen foraging at flowering shrubs. Shiny green and purple plumage.



Gilded Hummingbird

Hylocharis chrysura

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, gardens.

Comments: Relatively common. Coppery golden plumage and bright red bill. More common in South Pantanal.

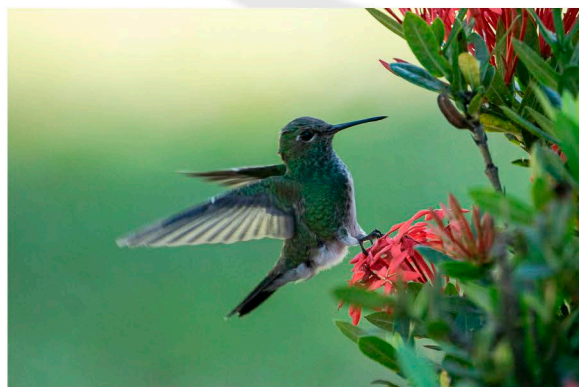


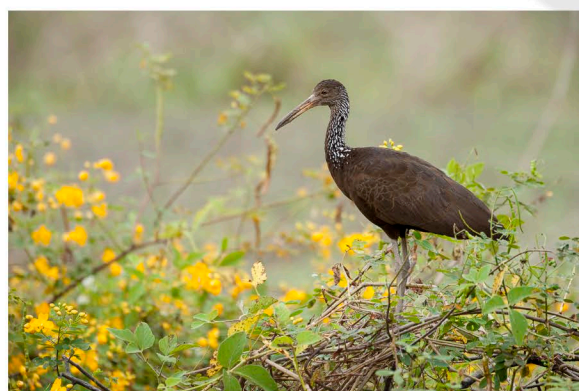
Photo: Larissa Pantanal

Glittering-throated Emerald

Chionomesa fimbriata

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas, gardens.

Comments: Common. Often seen around lodges in flowering plants. Quite small and shiny green. More common in North Pantanal.



Limpkin

Aramus guarauna

Habitat: Marshes and ponds.

Comments: Common. May gather in large numbers.

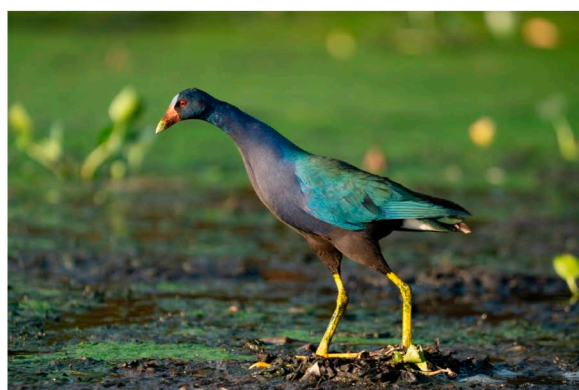


Photo: Larissa Pantanal

Purple Gallinule

Porphyrio martinica

Habitat: Marshes.

Comments: Relatively common. Tends to hide among vegetation. Beautiful purple/blue coloration.

Work in progress

Azure Gallinule

Porphyrio flavirostris

Habitat: Marshes.

Comments: Rare. Considerably smaller and paler colored than Purple Gallinule.

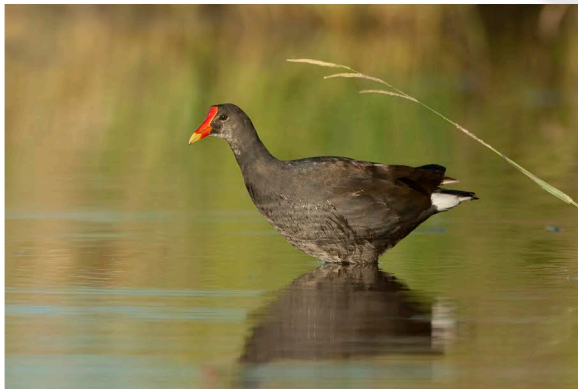


Gray-cowled Wood-Rail

Aramides cajaneus

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edges.

Comments: Common. Often seen alongside rivers and marshes, close to the water. Quite shy, hides in vegetation when approached.

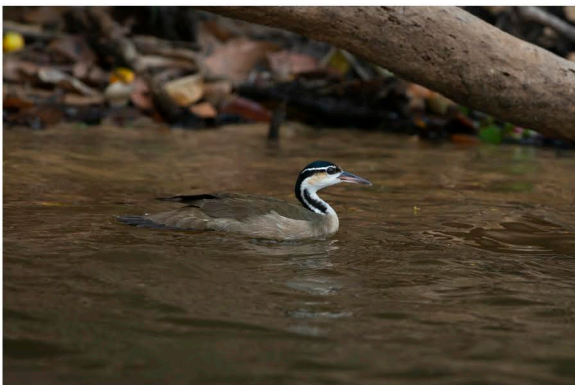


Common Gallinule

Gallinula galeata

Habitat: Lakes and marshes.

Comments: Uncommon. Practically only in South Pantanal. Prefers lakes with open water and marsh vegetation along the edges. Often seen swimming.



Sungrebe

Heliornis fulica

Habitat: Rivers.

Comments: Uncommon. Prefers forest-fringed river edges, where the water is calm and with little current. Inconspicuous and shy, remains close to cover and clamber to dense river vegetation when afraid.



Pied Lapwing

Vanellus cayanus

Habitat: Beaches and sandbars along rivers and lakes.

Comments: Common. Beautifully marked Lapwing, unmistakable. Quite small.



Southern Lapwing

Vanellus chilensis

Habitat: Open areas, grassy fields, water edge.

Comments: Common. Conspicuous bird seen regularly in open grassy areas. Aggressive near the nest, attacking intruders, including people, with close-by flights.

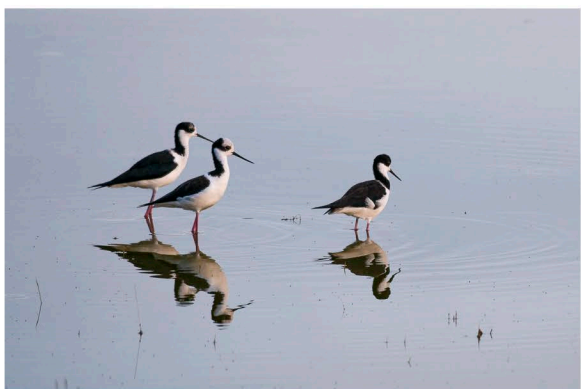


Collared Plover

Charadrius collaris

Habitat: Beaches and sandbars along rivers.

Comments: Relatively common. Very small size, always near water on sandbars or beaches.



Black-necked Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, open wet areas.

Comments: Relatively common. Often in small groups. Seems more common in South Pantanal.



White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Habitat: Lakes and ponds.

Comments: Uncommon. Northern migrant, only passing through our region. Forages along muddy margins. Reddish lower mandible diagnostic.

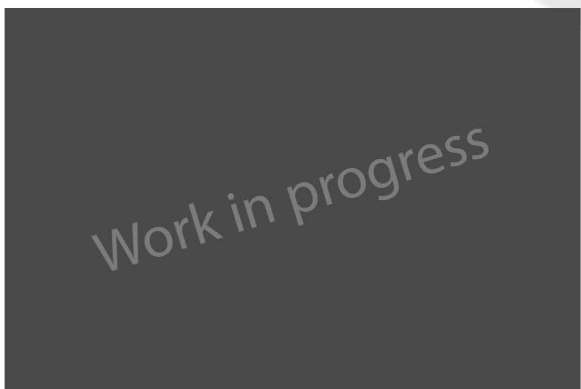


Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Habitat: Lakes, ponds, wet grassy areas.

Comments: Rare. Northern migrant, only passing through our region. Forages along muddy margins. Look for combination of yellow legs and strongly marked neck and breast.



Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

Habitat: Muddy and sandy shorelines.

Comments: Relatively common. Quite small and stocky. Usually alone. Frequent teetering distinctive.

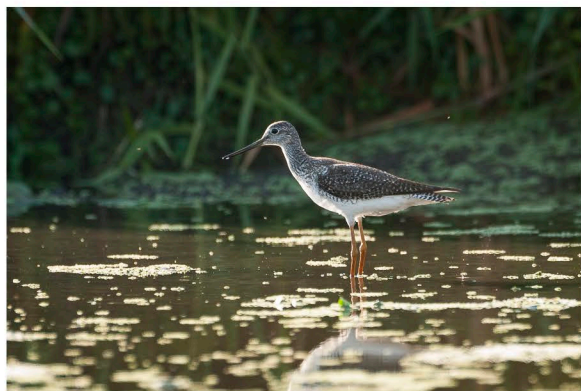


Solitary Sandpiper

Tringa solitaria

Habitat: Lakes and ponds.

