

Jaguars in the Pantanal

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The Pantanal

A natural region encompassing the world's largest tropical wetland area, and the world's largest flooded grasslands. . It sprawls over an area estimated at between 54,000 and 75,000 sq miles

Tennessee has a land area of 41,227 sq miles

Jaguars

- The Pantanal is home to one of the largest concentration and healthiest jaguar populations on the planet, with an estimated population of 4,000. They are generally larger and stronger than jaguars found elsewhere, with males growing to 310 pounds and females to 200 pounds.
- There are thirteen species of herons and egrets, six species of ibises and spoonbills, and five species of kingfishers that use the Pantanal as a breeding and feeding ground.



The Transpantaneira Highway

- The road is the only link between the city of Poconé and the town of Porto Jofre.
- It is 91 miles long
- Crosses no less than 122 wooden bridges
 - about 1 bridge every $\frac{3}{4}$ miles
- The road provides opportunity for wildlife watching, especially in dry season
- Road was supposed to be paved but the money got “LOST”
 - Lot of mixed feelings on paving the road
 - More people: Good for business, Bad for environment

A Dirt Road through 91 miles of Wildlife

Worst Bridge !

We All got out of Bus
and walked across it.
Still did not feel safe



Worst Bridge on the
Transpantaneira "Highway"





Cattle box waiting to get branded

Camera's used entire trip

2-Canon R5 Bodies

RF 24-70mm F2.8 L IS

RF 100-500mm F4.5-7.1 L IS



HERE BEGINS
THE PANTANAL
WELCOME

ESTRADA PARQUE

TRANSPANTANEIRA
AQUI COMEÇA O PANTANAL DO MATO GROSSO

AQUI EMPIEZA
EL PANTANAL
BIEN VENIDOS



Aqui começa
o Pantanal
Mato-grossense

**Entrance to The Pantanal via
the Transpantaneira Highway**

**No Billboards.
The Only signs
on the Road
are
Watch out for
CRITTERs
Signs**



These are real Portuguese
“Campinos”
from a nearby cattle ranch.





The Portuguese cowboys use traditional equipment like their ancestors. Including a thick blanket over their saddle.

In the field shooting



Local ranchers' Nelore Cattle with the beautiful Pink Ipe Trees. The trees only bloom for 2-3 weeks each year.





Magnificent Jabiru Stork on its nest. They mate for life and stand almost 5 feet tall!



This is Too Close to a Jaguar !
Small rest stop in The Pantanal ½ way to the River

Dawn in the Pantanal

- Our Routine
 - Up at 4:30 AM
 - On the Jon Boat in the river by 5:30 AM (2-3 people per boat with a driver)
 - 20 min ride up the river in the dark toward the best Jaguar hunting spots
 - Searching 100's miles of the Rivers tributaries
 - Back to camp 12:00 noon, Lunch
 - On the Boat by 1:30 PM and back out hunting the elusive Jaguar
 - Back to camp around 7:00 PM, eat some Dinner
 - Sleep
 - Repeat

Our Jon Boats for the week. We stayed in cottages just 200 feet away from the Cuiaba River, up the steps to the right, Hotel Porto Jofre at the very end of the Transpantaneira Highway





Morning on the River

Dawn in the Pantanal

**Part of our group, heading upriver through Water Hyacinth.
This is the dry season so the river is not flowing freely.
Once the river flows fully the Water Hyacinth will be washed away**



**Mark capturing shot of
Jaguar coming down
the bank**



Jaguars-How close are you

- For 95% of the time your boat is the only one within miles
- You are by yourselves searching the 100s of miles of tributaries of the Cuiaba River for Jaguars and Wildlife
- When you see a Jaguar, you get some time by yourself
- The Driver will then Radio the location to the other boats
- The other boats can then choose to come and see the Jaguar if they are within reasonable distance
- There were probably 20 boats on the River the week we were there