Comments: Relatively common. True to its name, usually solitary, foraging on shorelines with or without vegetation. Greenish legs, prominent eyering and darker wings when perched if compared to Lesser Yellowlegs.



Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

Habitat: Lakes and marshes.

Comments: Rare. Northern migrant, only passing through our region. Differs from Lesser Yellowlegs by longer bill in comparison to head. More frequent in South Pantanal.

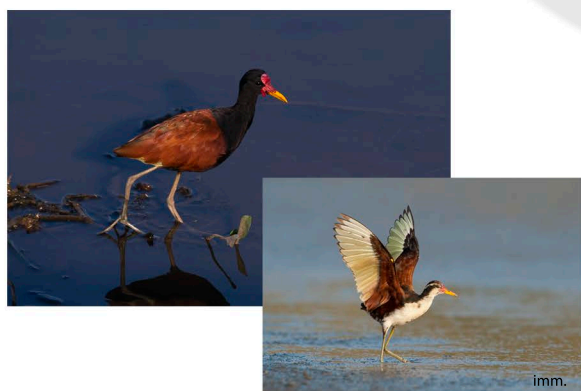


Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Habitat: Lakes and marshes.

Comments: Relatively common. Usually in small groups. Differs from Solitary Sandpiper by lack of such prominent eye-ring, brighter yellow legs and not so dark wings when perched. Smaller and "stockier" than Greater Yellowlegs.

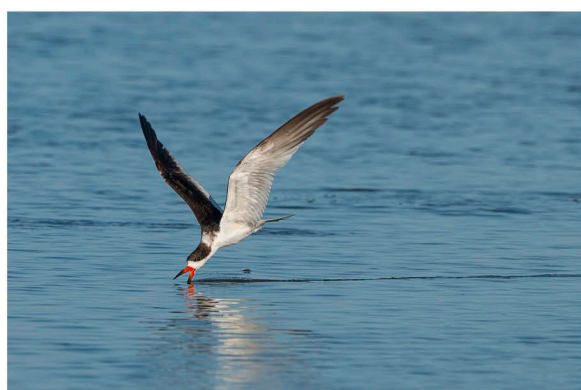


Wattled Jacana

Jacana jacana

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Common. Very frequent among floating vegetation alongside rivers and lakes. Unmistakable.

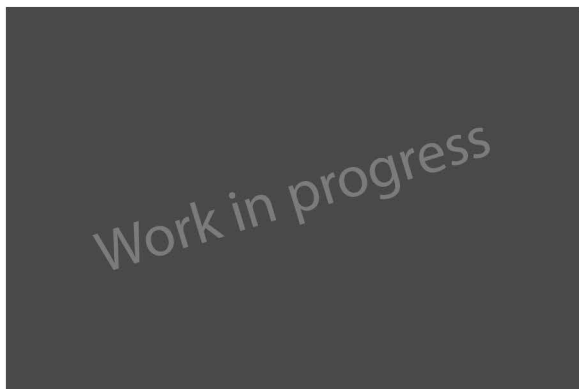


Black Skimmer

Rynchops niger

Habitat: Beaches and sandbars along rivers.

Comments: Relatively common. Always in groups. More frequent when water levels are lower, exposing more sandbars where they nest.



Yellow-billed Tern

Sternula superciliaris

Habitat: Beaches, sandbars, lakes.

Comments: Relatively common on beaches and sandbars along large rivers. Also in more inland bodies of water. Small size and thin bill diagnostic.



Large-billed Tern

Phaetusa simplex

Habitat: Beaches, sandbars, lakes.

Comments: Common on beaches and sandbars along large rivers. Also in more inland bodies of water. Large size and heavy bill diagnostic.

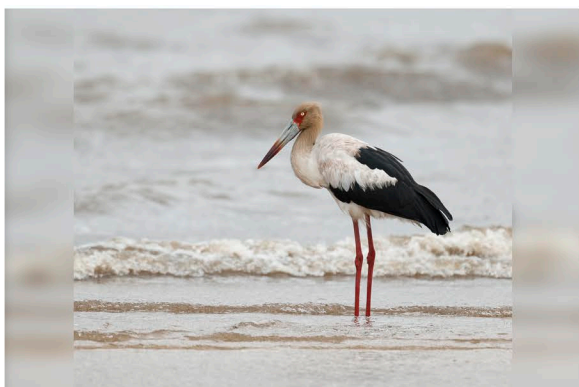


Sunbittern

Eurypyga helias

Habitat: Shaded water edges, ponds.

Comments: Relatively common. More easily seen when water levels are very low. Remain close to dense cover. Much more common in North Pantanal.

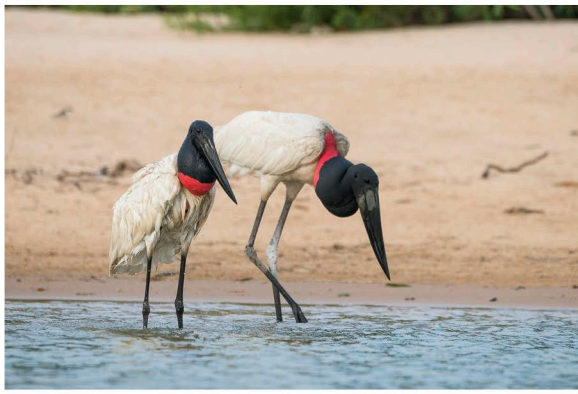


Maguari Stork

Ciconia maguari

Habitat: Marshes, open wet areas.

Comments: Rare. Jabiru is larger and whiter, with black bill and red lower neck.



Jabiru

Jabiru mycteria

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river shore.

Comments: Common. Very large. Often seen foraging on marshes or river shores, may gather in large numbers in drying water bodies. Builds huge nests on big trees.



Wood Stork

Mycteria americana

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Common. Smaller than Jabiru and with no red on neck. May gather in large numbers.

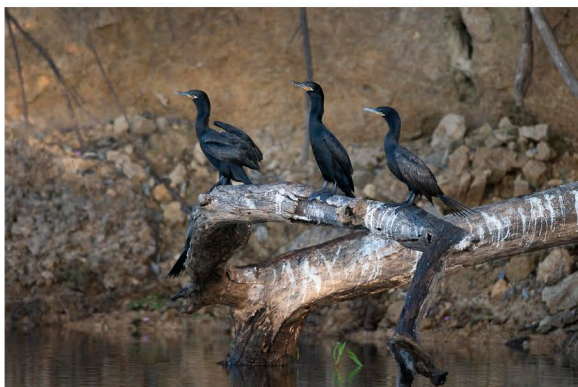


Anhinga

Anhinga anhinga

Habitat: Rivers and lakes.

Comments: Common. Less gregarious than Cormorants. Long snake-like neck. Dives when scared. Often seen drying wings at river shore. Females much more common than males in the Pantanal. Males are nearly all black.



Neotropic Cormorant

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Habitat: Rivers and lakes.

Comments: Very common. Often in groups. Much more shorter necked than Anhingas.

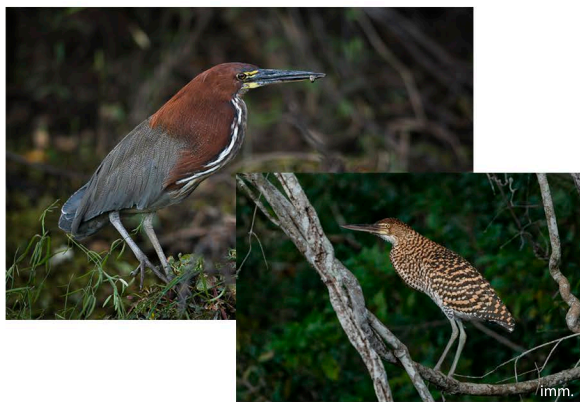


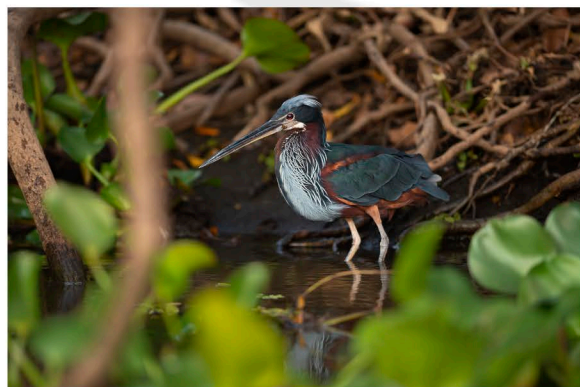
Photo: Larissa Pantanal

Rufescent Tiger-Heron

Tigrisoma lineatum

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river shore.