**Jaguars - How
close are you?**

A baby Caymen nursery





**Roseate Spoonbill. 32 inches
with wingspan of 50 inches**

**Ranchers raise lots of Huge wild
Pigs in this area**





A Green Iguana in a Pink Ipa tree. These reptiles can grow up to 6 feet in length

**Female Ringed Kingfisher.
16 inches, with wingspan of
7 to 8.5 inches**



Ringed Kingfishers

- For 35 years I have been trying to get pictures of the Kingfisher
- They were always too fast
- I may have gotten 2 good pictures in all of my attempts in the past
- I told the Driver I wanted Kingfisher pictures and he keep an eye out for me

The drivers are Excellent and can spot things you and I would never notice

Filming/shooting Kingfisher getting breakfast



Ringed Kingfishers



Female Ringed Kingfisher

**Female Amazon Kingfisher.
11 inches with wingspan of
7.25 to 8.3 inches**







Ringed Kingfisher with a Spiny Catfish





Cocoi Heron
43 inches, wingspan
16 to 18 inches







Male Rufous-tailed Jacamar
10 inches,
wingspan 4 inches

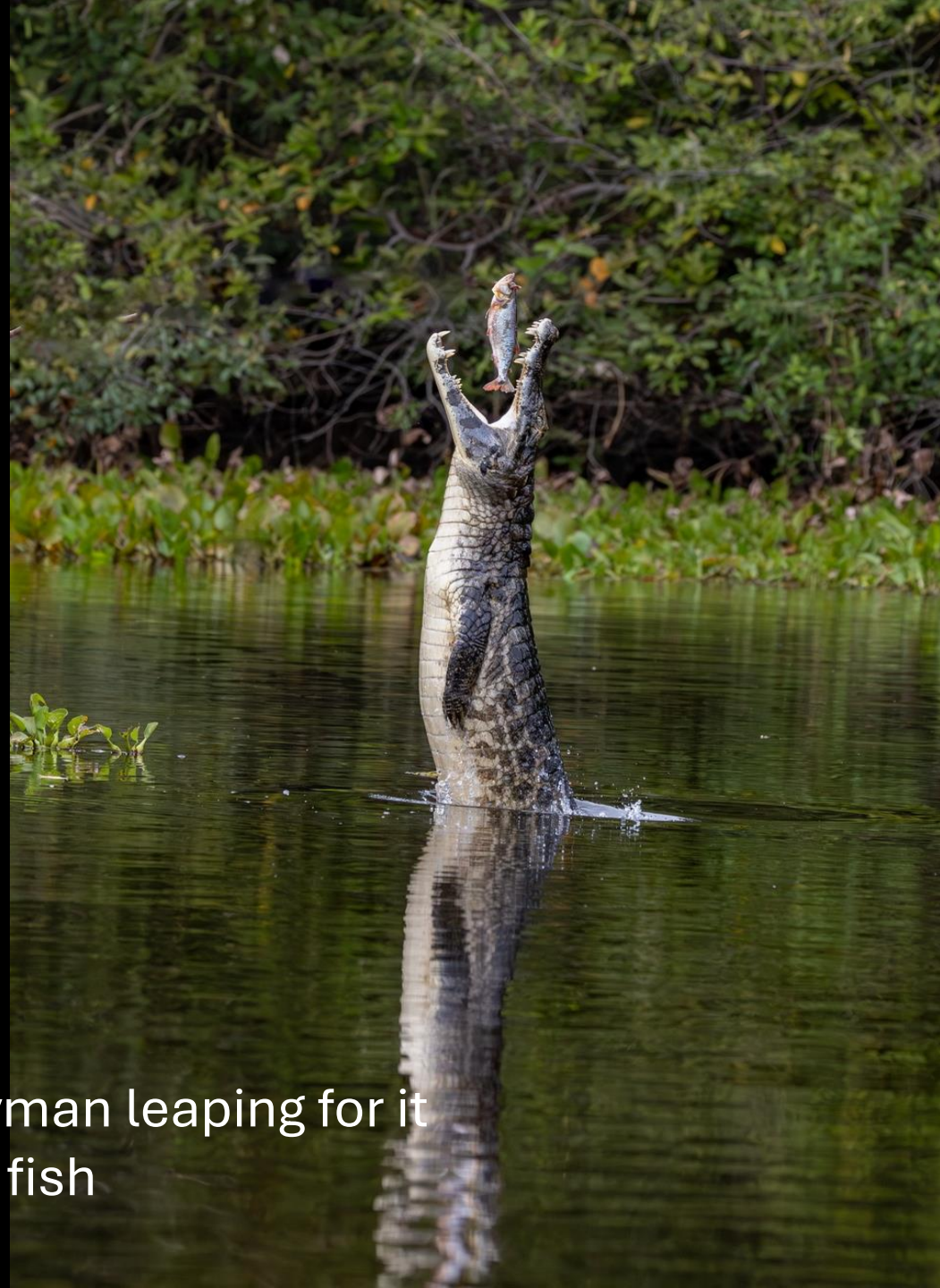


Pantanal Birds

Part One



I love this picture



It is a real Fish and a Cayman leaping for it
He ate the fish

**Black-Collared Hawk. 18 to 20
Inches, wingspan 45 to 50 inches**









Roadside Hawk
13 to 15 inches,
wingspan 26 to 67 inches



Pantanal Birds

Part Two

Jabiru Stork. The tallest flying bird in South America at 5 feet tall, with a wingspan of 8 feet