Comments: Common. Usually forages near vegetation.

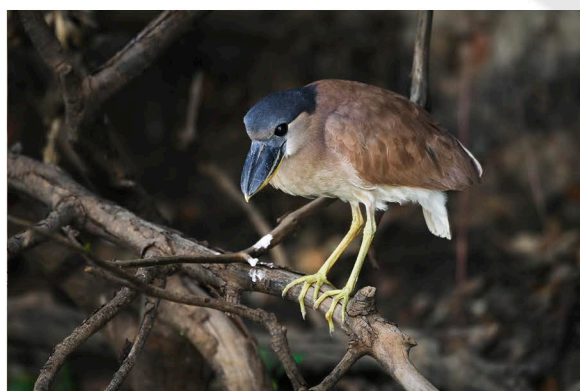


Agami Heron

Agamia agami

Habitat: Shaded river shores, lakes.

Comments: Rare. Remains hidden in shaded and secluded forested river edges. Solitary. Beautiful pattern, unlikely to be confused.

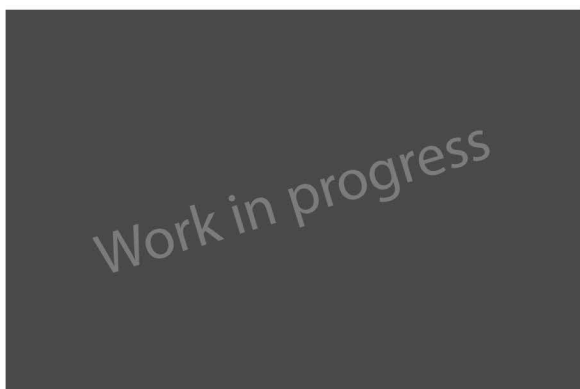


Boat-billed Heron

Cochlearius cochlearius

Habitat: Rivers, marshes and lakes.

Comments: Uncommon. Crepuscular and nocturnal. During the day hides in dense cover at water edge, in groups. Adults are white.

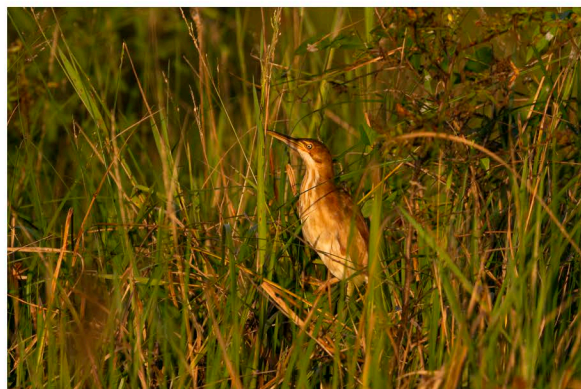


Zigzag Heron

Zebrilus undulatus

Habitat: Rivers and lakes.

Comments: Rare. Remains in shaded forested river edges, never emerging from cover. Solitary. Much smaller and skulkier than Striated Heron.

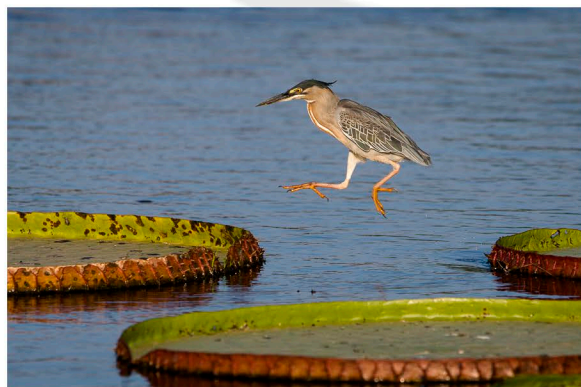


Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis

Habitat: Marshes and lakes with reeds or tall grass.

Comments: Rare, very local. Tends to freeze with an upright posture when detected. Differs from Striated Heron by more rufescent color, smaller size and overall more delicate look.



Striated Heron

Butorides striata

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Common. Small but chunky. Hunts from a perch over water. Immature is more streaked.

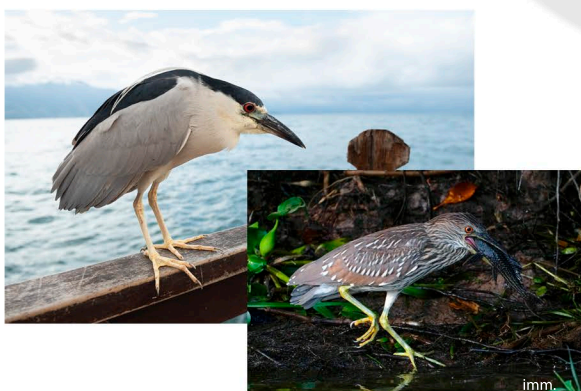


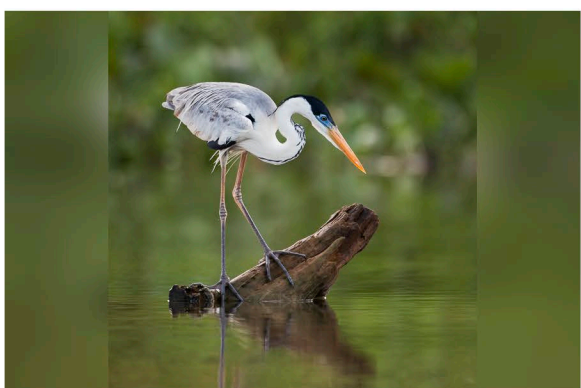
Photo: Larissa Pantanal

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Relatively common. Crepuscular and nocturnal, rarely active during the day, when it tends to hide in groups among dense riverside vegetation.



Cocoi Heron

Ardea cocoi

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Very common. Quite large and elegant. Seen frequently at river edge, hunting from a perch above the water.



Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Habitat: Pastures, agricultural fields, wet fields.

Comments: Common. Chunky appearance. Almost always in groups. In the region most commonly seen following livestock. May roost together in huge numbers on marshes or water edge.



Great Egret

Ardea alba

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Very common. Elegant and larger than other white egrets. Often in groups, may gather in large numbers where food is abundant. Yellow bill.



Snowy Egret

Egretta thula

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Common. May gather in large numbers. Great Egret is much larger and longer necked, with a yellow bill. Cattle Egret is about the same size but chunkier and with yellow legs and bill.

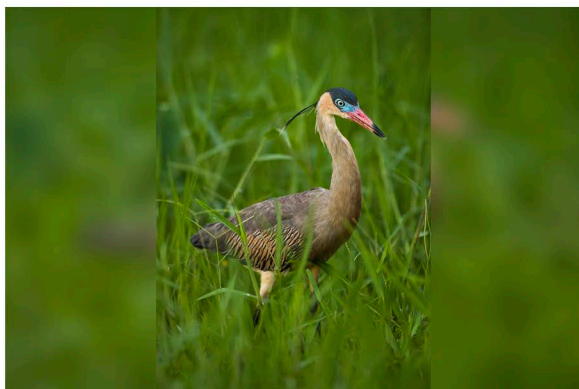


Little Blue Heron

Egretta caerulea

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Uncommon. Adults unmistakable. Immature has white body with gray bill, not black, as in species above.



Whistling Heron

Syrigma sibilatrix

Habitat: Marshes, wet fields, pastures, ponds.

Comments: Relatively common. Quite colorful, unmistakable. Often in pairs foraging on grassy areas. Prefers wet fields instead of areas near open water.

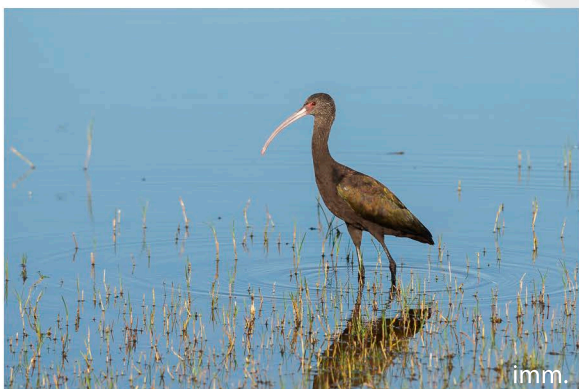


Capped Heron

Pilherodius pileatus

Habitat: River edge, marshes, ponds.

Comments: Uncommon. Usually seen on forested river margins, in pairs or small groups. Very elegant. Distinctive yellowish plumage.

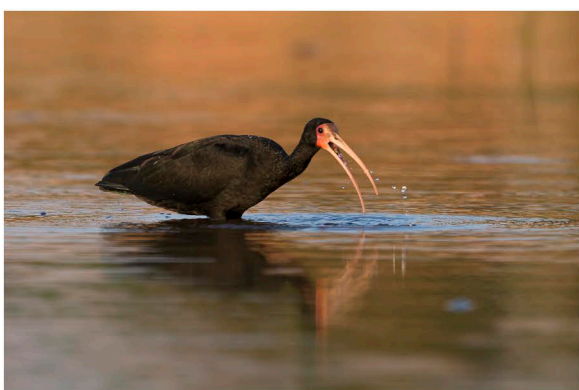


White-faced Ibis

Plegadis chihi

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, wet fields.

Comments: Rare. In the region usually more immatures and non-breeding adults. Differs from Bare-faced Ibis by longer neck and legs, and more bronzy plumage. More frequent in South Pantanal.



Bare-faced Ibis

Phimosus infuscatus

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, wet fields.

Comments: Common. Seen in small groups foraging on muddy shores, shallow water or wet fields. Very dark plumage.



Green Ibis

Mesembrinibis cayennensis

Habitat: Marshes, rivers, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Relatively common. More frequent around forested margins of rivers, ponds and marshes. Avoids wide open areas. Metallic green plumage, looks dark in low light. More active during dawn and dusk.

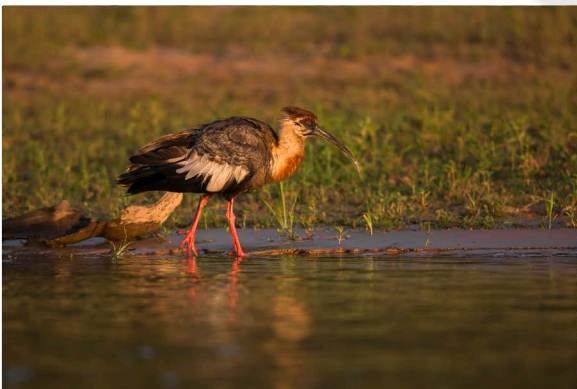


Plumbeous Ibis

Theristicus caerulescens

Habitat: Marshes, ponds, lakes, pastures, wet fields.

Comments: Common. Seen regularly on open grassy areas or around ponds and lakes. Very loud calls heard often.

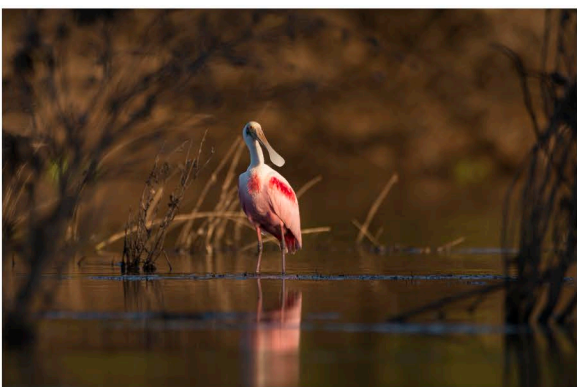


Buff-necked Ibis

Theristicus caudatus

Habitat: Pastures, marshes, lakes, river edge.

Comments: Common. Prefers drier areas than other ibises, but also seen at river or lake shores. Distinct colors but buff neck should make identification easy.

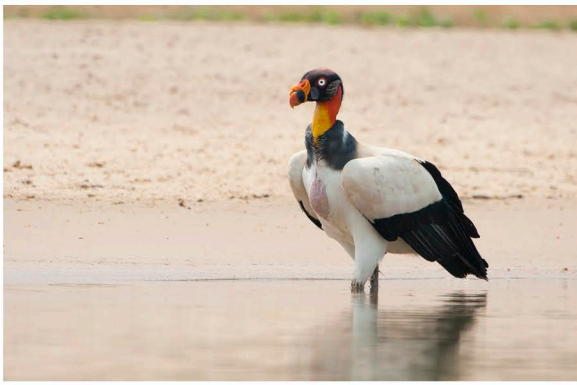


Roseate Spoonbill

Platalea ajaja

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds, river edge.

Comments: Relatively common. Very shy, almost never allowing a close approach. The only bird with this pink color in our region. Non-breeding birds much paler.



King Vulture

Sarcoramphus papa

Habitat: Forests.

Comments: Rare. Large size. Prefers forest areas but sometimes seen bathing at rivershore. When soaring reminds a Wood Stork, but without the long legs. Usually alone or in pairs. Immature is blackish.

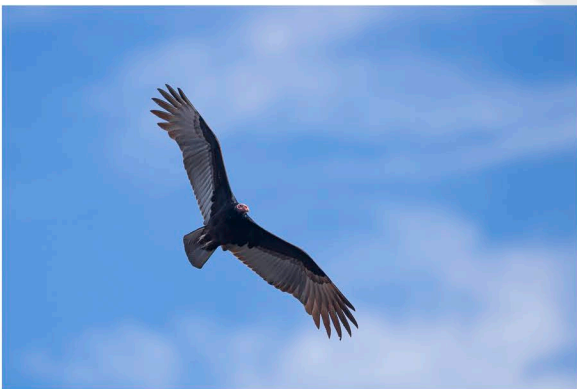


Black Vulture

Coragyps atratus

Habitat: Woodland, pastures, towns, river edge.

Comments: Very common. On river shore may indicate the presence of a carcass (Jaguar kill) nearby. When soaring wings are held flat, unlike the other vultures below.



Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

Habitat: Forest, woodland, pastures, river edge.

Comments: Common. Wings held in a shallow V when soaring. See Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture for differentiation.



Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture

Cathartes burrovianus

Habitat: Forest, woodland, pastures, river edge.

Comments: Common. Wings held in a shallow V when soaring. Differs from Turkey Vulture by slightly shorter wings and whiter shafts of primaries when seen from above. Head color also a factor, but difficult to see in flight.



Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Habitat: Edges of large rivers and lakes.

Comments: Uncommon. Migratory, appears first in our region around September. Perches on big trees at river edge.



Gray-headed Kite

Leptodon cayanensis

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Rare. A forest species, sometimes seen soaring.

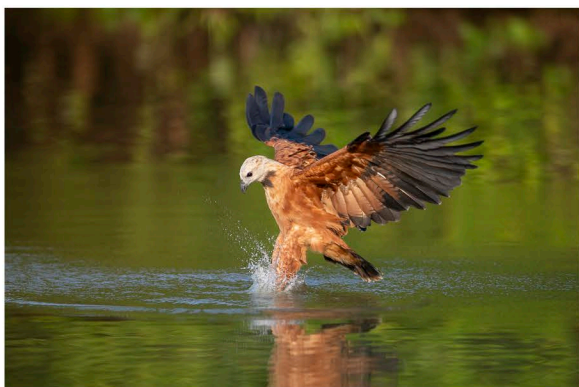


Swallow-tailed Kite

Elanoides forficatus

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen habitats.

Comments: Uncommon. Mostly seen flying. May gather in large numbers during migration. Unmistakable silhouette. More common from September to November.



Black-collared Hawk

Busarellus nigricollis

Habitat: River edge, marshes, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Common. Always near water, where often seen catching fish and crabs. Heavy appearance. Immature has some streaks, but general colors and profile should make identification easy.



Snail Kite

Rostrhamus sociabilis

Habitat: Marshes, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Common, specially earlier in the season when marshes have more water. Roosts together in large numbers on trees at riverside.



Plumbeous Kite

Ictinia plumbea

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common, but only later in the season. Often flies in groups, catching insects. Perches on high exposed branches.