Jabiru Storks communicate with Bill-Clacking. Otherwise they are silent

Termite Mounds



Black Vulture balancing on a cayman carcass as it floats down the river. 22 to 25 inches with wingspan between 5 and 6 feet



Mr. Jaguar



**Capybara. The world's largest rodent. Related to the Guinea Pig.
Up to 24 inches at the shoulder and 3 to 4 feet long .
Weighing 60 to 174 pounds**





**Capybara hanging out
on the river beach**

**Black-crowned night heron. 23 to 28 inches
Wingspan 45 to 46 inches**



**Boat-billed Heron. 19 to 21 inches
Wingspan 30 inches**



Boat-billed Heron



Immature Black- Crowned Night Heron.

23 to 28 inches

Wingspan 45 to 46 inches



Anhinga
(a/k/a the Snake Bird)
33 to 36 inches.
Wingspan to 48 inches.





Cayman finishing huge catfish



**“Long-Nosed” bat on a tree
Only 1-1/2 inches long**



Rufous-tailed Jacamar



Black-capped Donacobius
8-1/2 inches.
Usually seen in pairs























Hunting by the river's edge.



Green Iguana. Grow up to 6 feet in length and
Weigh up to 15.5 pounds



Male Silver-beaked Tanager

**7 inches and
weigh 25 grams
(0.88 ounces)**



Jaguar sighting on the bank, 8 feet above river





They swim very well









Hyacinth Macaw
38-40 inches
Wingspan up
to 5 feet



The largest parrot in the world. Most numerous in the Pantanal. Rare or absent elsewhere. Flocks of up to 40. Incredibly loud. Feed mainly on palm nuts