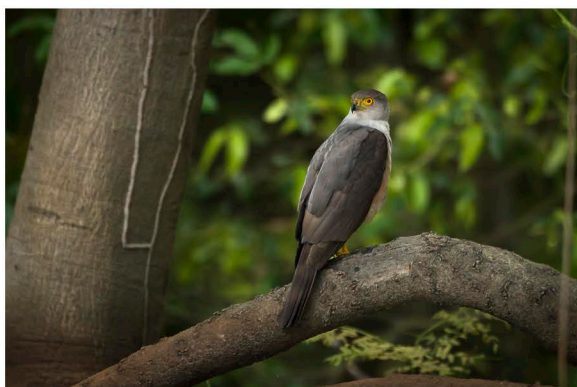


Long-winged Harrier

Circus buffoni

Habitat: Marshes.

Comments: Rare. Flies buoyantly over marshes. There is also a white morph, but in the Pantanal the black one seems more frequent.



Bicolored Hawk

Accipiter bicolor

Habitat: Forest.

Comments: Rare. A fierce-looking forest hawk, tends to stay inside cover, difficult to see. Immature is streaked brown below.



Crane Hawk

Geranospiza caerulescens

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas, river edge.

Comments: Relatively common. Long legged, likes to hunt on the ground or probing inside bird nests at river banks.



Savanna Hawk

Buteogallus meridionalis

Habitat: Semiopen areas, pastures, open fields, marshes.

Comments: Relatively common. Prefers drier areas but sometimes also found at marshes. Quite large, with upright posture when perched. Often hunts on the ground. Soars often.



Great Black Hawk

Buteogallus urubitinga

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, river edge, marshes.

Comments: Relatively common. Quite large and robust. Seen frequently on vegetation at river edge. Soars often. Immature resembles Savanna Hawk imm., but with no rufous on wing coverts.



Roadside Hawk

Rupornis magnirostris

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, river edge, marshes.

Comments: Common, found in virtually all habitats. True to its name, often seen perched on trees at roadside or riverside. Quite small and compact. Soars often. In flight look for rufous primaries.

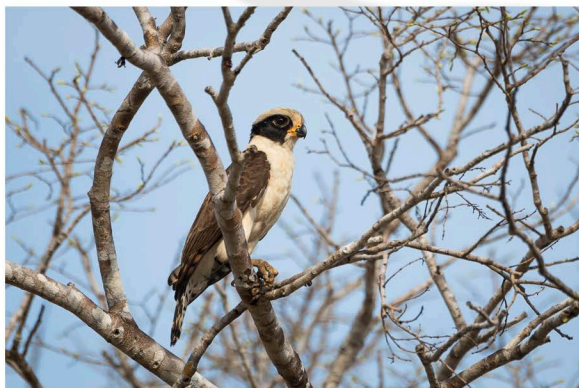


White-tailed Hawk

Geranoaetus albicaudatus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, pastures.

Comments: Uncommon. Prefers drier areas. Large. Often seen soaring. Perches on exposed spots.

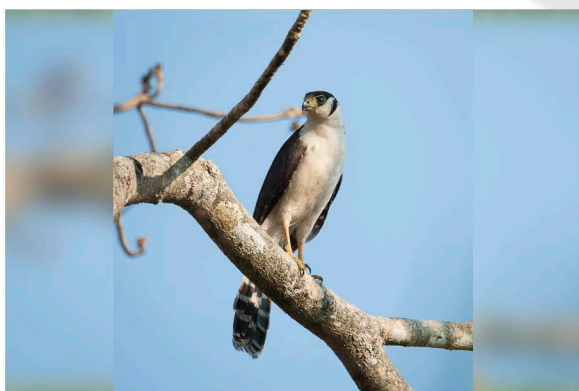


Laughing Falcon

Herpetotheres cachinnans

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Song very loud and repetitive, often lasting several minutes, can be heard from far away. Quite small and compact.



Collared Forest-Falcon

Micrastur semitorquatus

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Powerful predator, feared by other birds. Loud song heard specially early in the morning. Rufous morph also seen sometimes. Large and long tailed.



Southern Caracara

Caracara plancus

Habitat: Semiopen areas, farmland, gardens.

Comments: Very common. Often seen around houses, fish cleaning stations and such. Eats mainly carrion. Forages on the ground. Immature is striated brown.



Yellow-headed Caracara

Milvago chimachima

Habitat: Semiopen areas, farmland, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Much smaller than Southern Caracara. Perches on top of Capybaras to eat ticks. Also feed on carrion. Immature is striated brown.



American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

Habitat: Open areas, farmland.

Comments: Relatively common. Small, fast flying, perches on exposed spots and catches large insects on the ground.



Bat Falcon

Falco rufigularis

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Uncommon. Flies fast, sometimes seen at dusk hunting bats or large insects in flight. Very small.



Aplomado Falcon

Falco femoralis

Habitat: Open areas, farmland.

Comments: Uncommon. Medium sized, very fast flying when hunting. Catches mainly smaller birds.



American Barn Owl

Tyto furcata

Habitat: Open areas, farmland.

Comments: Uncommon. More often heard than seen.



Tropical Screech-Owl

Megascops choliba

Habitat: Forest, forest border, woodland, gardens.

Comments: Relatively common. Quite small, sings often during breeding season. Strictly nocturnal. Seems more common in South Pantanal.

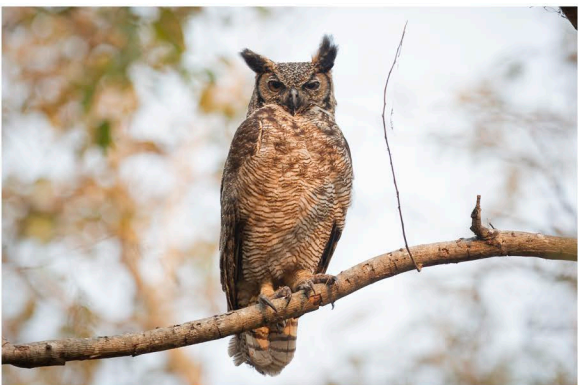


Spectacled Owl

Pulsatrix perspicillata

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Rare and local. Large. Strictly nocturnal.

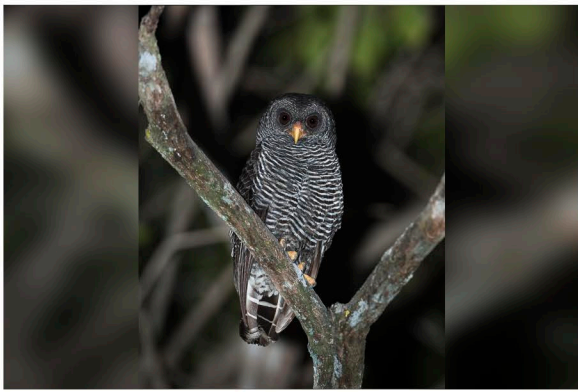


Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. The largest owl in the Americas, often found at their favorite roosting places during the day inside small forest groves. Also heard often at night around some lodges.

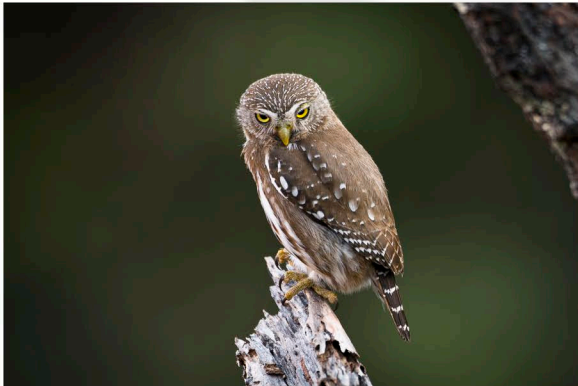


Black-banded Owl

Strix huhula

Habitat: Forest.

Comments: Rare. Strictly nocturnal. Seems to prefer forest near water bodies.



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Glaucidium brasilianum

Habitat: Forest, woodland, gardens.

Comments: Relatively common. Very small but may hunt birds bigger than themselves! Active during the day as well. Song often heard around lodges, a repetitive simple whistle. The only pygmy-owl in our region.



Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia

Habitat: Open areas, farmland.

Comments: Relatively common. Nests and roosts on the ground, in burrows excavated by armadillos. Does not hunt during the day, but often seen outside the burrow in plain daylight. Small, but not as small as Pygmy-Owls. More common in drier areas.

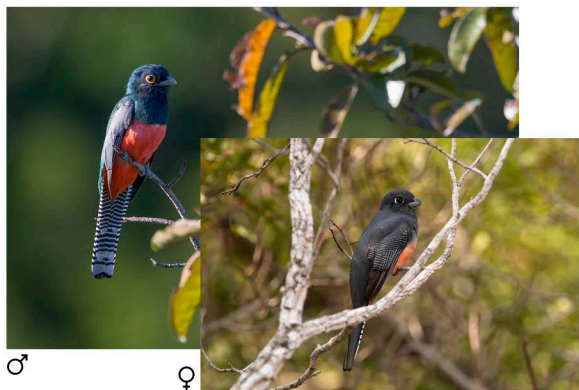


Striped Owl

Asio clamator

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Strictly nocturnal. Gives various calls, including a dog-like bark.

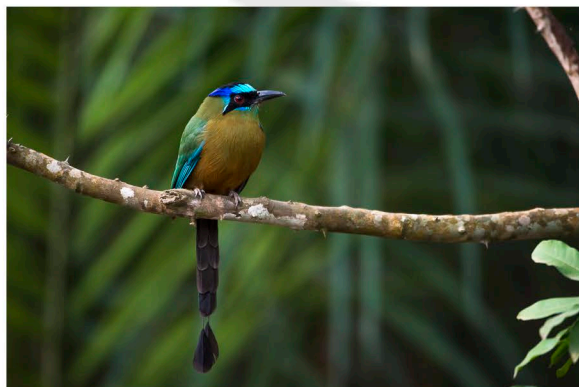


Blue-crowned Trogon

Trogon curucui

Habitat: Forest, wodland, forest border.

Comments: Relatively common. The only trogon in the Pantanal, easy to ID. Female is gray instead of blue/green on the back.



Amazonian Motmot

Momotus momota

Habitat: Forest, forest border.

Comments: Uncommon. Favours the interior of forest, specially near rivers. More active at dawn or dusk, when it may come bit more into the open to forage. The only motmot in the Pantanal. Formerly named Blue-crowned Motmot. More common south of actual Pantanal.

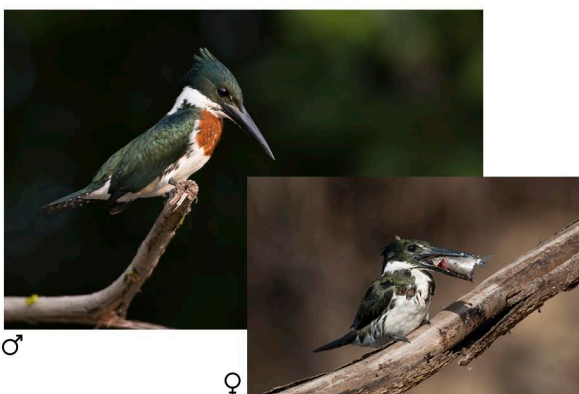


Ringed Kingfisher

Megaceryle torquata

Habitat: Rivers, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Common. The largest neotropical kingfisher. Easy to ID by size alone, but colors also quite distinct. Perches in the open on exposed spots. Male has all orange underparts.

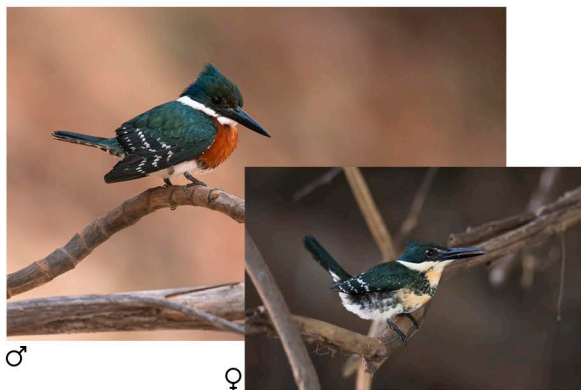


Amazon Kingfisher

Chloroceryle amazona

Habitat: Rivers, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Common. Medium sized kingfisher, but comparatively much larger than other "green kingfishers". Doesn't have white spots on wing coverts like Green Kingfisher do. Also compare the bill, larger in Amazon.

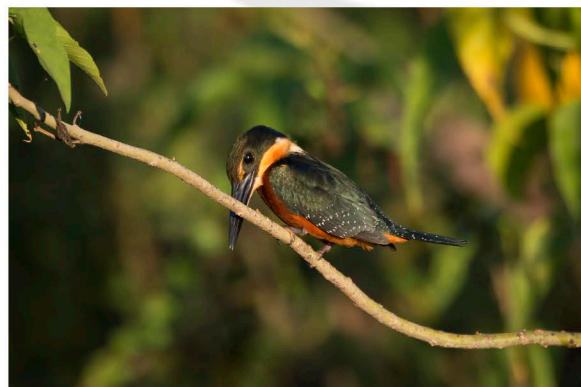


Green Kingfisher

Chloroceryle americana

Habitat: Rivers, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Relatively common. Much smaller than Green Kingfisher, but larger than Pygmy. Tends to perch under cover, rarely choosing exposed spots.

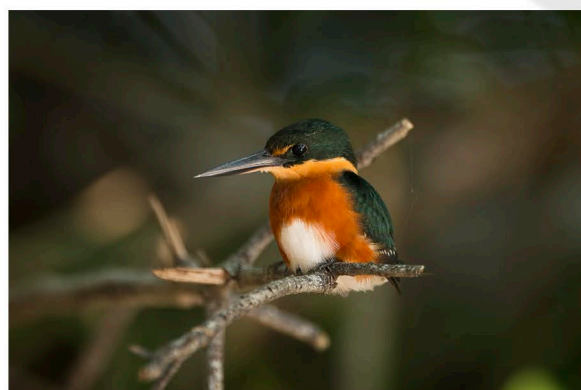


Green-and-rufous Kingfisher

Chloroceryle inda

Habitat: Rivers, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Uncommon. A little bigger than Green Kingfisher. Tends to perch under cover and prefers secluded areas. Look for all rufous underparts and orangy collar, not white.

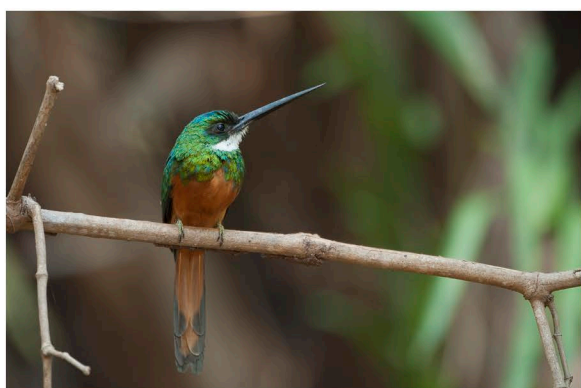


American Pygmy Kingfisher

Chloroceryle aenea

Habitat: Rivers, lakes, ponds.

Comments: Uncommon. Tiny size, much smaller than all other kingfishers. Perches under cover, difficult to see. Prefers secluded areas.

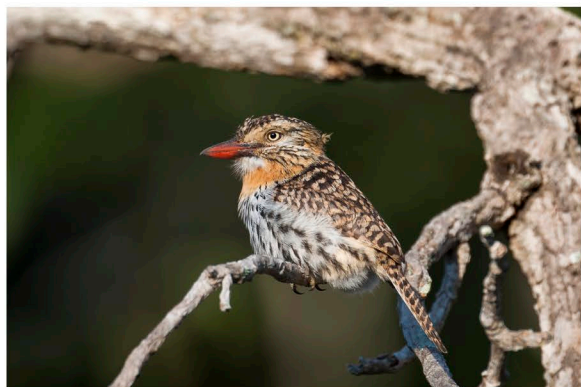


Rufous-tailed Jacamar

Galbula ruficauda

Habitat: Forest, forest edge.

Comments: Relatively common. Often in pairs at lower or middle levels. Nests on burrows excavated at river edge during dry season. The only jacamar in the Pantanal. Female has buff colored throat.



Chaco Puffbird

Nystalus striatipectus

Habitat: Woodland, forest border.

Comments: Uncommon, absent from North Pantanal. Prefers drier woodland. Sometimes considered conspecific with Spot-backed Puffbird.



White-eared Puffbird

Nystalus chacuru

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Uncommon. Prefers more open habitats than other puffbirds. Absent from actual Pantanal, only found around its borders.