Neotropic Cormorant
23 to 27 inches
Wingspan 39 inches



Giant Otter with large Spiny Catfish







Not cute like fluffy sea otters

Neotropic Cormorant with Spiny Catfish

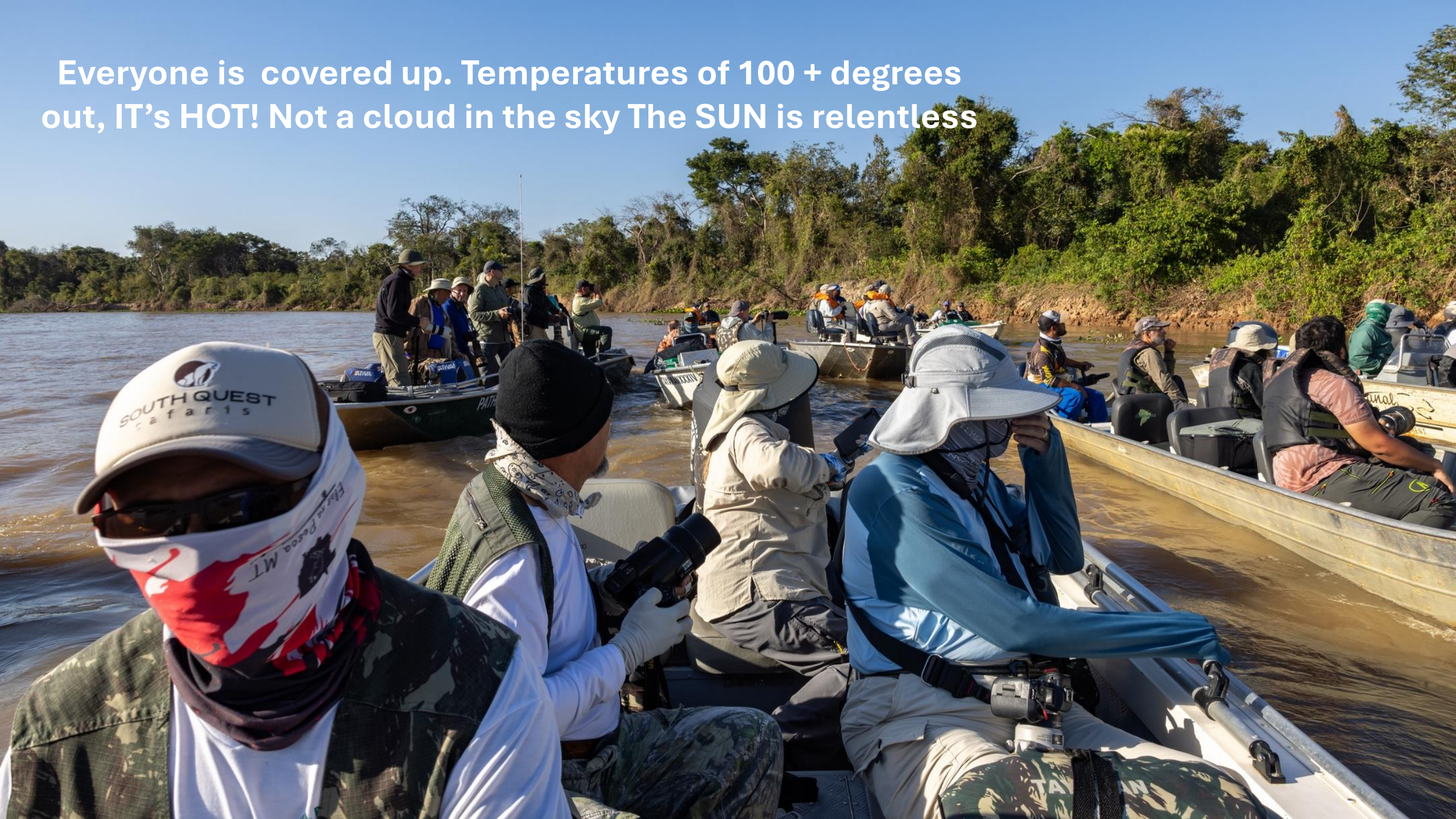








Everyone is covered up. Temperatures of 100 + degrees out, IT's HOT! Not a cloud in the sky The SUN is relentless





Jaguar has been sleeping on a log in front of boats for hours. Everyone is waiting for her to get up and hunt for breakfast!