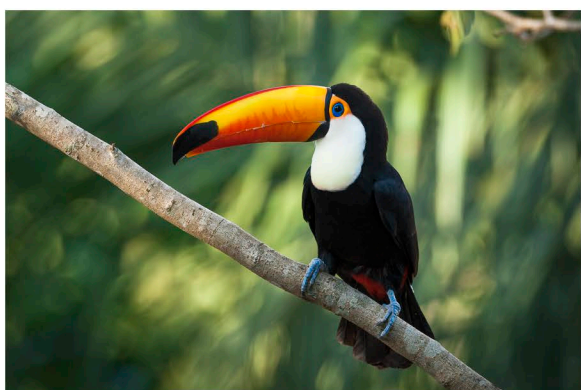


Black-fronted Nunbird

Monasa nigrifrons

Habitat: Forest, woodland, forest border.

Comments: Relatively common. Often in small groups at canopy or mid levels, but may come down to near ground level when foraging. Groups may sing in a gabbling chorus for several minutes. Absent from South Pantanal.

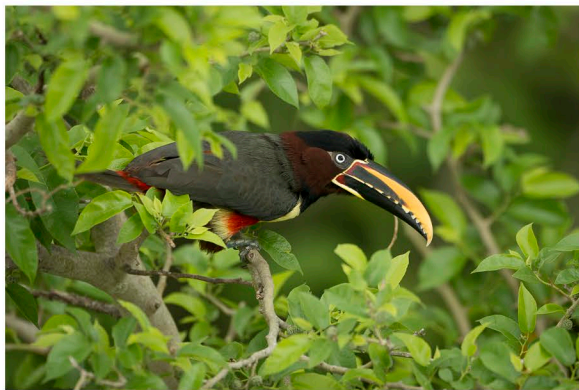


Toco Toucan

Ramphastos toco

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Common. The largest of all toucans, unmistakable. Frequents some bird feeders. Often in pairs, may be seen at fruiting trees or searching for other bird's nests.

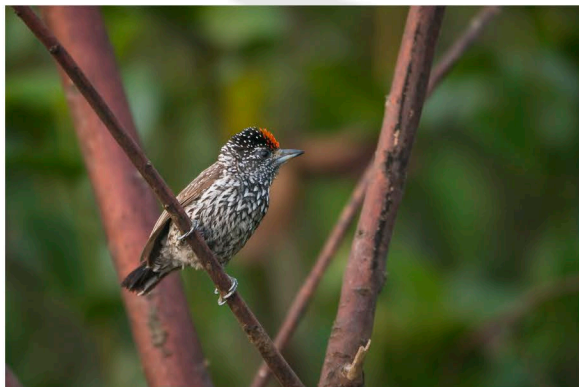


Chestnut-eared Aracari

Pteroglossus castanotis

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Much smaller than Toco Toucan. The only Aracari in the Pantanal. Usually in small groups. Frequents some bird feeders. Spelled "arassari".

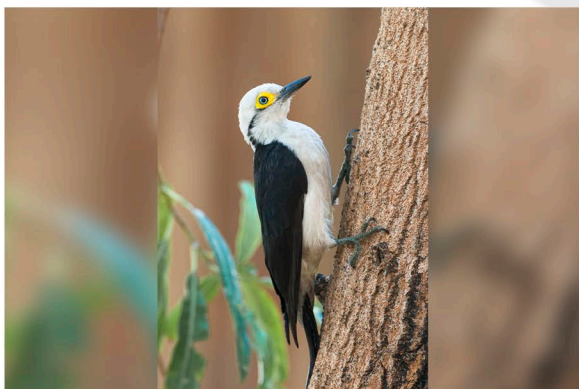


White-wedged Piculet

Picumnus albosquamatus

Habitat: Forest, woodland, forest border.

Comments: Relatively common. Tiny, forages at mid levels pecking at thin branches and vines. The only piculet in the Pantanal. Female has no red on forehead.

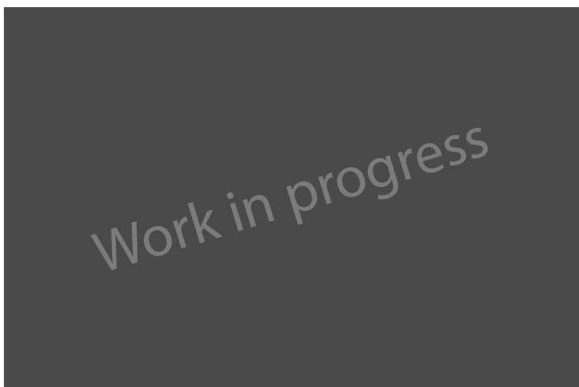


White Woodpecker

Melanerpes candidus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Relatively common. Prefers drier, open areas with scattered trees. Always in small, noisy groups.



White-fronted Woodpecker

Melanerpes cactorum

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Uncommon. Only in South Pantanal. Prefers drier woodland. Often in small groups.

Work in progress

Checkered Woodpecker

Veniliornis mixtus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Rare. Favors dry scrub areas. Only in South Pantanal. Small size.



Little Woodpecker

Veniliornis passerinus

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Small, forages at mid levels, usually alone or in pairs. Dull plumaged. Female has no red crown.

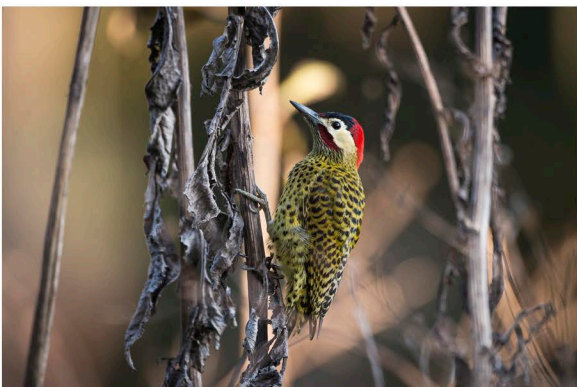
Work in progress

Golden-green Woodpecker

Piculus chrysochloros

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Considerably larger than Little Woodpecker. Often feeds on arboreal termite and ant nests. More forest-based.

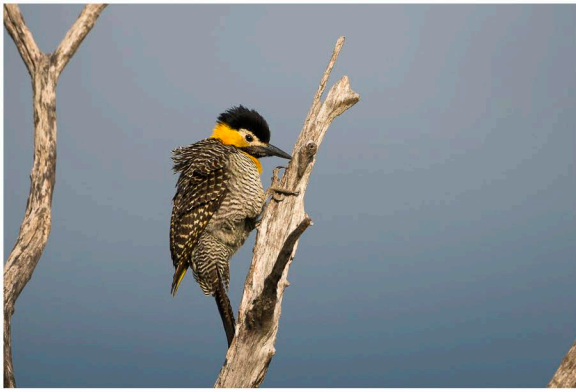


Green-barred Woodpecker

Colaptes melanochloros

Habitat: Woodland, forest edge, gardens.

Comments: Uncommon. Campo Flicker is structurally similar but has different colors and is more terrestrial. Frequents some bird feeders. Female has no red malar stripe.



Campo Flicker

Colaptes campestris

Habitat: Semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Relatively common. Very terrestrial, often seen foraging on the ground or on termite mounds, where it also nests. Prefers dry areas.

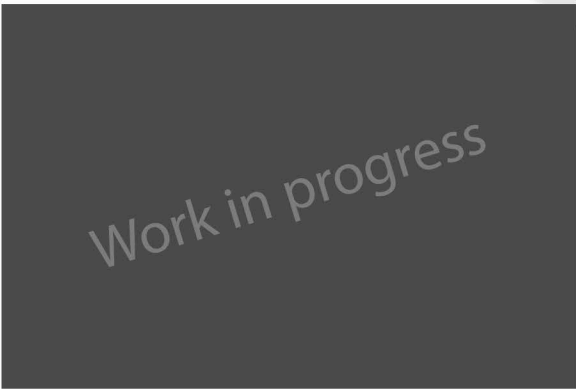


Cream-colored Woodpecker

Celeus flavus

Habitat: Forest.

Comments: Uncommon. Only in North Pantanal. Forages for termites and ants on forest canopy and mid levels. Males have a red malar stripe.

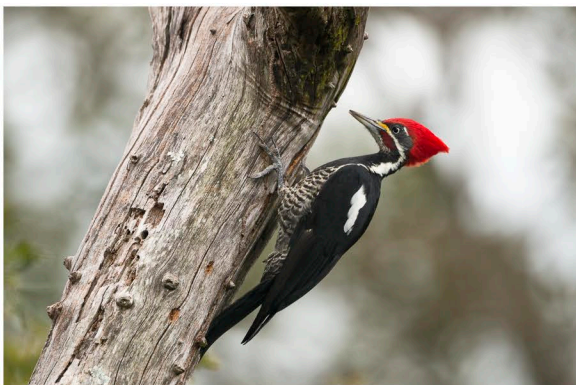


Pale-crested Woodpecker

Celeus lugubris

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Forages at mid levels inside forest. Bushy pale crest.



Lineated Woodpecker

Dryocopus lineatus

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. White back stripes does not converge on lower back. Smaller and lighter-looking than other two "red headed" woodpeckers. Dark grey bill. Female has black malar stripe, not red.



Crimson-crested Woodpecker

Campephilus melanoleucos

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Large and powerful looking. More forest-based than Lineated Woodpecker. White stripes converge on lower back. Horn-colored bill. Male has nearly entire head red.



Cream-backed Woodpecker

Campephilus leucopogon

Habitat: Woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Large and robust. Occurs only in a limited area of South Pantanal. Entire black underparts and cream patch on back diagnostic.

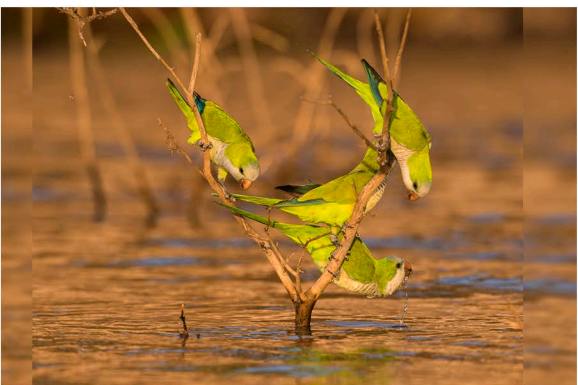


Red-legged Seriema

Cariama cristata

Habitat: Semiopen areas, grassy fields, farmland.

Comments: Relatively common. More common in South Pantanal. Prefers drier areas. Unmistakable. Loud song often heard from afar.



Monk Parakeet

Myiopsitta monachus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Common. Always in noisy groups. Builds huge nests with sticks, often on the underside of Jabiru nests. The only psittacid in the region with white underparts. Often seen foraging for seeds on the ground.

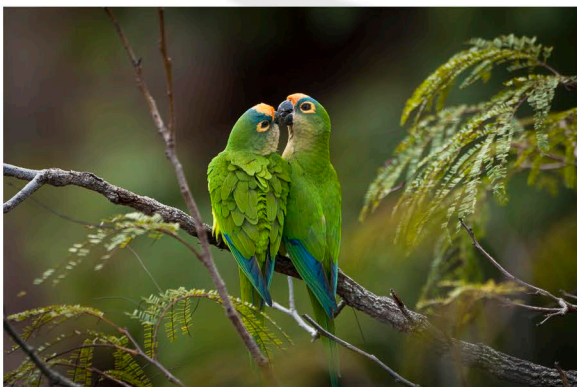


Yellow-chevroned Parakeet

Brotogeris chiriri

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Common. Quite small mostly all green parakeet, often seen flying in groups.

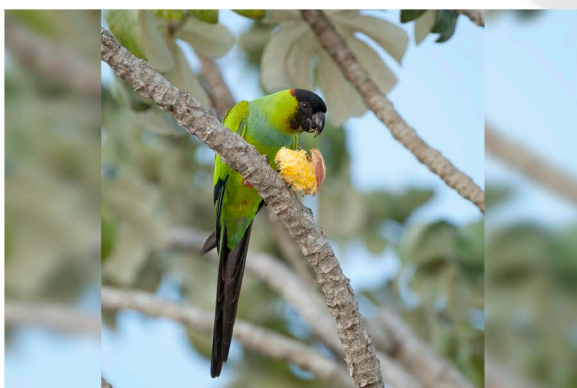


Peach-fronted Parakeet

Eupsittula aurea

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Common. Small with a diagnostic peach-colored forehead and eyerings. More common in South Pantanal and adjacent areas. Usually in small groups.



Black-hooded Parakeet

Aratinga nenday

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. Much more common in South Pantanal. Black head diagnostic. Also called Nanday Parakeet.



Blue-crowned Parakeet

Thectocercus acuticaudatus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. Mostly all green except by small bluish patch on forehead and broad white eyerings. Underside of tail is red and yellow, mostly seen in flight. Often placed in genus *Aratinga*.



White-eyed Parakeet

Psittacara leucophthalmus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Uncommon. This species is more common outside of actual Pantanal. When perched mostly all green with broad white eyerings and small variable red markings around neck and shoulder. Often placed on genus *Aratinga*.



Red-shouldered Macaw

Diopsittaca nobilis

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common, specially in South Pantanal. Like other macaws, it has an extensive area of bare skin on the face, but is a much smaller bird than other macaws, more like a parakeet. Bi-colored bill. Red patch on shoulder often seen only in flight.

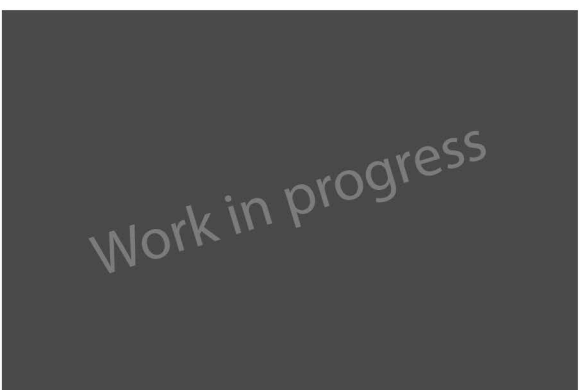


Yellow-collared Macaw

Primolius auricollis

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. Medium sized macaw, between a parakeet and a large macaw. Yellow collar and chestnut upper tail diagnostic. Bill black.



Blaze-winged Parakeet

Pyrrhura devillei

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Uncommon. Endemic to South Pantanal and adjacent areas. Distinct plumage with bright red feathers on belly, shoulders and underwing coverts. Quite inconspicuous.

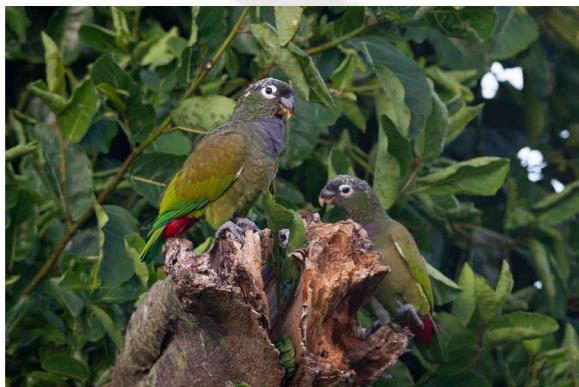


Blue-winged Parrotlet

Forpus xanthopterygius

Habitat: Forest, forest border, woodland

Comments: Relatively common. Tiny, often overlooked. Usually in little groups. Unmistakable by size alone.



Scaly-headed Parrot

Pionus maximiliani

Habitat: Forest, woodland.

Comments: Relatively common. Distinct plumage. The only parrot in the region with such broad white eyerings. Extremely inconspicuous when perched.



Yellow-faced Parrot

Alipiopsitta xanthops

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Uncommon. Only in South Pantanal and adjacent areas. Prefers more open areas, sometimes seen perched on termite mounds on open fields. Broad yellow face, often with some pink bare skin on forehead. Bi-colored bill.



Turquoise-fronted Parrot

Amazona aestiva

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Common. Usually in pairs. Quite large. Face shows variable amounts of yellow with blue forehead. Red patch on wings in flight. Black bill.



Orange-winged Parrot

Amazona amazonica

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. Very similar to Turquoise-fronted Parrot. Differs mainly by often lighter-colored bill and orange wing patches, not red. Structurally a bit different as well, seems smaller headed. Favors forests near rivers.



Blue-and-yellow Macaw

Ara ararauna

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas, farmland.

Comments: Relatively common. More common in South Pantanal, rare in North. Unmistakable by combination of bright yellow and blue/turquoise plumage.



Red-and-green Macaw

Ara chloropterus

Habitat: Forest, woodland, semiopen areas.

Comments: Relatively common. More common in South Pantanal and adjacent areas, very rare in North. The only red macaw in the region so unlikely to be confused.



Hyacinth Macaw

Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus

Habitat: Woodland, semiopen areas, pastures.

Comments: Common. Specially common near corrals for cattle or horse, where they feed on processed defecated Acuri palm seeds. Often feeds on the ground. The largest of all macaws, unmistakable.