A wide, calm river flows through a lush landscape. The water is a murky brownish-green color. In the foreground, a narrow, sandy beach is visible, bordered by dense, low-lying green bushes and shrubs. Behind this vegetation, a thick line of trees stretches across the horizon. Many of these trees have bright yellow foliage, while others are green. The sky above is a clear, vibrant blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**Beach where a popular YouTube video of
Jaguar killing a Caymen took place**



Caymen in the morning sunning themselves to warm up before going out to hunt for breakfast















Howler Monkey
Head and body up to
3 feet with tail an
additional 3 feet





“Teenager” Howler Monkey

Toco Toucan
24 inches,
wingspan 60 inches



Toco Toucans are believed to be monogamous, but are mostly solitary



Pantanal Birds

Part Three

Rufous-tailed Jacamar





Caymen open their mouths to cool off

**Great Potoo ! 19 to 21 inches
Wingspan 27.6 to 31.7**



Crested Oropendola

14 to 18 inches,

Wingspan 8 to 8.5 inches



Yellow-billed Cardinal. 6 inches, wingspan 9.8 to 12 inches. “Cardinal” is a misnomer as the species belongs to the Tanager family













Silver-billed Tanager

Although amazingly cute, the anteater can kill a jaguar with their three 4-inch long claws. When threatened they stand on their hind legs and spread their “arms” in what is referred to as an “Anteater’s Hug.” Deadly.



Giant Anteater
7 feet long with 4-foot long body
And 3-foot long tail.





Giant Anteater





Hotel on the road back to Sao Paulo to head home



Edit



Parrot/Parakeet nests



Edit



Protected from sun,
bugs, and plants!





Turquoise-fronted Amazon.
14-1/2 inches, wingspan 20
inches. Protected in the
Pantanal



Chestnut-eared Aracari. 18 inches. Wingspan 17-1/2 inches



Chestnut-eared Aracari



Immature Snail Kite. 16 to 18 inches
Wingspan 43 to 46 inches



Yellow-rumped Cacique
9-1/2 to 11 inches



Perhaps a Black Witch Moth?





**Comon Lancehead.
Very venomous/deadly snake**



Comon Lancehead.
Very venomous/deadly snake

Ever present: Great Kiskadee
9 inches, wingspan 10.5 inches





Great Kiskadee

Giant Kiskadee with yellow crest on full display!



**Greater Kiskadee with
Wattled Jacana (9 inches)**





Vermilion Flycatcher.

5-3/4 to 6 inches, wingspan 9.4 to 9.8 inches



Blue and white Swallow
4-3/4 to 5 inches



**Rufescent Tiger Heron (26 to 30 inches,
wingspan 28 inches) looking for dinner**

Southern Crested Caracara.

20 to 23 inches

Wingspan 48 to 51 inches

Strides around on the

Ground with authority!



Ring-tailed Coati
33 to 44 inches.
A member of the
Raccoon family



**Ring-tailed
Coati**



**Ring-tailed
Coati**



Blond-Crested Woodpecker

11 to 12 inches

Wingspan 11 to 12 inches





**Immature Black-Crowned
Night Heron**

Black Skimmer
16 to 20 inches
Wingspan 42-50 inches



Black Skimmers



**Rhea. The largest bird in South America
3 to 5 feet tall. Flightless, but can
run up to 40 miles per hour**





Southern Lapwing

12.6 to 15 inches

Wingspan 22 to 27.6 inches

Bare-Faced Carassow
32 to 36 inches
Up to 6.5 pounds



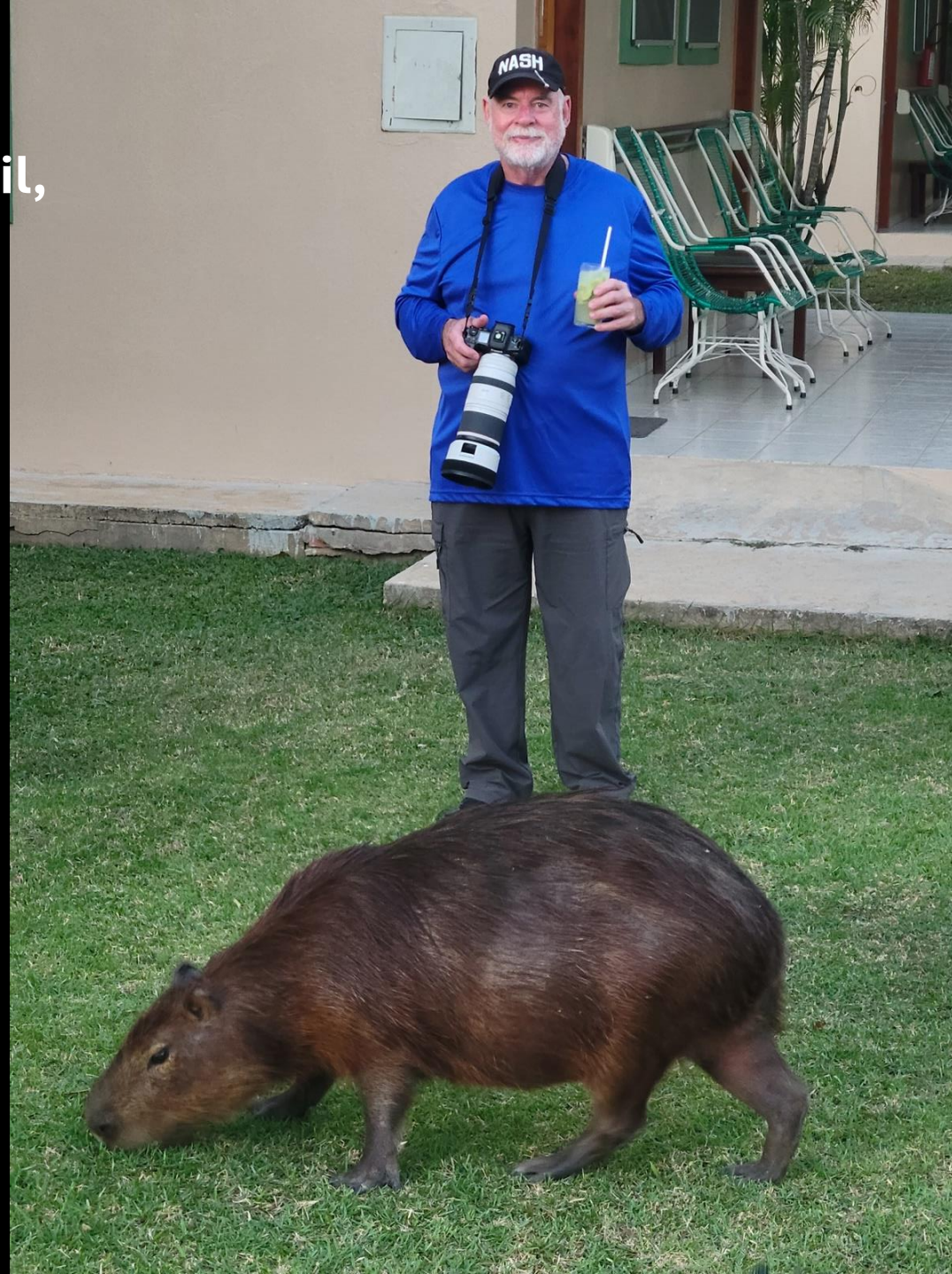


Ilyse bundled up for the Sun, The Sun is extremely Brutal here.

**Ilyse playing with a
local Brazilian
Snake-necked Turtle**



**Having a Caipirinha,
Brazil's national cocktail,
when a capybara
strolls by!**





Hoping this Alpha Male Nelore Bull
does not charge at me 😞



Our group set up and waiting for some shooting



Silhouette of Mom and Chick Jabiru storks at sunset



Sunset on the River in the Pantanal

THE END of Jaguars in the Pantanal

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